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17. Adverbs, discourse markers and interjections

In this chapter I list adverbs and adverbial expressions of time and place, manner adverbs and adverbs with miscellaneous semantics, and discuss their morphological structure. I also present enclitic discourse markers and a few interjections.

17.1. Adverbs

Morphology

Adverbs can be morphologically simple or complex. Typical adverbial morphology consists of an initial vowel **ɪ** or **a** followed by a geminated consonant: **ɪCC**, **aCC**. In some cases an adverb and an adjective are formed on the basis of the same root, for example:

ɪk-kítak ‘badly’	c-ɔkítak ‘bad’
ɪt-tíɔt ‘tastily, with flavour’	c-ɔtíɔt ‘tasty’

The shared root of these items is preceded in the adjective by a concord and the vowel **ɔ**, while in the adverb the root-initial consonant is geminated and preceded by **ɪ**. Note in the second case that the H-tone on the root part has changed position. Another example is the adverb **ɪppáppat** ‘lightly, easily’, which relates in the same way to the Completive verb **c-ɔpappât** (< **ɔpáppa** ‘be(come) light’). **c-ɔpappât** can be used as a modifier ‘light, easy’.

In other cases there is no root or stem that is attested elsewhere as well. **a** + gemination of the first consonant is probably a formative of **accuŋkõr** ‘straight ahead’, but ***cuŋkõr** does not exist as a word on its own or as a formative of another word. Some further examples which do not contain a root or stem that occurs elsewhere as well include:

ɪppu, -ppu	‘really, seriously (intensifying)’
aŋŋəna	‘very, very much’
aŋŋəriŋ	‘completely’

Another morphological feature found in adverbs is reduplication. Adverbs with full reduplication sometimes have an inserted schwa followed by a geminated consonant, in order to retain the same sound, for example **təŋ-əttəŋ** ‘tightly’.

A case of partial reduplication and gemination is **ŋəʔɔ́llət** ‘the day after tomorrow’. Recall that **ɾ** does not geminate as **ɾɾ** but, often, as **ll** (see examples in 13.1). Recall also that the process of partial reduplication and gemination was also found in Pluractional verbs (see 13.1) and in adjectives (see 10.2.7). An example of partial reduplication and gemination in a related adverb and adjective is **ik-kítəttak** ‘very badly’ vs. **c-ɔ́kítəttak** ‘very bad’.

In two cases of adverbs that are related through reduplication, the unreduplicated form contains an adverbial formative comparable to **ɪ** + geminated consonant, namely **a** + geminated consonant:

aɿ-təman ‘quickly’	təman-təman ‘quickly’
ac-cəkət ‘quickly’	cəkəc-cəkət ‘quickly’

The tones of an adverb with (partial) reduplication can be different from what is expected on the basis of the composing parts, and in some cases of (partial) reduplication a non-reduplicated form is lacking.

(Partial) reduplication in adverbs can express:

- intensification (**mâ** ‘now’, **má-ínâ** ‘just now’)
- repetition (**cɿŋkɿ-cɿŋkɿ** ‘every day’, lit.: ‘sun-sun’)
- duration (**nɔ́cɿŋkɿ-nɔ́cɿŋkɿ** ‘the whole day’ (lit. ‘on sun-on sun’)

Nouns or noun phrases preceded by a prepositional proclitic (PPC), as well as the absolute prepositions, can function adverbially. Some nouns can function adverbially without PPC, and some can function adverbially with as well as without PPC. In some cases, what is historically —probably— a PPC has become a fixed part of the adverb.

17.1.1. Adverbs and adverbial expressions of time

Deictic time adverbs and adverbial expressions include the following:

inâ	‘now’
inâ-inâ	‘just now’ (REDUP)
in-enní	‘today, now’ (probably < inâ ‘now’ + enní ‘this’)
ácca	‘now’ (< Sudanese Arabic <i>hassa</i> ^c)
mæccín	‘yesterday’
mamân	‘this morning’
mæle-mæla	‘just a moment ago’ (REDUP)
maí	‘just recently’
mɛɲcɛn	‘some time ago’
maɹɔt	‘a long time ago’
ɲorrɔt	‘tomorrow, the next morning’
ɲɔɹ-ɔll-ɔt	‘the day after tomorrow’ (P.REDUP + G)
mæccin ɲórrɔt	‘yesterday morning’

Some further time adverbials:

pa-p-ɔtté-ík / pa-p-ɔtté-ík	during a short time, after a while (< papu ɔtté cik / papu ɔtté cik lit.: thing short)
kəppák	during a short time
póccók	(continuing) for some time

póccók is often used in combination with **mənɔ** expressing ‘until’, as in the following example:

a-kw-ɬəkka.kat	ménik	póccók	mónó
CONJ-3-become:DEPPRFV	like_this	for_some_time	until
a-kw-ɬəkka.kat	p-inakó.t	ɲ-ɲóɹɛ	pəɹɪn
CONJ-3-become:DEPPRFV	C-be_known:COMPL	with-laziness	finally

he became like this continuing for some time (i.e. Aməntacı continued to be like this for some time) until he finally became known for his laziness (App. 1, 30-31)

Time adverbials can be formed with the nouns **caŕí** ‘day’ and **ɬuput** ‘year’, as well as with nouns for parts of the day. These nouns can be modified by a demonstrative or a connexive construction. In some cases a PPC must be used, in others a PPC is optional, in again others the noun lacks a PPC when used adverbially. Examples:

(nɔ-)caŕí cɔ́-mɛccín	‘the day before yesterday (lit.: (on) the day of yesterday)’
(nɔ-)caŕí cɛn	‘that time, that day’
ɬuput ɛntí / nɔ-ɬupút ɛntí	‘this year’
(nɔ-)cipín	‘in the evening, in the afternoon’
(nɔ-)cipín ɛncí	‘this evening, this afternoon’
ɲɲírɪmak	‘before daybreak: from ca. 4.00h till dawn (lit.: with darkness)’
ɲkɔŕâ	‘in the night’
ɲkɔŕâ ɛɲɲí	‘tonight, this night’

ɲɲírɪmak consists **ń-** ‘with, by, (away) from’ and the noun **ɲírɪmak** ‘darkness’. **ɲkɔŕâ** ‘(in the) night’ is most probably historically made up of the preposition **n-** and a noun ***kɔŕâ** (which is also recognizable in **nɔkɔŕɔ́kkɔŕâ** ‘the whole night’), but this noun is synchronically not attested.

The year is divided into four seasons. On two seasons a PPC is optional (**ɬɔ-** resp. **nɔ-**), on one **ɪ-** must be used, while the fourth is used without a PPC:

Table 103 Seasons

kərrən / ɬɔ-kərrən	(in) the beginning of the wet season (ca. end of April-June)
cukku / nɔ-cukku	(in) the height and end of the wet season (ca. July-beginning of October)
ɪ-cəpɔ́	(in) the first part of the dry season (ca. end of October-January)
pəŕú	(in) the last part of the dry season (ca. February-April)

A few reduplicated adverbs were already listed above. Some others follow here. **no-** ‘on, at’ is a formative of **no-kkó-no-kkí** and **no-kə́ɔ́-kkə́ɔ́**, but no synchronically attested noun is recognized in these words.

no-kkó-no-kkí	‘in the daytime, during the day, the whole day’
no-cɨ́ŋkɨ́ nɔ́-cɨ́ŋkɨ́	‘the whole day (lit.: at sun-at sun)’
no-kə́ɔ́-kkə́ɔ́	‘in the night, during the night, the whole night’
no-cokkó no-cokkó	‘during the whole wet season’
no-uɾu nɔ́-uɾú	‘during the whole dry season’

ɛppɨn-ɛppɨn /appɨn-appɨn	‘always, every day’
kɨ́ɾɨ-kɨ́ɾɨ	‘every moment, all the time’

Clock-time is expressed with **no-cɨ́ŋkɨ́** ‘on sun’ and a numeral. The period of the day can be added:

no-cɨ́ŋkɨ́	c-ə́ɾapóɾok	cɨ́pɨn
on-sun	c-three	afternoon
at three o’clock in the afternoon		

17.1.2. Adverbs and adverbial expressions of place

All locative adverbs can be preceded by the locative proclitic **cɨ́k-** ‘just, precisely’ (see 15.3). Deictic adverbs relating to the location of the speaker are the following:

Table 104 Deictic adverbs

cə́né	here, at a place near the speaker
cə́nékɛt, cə́nekɛt	there, at a place not far from the speaker, within sight
té́ntɨ́tɛ	over there, at a place at some distance from the speaker. Typically out of (clear) sight, but not really far.
té́ntə́ɾe	over there, at a place away from the speaker (but still belonging to a larger space to which the speaker belongs as well). Often not in sight.

téntərə is possibly related to the demonstrative **en-c-ərê** ‘away from speaker and addressee’.

The deictic adverbs can express location as well as direction, and can be used gesturally as well as anaphorically. Some examples:

m-p-a.ɪk **cənέ**
1-C-be:PR here

I am here

ɔʔɔʔ.ε **korret** **cənέ**
pull_at:IMP line here

pull a line up to here!

pəlla **p-a.ɪk** **cənέket**
cat C-be:PR there_not_far

the cat is there (in sight, at a little distance from the speaker)

ʔ-ɔʔáεɔʔ **cənέket** / **cənέket**
IT:IMP-urinate_at:DEPINCOMPL there_not_far there_not_far

go and urinate there! (at a place somewhat away from the speaker)

ʔ-ʂʔurakɔʔ **téntʔtʔε**
IT:IMP-stretch_oneself_at.PLUR:DEPINCOMPL there_out_of_sight

go and stretch yourself out somewhere else! (not where I am)

ɔ-patt-ʂn **téntʔtʔε** **ɪ-cáama¹¹** **ʔ-ɔpərɔʔ**
PERS-person-PL there_out_of_sight in-university C-fine

the people here in the university are fine (in skype conversation Leiden-Khartoum, while the speaker is in Leiden, but not at the university)

nuʔʔuruk **n-a.ɪk** **téntərə**
pigs C-be:PR there_at_distance

the pigs are over there (at a distance) (fr. written story)

There are also deictic adverbs relating to the place of the addressee:

¹¹ From Sudanese Arabic *jaam’a* ‘university’

cínâŋ ‘there where you are (on or near that spot)’
ťénťiaŋ ‘there, near the place where you are (but typically out of your (clear) sight)’

cínâŋ and **ťénťiaŋ**, respectively, contain **căné** and **ťénťite** combined with the 2SG possessor morpheme **-ăŋ**. No such adverbs exist on the basis of **cănékət**, **cănekət** or **ťéntərə**. Examples:

ŋ-kw-žŋta akka a-íkko cık cínáŋ ákkómân
 2-C-why that CONJ-(2-)sit:DEPINCOMPL VREF there_where_you_are since
 why are you still sitting there (where you are)?

ipittı ɔ-patt-ón appık ťénťiaŋ
 ask:IMP PERS-person-PL all there_near_you
 greet all the people there with you (i.e. in different places in your environment)

The deictic adverbs can also be used in relation to third persons, as in the next example:

k-kw-íkko.t ŋépák í-žpón
 3-C-drink:COMPL beer RES-(C-)bitter
á-kw-í.at cínáŋ noťok
 CONJ-3-die:DEPPRFV there_where_you_are for_no_reason
 he had drunk strong liquor and then just died there (at that place where he was) for nothing (fr. written essay)

There is no adverb based on **ťéntərə** in combination with the 2SG possessor **-ăŋ**. A place that is distant from the addressee, but part of his/her larger space, is referred to through **ťán** ‘there’ by a speaker whose actual location is not considered part of that larger space. This meaning of **ťán** is a semantic development from **ťán** ‘at’ as the absolute form of the PPC **ťə** ‘at’. The following question was asked by JS in Khartoum to the researcher in Leiden when talking about her family in Zwolle:

ɔ-patt-ón ʔan ʔ-ɔpərɔr-i
PERS-people-PL there C-fine-Q

are the people there fine? (the people are nearer to the addressee than to the speaker, but not in the immediate vicinity of the addressee)

ʔéntərə is appropriate in the answer, since for the researcher, Zwolle belongs to the same space as where she is, but it is at a distance:

ɔ-patt-ón ʔéntərə tuan ʔ-ɔpərɔt
PERS-people-PL far_from_speaker home C-fine

the people there in their house are fine

When consultant and researcher are both in Khartoum and talk about their family in ʔɔɽɿ and Zwolle, **ʔán** is used in both cases. Seen from Khartoum, both places belong to a different space.

ʔán as an adverb referring to a space outside the space of the speaker is also a formative of **ɕɿʔʔán** ‘far, far away’, which further contains the locative proclitic **ɕík-** ‘just, precisely’:

ɔ-kín ʔ-ákənn-ónɔ ɕɿʔ.ʔan n.tɿ i-ccík k-ɔ-ʔʔan p-ɔ-kkɔl
PERS-3A C-NEG-build:DEPINCOMPL far from in-place C-of.PERS-father C-of-child

they will build not far from the place of the father of the boy (lit.: they will not build far from ...) (fr. written description)

ʔɽəʔán ‘behind’, which has **ʔán** as a formative, can be used as a preposition but also as an adverb.

Some further adverbial expressions with place semantics follow here:

nɔppăn	‘inside’ (< nɔ- ‘on, at’ + tupan ‘room’)
tuăn	‘at the house, at home’ (possibly < tɔ- ‘up at’ + măn ‘room’)
ʔəpət, ʔəpút	‘outside’ (possibly contains ʔɔ- ‘at’ as a formative)
ʔəkkun wɔ́kúré	‘on the left side’ (lit.: at hand of left side)
ʔəkkun wɔ́ʔarí	‘on the right side’ (lit.: at hand of right side)

napəttôt, nəpəttôt ‘near’ (related to C-**uttôt** ‘short’)
napəttúttôt, nəpəttúttôt ‘very near’ (related to C-**uttúttôt** ‘very short’)

Some of the preposition-and-noun combinations that form part of a complex preposition (see chapter 16.4) also function as adverbs. As adverbs, they lack the connexive phrase introduced by C-ə ‘of’:

nɛcəkên ‘from behind’ (< **n** ‘from’ + **tə** ‘at’ + **cəkên** ‘lower back’)
təkít ‘firstly, as the first’ (< **tə** ‘up at’ + **kít** ‘eyes’)
cittókít ‘firstly, at first’ (< **cík-** + **tə** ‘up at’ + **kít** ‘eyes’)

17.1.3. Manner adverbs

məník ‘so, like this/that’ is a deictic manner adverb:

ɔkkɔt.ɛ məník
 do:IMP like_this
 do it like this!

It can also be used in inquiries after somebody’s health or other problems, if the speaker knows there have been certain problems:

k-kw-ícca p-a.ík məník-î
 3-C-still C-be:PR like_this-Q
 is s/he still in the same state?

k-kw-á.ík məník
 3-C-be:PR like_this
 s/he is still the same / there is no change

The conjunction word **ittiná** ‘so, like this’ (see chapter 18.7) can also function as a deictic manner adverb:

ukul w-a.ík w-ápukkwɔ ittiná ɛppin-ɛppin
 child C-be:PR C-fall.PLUR:INCOMPL so always-REDUP
 the child is falling like this all the time

ṭóma ḡuṣol ḡ-ṭ-ín-ṭa-ppu éḡ-ḡ-í ḡírrók ítínâ
 friend sauce C-of-what-QW-really DEM-C-NEARSP sweet so

friend, what, really, is this sauce that is so sweet made of? (App. IV, 28)

m-p-ṣn-ṭa akka m-p-ṭḡákṭ.ε ittínâ ittī ...
 1-C-why-QW that 1-C-be_loved:COMPL so that

why am I so loved, that ... ? (Luke 1:43)

Some further manner adverbs include the following, several of which have typical adverbial morphology:

kiccé	‘properly, completely’
kiccε-kiccé	‘carefully, softly, slowly; also: later’
papēnnaḡ	‘properly’ (< papu ‘thing’ + p-ēnnaḡ ‘properly sized’)
ip-párəṭṭərə	‘very well’ (related to C-ṭpárəṭṭərə ‘very good’)
ik-kítak	‘badly’ (related to C-ṭkítak ‘bad’)
ik-kítəṭṭak	‘very badly, seriously’ (related to C-ṭkítəṭṭak ‘very bad’)
ip-páppat	‘lightly, easily’ (related to Completive C-ṭpappât ‘be light, have become light’)

ikkítəṭṭak ‘very badly, seriously’ can be used as an intensifier. In the example below it intensifies its cognate adjective:

ṭ-paṭṭi p-ṭkítak ikkítəṭṭak
 PERS-person C-bad very_badly

the person is extremely bad

The noun phrases **lən ləpərət** lit.: ‘words are good’, **lən ləpəṭṭərə** lit.: ‘words are very good’, **lən ləkítak** lit.: ‘words are bad’ and **lən ləkítəṭṭak** lit.: ‘words are very bad’ can be used adverbially:

m-p-ṭcát.ε lən l-ṭpərət
 1-C-lie_down:COMPL words C-good

I slept well

Yet a few more manner adverbs, several of which (probably) have typical adverbial morphology, as indicated by the segmentation:

aṭ-ṭəman	‘quickly’
ṭəman-ṭəman / ṭəmən-ṭəmən	‘quickly, hurriedly’
ac-cəkkət	‘quickly, earlier (than expected)’
cəkəc-cəkət	‘quickly’
kucək-kucək	‘quickly’
pərrá	‘slowly’ (< Sud. Arabic <i>be-raaḥa</i>)

it-ṭíṭ	‘sweetly, tastily’ (related to C-ṭíṭ ‘sweet, tasty’)
ip-pá	‘hotly’ (related to C-íppá ‘hot’)
təṭ-əttəṭ	‘tightly’ (probably related to əttəṭ ‘again’)
kəṭṭəṭ-kəṭṭəṭ	‘seriously, with dedication’
cunḡkut cunḡkut	‘groupwise, group by group’ (lit.: group group)

17.1.4. Some adverbs with miscellaneous semantics

Intensifying adverbs include the following. Typical adverbial morphology has been indicated by segmentation:

cannán	‘very, a lot’
aṭ-ṭəna	‘very, very much’
ṭiṭ-ṭiṭ	‘very’
aṭ-ṭəṭṭ	‘completely’
kír-əkkír	‘completely, very; with negation: never’
aṭ-ṭíṭ	‘with negation: at all, never’
pəṭṭin	‘finally, completely, enough; with negation: not anymore’
ip-pu, -p.pu	‘really, seriously (intensifying)’

A morphologically intensified adjective can be still further intensified by an intensifying adverb:

kurrón	k-úṭṭ~úṭṭót	cannán
stick	C-INTS~short	very
the stick is <i>very</i> short		

kırəkkír expresses ‘completely, very’ (first example below). In combination with a negated verb it expresses ‘never’ (second example below).

in-t-əpərsót **ana** **ətte**¹² **p-əŋə** **kır-əkkír**
 1A-C-good and your_father C-ill completely-REDUP
 we are fine but our father (lit.: your father) is very ill

k-kw-ānn-ípə **pól** **ém-p-í** **kír-əkkír**
 3-C-NEG-obtain:DEPINCOMPL person DEM-C-NEARSP completely-REDUP
 s/he can never marry this person

əttík combines with a negated (or inherently negative) verb expressing ‘never’:

lən **əl-l-ı** **l-akənn-əcərs** **əttík**
 words DEM-C-NEARSP C-NEG-stop:DEPINCOMPL at_all
 these things will never stop

In combination with a negated verb **pərim** expresses ‘not anymore’:

m-p-ānn-aŋkət **ittı** **ə-rıt** **t-əppəta** **pərim**
 1-C-NEG-want:DEPCOMPL that PERS-12 C-play:INCOMPL finally
 I don’t want to play with you (SG) anymore (I don’t want us to play anymore)

ıppu, or its enclitic variant **-ppu** is an intensifying adverb that can be used, for example, with ‘one’ expressing ‘(really) only one’. It is glossed ‘really’:

okul **ən-n-ı** **w-ulukkū-ppu**
 child DEM-C-NEARSP C-one-really
 this child is (really) the only one

¹² ‘Your father’ is the polite way to refer to an older male family member who is related to both the speaker and the addressee. The person can, for example, be the father of the speaker and the uncle of the addressee.

Question words ending in the question morpheme **-ta** can also be intensified with this adverb. The adverbs in the example below convey that the questions are urgent and important for the boy asking them:

caṛi	c-əṛək	c-əka.káṭe	cik	a-laló	əmentet	ól	itti
day	C-some	C-be:PST	VREF	CONJ.PERS-Lalu	tell.PLUR:DEPINCOMPL	people	that
ṭépá	ṭ-árát-ta-ppo	ana	ṭ-ṭ-úṇkwó.t	ḡín-ta-ppo			
lion	C-how-Q-really	and	PRO-C-resemble:COMPL	what-QW-really			
ana	ṭ-ṭ-íkkó	cik	káró.ṭá-ppo				
and	PRO-C-sit:INCOMPL	VREF	where:QW-really				

there was a time that Lalo was all the time asking the people ‘seriously, how is a lion (i.e. how big), and what does he look like and where does he live?’ (fr. written story)

Some colour adjectives have special, cognate, adverbs for intensification. Some were already mentioned in chapter 10.2.7 in the context of intensified adjectives, notably **ḡṇḡ** ‘very (black)’, **ippök** ‘very (white)’ and **ittóló** ‘very grey, yellow’. Examples with **ḡṇḡ** modifying the (non-related) verb **ḡṇḡet** ‘make black, dirty’, and with **ippök** modifying the (related) verb **úpukie** ‘make white’) follow here:

m-p-a.ik	p-ḡṇḡet	pétok	ḡṇḡ
1-C-be:PR	C-make_black:INCOMPL	stone	very

I am making the stone very black

m-p-a.ik	p-úpukie	pétok	ippök
1-C-be:PR	C-make_white:INCOMPL	stone	very

I am making the stone very white

This construction cannot be made with an adjective:

*m-p-a.ik	p-úpukie	pétok	p-ípók / p-ípókippök
1-C-be:PR	C-make_white	stone	C-white / C-very_white

The adverb **ittuǎŋ** ‘very’ is used for intensification of C-**ɔɽě** ‘red’ and **ɔɽia** ‘become red’. Alternatively, a variant **ittiaŋ** may be used. It tends to fuse with C-**ɔɽě** ‘red’ to C-**ɔɽettiǎŋ** ‘very red, very ripe’:

pɪra	p-ɔɽe	ittuǎŋ / p-ɔɽe-ttiǎŋ
tree	C-red	very / C-red-very

the fruits are very ripe (lit.: the tree is very red)

‘Spottedness’, which is typically a colour of birds, is intensified by **pɪr**, which is typically pronounced with a long trill:

puɽupé	p-ɔɽeret	pɪr
bird	C-spotted	very

the bird is very spotted

Some further adverbs with miscellaneous semantics include:

əttəŋ	‘again’
noɽuk	‘for no reason, in vain’
kapɪk	‘upright’
məna	‘even’
tullúk	‘only, just’
təruk	‘nevertheless’
ɪtʰŋ	‘together’
təɽʰŋ	‘together’

The adverbs **tullúk** and **təruk** share their roots with the respective adjective C-**ullúk** ‘only, just’ and C-**əruk** ‘only, just’. Examples with the adjectives are given in 10.4.4. Examples with the adverbs follow here.

m-p-ɔnó	ɲokul	ɲ-əɽapóruk	tullúk
1-C-have	children	C-three	only

I have only three children

ɲ-kw-ɔnó	təruk	ɪtti	ɲ-kw-a.ccɪkət
2-C-have	only	that	2-C-hear:INCOMPL

you must nevertheless listen / still you must listen

ɪ̥t̪ʊn ‘together’ and **tɔ̥t̪ʊn** ‘together’ respectively contain the prepositions **ɪ-** ‘in’ and **tɔ-** ‘up on, up at’; a noun ***t̪ʊn** is (synchronically) not attested on its own. The tonal behaviour of **tɔ̥t̪ʊn** shows that the word (still) functions as PPC and noun, not as a single unit. Unlike proclitic **ɪ-** and unlike nouns with a rising tone, **tɔ-** can receive a high tone from a preceding element. **ɪ̥t̪ʊn** typically expresses that people put their hands together, for example for eating from a shared plate or for doing certain work which requires joint manual effort. **tɔ̥t̪ʊn** is used rather for being (physically) together. Examples:

ɔ-nɪn **t̪-ɔ̥t̪əkɔ.t** **kəpa** **ɪ̥t̪ʊn**
 PERS-1A C-eat:COMPL meat together

we have eaten meat together (picture of people eating from one plate)

a-úl **áppík** **éʃ** **á-t̪-ɔ̥ccɔ̥rɪnɛ** **ɪ̥t̪ʊn**
 CONJ-people all go:DEPINCOMPL SUBJ-IT:DEPINCOMPL-run_for:DEPINCOMPL together

and all the people will be ready to give a hand (lit.: and all people go in order to go and run for it together)

n-íkkɔ-ɪk **tɔ̥.t̪ʊn**
 12A-do:DEPINCOMPL together

stay together!

ɔ-nɪn **t̪-ɔ̥ccɔ̥t̪-ɔ̥k** **tɔ̥.t̪ʊn**
 PERS-12 C-stand_at:COMPL-O3 together

we stood together with him/her (i.e. we supported him/her)

17.2. Discourse particles

Lumun has a few enclitic discourse particles. The particles **-a**, **-na**, **-tɪ**, **-mé** and **-mɛ** are discussed in this section. Enclitic discourse particles that turn a statement into a question are discussed in chapter 20. Deviating from regular assimilation patterns, the initial consonants of **-na**, **-tɪ** and **-mé** assimilate to the place of articulation of a preceding consonant, as can be seen in some examples given here. Two further examples of this assimilation are provided in chapter 2.1.3 (one with **-na** and one with **-mé**).

17.2.1. The particle -a

The particle **-a** is a particle with which the hearer’s attention is claimed (hence the gloss ATT).¹³ It has a low tone and does not coalesce with a preceding vowel. It is typically used in the final sentences of a story, when the story moves towards or reaches its climax. In this context the use of **-a** co-occurs with an acceleration of the narrative: descriptive details, which may be abundant in the beginning of a story, are omitted now. The use of the particle **-a**, asking for heightened attention, is part of this accelerated style. This is an example from the final stage of the ‘The story of the jackal’:

... a-kín	ṣṭákkar.at	a-kín	ikk.at	cík
CONJ.PERS-3A	moveAside:DEPPRFV	CONJ.PERS-3A	sit:DEPPRFV	VREF
a-kín	ṣṭáttó	méník-â		
CONJ.PERS-3A	fight:DEPINCOMPL	like_this-ATT		

they moved aside and continued to fight like that (‘The story of the jackal’)

Another example comes from the final stage of ‘The story of the tortoise’:

akka	ṣpa	w-aa.r-â		
that	piece_of_meat	C-come:COMPL-ATT		
a-k-ó.at	í-kəṛál	en-k-ərík	k-əttê	
CONJ-C-descend:DEPPRFV	in-small_water_spot	DEM-C-NEARSP	C-small	

when the wild animal came, he (tortoise) moved down into that small pool
(App. IV, 153-154)

The particle is also typically used by adults or older children when talking to young children, and in songs (not just children’s songs). In speech to children it is a way to make the message sound friendlier.

An example from speech to a child follows here. The situation is that a person has arrived at the house of a neighbour to whom she has lent a rope; she has come to take the rope back home. However, she finds only a child in the compound and the child does not know

¹³ There is also a question particle **-a** for recovery of information, see 20.2.3.

which rope is the borrowed one. The child invites the visitor to wait for her mother, and the visitor does this, but after a while decides to leave without the rope. The use of the particle makes the message that she is leaving sound softer:

ɔnnɛ p-ícca p-ɔccɔ́.t cɪk ána m-p-éí p-á.éɔ́-a
 your_mother C-be_still C-catch:COMPL VREF and 1-C-be_here C-go:INCOMPL-ATT
 your mother continues to be late and now I am leaving

An example from a song is the following. It has the particle three times, illustrating that it may be used in different positions in the sentence. Most typically though, it comes in the end. I have not written tone in this sentence, since it is sung on a melody. In speech the discourse particles would be absent.

kukku ana ɔ-lɔtti-a
 Kukku and PERS-Lɔtti-ATT
m-p-ɔɔɔ́.t.ɛ itti n-t-erɛnt-m i-mɔpail-a m-m-a
 1-C-like:COMPL that 2A-C-talk_to:INCOMPL-O1 in-mobile_phone-ATT C-POSS1-ATT
 Kukku and Lɔtti, I want you to talk to me in my mobile phone

17.2.2. The particle -na

The particle **-na** is a particle that is attached as an enclitic to an Imperative or another verb form that (mildly) urges the addressee to do something. The nasal turns a preceding obstruent into a nasal, but adapts to its place of articulation. The resulting nasal is realized short. Unlike Imperatives and commands without the particle, a verb with the particle does not convey the desire of the speaker, but expresses allowance for the addressee to do something. The allowed action has often (explicitly or implicitly) been requested by the addressee in the first place, but can also be suggested by the speaker in the addressee's interest.

ɪptt.i-ná á-n-ítɛt-óŋ
 ask:IMP-ALLOW SUBJ-1-tell:DEPINCOMPL-O2
 ask it, so that I tell you!

aṭṭ-ṇá

come:IMP-ALLOW

á-ṭ-ikkine

SUBJ-(2-)VEN:DEPINCOMPL-sit_for:DEPINCOMPL

ᵛ-íáia

PERS-my_mother

cik

VREF

pá.póttê

short_time

come and wait a little for my mother! (the addressee needs the mother and maybe the mother will come after some time) (fr. written dialogue)

ant-éṣ-na

can:DEPINCOMPL-go:DEPINCOMPL-ALLOW

okay, you go now (for example after accompanying somebody on his way to a certain place. The speaker now takes leave and the addressee will continue on his road alone).

17.2.3. The particle -ṭi

The particle -ṭi ‘you know’ adapts to the place of articulation of the preceding consonant, after **l** it turns to its intervocalic allophone **r**.

The particle is used in unsolicited explanations for situations or behaviour that is unexpected or unusual, expressing that no offence is intended. The following may be said when there is visitor and the speaker feels very sleepy (first example) or as an excuse for being late (second example). The particle has a flavour of confidentiality:

m-p-ᵛká.t

1-C-be:COMPL

cik

VREF

a-n-ṭcat

CONJ-1-lie_down

cik

VREF

ná-aṭṭkal-rî

on-bed-you_know

I was lying down on the bed, you know

m-p-ᵛká.t

1-C-be:COMPL

cik

VREF

a-n-ᵛṭəkə

CONJ-1-eat:DEPINCOMPL

ṇuṭú-rî

asida-you_know

I was eating asida, you know

-ṭi also functions as a question particle. Such questions often start with **ékkəre** or **íkkəre** ‘perhaps’. Here too, the particle conveys that no offence should be taken. In the translations I have used ‘perhaps’. The question is typically answered with ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

íkkære ŋ-k-urét nán ítí
 perhaps 2-C-forget:COMPL on:ABS that
ś-rít t-á.ík t-á.t-ípcettət mēnní-rí
 PERS-12 C-be:PR C-IT:INCOMPL-meet_each_other:DEPINCOMPL today-you know
 did you perhaps forget that we were going to meet today?

íkkære ŋ-kw-ıřét.ε pəlla ittı p-p-ânṭan-tı
 perhaps 2-C-tell:COMPL cat that PRO-C-come:INCOMPL-you know
 did you perhaps tell the cat to come? ('The story of the jackal')

Possibly, this **-tı** is the same as the formative **tı** in the complementizer **ittı** 'that' (see 18.7) and in the defective verbs **attı** 'I hope that' and **əpəri** 'say, think' (see 12.21).

17.2.4. The particle **-mé**

The particle **-mé** turns a statement into a proposal for action. It can also be used on an imperative clause or on a polite command with **ant** 'can'. It can have an encouraging flavour, like 'just do it, trust me!' A clause with **-mé** is often introduced by **ana** +H 'and' and typically continues on already communicated intentions, wishes or agreements. The solicited reaction is **ıı** 'yes'. **-mé** is attached at the end of the clause and can be used with all persons. The **m** of the particle turns a preceding obstruent into a nasal, but adapts to its place of articulation. Some examples follow here; **-mé** is glossed as PROP, from proposal:

ana m-p-ákkarə-mé
 and 1-C-call:INCOMPL-PROP
 so let me call (you) then

apelle ŋucol-é
 pour_some:IMP sauce-PROP
 pour some sauce! (App. IV, 70)

ařıŋ-ŋé (< ařík + -mé)
 come:IMP-PROP
 now come!

catch:IMP-01-PROP

17.2.5. The particle -mε

catch:IMP-01-URG

catch me!! (i.e. do it now!!) (App. IV, 129)

17.3. Interjections

Interjections include the following:

ii	‘yes’
εε	‘yes (eager confirmation)’
ipé	‘sure (a confident yes)’
ɔɪ	‘confirming response when you are called’
akwa	‘okay, let’s leave it here (signalling a switch to another subject or that the conversation is finished)’
á-a/ǎ-ǎ/m-m	‘no’
ɨcát	‘true!, indeed!’
ɔkwǎ/ɔkwĩ	‘goodness!, oh!’ (conveys surprise)
ɔkwɔɪ	‘oh!’ (conveys shock, sadness)
éε	‘hey!’ (call for attention)
nɛɛ	‘no!, nonsense!’ (ɛ can held on extra long)
mpa/mpaa/mpaak	‘no!, nonsense!’ (a can be held on extra long)
təll	‘yuck!, ick! (expressing disgust)’
ɲáaí	‘conveys uncertainty’
cɔɲ	‘conveys uncertainty’
káttra	‘say’ (often introducing a question or

order/command. It can be followed by an encouragement from the hearer to the speaker to say what she wants to say)

Some examples:

a-pari-ón	ómékat	itti	n̄t̄e	ɲæ	ɲ-ó-ín-í
CONJ-wife-PL	say:DEPPRFV	that	nonsense	urine	C-of-what-Q

His wife and children said, nonsense, urine for what?? (App. IV, 52)

ana	m-p-a.kkət	tát-ṭa	coŋ
and	1-C-do:INCOMPL	how-Q	UNCERT

and what will I do?

káṭṭa	et-m	cáṭṭak
say	give:IMP-O1	calabash(k.o.)

say, give me the calabash!

Stories can typically contain sound symbolic interjections. They may involve sounds that do not belong to the Lumun sound inventory. Examples include:

appəɾət	sound of cutting open lungs filled with air (App. IV, 158)
attáp	sound of palmfruit hitting the bottom of the tortoise (App. IV, 108)
attəpək	sound of bird landing on a tree (fr. written story)
attol	sound of spear or small axe killing a bird (fr. written story)
kucək	sound of something falling into the water from a height (App. IV, 130)
u u	sound of bird coming down, sound of wind blowing (fr. written story)

There are also specific expressions to call or chase away animals. Some involve unusual sounds. Examples:

ku	sound for chasing a chicken away
kírr	sound for calling a chicken (r is held long)
ṭur	sound for chasing a pig away

ŋên	sound for calling a pig
ca, cak	sound for chasing a goat
ala, alala	sound for calling a goat
na	sound for calling a young goat
ía, sîñ	sound for chasing a dog
sîla	sound for calling a dog
hau	sound for chasing a cow
arre	sound for calling a cow