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**A grammar of Mankanya: An Atlantic language of Guinea-Bissau,
Senegal and the Gambia**
Gaved T.J.D.

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Author: Gaved, T.J.D.

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Chapter 10 - Coherence in Texts

In this chapter I will discuss some of the different ways of creating continuity and discontinuity above the sentence level to make texts coherent. Most of the examples will come from texts of a narrative genre. I start with a discussion of participant reference, and then goes on to describe various renewal devices and other points of departure.

This is only an overview, and an in depth study is a matter for another thesis.

10.1 Participant reference

A primary aspect of what makes a text coherent is how participants are referenced from sentence to sentence within it. For the purpose of this discussion, a participant in a text is any entity that plays an ongoing role, and so may be human, animal or inanimate. Participants can be divided into major participants that play a significant role in the story and minor participants who do not. A participant is introduced, and once introduced they are referenced by noun, pronoun, or just a verbal prefix and the following sections describe how this is done in Mankanya.

10.1.1 Introduction of participants

New participants in a text are introduced with a noun phrase often followed by adjectives, a relative clause or a noun phrase in apposition.

10.1 **Dka** **nantohi** **ajug** **katoh**
d- ka na- ntohi a- jug ka- toh
1S have C1S elder C1AS owner C3S house

anniimuŋ **baaŋ** **batëb**
a- n- niim -uŋ b- aaŋ ba- tëb
C1S COREF marry SUB C1P woman C1P two

“I’ll tell you about an old man, head of his household, who had married two wives.”

Example 10.1 is from the beginning of a story, and starts with a formulaic introduction *dka* “I have”, and the participant being introduced is the syntactic object of that verb. Here there is no proper noun, but the common noun *nantohi* “old man”, is followed by a descriptive noun phrase and a descriptive relative clause.

10.2 **Ubi ka tfa** , **di untanka**
 u- bi ka tfa , d- i u- ntanka
 C2S PST have in_the_past EXT LOC.PROX C2S village
uloŋ , ñiint nawaap naŋaf
 u- loŋ , ñ- iint na- waap na- ŋaf
 C2S INDEF C1S man C1S seller C1S elderly
ammaakuŋ aniimar na napoŋ ñaŋ
 a- m- maak -uŋ a- niim -ar na na- poŋ ñ- aŋ
 C1S COREF be_ill SUB C1S marry BEN with C1S child C1S woman
 ”There was once, in a village, an old ill seller, who married a young woman.”

Example 10.2 is also from the beginning of a story, and starts with a different formulaic introduction *ubi ka tfa* “it had in the past”, roughly equivalent to the English “Once upon a time”. This is followed by a geographical scene-setting clause, before the participant is introduced as the object, again with a descriptive noun phrase, and a relative clause. The sentence finishes with a scene-setting action clause.

Note that in the last two examples, the two characters are major participants. Despite not having names their importance is marked by the absence of the indefinite particle *-loŋ*. Contrast this with the following introduction of a minor participant:

10.3 **Kë ñaŋ aloŋ naŋaf kë aŋe win**
 kë ñ- aŋ a- loŋ na- ŋaf kë a- ŋe win
 DS C1S woman C1S INDEF C1S elderly DS SER SEQ see
jibi Naala aŋagani ti katoŋ
 jibi Naala a- ñagan -i ŋ- i ka- toŋ
 like Nala C1S be_sad CMPL INT LOC.prox C3S house
 “An old lady saw that Naala was sad in the house”

In example 10.4 a character is introduced mid-narrative, along with some minor characters (the villagers), where the major characters are Hare and Hyena. She is introduced with a proper name, and a descriptive noun phrase in apposition.

10.4 **Kë Ƨwaraati ahar umaalu na bayiƧ**
 kë Ƨwaraati a- har u- maalu na ba- yiƧ
 DS Ƨwaraati C1AS wife C2S hare and C1P relative

baka bti kë babi aƧoo awooni
 baka bti kë ba- bi a- Ƨo a- wooni
 C1P.OBJ all DS C1P come SER sit SER cry

“Ƨwaraati, wife of the hare, with all their relatives, came, sat and cried.”

Again in example 10.5 a minor character in the text (here an historical chief), is introduced with proper name and descriptive noun phrase.

10.5 **Ašë wo kë Jonu abuk Unjon**
 a- šë wo kë Jonu a- buk Unjon
 SER SEQ be DS Jonu C1AS child Unjon

apayan pših
 a- pay -an p- ših
 SER raised CAUS C6S kingdom/throne

“So, Jonu, Unjon's son, was raised to the throne.”

In animal stories major participants are often just introduced with a common noun used as a proper name.

10.6 **Umaalu na UloƧ Ƨawo Ƨi**
 u- maalu na u- loƧ Ƨa- wo Ƨ- i
 C2S hare and C2S elephant C2P be INT LOC.PROX

dko dlolan
 d- ko d- lolan
 C9S place C9S one

“Hare and Elephant lived in the same place”

Sometimes the common nouns are formally converted to proper names by replace the class prefix *u-* with prefix *Ƨ-*.

10.7 **ƧñiiƧu na Ƨmaalu baƧiini unuur**
 Ƨ- ñiiƧu na Ƨ- maalu ba- Ƨiini u- nuur
 NAME hyena and NAME hare C1P speak C2S day

uloƧ pluƧ kaya pkiij maaj
 u- loƧ p- luƧ k- a- ya p- kiiƧ maaj
 C2S INDEF INF FUT IMPERF SER go INF steal millet

“Hyena and Hare talked one day of going to steal some millet”

It is notable that unlike many languages, demonstratives play no role in the introduction of participants.

10.1.2 Participants which are syntactic subjects

Once a participant has been introduced, further reference to it depends on its context.

Dooley and Levinsohn (2001) suggest a way of describing participant reference in relation to the following contexts.

- the subject is the same as the previous proposition.
- the subject is the hearer of the preceding reported discourse
- the subject was as non-subject in the previous proposition
- all other cases of change of subject

Languages generally have a default rule for each of these cases, which is sometimes over-ridden for stylistic reasons.

I will now consider each of the above contexts.

Where the subject of a proposition is the same as the subject of the previous proposition then no noun or pronoun is needed and the verb takes the serial verb prefix *a-*.

Example 10.8 from an animal folk tale has two participants Hare and Tortoise, which although anthropomorphised, still take the class 2 prefixes normal for animals. The first verb therefore has the class 2 plural prefix *ŋa-*. However, though they continue to be the subject in the following two verbal groups, the prefix is substituted by *a-* in both cases.

10.8 **Umaalu na Uloŋ ŋawo ɿ**
 u- maalu na u- loŋ ŋa- wo ɿ- i
 C2S hare and C2S elephant C2P be INT LOC.PROX
dko dloolan ašë win ñaaɿ nanuura
 d- ko d- loolan a- šë win ñ- aaɿ na- nuura
 C9S place C9S one SER SEQ see C1S woman C1S beauty
maakan ašë wo ɿ pla'a
 maakan a- šë wo ɿ- i p- la' -a
 very SER SEQ be INT LOC.prox INF seek C1S.OBJ
 “Hare and Elephant lived in the same place, and they saw a beautiful woman, and they were courting her”

The same thing can be seen in example 10.9. The house is noun class 3 with a prefix *ka-*, but the second verbal group is prefixed with *a-*.

10.9 **Katohul kabi wo kajeenkal ašë**
 ka- toh -ul ka- bi wo ka- jeenk -al a- šë
 C3S house 3s.poss C3S PST be C3S redder CHG SER SEQ
kak hënkuj kafaatal
 kak hënkuj ka- faatal
 become now C3S white
 “His house was red, but now it is white”

Example 10.10 illustrates the same situation with human participants though this example doesn't have a noun as an initial subject.

10.10 **Babi abi juk uhula aṭup**
 ba- bi a- bi juk u- hula a- ṭup
 C1P come SER PST learn C2S Mankanya SER announce
wa akuṭ apiit wa
 w- a a- kuṭ a- piit w- a
 C2S OBJ SER also_be SER write C2S OBJ
 “They came and they learnt Mankanya, spoke it and also wrote it”

If the subject is the hearer of the preceding reported discourse then a nominal phrase is normally used.

10.11a **Kë uñiiṅ uji na upi « Iwi ,**
 kë u- ñiiṅ u- ji na u- pi iwi
 DS C2S hyena C2S say and C2S goat 2s
iji ktoon di meetṭ »
 i- ji k- toon d- i meetṭ
 2S HAB 2S.ALT urinate EXT LOC.prox inside
 “Hyena said to Goat ‘You urinate inside’ ”

b **Kë upi uteem wa aji ...**
 kë u- pi u- teem w- a a- ji
 DS C2S goat C2S reply C2S OBJ SER say
 “And Goat answered ‘...’ ”

When the subject participant was a non-subject in the preceding proposition then the standard agreeing verb prefix is used.

10.12 **kë najaar akak aya tap wa kë**
 kë na- jaar a- kak a- ya tap w- a kë
 DS C1S farmer C1S REP SER go shoot C2S OBJ DS
uwooni aya
 u- wooni a- ya
 C2S cry SER go

“The farmer also shot him (the goat’s child), and he (the goat’s child) cried and left.”

In all other cases where the subject changes then a noun phrase is used.

10.13 **Kë wal wi ubaldu udaqrënuṅ**
 kë w- al w- i u- baldu u- daqrën -uṅ
 DS C2S moment C2S GEN C2S bucket C2S raise SUB
du pliik , kë meel makpën
 d- u p- liik , kë meel ma- k- pën
 EXT LOC.dist C6S well DS water C8 IMPERF go_out
 “As the bucket was raised from the well, the water came out”

The previous two examples also have the *kë* different subject marker which is explained in more detail in chapter 11.

10.1.3 Participants which are not syntactic subjects

In most cases, after their first mention, participants that are not subjects in the current proposition, are referenced by object pronouns or suffixes.

This is the case when the non subject participant was a subject in the previous proposition.

10.14 **kë uñiiŋ uşë gaŋ ituk kë başë**
 kë u- ñiiŋ u- şë gaŋ i- tuk kë ba- şë
 DS C2S hyena C2S SEQ vomit C3P manioc DS C1P SEQ

mob wa

mob w- a
 catch C2S OBJ

“And Hyena vomited manioc and so they hit him”

10.15 a **Wi abanuŋ aşë jot di meel**
 wi a- ban -uŋ a- şë jot d- i meel
 when C1S touch SUB SER SEQ fall EXT LOC.prox water

“When she arrived she threw herself in the water”

b **Kë meel mankak alutana apënan**
 kë meel man- kak a- lut -an -a a- pën -an
 DS water C8 REP SER jump CAUS C1S.OBJ SER go_out CAUS

bdig

b- dig
 c5S outside

“and the water threw her out again, and she landed outside”

It is also the case when the participant was not a subject in the preceding proposition. In the following example Hare and Hyena are *bakan* “them” in both propositions.

10.16 **Aneejan bakan ɕi untabanka ala**
 a- neejan bakan ɕ- i u- ntabanka a- la
 SER insert C1P.OBJ INT LOC.prox C2S village SER seek

bakan meeɕ katoh kanuura

bakan meeɕ ka- toh ka- nuura
 C1P.OBJ inside C3S house C3S good

“They₁ (villagers) brought them₂ (Hare and Hyena) into the village and they₁ looked for a nice room for them₂”

10.17 **ahaabëş inkuti yi bahankuŋ**
 a- haabëş i- nkuti y- i ba- hank -uŋ
 C1S open C4P granary C4P GEN C1P keep SUB

ŋdeey ašë waap ŋa bañaan
 ŋ- deey a- šë waap ŋ- a ba- ñaan
 C2P grain SER SEQ sell C2P OBJ C1P person

“He opened the granary where they had stored the grain and sold it to the people”

Sometimes however, if the participant is a 3rd person object in both propositions then it can be omitted in the second one.

10.18 **Kë untaayi ušë yeenk pben**
 kë u- ntaayi u- šë yeenk p- BEN
 DS C2S demon C2S SEQ receive C6S swelling

amëban

a- mëb -an

SER carry CAUS

“The spirit took the lump, and carried it”

10.19 **Ajej plaak ploŋ apafna bkow**
 a- jej p- laak p- loŋ a- paf -na b- kow
 C1S take C6S stone C4S INDEF C1S put INSTR C5S head

“He took the stone and lay his head on it”

10.20 **Amar pko ploŋ ti**
 a- mar p- ko p- loŋ t- i
 C1S pick_(fruit_etc.) C6S fruit C6S INDEF INT LOC.PROX

bko mënŋ ade , akak awul
 b- ko mënŋ a- de a- kak a- wul
 C7S tree that SER eat SER return SER give

ayinul , kë adee .
 a- yin -ul kë a- de -e
 C1AS husband 3S.POSS DS C1S eat CMPL

“She picked some fruit from that tree, ate it, and returned to her husband, gave him some, and he ate”

This can also be the case with double object verbs.

10.21 **Ajej kapoom akitëş ka awul**
 a- jej ka- poom a- kit -ëş k- a a- wul
 C1S take C3S bread SER break CAUS C3S OBJ SER give

baka

baka

C1P.OBJ

“He took the bread, broke it and gave it to them”

10.22 (**Balaat**)... **apënan**
 ba- laaṭ a- pën -an
 C1P Balante_(from_Guinea-Bissau) SER go_out CAUS
napoṭ ñaaṭ neegani , awula
 na- poṭ ñ- aaṭ n- eegani a- wul -a
 C1S child C1S woman C1S teenage_girl SER give C1S.OBJ
 “The Balantas brought out a young woman and gave (her) to him”

In a presentation, Cobbinah (2018) noted similar behaviour in the related languages of Jóola Kujireray and Bainounk Gubëeher.

When a non-subject participant has played no role in the previous proposition, then normally a full noun phrase is used.

10.23 a **kë umaalu ugat pdede**
 kë u- maalu u- gat p- de de
 DS C2S hare C2S vomit C6S meal meal
 “Hare only vomited the meal”

b **kë uñiiṅ uṣë gat ituk**
 kë u- ñiiṅ u- ṣë gat i- tuk
 DS C2S hyena C2S SEQ vomit C3P manioc
 “But Hyena vomited manioc”

10.1.4 VIP strategies

Sometimes, there are quite long passages in texts that do not follow the default behaviours given above. This is usually because a major character is being specially treated. The special treatment of a major character is referred to as using a VIP (Very Important Person) strategy by Dooley and Levinsohn (2001) as the character is receiving special treatment like a real life VIP.

For example in the story “Hare and Hyena steal some millet”:

10.24 **Aji na uhar wa uya kë najaar**
 a- ji na u- har w- a u- ya kë na- jaar
 SER say and C2S wife C2S poss C2S go DS C1S farmer
akak aya tap wa kë uwooni aya kë
 a- kak a- ya tap w- a kë u- wooni a- ya kë
 C1S REP SER go shoot C2S OBJ DS C2S cry SER go DS
ukak aji na wa «...
 u- kak a- ji na w- a
 C2S REP SER say and C2S OBJ

“He told his wife to go, but the farmer hit her too. She cried and went back and he (Hyena) said to her”

Look at the passage laid out in chart 10.1 on page 257. The references follow the rules described above, until the last one. Here we would expect a

new noun phrase as the action switches from Hyena's wife back to Hyena. However, we find Hyena referred to here just by a verbal prefix.

This seems to be possible as Hyena is the major participant. As we will see in Chapter 11 *kë* marks a switch in participant so we know the *u-* prefix does not refer to Hyena's wife.

Noun Phrase (subject)	Verb	Noun Phrase (Object)
	Aji Ser.say "He said" (Hyena)	na uhar wa with C2s.wife C2s.GEN "to his wife" (Hyena's wife)
	uya C2s.go "she went" (Hyena's wife)	
kë najaar DS C1s.farmer "but the farmer"	akak aya tap C1s.REP SER.go hit "he also hit" (Farmer)	wa 3s.OBJ "her" (Hyena's wife)
kë DS "and"	uwooni C2s.cry "she cried" aya SER.go "she left" (Hyena's wife)	
kë DS "and"	ukak aji C2s.encore SER.say "he said again" (Hyena)	na wa with C2s.OBJ "to her" (Hyena's wife)

Chart 10.1: A VIP strategy

Another example can be found in a different text.

10.25	Kë	bawat		ubaldu	du		pliik	kë		
	kë	ba- wat		u- baldu	d- u		p- liik	kë		
	DS	C1P	bring_down	C2S	bucket	EXT	LOC.dist	C6S	well	DS
	udo	do	kluj	meel	kë	mampën	ado	tar		
	u- do	do	kluj	meel	kë	mam- pën	a- do	tar		
	C2S	INGR	do	water	DS	C8	go_out	SER	do	be_fast
	tar	tar	kë	ukak	atiink					
	tar	tar	kë	u- kak	a- tiink					
	be_fast	be_fast	DS	C2S	REP	SER	hear			

“Now they (the women) dropped the bucket down the well, it started to go 'klung', the water slopped out, going 'thar, thar, thar', and he heard it again.”

The last *u-* in *ukak* refers to Hare, even though the bucket uses the same prefix.

In the both the previous examples, the sentence cited is the second repetition of a similar event, and so this could make it easier for the strategy to work as the hearer is expecting the same character to act.

10.2 Linking

Various devices are used to link sentences, paragraphs or episodes in a text.

10.2.1 Demonstrative *aŋ*

A common method of linking propositions is using the neutral demonstrative *aŋ* often in combination with the word *ko* “thing”. In example 10.26 proposition b opens with *uko way* “this thing” which refers back to the whole of proposition a.

10.26 a.	Dwul	naweeku		itaka	itum				
	d- wul	na- week	-u	i- taka	i- tum				
	1S	give	C1S	elder_sibling	2S.POSS	C4P	money	C4P	many

maakan

maakan

very

“I’m giving you brother lots of money.”

b. **Uko waŋ ukyuujun bañaan bti**
 u- ko w- aŋ u- k- yuuj -uŋ ba- ñaan bti
 C2S thing C2S DEM C2S IMPERF show SEL C1P person all
banwoon na iwi kë iwo najinŋ
 ba- n- wo -oŋ na iwi kë i- wo na- jinŋ
 C1P COREF be SEL and 2S DS 2S be C1S clean
ti uko unŋepuŋ
 ti- i u- ko u- n- ŋep -uŋ
 INT LOC.PROX C2S thing C2S COREF pass SEL
 “This shows all those who are with you that you are pardoned of the thing that happened”

In example 10.27 proposition b starts with *ñiinŋ aŋ* “this man” referring back to the man introduced in proposition a.

10.27 a. **Ñiinŋ aloŋ i bajaan bado**
 ñ- iinŋ a- loŋ i ba- ja -aŋ ba- do
 C1S man C1S INDEF GEN C1P HAB SEL C1P do

Korneliyut
 Korneliyut
 Cornelius
 “There was a man called Cornelius”

b. **Ñiinŋ aŋ aji dëman akuŋ afiyaar**
 ñ- iinŋ aŋ a- ji dëm -an a- kuŋ a- fiyaar
 C1S man DEM C1S HAB grow caus SER also_be SER believe

Naşibaŋi
 Naşibaŋi
 God
 “This man believed and worshipped God”

Example 10.28 starts with a temporal clause containing the noun phrase *iko yaŋ* “this thing”, referring to the events described in preceding sentences.

10.28 **Wi iko yaŋ iŋepuŋ ajon , kë**
 wi i- ko y- aŋ i- ŋep -uŋ a- jon kë
 when C3P thing C3P dem C3P pass SEL C1S last DS
başë bi aji na Naala : « Şaaş
 ba- şë bi a- ji na Naala şaaş
 C1P SEQ PST SER say and Nala your_father
amaaki . »
 a- maak -i
 C1S be_ill CMPL
 “Sometime later, Naala was told 'Your father is ill' ”

10.2.2 Renewal

Another linking method is the use of renewal, that is the use of structures that repeat something already stated in the text.

10.2.2.1 Nominal renewal

A frequent form of nominal renewal is the structure *NOUN mënṭan Cuṭ* where *C* is a nominal prefix, *mënṭan* is an invariable demonstrative and *uṭ* is the distal demonstrative root. It is only the distal demonstrative *uṭ* that is used in this construction and not the others i.e. *i* proximal, *undu* extra-distal and *aṭ* neutral.

10.29 **Uṣë** **kaban** **ṭi** **bko** **mënṭan**
 u- ṣë k- a- ban ṭ- i b- ko mënṭan
 C2S SEQ IMPERF SER arrive INT LOC.prox c7s tree DEM
buṭ , **aṣë** **jun** **uteek** ...
 b- uṭ a- ṣë jun u- teek
 C5S DEM.dist SER SEQ begin C2S first
 “He arrived at that tree and he started first..”

10.30 **Kë** **baṭaṣa** **mënṭan** **bukuṭ** , **ñaṇ**
 kë ba- ṭaṣa mënṭan buk- uṭ ñaṇ
 DS C1P teenager_(boy) DEM C1P DEM.DIST person
anduwaniiṭ **Nabanka** **Biyagi** **aṣë** **wo**
 a- n- duw -an -i -iṭ Nabanka Biyagi a- ṣë wo
 C1S COREF call CAUS MID SUB Nabanka Biyagi C1S SEQ be
da ...
 d- a
 C9S OBJ

“Amongst those boys, there was someone called Nabanka Biyagi”

Sometimes this form of renewal is used with the word *wori* “moment” to create a temporal renewal.

10.31 **Kë** **uṣë** **pën** **wori** **mënṭan** **wuṭ** , **kë**
 kë u- ṣë pën wori mënṭan w- uṭ kë
 DS C2S SEQ go_out time DEM C2S DEM.dist DS
ṇakak **untanka**
 ṇa- kak u- ntanka
 C2P return C2S village

“At that moment, he got out, and they returned to the village”

A nominal renewal of this form can refer to a whole situation, rather than a participant, or one aspect of it.

10.32 **Kë Dama ašë win kë ayin baka**
 kë Dama a- šë win kë a- yin baka
 DS Dama SER SEQ see COMP C1AS husband C1P.OBJ

aŋal Naala apela
 a- ŋal Naala a- pel -a
 C1S like Nala SER be_more C1S.OBJ

“Dama saw that their husband loved Nala more than her”

Ŧi duŋ mënŋan duŋ di
 Ŧ- i d- uŋ mënŋan d- uŋ d- i
 INT LOC.PROX C9S DEM.DIST DEM C9S DEM.dist C9S GEN
di Dama abaaŋ kabi ŝoor
 d- i Dama a- ba -aŋ k- a- bi ŝoor
 C9S DEM.PROX Dama C1S CMPLTV SUB IMPERF SER PST hate
ŝoor Naala ..
 ŝoor Naala
 hate Nala

“In this situation, Dama began to hate Nala.”

10.2.2.2 Verbal renewal

It is also possible to use verbal renewal, where a verbal part of the sentence is repeated. Example 10.33 comes from the start of a new episode in a story. Elephant has succeeded in trapping Hare, and the next episode tells of his return to the village. The clause *ušë tuh wa Ŧi bhër* “he trapped him in the hole” in sentence 10.33a closes an episode, and a new episode is started by repeating the same phrase (with just a slight modification) in 10.33b.

10.33 a **Uwajaŋŧën kë uloŋ ušë tuh wa**
 u- waj -aŋŧën kë u- loŋ u- šë tuh w- a
 C2S three ORD DS C2S INDEF C2S SEQ close C2S OBJ
Ŧi bhër
 Ŧ- i b- hër
 INT LOC.PROX C5S hole

b **Wal wi ušaŋ atuh wa**
 w- al w- i u- ša -aŋ a- tuh w- a
 C2S moment C2S GEN C2S SEQ SUB SER close C2S OBJ
Ŧi bhër , kë ušë Ŧij mnob
 Ŧ- i b- hër , kë u- šë Ŧij m- nob
 INT LOC.PROX C5S hole DS C2S SEQ bring C8 honey
muŋ ...
 ma- uŋ
 C8 DEM.DIST

“The third time he closed him in the hole. When he had closed him in the hole, he took the honey ...”

Later in the same story there is another example of verbal renewal. This time the renewal (the repetition of *uşë pën* “he got out”) marks the start of the conclusion.

10.34 **umaalu** **kë** **uşë** **pën** , **aşë** **mook**
 u- maalu kë u- şë pën a- şë mook
 C2S hare DS C2S SEQ go_out SER SEQ hug
Ṭwaraaṭi **aji** : « ... »
 Ṭwaraaṭi a- ji
 Tswaraatsi SER say

Kë **uşë** **pën** **wori** **mënṭan** **wuṅ** **kë**
 kë u- şë pën wori mënṭan w- uṅ kë
 DS C2S SEQ go_out time that C2S DEM.DIST DS
ṇakak **untanka**
 ṇa- kak u- ntanka
 C2P return C2S village

“Hare got out of the hole, embraced Tswaraatsi and said ' ... '. When he had got out, they went to the village”

Example 10.35 shows a verbal renewal in the story of Nabanka Biyagi. After a war Nabanka Biyagi finally becomes king. Then the narrator gives us some background information about the royal compound. To restart the main narrative the narrator uses verbal renewal (the repetition of *aneejan pşih* “he became king”).

10.35 **Nabanka** **Biyagi** **kë** **anaṭa** , **kë**
 Nabanka Biyagi kë a- naṭ -a kë
 Nabanka Biyagi DS C1S stand MID DS
bahula **baṭeṇana** , **kë** **aneejan**
 ba- hula ba- ṭeṇan -a kë a- neejan
 C1P Mankanya C5S sacrifice MID DS C1S insert
pşih
 p- şih
 C6S kingdom/throne

[.. Sentences containing background information not shown for clarity...]

Kë **Nabanka** **Biyagi** **kë** **aneejan** **pşih**
 kë Nabanka Biyagi kë a- neejan p- şih
 DS Nabanka Biyagi DS C1S insert C6S kingdom/throne

“Nabanka Biyagi stood up, the Mankanya made sacrifices, and he became king. (Background information about the name of the place) Nabanka Biyagi became king...”

These examples show that verbal renewal is a device that is used to provide coherence, while at the same time marking important points in the text e.g. episode changes.

10.3 Points of departure

In a text there are often discontinuities in the thread of the story, and these can be a jump in time, a change of location, or a change of reference.

The structures that occur at discontinuities to maintain cohesion are sometimes referred to as points of departure. Points of departure in Mankanya are usually sentence initial.

Temporal points of departure are often time noun phrases.

10.36 **Ṭi** **uṣubal** **uloṅ** , **ṭi**
 ṭ- i u- ṣubal u- loṅ ṭ- i
 INT LOC.prox C2S rain C2S INDEF INT LOC.prox
wal **wi** **mnkaaju** ,
 w- al w- i m- nkaaju
 C2S moment C2S GEN c6p cashew_apple
 “One year, at the time of the cashew harvest ...”

10.37 **Na** **utaakal** **uket** , **wal** **wi**
 na u- taakal u- keṭ w- al w- i
 and C2S evening C2S die C2S moment C2S GEN
nantohi **ayaṅ** , **kë** **ñaaṭ** **aṣë** **ya**
 na- ntohi a- ya -aṅ kë ñ- aaṭ a- ṣë ya
 C1S elder C1S go SUB DS C1S woman SER SEQ go
aya **ṭup** **baniw**
 a- ya ṭup ba- niw
 SER go announce C5S fiancé(e)

“In the middle of the night, when the old man had gone, the woman went to talk with her lover ”

They can also be headless relative clauses, with an implied head of *wal* “time”.

Locational points of departure can be locative phrases:

10.38 **Ṭi** **p̄toof** **pi** **bnkan** **kë**
 ṭ- i p- toof p- i b- nkan kë
 INT LOC.prox C4S half C4S GEN C5S salt-marsh DS
ṇaṣë **ṭo** **pfaaṣër** **bka** **bi** **ṇa**
 ṇa- ṣë ṭo p- faaṣër b- ka b- i ṇ- a
 C2P SEQ sit INF share_out c7s possessions c7s GEN C2P OBJ
 “In the middle of the salt-marsh, they stopped to share out their gains ”

However, narratives often keep the “spotlight” on the main participants, so changes of location are often connected with a movement verb.

10.39 **Aşë** **tool** **aban** **tuŋ** **kawuj**
 a- şë tool a- ban ʈ- uŋ ka- wuj
 SER SEQ leave SER arrive INT LOC.dist C3S entrance

untabanka

u- ntabanka

c2s village

“They left and arrived at the entrance of a village”

10.40 **Wi** **nyaan** **aban** **ti** **Gambi**
 wi ŋ- ya -aŋ a- ban ʈ- i Gambi
 when 1P go SUB SER arrive INT LOC.prox Gambia

awala **ti** **pmuur** **bdëk**
 a- wala ʈ- i p- muur b- dëk
 SER come down INT LOC.prox INF cross C5S sea

“When we had gone a while, we arrived in Gambia, and got down to cross the river”

Sometimes a point of departure can be giving a reason for the following action, for example using *jibi*.

10.41 **Jibi** **untanka** **upoŋ** , **kë** **baniw**
 jibi u- ntanka u- poŋ -uŋ kë ba- niw
 like c2s village c2s be small SUB DS c5s fiancé(e)

ñaat **natëbëntën** **ame** ...
 ñ- aat na- tëb -ëntën a- me
 c1s woman c1s two ORD SER know

“As the village was small, the second lover knew...”

10.42 **Jibi** **ŋko** **ŋundu** **naşaan** **awo**
 jibi ŋ- ko ŋ- undu na- şa -aŋ a- wo
 like c2p animals c2p DEM.VDIST c2p SEQ SUB SER be

ti **bwuukar** , **awuuk** **ukomal**
 ʈ- i b- wuuk -ar a- wuuk u- komal
 INT LOC.prox c5s push RCP SER push c2s hippo

“As those animals were pushing, they pushed the hippo”

Another common point of departure structure is the use of *hënk* followed by a relative structure introduced by *di*, which bases the new action on what has just gone on before.

10.43 **Kë hēnk di abaaŋ kabi**
 kë hēnk d- i a- ba -aŋ k- a- bi
 DS so C9S GEN C1S cmpltv SUB IMPERF SER past
duka duka ʦi pdo na Naala
 duka duka ʦ- i p- do na Naala
 stay stay INT LOC.PROX INF do and Nala
 “So this is what she (Dama) kept doing to Nala.”

10.44 **Kë hēnk di Naala ayaaŋ na utejan**
 kë hēnk d- i Naala a- ya -aŋ na u- tejan
 DS so C9S GEN Nala C1S go SUB and C2S night
aʦēnk ŋntaayi
 a- ʦēnk ŋ- ntaayi
 SER find C2P demon
 “And so Nala went at night, she found the spirits ...”

10.45 **Kë hēnk di Dama akaaŋ aya na**
 kë hēnk d- i Dama a- ka -aŋ a- ya na
 DS so C9S GEN Dama C1S REP SUB SER go and
utejan aya ʦēnk ŋntaayi
 u- tejan a- ya ʦēnk ŋ- ntaayi
 C2S night SER go find C2P demon
 “And so Dama also went at night, she found the spirits ...”

