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A grammar of Cheke Holo

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5 Adjectives, Adverbs, Prepositions

This chapter discusses the word classes of adjectives (section 5.1), adverbs (section 5.2), and prepositions (section 5.3). Various groupings, or sub-classes (where applicable) of each class are described and illustrated, and distinguishing features of each class are presented.

5.1 Adjectives

5.1.1 Introduction

For Oceanic languages, “if an Oceanic language has a class of genuine adjectives at all, it is likely to be a small closed set of forms which is defined by the fact that its members are uninflected and can be used both as a predicate and attributively when they directly follow the nominal head that they modify” (Lynch *et al* 2002:40).

CH, however, differs from this Oceanic typology on two of the three counts. 1) Instead of being a “small, closed set”, CH has a broad inventory of adjectives. White catalogued more than 200 lexical items as adjectives in the CH dictionary. While this author does not necessarily vouch for that number and for all of those classified as such in his dictionary, the number is indeed large. 2) Instead of its members being uninflected, certain semantic sub-classes of CH adjectives are inflected by possession-marking enclitics, completive aspect enclitics, and the causative prefix *fa-*, from which are derived verbs or adverbs. Each characteristic is noted in the relevant sections which follow. 3) Regarding Lynch *et al*'s comment that adjectives can be used in both predicate and attributive functions when following the nominal head they modify, this is true for CH.

This word class in CH shares some similarities with intransitive verbs, such as reduplication (4.2.1), and the same negator (9.3.5). All CH descriptive adjectives except *famane* ‘fine/excellent’ occur in the syntactic slot immediately following the head noun which they modify. Various sub-classes of CH adjectives are grouped in semantic domains, and are discussed in the following sections. Structural and morphological distinctive features of those members are noted.

5.1.2 Age descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate age include among its members *majagani* ‘new/young’, *bi'o* ‘old/grown’ and *tifa* ‘old’. These members modify the head from an immediate post-nominal syntactic position, as in (450). The adjective *tifa* ‘old’ is usually used to modify a person as in (450), whereas *majagani* ‘young’ seems to have a much broader range of nouns which it modifies, including inanimate objects (451). The adjectives in this class can be inflected for possession, as shown in (451).

(450) *Kaisei neigano teke eni mae tifa re*
 one feast PSS do man old PL
 ‘It was that a feast was given by the old men.’

(451) *Loku bi'o te kaikaliti suḡa tarai majagani=gna kava na*
 work big PRS ready house prayer young=3SG.POSS tin.roof DEM
 ‘It is a lot of work that [is done] to prepare the new church [with] this tin roof.’

5.1.3 Dimension descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate dimension include among its members *bi'o* ‘big’, *ikoi* ‘small’, *brahu* ‘long/tall’, *sokmo* ‘short’, *krepa* ‘wide’, and *ḡobro* ‘narrow’. In this class, these adjectives describe the dimension of physical, inanimate nouns (452), humans (453) and (455), and weather expressions (454). In the case of humans, *bi'o* ‘big’ and *iko* ‘small’ can be extended to metaphorical use. As illustrated in (455), the adjectives in this class can be inflected for possession.

(452) *Mae Fred gne mei la filo=hi egu namono krepa*
 man Fred DEM come IMM see=COMPL like.that village wide
 ‘Fred has come and seen how wide the village is.’

(453) *Mae brahu ruma mei ka assembly*
 man long enter come LOC assembly
 ‘The tall man entered the assembly.’

(454) *U si nuri bi'o kolho gema*
 DEM FOC wind big just friend
 ‘Friend, it was just a big wind!’

(455) *Iara mae bi'o=ḡu Ḣurena*
 1SG man big=1SG.POSS Ḣurena
 ‘I am the leader from Ḣurena.’

For purposes of intensification, an adverb fills the syntactic slot immediately following the dimension adjective.

(456) *Pukuni ḡloku bi'o fara*
 truly work big very
 ‘This is really very big work.’

These adjectives commonly function as predicate adjectives, as in:

- (457) *Cheke re ka mae bisop iko-i fara*
 word PL LOC man bishop small-COMP very
 ‘The bishop said, “This is very small!”’ (referring in context to an amount of money)

Also, members of this class can be derived for causation, illustrated in reference to an utterance verb (458), and a stative (459).

- (458) *Eha fa-bi'o fara gehati*
 shout CAUS-big very 1PL.EXCL
 ‘We shouted extremely loud.’
- (459) *Donuts te au fa-bi'o=gna Buala*
 donuts PRS be CAUS-big =3SG.POSS Buala
 ‘It is that donuts have really become popular in Buala.’

5.1.4 Value descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate value include among its members *keli* ‘good’, *di'a* ‘bad’, and *famane* ‘fine’. In the NP, these adjectives occur syntactically post-nominally to the head (460), except for *famane*, which occurs both pre-head and post-head, as in the utterance (461) which illustrates both positions. The NPs in the latter example are bracketed.

- (460) *Gamu kha'agi khame di'a te peko ia*
 eat fire hand bad REL crooked DEM
 ‘That fire burned his hand that is bad.’
- (461) [*Famane nuri keli fara*] [*ḡaḡafa famane*]
 fine wind good very breeze fine
 ‘It was a fine wind, very good, an excellent breeze!’

Members of this class are inflected for possession (462) and completive aspect (463), and used predicatively in the latter and therefore marked for aspect. The members can also be derived by causation (462) and (464), with the latter illustrating a transitive, causative verb derived by causation of the adjective.

- (462) *Fi~filo fa-keli ka tei nakhapra keli=gna*
 DUR~look.at CAUS-good LOC go reef good=3SG.POSS
 ‘They will keep watching well/alertly and go to the reef if it is good.’
- (463) *Suḡa gotilo te namo di'a=hi gile ia*
 house 2PL PRS near bad=COMPL until DEM
 ‘It is that your house is almost completely ruined.’

- (464) *Mare fa-di'a no=di suḡa*
 3PL CAUS-bad ALN=3PL.POSS house
 'They ruined their house.'

Members of this class commonly function as predicate adjectives, as illustrated in the following three examples:

- (465) *Ḡoro sua ra keli*
 all child PL good
 'All those children are good.'

- (466) *Keha suḡa di'a keha suḡa keli*
 some house bad some house good
 'Some houses are bad and some houses are good.'

- (467) *Nakhete na theome keli*
 rain DEM NEG good
 'This rain is not good.'

5.1.5 Color descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate color comprise a very small set, including only the following among its members: *vega* 'white', *pipito* 'black/blue', *karha*⁵⁹ 'green', *ukru* 'red', and *rija* 'yellow'. These adjectives are not inflected for possession or aspect, but can be inflected with the prefix *fa-* to derive verbs, as in example (469). All occur post-nominal to the head of the NP, and can function, as in (468) and (470), as predicate adjectives.

- (468) *suḡa ukru*
 house red
 'red house'

- (469) *Mana fa-ukru=ni suḡa na*
 3SG.M CAUS-red=3SG.OBJ house DEM
 'He made-red this house [as with paint].'

- (470) *Mae pipito fara jare*
 man black very there
 'There are a lot of black men there!' (commenting on the deep hues of the dark-skinned people of Western province)

5.1.6 Physical characteristics descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate physical characteristics include among its members *maku* 'hard', *pila*, 'soft', *tahu* 'heavy', *salhu* 'smooth', *brana* 'hot (water)', *rifu*

⁵⁹ This is the same word for 'live'.

‘cold (water)’, *gae*, ‘clean’ and *thona* ‘dirty’. As with other sub-classes of adjectives, the adjectives which indicate physical characteristics regularly occur post-nominal to the head of the NP, and also function as predicate adjective. Both of these features are shown in (471) and (472). These adjectives can be derived to become a transitive, causative verb, as in (473).

(471) *Ġaju pukuni ġaju maku*
 tree really tree hard
 ‘That wood is really hard!’

(472) *Kaha vaka mae Malaita mae Westi mae Santa Cruz thona fara*
 some ship man Malaita man West man Santa Cruz dirty very
 ‘Some ships of Malaita, Western province, and Santa Cruz are very dirty!’

(473) *Mala ne tolagi na'a jare fa-maku=ni me=u*
 PUR PST marry 3M>F there CAUS-hard=3SG.OBJ INCP=CONT

ġlose tuana
 land DEM
 ‘She married there and that began to strengthen her claim to the land.’

5.1.7 Human propensity descriptor adjectives

CH adjectives which indicate human propensity include among its members *ġoġhotu*, ‘jealous’, *ġlea* ‘happy’, *di'anagnafa* ‘sad’, *frane* ‘brave’, *noli* ‘crazy’, *jaġlo* ‘surprise’, and *mhagu* ‘fear’. These adjectives are not easily classified in terms of word class differentiation. The reason for this is that they actually do show characteristics in regards to possession which would lend to their classification as nominals. Namely, some demonstrate alienable possession by the experiencer, as in (474) and (475), while others are inflected with inalienable possession marking, shown in (476) and (477). The curious difference seems to be that the inalienably marked ones only occur with *ġlea* ‘happy’ and *di'anagnafa* ‘sad’, while the others in this sub-class take alienable possession marking. The variable alienable and inalienable possession marking is noted as an anomaly. One of the key factors for keeping this sub-class as adjective is that each member is modified by adverbs, and adverbial modifiers are not attested with CH nominals. Also, the happy/sad grouping takes direct-object marking enclitics, as described below in (478) and (479). Direct-object marking enclitics is also not attested for CH nominals.

(474) *Di'a fara ka iara tei ka Sol Air mhagu no=ġu*
 bad very LOC 1SG go LOC Sol Air fear ALN=1SG.POSS
 ‘It’s really bad for me to go on Solomon Airlines, as I am afraid.’

(475) *Uve jaġlo no=ġu iara*
 yes surprise ALN=1SG.POSS 1SG
 ‘Yes, I am surprised!’

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(476) *Nu thofno hui di'anagnafa=ḡu fara te lose*
 CONJ really finish sad=1SG.POSS very PRS lose
 'But it was that I was really sad that the outcome was losing.'

(477) *Kaisei ḡlepo te theome ḡlea=gna iara*
 one thing REL NEG happy=3SG.POSS 1SG
 'It is one thing that I am not happy about.'

Members of this class are also inflected for transitivity with the direct-object marking enclitic, as illustrated in (478) and (479).

(478) *Gume tuana teke di'anagnafa=ni gepa thu=gna*
 CONJ DEM PSS sad=3SG.OBJ 1DU.EXCL child=3SG.POSS

ḡa'ase
 female

'Therefore, [for] that [reason], it was that the two of us were sad towards our daughter.'

(479) *Egume iara ḡlea=di=hila te fati te*
 CONJ 1SG happy=3PL.OBJ=COMPL PRS four PRS

au thu=di ḡā'ase
 be child=3PL.POSS woman

'Therefore it is that I am very happy that there are four daughters.'

Members of this class often function as predicate adjective, illustrated in (480).

(480) *Tuana me iara ḡlea fara*
 DEM INCP 1SG happy very
 'That's why I began to be very happy.'

The propensity is commonly intensified, as demonstrated in (481) through (484), in which the intensity of the fear, sadness, or surprise is marked by both adjectival and adverbial modifiers.

(481) *mhagu tahu*
 fear heavy
 'very fearful'

(482) *mhagu fara*
 fear very
 'extremely fearful'

(483) *Mare na di'anagnafa fara*
 3PL DEM sad very
 'They are very sad.'

(484) *U jaḡlo no=ḡu bi'o fara*
 DEM surprise ALN=1SG.POSS big very
 'That surprise was extremely big.'

5.1.8 Summary

CH has a broad inventory of adjectives, and these are grouped according to semantic domains. Members of all domains except color adjectives are inflected by possession-marking enclitics or completive aspect enclitics. All domains can derive verbs by the use of the causative prefix *fa-*. CH adjectives perform predicate and attributive functions when following the nominal head they modify. This word class in CH shares some similarities with intransitive verbs, such as reduplication, and the same negator. All CH descriptive adjectives except *famane* 'fine/excellent' always occur in the syntactic slot immediately following the head noun which they modify. *Famane* does occur post-noun, but in some cases, pre-noun as well.

5.2 Adverbs

5.2.1 Introduction

Adverbs modify constituents other than nouns, and as such, occur extensively in CH, modifying mostly verbs and adjectives, and also modifying a clause. Semantic classifications of adverbs are recorded for various sub-classes including modality, direction, and epistemic. There is no attestation of temporal adverbs. Traditional temporal adverbial ideas reflecting notions of 'early', 'later', 'now', etc., are not classified in CH as adverbs, but as nouns. The reason is that syntactically, each of the traditional 'temporal notions' demonstrates criteria for noun classification. Patterns of occurrence of adverbs related to serial verb constructions will be deferred to the section on serial verbs, section 9.4.3.

The verbal adverbs occur linearly adjacent to the verb, either pre-verbally or post-verbally. The grammatical ordering of adverbs, as to whether they occur either pre-verbal or post-verbal, is not predictable for the semantic sub-class of which they are members, as members of the same class often demonstrate both pre- and post-verbal syntactic ordering. In fact, all of the sub-classes demonstrate both positions of ordering.

Unlike what occurs with nouns, verbs, and adjectives, pronominal clitics do not attach to adverbs. Negation of adverbs is identical to that of verbs. One syntactic feature of CH adverbs is that members of certain sub-classes occur in pairs on the same side or on the opposite side of the verb which they modify. This doubling serves to bring greater emphasis to the modification of the verbal action.

5.2.2 Modality adverbs

Modality adverbs modify verbs and adjectives and basically indicate *how* something is done. This category includes words which contribute the concepts of speed, intensification, and restriction to the verbal or adjectival notion. They are also briefly described here, grouped according to their regular occurrence as post-verbal, or both pre- and post-verbal.

Post-verbal:

speed: *umhu* ‘quick’, *gosei* ‘fast’, *rauga*⁶⁰ ‘slow’

Pre- and post-verbal, depending on the adverb:

intensification: *fara* ‘very’, *thono/thofno*⁶¹ ‘real, genuine’, *ra’e* ‘really’⁶²

restrictive: *fiti*, *khogla*, *kolho*, *nāla* ‘just, only, simply’

Modality adverbs in the intensification class can occur in pairs, doing so on either side of the verb being modified in the linear order of ADV + VERB +ADV. The adverbs *thono/thofno* ‘truly’ and *ra’e* ‘really’ always occur pre-verb, and pair with the single member of the intensification sub-class that occurs in a post-verb position, *fara* ‘very’. These follow the linear order of ADV + VERB +ADV. Semantically, this pairing intensifies further the verbal notion. A further note on *ra’e* is that it is the intensification modality adverb whose regular function is to strengthen negation, as in (486) with a predicate adjective and in (487) with a transitive verb. Example (488) illustrates *ra’e* occurring and encoding positive intensification with a predicate adjective. Syntactic ordering of these adverbs is mentioned in the discussion of the CH verb phrase in sections 8.3.1.3 and 8.3.2.2.

(485) *Thofno g̃lea fara*
truly happy very
‘Truly, very happy.’

(486) *Theome ra’e keli*
NEG really good
‘It’s not really good.’

(487) *Mare theome ra’e lase=di ka thotonu ka Bible*
3PL NEG really know=3PL.OBJ LOC story LOC Bible
‘They don’t really know the Bible story.’

(488) *Ġognaro vido tura ra’e la chopu di’a fara*
now place DEM really IMM mud bad very
‘Now these places have really bad mud.’

⁶⁰ I note that the Pijin term *slou* ‘slow’ is becoming much more common among CH speakers.

⁶¹ I classify these as being in free variation.

⁶² Another intensification adjective in occasional use in CH is *pukuni* ‘truly’. But it is a Bughotu language word, and I have omitted it from this listing.

The restrictive function of the modality adverb indicates a restriction on the extent of the action indicated by the verb. This notion of restriction is reflected in the translation lines of the examples which follow. Four members of the sub-class are synonyms, and reflect meanings of ‘just, only, simply’. Two of these, *fiti* and *khoḡla*, occur pre-verb, and two occur post-verb, *kolho*, and *nāla*. Illustrations include:

- (489) *Eguteuna fiti vavahi tuana gotilo re*
 CONJ just choose DEM 2PL PL
 ‘And you-pl just choose that [option and no other].’
- (490) *Khoḡla jifla=ni Anglican*
 Just leave=3SG.OBJ Anglican
 ‘[He] just leaves the Anglican church [without any other action].’
- (491) *Mana nomhi=ni kolho*
 3SG.M hear=3SG.OBJ just
 ‘He just listens [and doesn’t do anything else].’
- (492) *Mare te jifla nāla*
 3PL PRS leave just
 ‘It is that they just leave [and don’t do anything else].’

Similarly to those in the sub-class of intensification, these adverbs in the modality sub-class can occur in pairs, doing so on either side of the verb being modified in the linear order of ADV + VERB +ADV. The adverbs *khoḡla* ‘just, only’ and *fiti* ‘just, only’, pair with *kolho* ‘just, only’. There is no attestation of *nāla* in its regular post-verb position pairing with another member of the class in a pre-verb position.

- (493) *Theome fiti ofo kolho egu*
 NEG just wait just like.that
 ‘He just didn’t wait, like that.’
- (494) *Iara theo mae comiti mae khoḡla cheke kolho*
 1SG not.be man committee man just talk just
 ‘I am not on the committee, I am just a man who only just talks/[is a spokesman].’

5.2.3 Directional adverbs

CH adverbs which indicate direction include *jare* ‘there’, *delei* ‘(somewhat) far away’, *agno* ‘distal; over there’, *agne*⁶³ ‘proximate; here’, and *pari* ‘lower/below’. The placement of the adverb is variable. The directional adverb usually occurs post-

⁶³ It is noted that the adverbs *agno* ‘distal direction’ and *agne* ‘proximate direction’ are obviously similar in form to the distal and proximate demonstratives, as described in 6.3.1.

verbal, as in (495). But as noted below in example (498), it can occur pre-verbal and sentence initial.

- (495) *Mae ne edi fa-keli suḡa delei egu*
 man PST do CAUS-good house far.away like.that
 ‘The man built well the house away over there, like that.’

The direction adverb occurs post-verbal (but not necessarily adjacent to the verb itself) and sentence final, illustrated in (496) and (497).

- (496) *Mana au fa-brahu jare*
 3SG.M be CAUS-long there
 ‘He has been there a long time.’

- (497) *Khebu sukha pari*
 mango fall below
 ‘The mango fell down below.’

The direction adverb *jare* can also occur pre-verbal, sentence initial to emphasize the direction which modifies the verbal notion:

- (498) *Jare jifla ia te lou-loku=ni mana*
 there leave DEM PRS DUR~work=3SG.OBJ 3SG
 ‘It was that he left there where he had been working.’

Not uncommonly, the direction adverbs *jare* ‘there’ and *agno* ‘distal; over there’ form a constituent with the place name to designate specifically where the action is occurring which is referred to by the direction adverb, as in (499), (500), and (501).

- (499) *Ḡognaro au Bishop’s Dale jare Honiara*
 now be Bishop’s Dale there Honiara
 ‘Now [he is] at Bishop’s Dale there in Honiara.’

- (500) *Mare lalahu bi’o jare Makira*
 3PL play big there Makira
 ‘They are competing a lot there in Makira.’

- (501) *Sunday na me tei nā ofo agno Kaevanga*
 Sunday DEM INCP go NSP wait there Kaevanga
 ‘This Sunday, [we] will start to go and wait there at Kaevanga.’

5.2.4 Epistemic adverbs

Epistemic adverbs indicate the speaker’s commitment to the truth of the clause. There are at least five CH adverbs which fit this category: *tutuani* ‘truly’, *jame* ‘perhaps’, *jou* ‘perhaps (used as a question, asking for confirmation)’, *(fane)fou*

‘possibly’, and *ba* ‘maybe’. Adverbs *tutuani* and *jame* usually occur sentence and/or clause initial as in (502), (503), and (504), while *jou* and *fou* usually occur sentence and clause final, as illustrated in (504) and (505). *Ba* occurs pre-verb to indicate uncertainty, shown in (507). Also, it is seen in (504) that *jame* is in sentence-initial position and *jou* is in sentence-final position. It is suggested that this ‘doubling’ of the epistemic adverbs gives even less certainty to the statement of fact than if one of the epistemic verbs occurred by itself.

(502) *Tutuani fara*
 true very
 ‘Very true [what I’m telling you]!’

(503) *Jame pheī narane kolho*
 perhaps two day just
 ‘Maybe it will just be two days.’

(504) *Jame ke au ka mae bishop e jou*
 perhaps REP be LOC man bishop EMP perhaps
 ‘Perhaps the bishop will come stay again?’

(505) *Egu ame fa-mei=ni kolho naikno fou*
 like.that before CAUS-come=3SG.OBJ just people possibly
 ‘And maybe it will possibly be like that before the people come?’

(506) *Ġa’ase bi’o fara jou=hila Ista ia*
 woman big very perhaps=COMPL Esther DEM
 ‘Esther must be a very big girl by now!’

(507) *Mae provins ġro ba mei lañau*
 man province DEM maybe come also
 ‘Those provincial workers might come.’

5.2.5 Summary

CH adverbs occur linearly adjacent to the verb, either pre-verbally or post-verbally. The syntactic position is not predictable for the semantic sub-class of which they are members, as members of the same class often demonstrate both pre- and post-verbal syntactic ordering. In fact, all of the sub-classes demonstrate both positions of ordering. Pronominal clitics do not attach to adverbs.

One syntactic feature of CH adverbs is that members of certain sub-classes occur in pairs on the same side or on the opposite side of the verb which they modify. This doubling, especially in the modality class, serves to bring greater emphasis to the modification of the verbal action. However, in the epistemic sub-class this doubling of the adverbs gives even less certainty to the statement of fact than if one of the epistemic verbs occurred by itself. Four members of the modality sub-class are not

distinguished semantically, but are synonyms indicating ‘just, only, simply’. Other temporal notions demonstrate criteria consistent with noun classification.

5.3 Prepositions

5.3.1 Introduction

For Oceanic languages that are VO, “non-core nominal arguments in a clause are generally marked by adposed constituents” that are “typically prepositions” (Lynch *et al* 2002:51). CH has a fairly limited inventory of prepositions, all of which mark non-core nominal arguments.⁶⁴ They are listed here:

ka ‘at, in, for, by, on’
ke ‘to/towards (a place)’
rañhi ‘to/towards (a recipient)’
balu ‘with’
eigna ‘about’

Prepositions immediately precede the head noun of the NP which serves as the object of the preposition. This is seen in most of the examples which follow in this discussion. There are occasionally some intervening constituent elements in the prepositional phrase, such as a negative existential verb in example (519). Also, the co-occurrence of adjectives in the immediately following syntactic slot, particularly with preposition *ke*, as in example (520), is noted in section 5.3.3. Transitivity marking enclitics occur with *rañhi* (523), while possession enclitics occur with *balu*, as in example (526). In terms of placement in clause and sentence, prepositional phrases usually occur at the end of clauses rather than at the beginning. The preference of ordering is not predicated on any known syntactical restriction.

5.3.2 Preposition *ka* ‘at, in, for, by, on (LOC)’

The multi-functional *ka* is by far the most common CH preposition.⁶⁵ In general, *ka* marks location. This is described as a very underspecified, non-specific kind of location, which gets its more specific interpretation through the other elements it combines with in the clause. For example, *ka* marks a direction when it occurs in combination with a motion verb *tei* ‘go’:

(508) *Jack neke tei ka suḡa repa*
 Jack PST go LOC house 3DU.F
 ‘Jack went to their house.’

⁶⁴ In light of Durie’s (1988) study of what is referred to as Oceanic ‘verbal prepositions’, one could argue that two of the prepositions, *rañhi* and *balu*, share some characteristics with those cited in his study and could perhaps be classified in this way. Though inconclusive at this point, it is noted here that this is an area worthy of further study for these CH prepositions. Additionally, preposition *eigna* is described in this book as primarily a conjunction and secondarily as a preposition.

⁶⁵ *Ka* occurs in the analyzed corpus 1193 times. Its usual Solomons Pijin gloss is ‘long’.

Ka marks a location to a direction when it occurs in combination with a directional verb *pulo* ‘return’ (509) or an activity verb *hara* ‘seek’ (510):

(509) *Uve mare ke pulo ka namono*
 yes 3PL PRF return LOC village
 ‘Yes, they returned to the village.’

(510) *Gehati hara dofi=ni ka suḡa ka namono*
 1PL.EXCL seek blind=3SG.OBJ LOC house LOC village
 ‘We looked but didn’t find anyone at the house in the village.’

Ka also marks location in relation to perception verbs like *filo* ‘see’ (511), or posture verbs like *gnafa* ‘rest’ (512):

(511) *Uve te filo=ni ka TV Honiara*
 yes PRS see=3SG.OBJ LOC television Honiara
 ‘Yes, it is what I see on TV in Honiara.’

(512) *Tei gnafa ka ḡaju te elo*
 go finish LOC tree REL float
 ‘[He] went and rested on the wood that was floating.’

The notion of location is metaphorically extended to all kinds of non-spatial domains, such as location in particular human relations:

(513) *Pukuni ḡloku bi'o fara ka thabukna=di re*
 truly work big very LOC family=3PL.POSS PL
 ‘Truly the work was very big for their family.’

Ka marks a location in discourse (514), and in time, as in example (515).

(514) *Ka tuana me di'a ta=di ña mae Malaita*
 LOC DEM INCP bad EXP=3PL.OBJ NSP man Malaita
 ‘In regards to that, they were angry at the Malaitans.’

(515) *Mae Guadalcanal tuana na te eni New York ka namba*
 man Guadalcanal DEM DEM PRS do New York LOC number

eleven

eleven

‘That which happened to the Guadalcanal people is like what happened in New York on the eleventh [of September].’

For signaling physical location of, or destination related to, common nouns, *ka* is obligatorily used. However, *ka* is not attested with proper nouns as locations or destinations. This is shown in the following grouping of examples:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--|---------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| (516) | <i>mana</i> | <i>tei</i> | <i>ka</i> | <i>namono</i> | | <i>*mana</i> | <i>tei</i> | <i>namono</i> | |
| | 3SG.M | go | LOC | village | | 3SG.M | go | village | |
| | 'He goes to the village.' | | | | | *'He goes village.' | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>mana</i> | <i>tei</i> | <i>Buala</i> | | | <i>*mana</i> | <i>tei</i> | <i>ka</i> | <i>Buala</i> |
| | 3SG.M | go | Buala | | | 3SG.M | go | LOC | Buala |
| | 'He goes to Buala.' | | | | | *'He goes Buala.' | | | |

Ka marks a location in space in examples (517) and (518), denoting a malefactive and a benefactive recipient, respectively:

- (517) *Khegra hage mae Billy thogei thutuna ka mae Hendere*
 stand up man Billy begin slap LOC man Henry
 'Billy stood up and began slapping Henry.'
- (518) *Iara riso ari ka iago balu glealea*
 1SG write go LOC 2SG COM happy
 'I write to you with joy.'

Ka marks a location on an impersonal referent in (519), occurring with an abstract noun like *nafu* 'purpose'.

- (519) *Fiti koko sileni kolho ka theo nafu=di*
 just throw.out money only LOC not.be purpose=3PL.POSS
 'Just throwing away money for no purpose.'

5.3.3 Other prepositions

Besides the multi-functional *ka* there are four other CH prepositions, and all are used with a single or small range of specific functions, namely *ke* 'to (a place)' and 'comparatively', *rañhi* 'to (a recipient)', *balu* 'with', and *eigna* 'about/concerning', (though it is noted that *eigna* usually occurs as a conjunction and rarely occurs as a preposition). Like *ka*, prepositions *ke* and *eigna* are not recipient to cliticization, while *rañhi* and *balu* are roots which do accept clitics. *Rañhi* is marked for transitivity and *balu* for possession. As such, the latter two are classified as prepositions but with their verb-like features, they could be regarded as the second verb in a serial verb construction. Serial verbs are discussed in section 9.4.3.

Preposition *ke* can be used to indicate a directional notion in conjunction with a noun such as *lamna* 'inside', *hotei* 'middle', *pari* 'down', and *hage* 'up'. All of these nouns occurring with *ke* can receive enclitics indicating possession. This is

illustrated by (520). *Ke* is also used with a spatial relator noun that has no possessive clitic, such as *paka* ‘lower elevation’, illustrated by (521).

(520) *Ġobi lepo ġano te au ke lamna=gna thoñna na*
 one.hundred thing food REL be DIR inside=3SG.POSS sea DEM
 ‘All the food that is inside the sea.’

(521) *Apu chopu koba tahati ke paka Nareabu ra*
 bathe mud always 1PL.INCL DIR lower.elevation Nareabu PL
 ‘We-incl always played in the mud in the low parts of Nareabu.’

Preposition *ke* is used to signal a comparative relationship, as in (522), doing so syntactically by preceding a noun which can be acted upon by a pronominal enclitic indicating possession.

(522) *Mana ke ulu=gna mae Samson*
 3SG.M CMPR first=3SG.POSS man Samson
 ‘He is bigger/older than Samson.’

The preposition *rañhi* functions similarly to the recipient function of *ka*, in that it indicates recipient of a speech act or the recipient of something which is given, as shown in (523) and (524). Interestingly in example (524), both *ka* and *rañhi* are used in the same sentence but in separate prepositional phrases to indicate recipient.

(523) *Mae pulis mala mei toutonu rañhi=gita tahati*
 man police PUR come story DIR=1PL.INCL.OBJ 1PL.INCL
 ‘The police come to story to us.’

(524) *Thofno teġio fara ka gotilo ka unha no=mi*
 truly thank.you very LOC 2PL LOC what ALN=1PL.EXCL.POSS

te=u te tusu mei ba te theo ba rañhi=gami
 PRS=CONT REL give come or PRS not.be or DIR=1PL.EXCL.OBJ

tharakna
 family

‘Truly [I give] thanks very much to you-pl for what it is that you have given to us-excl, or if you have not been able to give to our family [thank you for what you have done].’

The preposition *balu* has a comitative function:

(525) *Teḡio fara ka iago Rebekah balu thu=mu Jone*
 thank.you very LOC 2SG Rebekah COM child=2SG.POSS John

Deveti nei Ista tura
 David CONJ Esther these

‘Thanks very much to you Rebekah along with these your children John, David, and Esther.’

Optionally, pronominal enclitics can attach to *balu* to indicate possession, as shown in (526). This differs from *rañhi* ‘to’, which accepts object enclitics.

(526) *Mana me au balu=gna ñala Mama Hehebala*
 3SG.M INCP be COM=3SG.POSS just father Hehebala
 ‘He was just with Fr Hehebala.’

5.3.4 Summary

CH has a limited inventory of prepositions. The most frequently occurring is *ka*, which describes a very underspecified, non-specific kind of location or direction. Specificity comes through the other elements it combines with in the clause. Despite its commonly-occurring function as a locative marker, one somewhat surprising syntactic feature of *ka* is that it is not used in a prepositional phrase to mark location of a proper noun. *Ka* is only used in a prepositional phrase to mark location of a common noun. Of the other four CH prepositions, *rañhi* ‘to/towards a person’ and *balu* ‘with’ both are inflected by enclitics. *Rañhi* is marked for transitivity and *balu* for possession. As such, they could perhaps be classified as verbal prepositions, identified in Oceanic studies by Durie (1988). Asserting verb-like status, they would then occur as the second member of a serial verb construction. However, this conclusion requires additional research, both for CH and related languages, before this conclusion is validated.