

3. Verbs, Verb Phrases, and Pronouns.

3.0. A verb stem is a stem which may be used with the bound morpheme /rɪ/ before it, or /rɑ/ after it, or with certain other bound morphemes described in this section. A verb phrase is a series of two or more verb stems with a single subject. A verbal construction is the use of a verb stem or phrase with one or more bound morphemes which may be termed "aspect particles". A verbal sentence is a verbal construction used as a command or used with a subject, noun or pronoun. It is convenient to dovetail the description of pronouns with that of verbs, since pronoun forms other than possessives (for which see 2.6 above) are used almost exclusively with verbs.

3.1. Independent, subject, and object pronouns are basic to several verbal constructions, and to other pronoun forms to be introduced later.

3.1.1. Independent pronouns may be used in isolation with an emphatic demonstrative force. They may also be used before verbs as emphatic subjects. For the use of at least two of them before nouns, see 2.10 above. The following forms are identical for the two dialects in general. However, one Wukari informant usually says /gũ/ for /kũ/ in rapid speech;

he also substitutes /g/ for /k/ in many other common words such as locatives and adverbs.

	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Independent</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.s.	/ám/	/m/	1.pl.	/áí/	/i/
2.s.	/áu/	/u/	2.pl.	/áni/	/ni/
3.s.	/áku/	/kú/	3.pl.	/ábé/	/bé/

These subject pronouns are used before verb stems except as specified for some aspects below. The third person pronouns may be used after a noun subject for emphasis or clarity.

3.1.2. Object pronouns are used after verb stems, as noun subjects also are. They are identical in form with the subject pronouns except that in Wukari mid tone is replaced by mid to low falling (/kù, ì, nì, bè/) at the end of a sentence. Before an object pronoun with low tone (/m, u/), mid tone in a verb stem changes to high. For example:

<u>Takum</u>	<u>Wukari</u>	
/yá kù/	/yí kù/	'give (it) to him'
/yá m/	/yí m/	'give (it) to me'
/sà zà bè/	/tsà za bè/	'help them'
/kù sà zá u?/	/kù tsa zá u?/	'Did he help you?'

3.1.3. Verbs that usually take an object are sometimes used without an object where the third person singular pronoun object might be expected; the translation 'it' is usually

required:

<u>Takum</u>	<u>Wukári</u>	
/ze bí/	/nde bí/	'bring it'; lit., 'take come'
cf. /zè zape bí/	/nde dyape bí/	'bring water'
/yá m/	/yí m/	'give it to me'
cf. /yá m fyekě/	/yí m fyekě/	'give me some peanuts'

3.1.4. As illustrated in the last sentence above, a pronoun object may be used before a noun object. However, this is common only when the noun object is a single word. The following construction is used for longer objects:

<u>Takum</u>	<u>Wukari</u>	
/ze kúna 'pina yá m/	/nde kwí pyina yí m/	'give me two knives'

JUKUN of WUKARI

and

JUKUN of TAKUM

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