In the Rawa dialect there are no voiced stops—only aspirated and unaspirated voiceless stops. Thus the *p, t, k* letters represent the aspirated voiceless stops and the *b, d, g* letters represent the unaspirated voiceless stops. The /r/ phoneme freely alternates with /l/ phoneme according to the speaker's discretion.

In the Karo dialect, the *b, d, g,* represent voiced stops. The Karo people tend to use a much higher percentage of the /l/ phoneme and the Rawa people use the /r/ phoneme more.

All the prenasalized stops *mb, nd, ng, ngg* and the vowel *oo'* each pattern together as a single phoneme.

Stress in the Karo/Rawa language is phonemic and therefore non-predictable. The primary stress always occurs on either the first or second syllable. The secondary stress occurs two syllables after the primary stress. In the example below, the primary and secondary stress will be capitalized to show where they occur and the syllables will be separated by a '.' .

(1)

ga.NA.ye.Roo.te	'he is deceiving them'
WE.ngge.Re.ngge.re	'to trip'

There are two basic syllable patterns: vowel (V) and consonant vowel (CV). In the initial syllable of a word, either V or CV may occur; elsewhere only CV. Two vowels may not occur contiguously in a word. In the examples below the words are divided into syllables with the use of a '.' and the functors are separated with a hyphen '-'.

(2)

V	CV
U.	*-te*
go.down	-prt.3s

'He is going down.'

V	CV
a.	*wa*

'father'

CV	CV	CV	CV	CV
Ga.	*na.*	*-ye.*	*roo.*	*-te.//*
deceive	-them	-prt.3s		

'He is deceiving them.'

CV	CV	CV
bi.	*yo.*	*mi*
'bad'		

The sentence ordering of the Karo/Rawa language is S O V (subject object verb).

(3)

subj	obj	verb		
Don	*si*	*yo-ro*	*maketi-no*	*u-wo.//*
Don	string.bag	get-ss	market-to	go.down-pt.3s

'Don got a string bag and went down to the market.'

Sentences tend to be rather lengthy. Verbs carry the principal semantic load of the clause.

(4) Text 85.1; Clauses 1-3:

				Verb	Verb	
No	*kuri-mi*	*bodaga-no*	*ko*	*te-wero*	*e-ro/*	*si*
1s	before-int	little-loc	work	do-des	say-ss	string.bag

Verb		Verb			Verb
yo-ro/	*duge*	*yo-ro/*	*kopi*	*ko-no*	*u -wo-no-wo.//*
get-ss/	knife	get-ss/	coffee	garden-loc	go.down-pt-1s-rpt

'Before, when I was little, I decided I wanted to do some work (so) I got (my) string bag, my knife, (and) I went down to the coffee garden.'

The verb final of the sentence has tense, person number, or aspect markers. For an example of the usual tense and person number on verb final, observe the final verb affixes in the preceding example four.

(5) Final Verb Completive Aspect Affix *-yingo:*

Ene	*ma*	*ombu-yingo.//*
3s	not	come-compl

'He did not come.'

The medial verbs connect the clauses together with same subject marker *-ro*; or different subject marker *-to--i ~ -too--e;* or the imperative *-ya* marker.

(6) Same Subject Medial Verb Marker *-ro*:

Ene sipedi yo-ro/ toonge-ro/ ko-no oore-wo.//
3s spade get-ss walk-ss garden-to go.up-pt.3s
'She got her spade, hiked and went up to her garden.'

(7) Text 85.1; Clauses 64-66: Different Subject Medial Verb Marker *-to --i*: (speaker excluded from the previous clause action):

Ngundiro e-ro/ ene-ndo duge gura nu-noo-to-ni/
same say-ss/ 3s-ag knife another me-give-ds-3s.e/

ngu-nonggo nowoondo-ne mete-mi ingo-yingo.//
this-from stomach-1s good-very feel-compl

'She said that and gave me another knife and from that my stomach felt good again.'

(8) Text 85.4; Clauses 33-35: Different Subject Medial Verb Marker *-too-e:* (speaker included in the previous clause action):

Nasiyoo-too-we, kokingo ye-to-ni ngu, no-ndo yo-ro/
warm.up-ds-1s.i hot put-ds-3s.e when 1s-ag get-ss

nombo dabemi-mo ye-yingo.//
ashes by.side-of put-compl

'I warmed it up, and when it became hot, I got it and put it by the side of the fireplace.'

(9) Medial Verb Imperative Marker *-ya*:

Yo-ya ombu.//
get-imp come
'Get it and come.'

When the different subject marker *-to -i* (speaker excluded from the previous clause action marker), ~ *-too -e* (speaker included in the previous clause action marker) is used, the person number marker occurs second affix order with either the *-i* or the *-e* marker attached to it according to whether or not the speaker has been included in the previous clause action. Observe the medial verb different subject marker (*-to -i*) when the speaker is excluded from the previous clause action, in example seven. In example eight, observe the different subject medial verb marker (*too-e*) when the speaker is included in the previous clause action.

Extended noun phrases are used to introduce new material in a discourse. After that it will be referred to again with either a shortened form, a generic form, or a pronoun.

Suffix markers on nouns indicate: locative, possession, inclusion, agentivity, instrument, plurality, definite article, discourse prominence. Up to five suffix orders on nouns have been observed.

(10) Text 85.15; Clause 46: Nouns displaying the following affixation: *-mu* 'possession', *-ngga* 'definite article singular', *-ku* 'discourse prominence', and *-woore* 'locative':

Asa *era-marawesa* *eraya-ga-ku* *ngu*
'Then, 2-close.friends 2-def-prom that

boonge-mu-ngga-ku-woore *u-wo-riyowo.//*
landslide-poss-def-prom-on.top.of go.down-pt-2d.rpt

'Then the two very close friends went down on top of the landslide.'

(11) Noun displaying the following affixation: *-ya* 'accompaniment', *-ndo* 'agentivity':

Oni-ndo Neyuro-ya *mande* *e-wero.//*
man-ag Neyuro-incl words say-des
'The man wants to talk with Neyuro.'

(12) Text 85.1; Clauses 41-43: Noun displaying *-ne* 'possessive', and *-mbo* 'instrument':

Bibite-ro,/ sendo-ro, / kondipo ke-ne-mbo mera se-we sa-yingo.//
sit-ss, cry-ss all leg-1s.poss-inst ground dig-des go-compl

'I sat down, cried, and dug out all the dirt (in the fireplace) with my foot.'

(13) Noun displaying *-dodo* 'plurality':

Bare-dodo kuri kopi ko-no u-yingo.//
woman-all already coffee garden-to go.down-compl
'All of the women have already gone down to the coffee garden.'

Pronouns have fewer markers than nouns and only one suffix may be used on pronouns at a time. The pronominal suffix markers show possession, locatives, inclusion, agentivity, and emphatic (*ene -su nangge* 'he only').

(14) Pronouns displaying *-ndo* 'agentivity' and *-no* 'locative':

No-ndo ge-no mande e-wero.//
1s-ag 2s-to words say-des
'I want to talk to you.'

(15) Pronouns displaying *-ya* 'inclusive':

No-ndo ge-ya mande e-wero.//
1s-ag 2s-incl words say-des
'I want to talk with you.'

Note: Examples 14 and 15 show alternative ways of saying the same thing.

(16) Pronouns displaying *-ro* and *-mu* 'possessive affixes':

Oone-ro-mu? No-ro-mu.//
who-poss-poss? 1s-poss-poss
'Whose is this? It's mine.'

(17) Pronouns displaying *-so nangge* 'emphatic affix':

No-so nangge ngu ko te-wo-no.//
1s-emp only that work do-pt-1s
'I alone did that work.'

The third person singular pronoun *ngu* (also used as a demonstrative pronoun 'that') and the demonstrative pronoun *nga* 'this' are the exceptions to the other pronouns and the types of suffixes it may have. Even though *ngu* (third person singular) and *nga* are pronouns, they also may function as a noun because all of the noun suffixes may occur on it. The only pronominal suffix that *ngu* (3sing.) and *nga* 'this' do not use is the emphatic suffix.

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