

Grammar

The usual form of the Turkana sentence is: verb + subject + object
e.g. *alosi ayong moi locor: I will go tomorrow to the well.* There are other forms depending on which element in the sentence one wishes to stress e.g. *moi alosi ayong locor: tomorrow I will go to the well;* *locor alosi ayong moi: it is to the well I will go tomorrow.*

The verb

There are two classes of verbs in the Turkana language: 'T' class and 'K' class, each having characteristic vowels 'a' or 'o'. This gives four different types, which we refer to as being K.A.; K.O.; T.A.; T.O.

- 1 The imperative form of the verb *to beg* 'akilip' is kilip/a i.e.

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| you beg | : | kilip |
| all of you beg | : | kilipa K.A. |
- 2 The imperative form of the verb *to herd* 'akiyok' is kiyok/o i.e.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| you herd | : | kiyok |
| all of you herd | : | kiyoko K.O. |
- 3 The imperative form of the verb *to weed* 'akicap' is tacap/a i.e.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| you weed | : | tacap |
| all of you weed | : | tacapa T.A. |
- 4 The imperative form of the verb *to rest* 'akiper' is toper/o i.e.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| you rest | : | toper |
| all of you rest | : | topero T.O. |

Most of the verbs fit within these four forms. So we have K + vowel + stem + characteristic vowel or T + vowel + stem + characteristic vowel. The characteristic vowel is determined by the vowel in the stem and/or the vowel in the infix of the verb. If the vowel in the infix is stronger than that in the stem then there can be a change in the characteristic vowel. This change is easily noticed in the subjunctive.

It is important to understand the verb in Ngaturkana, as the verb is the most important element in the language. The capacity of this language to express the most difficult concepts is conferred on it by its verb-initial and verb-dominant quality. Until the verb type is known it is impossible to analyse the language. Once its classification is known, then an understanding of this language becomes possible. This is the key to the complicated system of tense, voice and mood; as well as action, verbal and manner-nouns.

The Turkana verb has six elements:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| Ke- | (prefix) | : | action being done to me |
| -si- | (infix) | : | causative |
| -cum- | (stem) | : | stem of the verb to spear |
| -an- | (infix) | : | frequently |
| -akin- | (infix) | : | for the purpose |
| -ete- | (suffix) | : | they are doing something |

i.e. *Kesicumakinete*: they will cause me to kill for them frequently (literal translation). There is a mortuary ceremony called *Ngakisicumakinete*: to cause to kill often for the purpose of wiping away tears of bereavement.

The Turkana verb has four final infixes: **un**, **ar/or**, **kin**, and **it**. All verbs can theoretically have these infixes and combinations of them as our examples below show.

We now illustrate some of these complications by giving some forms of our four verbs.

1. Akilip K.A.: to pray or beg

Active voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Akilip (K.A.) | to pray/beg |
| Akilipitoi | to have prayed |
| Akilipya | to pray with |
| Akilipitor | to have prayed with |

Verbal nouns

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ekelipan/Ngikelipak | prayer/s; beggar/s |
| Ekelipiton/Ngikelipitok | one who usually prays |

Passive voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Akilipo | to be prayed/begged |
| Akilipupu | to be in a state of being prayed |
| Akilipitae | to have been begged |

Reflexive

Infinitive participles

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Akilipa | to beg oneself |
| Akilipar | to get oneself prayed for |

Manner-nouns

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Ekilipe/Ngikilipasinei | a way/s of praying |
|------------------------|--------------------|

Instruments

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ekilipet/Ngikilipet | instrument for praying/pl. (masculine) |
| Akilipet/Ngakilipet | " " " /pl. (feminine) |
| Ikilipet/Ngikilipet | " " " /pl. (neuter) |

Action-noun

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Akilipet/Ngakilipeta | a praying/prayings |
|----------------------|--------------------|

Reflexive

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Erono akilipa bon | to be 'asking' oneself is bad |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|

Infinitive nouns

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Ejoikinit akilip | it is good to pray |
| Eparing akilipo | it is difficult to pray |
| Erono akilipa bon | it is bad to beg oneself |
| Akilip/Ngakilipeta | praying/prayings |

Participles

Active

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Ekelipan lo | this prayer |
| Ekelipiton lo | this common beggar |

Passive

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Akilipet/Ngakilipeta: Na/Nu | the place/s to be prayed in |
| Akilipupu/na ngakilipupu/nu | the begged one |

Infinitive abstract nouns

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Akilipanot/Ngakilipanotin | praying/s |
|---------------------------|-----------|

Verbal adjectives

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ilipana/Ilipaka | this person is adept at praying |
| Ekelipan/Ngikelipak | beggar/s |
| Ilipana apese na | this girl likes to pray |
| Apese na ilipana na | this is the girl who likes to pray |

Infinitives of verb **akilip** K.A.: to beg

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| akilip | to beg |
| akilipun | " this way |
| akilipar | " that way |
| akilipakin | " for |
| akilipenen | " frequently |
| akilipunun | " " this way |
| akilipantar | " " that way |
| akilipanakin | " " for |
| akilipilip | " repeatedly |
| akilipilipun | " " this way |
| akilipilipar | " " that way |
| akilipilipakin | " " for |

Causative infinitives

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| akisilip | to cause to beg |
| akisilipun | " " this way |
| akisilipar | " " that way |
| akisilipakakin | " " for |
| akisilipenen | " " frequently |
| akisilipunun | " " " this way |
| akisilipantar | " " " that way |
| akisilipanakin | " " " for |
| akisilipilip | " " repeatedly |
| akisilipilipun | " " " this way |
| akisilipilipar | " " " that way |
| akisilipilipakin | " " " for |

To all these the infix 'it' can be added, which gives the notion of a customary action e.g. **akilipit**, **akilipunit**

The causative form of the 'K' class verb is s + vowel:

akisilipanakin : to cause to beg for often
akisicumanakin : to cause to spear for often

All these infixd verbs have the same complicated system of tense, voice and mood as well as action, verbal and manner-nouns

2. Akiyok K.O.: to herd

Active voice

Infinitive participles

Akiyok (K.O.) to herd
Akiyokitoi to have herded
Akiyokyo to herd with
Akiyokitor to have herded with

Verbal nouns

Ekeyokon/Ngikeyokok one who herds/pl.
Ekeyokiton/Ngikeyokitok one who usually herds/pl.

Passive voice

Infinitive participles

Akiyoko to be herded
Akiyokoku to be in a herded state
Akiyokitoi to have been herded

Reflexive

Infinitive participles

Akiyoko to herd itself
Akiyokor to get itself herded

Manner-nouns

Ekiyokiye/Ngikiyokisyo a way of herding/ways of herding

Instruments

Ekiyokiet/Ngikiyokiet instrument/s for herding. (masculine)
Akiyokiet/Ngakiyokiet " " " (feminine)
Ikiyokiet/Ngikiyokiet " " " (neuter)

Action-noun

Akiyoket/Ngakiyoketa a herding/herdings

Reflexive

Ekiyokiye lo kon erono this herding of yours is bad

Infinitive nouns

Ejoikinit akiyok it is good to herd

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Eparing akiyoko | it is strange to be herded |
| Ergno akiyoko bon | herding in itself is bad |
| Akiyoket/Ngayoketa | herding/herdings |

Participles

Active

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Ekeyokon lo | this herder |
| Ekeyokiton lo | this usual herder |

Passive

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| (Acokor: usual word for the place of herding) | |
| Ayokor/Ngayokorisyo: Na/Nu | the place/s of herding |

Infinitive abstract noun

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Akiyoket/Ngakiyoketa | a herding/herdings |
|----------------------|--------------------|

Verbal adjectives

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ekeyokon/Ngikkeyokok | herding/herders |
| Iyokono/Iyokoku | adept person in herding |
| Iyokono idia lo | this boy likes to herd |
| Idia lo iyokono lo | this is the boy who likes to herd |

Infinitives of verb **akiyok K.O.: to herd**

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| akiyok | to herd |
| akiyokun | " this way |
| akiyokior | " that way |
| akiyokin | " for |
| akiyokenen | " frequently |
| akiyokunun | " " this way |
| akiyokonor | " " that way |
| akiyokonokin | " " for |
| akiyokoyok | " repeatedly |
| akiyokoyokun | " " this way |
| akiyokoyokor | " " that way |
| akiyokoyokokin | " " for |

Causative infinitive

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| akisiyok | to cause to herd |
| akisiyokun | " " this way |
| akisiyokior | " " that way |
| akisiyokin | " " for |
| akisiyokenen | " " frequently |
| akisiyokunun | " " " this way |
| akisiyokonor | " " " that way |
| akisiyokonokin | " " " for |
| akisiyokoyok | " " repeatedly |
| akisiyokoyokun | " " " this way |
| akisiyokoyokor | " " " that way |

akisiyokoyokokin to cause to herd repeatedly for

To all these infinitives the 'it' form can be added.

3. Akicap T.A.: to weed

Active voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Akicap (T.A.) | to weed |
| Acapitoi | to have weeded |
| Acapya | to weed with |
| Acapitor | to have weeded with |

Verbal nouns

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ekacapan/Ngikacapak | weeder/s |
| Ekacapiton/Ngikacapitok | one who usually weeds/pl. |

Passive voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Acapo | to be weeded |
| Acapapu | to be in a weeded state |
| Acapitae | to have been weeded |

Reflexive

Infinitive participles

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Acapa | to weed itself |
| Acapar | to get itself weeded |

Manner-nouns

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ecape/Ngicapesyo | a way of weeding/ways of weeding |
|------------------|----------------------------------|

Instruments

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Ecapet/Ngicapeta | instrument for weeding/pl. (masculine) |
| Acapet/Ngacapeta | " " " /pl. (feminine) |
| Icapet/Ngicapeta | " " " /pl. (neuter) |

Action-noun

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Acapet/Ngacapeta | a weeding/weedings |
|------------------|--------------------|

Reflexive

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Ecape lo erono | this weeding is bad |
|----------------|---------------------|

Infinitive nouns

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ejoikinit akicap | it is good to weed |
| Eparing acapo | it is strange for it to be weeded |
| Erono 'acapa' bon | weeding in itself is bad |
| Akicap/Ngacapeta | weeding/weedings |

Participles

Active

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Ekacapan lo | this weeder |
| Ekacapiton lo | this usual weeder |

Passive

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Acapat na/Ngacapan nu | the place to be weeded/pl |
| Acapap na/Ngacapap nu | the weeded one/pl |

Infinitive abstract nouns

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Acapanot/Ngacapanotin | this weeding/pl |
|-----------------------|-----------------|

Verbal adjectives in participle form

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ekacapan/Ngikacapak | weeder/weeders |
| Ekacapana/Ekacapaka | adept person in weeding/pl |
| Ecapana apese na | this girl likes to weed |
| Apese na ecapana na | this is the girl who likes to weed |

Infinitives of verb **akicap** T.A.: to weed

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|----------|
| akicap | to weed | | |
| acapun | " | this way | |
| acapar | " | that way | |
| acapakin | " | for | |
| acapenen | " | frequently | |
| acapunun | " | " | this way |
| acapanar | " | " | that way |
| acapanakin | " | " | for |
| acapacap | " | repeatedly | |
| acapacapun | " | " | this way |
| acapacapar | " | " | that way |
| acapacapakin | " | " | for |

Causative infinitives

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---|------------|
| akitacap | to cause to weed | | |
| akitacapun | " | " | this way |
| akitacapar | " | " | that way |
| akitacapakin | " | " | for |
| akitacapenen | " | " | frequently |
| akitacapunun | " | " | " this way |
| akitacapapanar | " | " | " that way |
| akitacapapanakin | " | " | " for |
| akitacapacap | " | " | repeatedly |
| akitacapacapun | " | " | " this way |
| akitacapacapar | " | " | " that way |
| akitacapacapakin | " | " | " for |

To all these the infix 'it' can be added, which gives the notion of customary action e.g. acapunit, acaparit.

4. Akiper T.O.: to rest/sleep

Active voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Akiper (T.O) | to sleep |
| Aperitoi | to have slept |
| Aperyo | to sleep with |
| Aperitor | to have slept with |

Verbal nouns

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Ekaperon/Ngikaperok | sleepers |
| Ekaperiton/Ngikaperitok | usual sleepers |

Passive voice

Infinitive participles

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apero | a place which can be slept in |
| Aperitoi | to have been used for sleeping |
| Aperot/Ngaperon | a place which has been slept in/pl. |

Reflexive

Infinitive participles

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Apero bon | to sleep alone |
| Aperor bon | to sleep away alone |

Manner-nouns

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Epere/Ngiperesinei | a way/s of sleeping |
|--------------------|---------------------|

Instruments

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Eperiet/Ngiperiet | a thing/s for sleeping in (masculine) |
| Aperiet/Ngaperiet | " " (feminine) |
| Iperiet/Ngiperiet | " " (neuter) |

Action-nouns

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Aperet/Ngapereto | a sleeping/s |
|------------------|--------------|

Reflexive

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Epere lo erono | this sleeping is bad |
|----------------|----------------------|

Infinitive nouns

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Ejoikinit akiper | it is good to sleep |
| Eparing epere | it is difficult to sleep |
| Erono apero bon | it is wrong to sleep alone |
| Aperit/Ngaperito | sleeping/s |

Participles

Active

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Ekaperon lo | this sleeper |
|-------------|--------------|

Ekaperiton lo this common sleeper

Passive

Aperot na the place to be slept in

Ngaperon nu the places to be slept in

Infinitive abstract nouns

Aperonot/Ngaperonotin sleeping/s

Verbal adjectives

Ekaperon/Ngikaperok sleeper/s

Eperono/Eperoko adept sleeper/s

Eperono apese na this girl likes to sleep

Apese na eperono na this is a girl who likes to sleep

Infinitives of verb *akiper* T.O.: to rest/sleep

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|----------|
| akiper | to rest | | |
| aperun | " | this way | |
| aperor | " | that way | |
| aperokin | " | for | |
| aperenen | " | frequently | |
| aperunun | " | " | this way |
| aperonor | " | " | that way |
| aperonokin | " | " | for |
| aperiperit | " | repeatedly | |
| aperiperun | " | " | this way |
| aperiperor | " | " | that way |
| aperiperokin | " | " | for |

Causative infinitive

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---|------------|
| akitoper | to cause to rest | | |
| akitoperun | " | " | this way |
| akitoperor | " | " | that way |
| akitoperokin | " | " | for |
| akitoperenen | " | " | frequently |
| akitoperunun | " | " | " this way |
| akitoperonor | " | " | " that way |
| akitoperokin | " | " | " for |
| akitoperiper | " | " | repeatedly |
| akitoperiperun | " | " | " this way |
| akitoperiperor | " | " | " that way |
| akitoperiperokin | " | " | " for |

To all these the infix 'it' can be added to give the notion of customary action e.g. aperit, akiperit.

The causative form of the 'T' class verb is **t** + vowel:

akitoper to cause to rest

akituduk to cause to build

akiteen to cause to tie

So the number of Turkana infinitives reaches fifty five for **every** verb.

Verb tenses

There are so many tenses that it would be impossible to give them here. However let me give a few of the more common and simple tenses. Let us take the verb *to weed* (akicap) and the verb *to beg* or *pray* (akilip).

| Past | Present | Future |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| elipi (I prayed) | elipi (I am praying) | elipi + moi (I will pray) |
| ilipi | ilipi | ilipi " |
| elipi | ilipi | ilipi " |
| (i)kilipi | (i)kilipi | (i) kilipi " |
| ilipete | ilipete | ilipete " |
| elipete | ilipete | ilipete " |
| acapi (I weeded) | acapi (I am weeding) | acapi + moi (I will weed) |
| icapi | icapi | icapi " |
| acapi | ecapi | ecapi " |
| (i)kicapi | (i)kicapi | (i)kicapi " |
| icapete | icapete | icapete " |
| acapete | ecapete | ecapete " |

| Narrative | Contemporary | Root Past |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| elip (and I prayed) | elipi (while I was praying) | elip (I really prayed) |
| kilip | kilipi | ilip |
| kilip | kilipi | elip |
| elipa | elipete | (i)kilip |
| kilipa | kilipete | ilipa |
| kilipa | kilipete | elipa |
| atacap (and I weeded) | atacapi (while I was weeding) | acap (I really weeded) |
| tacap | tacapi | icap |
| tacap | tacapi | acap |
| atacapa | atacapete | (i)kicap |
| tacapa | tacapete | icapa |
| tacapa | tacapete | icapa |

Negatives

Prefix **ny** to make the negative **nyelipi**: I am not praying. Another negative is **pa** + verb e.g. **pa alosi**: I am not going.

Subjunctive

This tense is made by adding **ya** (ia) or **yo** (io) to the personal prefix

and the root of the verb in the singular, and **yata** (iata) or **yoto** (ioto) in the plural e.g.

| | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| acapya | kicapya | ecapyata |
| elipya | kilipya | ilipyata |

Conditional

It is formed by putting 'k' before the personal prefixes of the tenses we know. The present and past however are the same:

kacapit: if I weed; if I weeded.

Ani or kerai can also be used with the verb:

ani kacapi: if I weed

Nouns

Ngaturkana has no articles, but has three genders for nouns viz. masculine, feminine and common (neuter). It distinguishes between singular and plural by means of:

- 1 Regular prefixes and irregular suffixes
- 2 Regular prefixes and suffixes of verbal nouns
- 3 Special prefixes for kinship terms
- 4 Nouns without gender prefix
- 5 Other plurals

1 Regular prefixes and irregular suffixes

| Singular | Plural | |
|----------|--------------------------|----------------|
| aberu | ngaberu | woman/women |
| ekile | ngikilyok (ngigiliok) | man/men |
| ikoku | ngide | child/children |

So the prefixes are:

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------|------------|
| Feminine | a- nga- |
| Masculine | e- ngi- |
| Neuter | i- ngi- |

2 Regular prefixes and suffixes of verbal nouns

Theoretically all infinitives of a verb are verbal nouns, as shown above for **akicap:** to weed and **akiyok:** to herd. Also the four participles of a verb are verbal nouns.

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ekacapan lo | this weeder |
| ekacapiton lo | this usual weeder |
| acapat/ngacapan: na/nu | the place to be weeded/pl |
| acapap/na ngacapap/nu | the weeding one/pl |

3 Special prefixes for kinship terms

Here in the singular the feminine prefix **a** is replaced by **na** (like locative), the masculine **e** with **lo**, but the neuter retains **i**.

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| nakaato | my sister (of mother) |
| lokaato | my brother (of mother) |
| ikaato | my small sister or brother |
| nakaapa | my 'half' sister (of father) |
| lokaapa | my 'half' brother (of father) |
| ikaapa | my small half-sister/brother |

4 Nouns without gender prefix

| | |
|------|-------|
| Kuju | North |
| Kwap | South |
| Kide | East |
| Too | West |

5 Other plurals

No singular prefix and 'ta' plural.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| lokuto/talokuto | also ngikutoi | aardvark/s |
| panase/tapanase | | aardwolf/s |
| apa/taapa | | father/s |
| ito/taito | | mother/s |
| amae/tamae | | uncle/s |
| eya/taeya | | aunt/s |

Living plants and grasses are usually masculine:

etir: acacia tortilis (young)
eowi: acacia tortilis (mature)
esekon: salvadora persica

Cut down trees and grasses become feminine:

ekitoe: tree akitoe: cut tree
nginya: grass nganya: cut grass

The names of foreign peoples are masculine, their languages are feminine:

Ngitoposa ngatoposa
Ngijie ngajie

Foreign liquids are generally masculine singular and indigenous ones feminine plural:

ebeer: beer (no plural)
epepsi: pepsi "
(no singular) ngakipi: water
" ngakile: milk

Classes of nouns

There are nine classes according to my classification:

- 1 Infinitives of transitive verbs e.g. akigir: writing
- 2 Infinitives of intransitive verbs e.g. akibusokin: falling
- 3 Those got from primitive verbs of quality e.g. aosou: cleverness
- 4 Those got from derived verbs of quality e.g. abanganut: stupidity
- 5 Concrete nouns from verbs of quality ending in **ana** (emudukana/emudukaka) e.g. emudukanot: blind man
- 6 Nouns of action e.g. ekaswoman: reader
- 7 Instrumental nouns e.g. ebanyet: instrument for shaving
- 8 Nouns made by adding 'it' e.g. edukit: way of building
- 9 Compound nouns e.g. taataa: grandmothers

Pronouns and adjectives

Personal pronouns

| | | | |
|-------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| ayong | I | ngoni (sua) | we |
| iyong | you | iyesi | you (plural) |
| inges | she/he | ikes | they |

Possessive adjectives

| | | | |
|------|-------|------------|--------|
| kang | my | yok (kosi) | ours |
| kon | yours | kus | yours |
| keng | his | kec | theirs |

These adjectives can be placed within or after the nouns:

| After | Within |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| awi kang | akaawi |
| erot kon | ekoniro |
| ikoku keng | ikeekoku |
| akwap yok | ayokokwap (inclusive) |
| akwap kosi | akosikwap (exclusive) |
| ngatuk kus | ngakusituk |
| ngimongin kec | ngikecemongin |

Relative pronouns

These agree in gender and number with noun:

| | Singular | Plural |
|---|----------|--------|
| M | ngolo | ngulu |
| F | ngina | nguna |
| C | ngini | ngulu |

| | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| e.g. | ekile ngolo | the man who |
| | ngikiliok ngulu | the men who |
| | apese ngina | the girl who |
| | ngapesur nguna | the girls who |

ikoku ngini
ngide ngulu

the child who
the children who

Possessive pronouns/adjectives

| Singular | Plural |
|------------------|------------|
| ekang: mine | ngikang |
| akang | ngakang |
| ikang | ngikang |
| ngolo kang: mine | ngulu kang |
| ngina kang | nguna kang |
| ngini kang | ngulu kang |

Demonstrative pronouns/adjectives

| | Singular | | Plural | |
|------|-------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| M | lo, logo | this | lu, lugu | these |
| F | na, naga | " | nu, nugu | " |
| C | en, egen | " | lu, lugu | " |
| e.g. | ekile lo | this man | ngikiliok lugu | these men |
| | logo | this one | lugu | these ones |
| M | ye, yege | that | kui, kukwi | those |
| F | ya, yaga | " | kwa, kokwa | " |
| C | i, igi | " | kui, kukwi | " |
| e.g. | emoru ye | that hill | ngimoru kui | those hills |
| | yege | that one | kui | those ones |
| M | ngolo, ngol | that near | ngulu, ngul | those near |
| F | ngina, ngin | " | nguna, ngun | " |
| C | ngini, ngin | " | ngulu, ngul | " |
| e.g. | apese ngina | that girl | ngapesur nguna | those girls |
| | ngin | that one | ngun | those ones |

All demonstrative pronouns and adjectives may be augmented or quantified by inserting 'ti' (singular) and 'koo' or 'koso' (plural) between the nominal gender prefix and its nominal stem:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| atiberu na | this big woman |
| ngakosoberu nu | these big women |

It is commonly used between demonstratives:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| lotilo | this big man |
| lukosolu | those big men |
| yetiye | that big man (far) |
| kuikosokui | those big men (far) |
| ngolotingol | that big man (near) |
| ngulukosongul | those big men (near) |

Demonstratives can convey the notion of *smallness* by using 'dyo' singular and 'di' plural:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| adyokimuj | some little food |
| ngadikipi | some little water |

The notion of *sameness* can be conveyed by the infix 'pei':

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| lopeikilelo | this very same man |
| lupeikilioklu | these very same men |

Interrogative pronouns and adjectives

ngae (tangae plural)? who?

e.g. ngae elosi? who goes?
tangae elosete? who are going?

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
|----------|--------|

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| M ali (nyali)? | alu (nyalu)? |
| F ani (nyani)? | anu (nyanu)? |
| C ani (nyani)? | alu (nyalu)? |

(who, what, which, where)?

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| alikile? | which man? |
| aniberu? | which woman? |
| anikoku? | which child? |
| nyali ekile tokona? | where is the man now? |
| nyani apese? | where is the girl? |
| nyanu ngatuk? | where are the cows? |

How many is expressed:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| ngiai ngikiliok? | how many men? |
| ngaai ngatuk? | how many cows? |
| ngiai ngide? | how many children? |

They are so many indicating the number with a show of fingers:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| emwakasi ngikiliok ngine | the men are so many |
| emwakasi ngatuk ngane | the cows are so many |

The feminine form *ngane* is often used with a masculine noun:

ngimongin (ngane) ngine so many oxen

Indefinite pronouns and adjectives

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ati (plural, taati) | such a person |
| nyali ati? | where is so and so? |
| eyei ati ai? | " " |
| ngolokile? | any man who? |
| nginapese? | any girl who? |
| nginikoku isaki iyong? | whichever child you want? |
| ngulukiliok? | any men who? |

Some or a little is expressed:

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| edyo | ngidi |
| adyo | ngadi |
| idyo | ngidi |

e.g.

| | | |
|---------|------------|------------------------|
| nakinae | edyobela | give me a little stick |
| " | adyokiring | give me some meat |
| " | idyokale | give me a small kid |
| " | ngidibaren | give me some cattle |
| " | ngadikile | give me some milk |
| " | ngidikidyo | give me just a little |

The other is expressed:

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ece | ngice |
| ace | ngace |
| ice | ngice |

e.g.

| | | |
|------------------|-----|---------------|
| ecekile or ekile | ece | another man |
| acepese or apese | ace | another woman |
| icekoku or ikoku | ice | another child |
| ngicekiliok | | other man |
| ngacepesur | | other girls |

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ngoloce | nguluce |
| nginace | ngunace |
| nginice | nguluce |

e.g.

| | | |
|-------|---------|-----------------|
| ekile | ngoloce | the other man |
| apese | nginace | the other girl |
| ibore | nginice | the other thing |

The concept *small* can be rendered by:

| Singular | Plural |
|-----------------|---------------|
| cici | cicik |

e.g.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| lodyocici | the little man |
| nadyocici | the little woman |
| nidyocici | the little child |
| ludicicik | the little men |
| ngaberu ngadicicik | the little woman |
| ngide ngulucicik | the little children |

Singular

loci
naci
nici

Plural

lucik
nacik
lucik

e.g.

ekile loci
loci (m)
naci (f)
nici (c)

the small man
the small one
"
"

Adverbs

ori?
anukiro?
nyo?
kainyo?
inyo?
ai?
nyo bo?

when?
for what reason?
why?
why?
in what manner?
where?
why again?

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A rather comprehensive bibliography has been put together by Oxfam:
Oxfam, Selected Bibliography 1985, Oxfam Turkana District, P.O. Box 40680, Nairobi

English – Turkana Dictionary

Compiled by A. Barrett

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**Published by
Macmillan Kenya (Publishers) Limited
P.O. Box 30797
Kijabe Street
Nairobi**

ISBN 0-333-44577-5

Printed in Hong Kong