

Conventions

Apart from the orthography which is described in Chapter 3, the following are the main conventions employed. Although I have employed an automatic glossing program (Shoebox 5.0) for the preparation of texts, I have in the end here used a sentence by sentence annotation system. This is to reduce the clutter on the page, and highlight just the relevant points. Many forms, especially inflectional clitics, have dense and polysemous meanings, each requiring almost a line of gloss, of the kind:

- (1) *pēnmî*
1st Person Plural Present or Immediate Past Continuous Aspect Indicative
Mood Counterfactual Conditional Consequent

A few of these quickly reduce readability to zero. Thus I have used a reduced system of the kind illustrated here,

- (2) *ma* *wunê* *dpodo*, *pēnmî*
yesterday CFAnt1plNrPSTCI working CFCns1plNrPSTCI
mbwaa *ndanî*
water drinking
'If we3 (yesterday) had been working, we3 would have been drinking beer
(yesterday)' (Near Past)

often ignoring polysemous meanings irrelevant to the context – all the meanings of various morphemes would take lines of gloss.

The glosses involved are a compromise between those used in Henderson (1995) and the Leipzig Glossing Rules. Clitics in the practical orthography are written as separate words, and I have followed that convention to make the grammar readable for native speakers. The glosses are concatenated, so that e.g. MFS3sO should be read 'Monofocal Subject with a 3rd singular Object', with periods inserted only where ambiguity might arise.

In addition to these concatenated abbreviated glosses, I have sometimes used fuller glosses where I think it will be hard for the reader to recollect the abbreviations given the context. Thus I give here just the reduced system, itself used judiciously, trusting that the adhoc extensions of it will be transparent. Incidentally, I have not always used the same order of elements within portmanteau morphs – but have ordered the glosses as relevant for the discussion in hand. Note too that there are sometimes mismatches between the number of items on the Yéli Dnye line and the gloss line – this is because Yéli has many idioms, or

strings of words that have a single fixed meaning (e.g. *mu ntoo*, ‘enough’). I have grouped the gloss keys here thematically rather than alphabetically to make the relevant contrasts clear.

PERSON/NUMBER

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1,2,3 | Person (e.g. 3REM, 3 rd person subject, any number, Remote Past tense) |
| N+ | 2 nd person singular possessive, homorganic initial nasal |
| s, d, pl; | Number in verbal inflections |
| Sing, Dual, PL | Number in nominal determiners |
| Any | Any person/number |
| MF, MonoF | Monofocal (singular or 1 st person) |
| PF, PolyF | Polyfocal (2 nd and 3 rd persons dual and plural) |
| We2, You3, etc. | Person/number in free translation: We2 = we dual, you3 = you three or more, etc. |

VERBAL COMPLEX

| | |
|---------|---|
| S | Subject |
| O | Object |
| P | Punctual (Punctiliar) aspect |
| PI | Punctual Indicative |
| C | Continuous aspect |
| CI | Continuous Indicative |
| REM | Remote Past tense – day before yesterday or before |
| IMM | Immediate Past tense – earlier today |
| NrPST | Near Past tense – yesterday |
| PAST | Past of any remoteness |
| PRS | Present tense |
| FUT | Future tense |
| ImmFUT | Proximal or Immediate Future tense (today – Continuous aspect only) |
| DistFUT | Distal Future tense (tomorrow or beyond – Continuous aspect only) |
| PROX | Proximal tenses, the three closest to coding time (for the punctual aspect: Future, Immediate Past, Near Past, for the Continuous aspect: Immediate Future, Present and Immediate Past) |
| DIST | Distal tenses |
| IND | Indicative mood |
| IMP | Imperative mood |
| IMPDef | Imperative deferred – ‘do it later’ |
| HAB | Habitual mood |
| PreN | Preverbal nucleus or inflectional proclitic (position usually self-evident and unmarked) |
| PostN | Postverbal nucleus or inflectional enclitic (position usually self-evident and unmarked) |
| COND | Conditional marker (verbal enclitic) in antecedent (indicative only, not counterfactual) |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| CF | Counterfactual marker (verbal proclitic) in antecedent and consequent |
| CFAnt | Antecedent counterfactual marker |
| CFCons | Consequent counterfactual marker |
| (Equ) | Equative, e.g. special type of Counterfactual |
| Trans; Intrans | Transitivity |
| TV/IV | Transitive/Intransitive verb (not marked where self-evident) |
| Ø | Zero morph; especially pre- and post-verbal enclitics (note: this is only marked where pertinent to the discussion) |
| N- | Homorganic nasal archiphoneme used to mark 2 nd person possession – it assimilates to the succeeding stop position, as described in Chapter 3 |
| RES | Resultative |
| FOL | Followed verb, a form of some verb roots occurring with a non-null postverbal enclitic |
| CERT | Epistemic marker (certain or visible), usually <i>k-</i> |
| UNCERT | Epistemic marker (uncertain or invisible), usually <i>wu</i> |
| IRR | Irrealis (usually <i>w-</i>) |
| YI | <i>yí</i> construction of temporal subordination (§8.5.3) |
| FOC | Focus construction, e.g. <i>yinê</i> and <i>vyîlo</i> constructions (§8.6) |
| CLS | ‘Close’, i.e. Deictic marker ‘hither’ (towards ego) |
| MOT | Associated Motion marker |
| REP | Repetition of action marker (‘again’) |
| ALSO | Marker meaning ‘also’, ‘as well’, ‘repeated with same result’ |
| TAM | Tense, Aspect, Mood |
| TAMP | Tense, Aspect, Mood and Person/Number |
| REFL | Reflexive pronoun (‘Self’) |
| WEAK | Special form of inflection for ‘weak verbs’ |
| STRONG | Special form of inflection for ‘strong verbs’ |

NOMINAL CATEGORIES

| | |
|----------------|---|
| ERG | Ergative case |
| ABS | Absolutive case (this zero-morph is unmarked except where the discussion warrants it) |
| DAT | Dative |
| LOC | Locative |
| INST | Instrumental |
| EXP | Experiencer |
| NOM | Nominative |
| ACC | Accusative |
| VOC | Vocative |
| Poss | Possessive |
| PP | Post-position |
| INDF | Indefinite |
| DEF | Definite |
| ANAPH | Anaphoric |
| ADJ | Adjective (derived) |
| Dual, Sing, PL | Dual, Singular, Plural (in inflections <i>s/d/pl</i>) |

| | |
|-------|--|
| (Hum) | Human (of plural category) |
| AUG | Augmentative pluralizer <i>kn̂</i> |
| Pro | Nonpersonal Pronoun (e.g. <i>n:ii</i> ‘the one’), sometimes relative (REL) |
| REL | Relative pronoun and clause marker |
| DEIC | Deictic pronoun or category |
| TOPIC | NP marked with <i>ngê</i> for topic, ‘as for X...’ |
| SPEC | Specified root, specialized form of a definite noun |
| RECP | Reciprocal pronoun (<i>numo</i> , <i>noko</i>) |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | |
|---------|---|
| QUOT | Quotation particle, specific for person/number of speaker and addressee, tense and mood. e.g. <i>nganê</i> , 1s>2sFUT.QUOT ‘I will say to you’ |
| NEG | Negative marker |
| NegPol | Negative polarity item |
| QUANT | Quantifier |
| CLF | Classifier |
| ADV | Adverbializer (e.g. mostly <i>ngê</i>) |
| TAG | Tag question marker (e.g. <i>apii?</i>) |
| N- or _ | Nasalization of an initial segment to indicate 2 nd person possession; where the segment is already a nasal, the present but invisible morpheme is marked with an underscore |
| / | either/or (e.g. 2s/1d ‘second singular or first person dual’) |