Grammatical Notes

Grammatical Notes

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This section provides grammatical information. For more details, see Sugita (1973) and Sugita (1989). The analyses and terms follow these two papers, however the orthography has been adjusted to agree with the one used in this volume.

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A. Words and Word Forms

The following classes of words are distinguished in the grammatical analyses that underlie the editorial guidelines of this dictionary.
Nouns, Pronouns, Possessives, Demonstratives, Numerals, Verbs, Adjectives, Aspect Markers, Adverbs, Conjunctions, Prepositions and Interjections.

1. Nouns [*n.*, *ni.*, *nu.*, *ni. rel.*]

Satawalese nouns do not show any overt marking of grammatical "number", "gender" or "case". Information concerning the syntactic role of a noun or noun phrase is generally supplied by the position of its occurrence in a sentence or by other lexical items that co-occur with it.

(a) Relational Forms of Nouns

Practically all Satawalese nouns can occur with the Relational Suffix –*n* 'of' that indicates that what follows it is in a close grammatical and semantic relationship with the given noun. The sense expressed by this suffix is often that of "belongingness", "origin", "possession", "part-whole" or "kinship". The form of a noun with the relational suffix is referred to as its Relational Form. In function and

meaning, the relational suffix and the relational form are similar to those which are respectively called the "construct suffix" and the "construct form" by scholars of other languages.

(1) a. *kkepesae-n Weneyae*   b. *faniuwae-n Henry* c. *pwii-n   mwaen we*
       speech-of   Woleai   land-of   Henry   brother-of man   the

   'Woleaian language'   'Henry's land'   'the man's brother'

The relational suffix may appear as *–y* when the word that immediately follows it begins with an apically-articulated consonant, such as *r*, *s* and *t*.

(2) *woa-y   saet*
     on-of   sea

   'on the sea'

(b)   Inflectable Nouns [*n.*], Inflected-only Nouns [*ni.*] and Uninflectale Nouns [*nu.*]
      A subclass of nouns, called 'inalienable nouns' by some scholars, are capable of occurring systematically with pronominal "possessive suffixes" in all categories of person and number in addition to the relational suffix, and are thus referred to as Inflectable Nouns and marked [*n.*] in this dictionary. The semantic relationship observed between the stem of such a noun and the possessive suffix on it is generally the same as that which is held between the relational form of the noun and its complement. The words for 'eye', 'canoe' and 'brother' in Table 5 below are inflectable nouns. The 'incl.' and 'excl.' in the table stand for 'inclusive of the hearer(s)' and 'exclusive of the hearer(s)', respectively.

      Among inflectable nouns, some, such as the one for 'brother' below, are found only in inflected, i.e., suffixed forms. Nouns of this type are called Inflected-only Nouns and marked [*ni.*] in the dictionary. Since they lack independent forms, their stems are listed as headwords instead.

(3)   **pwii-** *ni.* one's sibling of the same sex; brother, sister……
      sifi- *ni.* a two-piece (front and back) grass-skirt for little girls……

      All other nouns are found in their independent and relational forms. They are called Uninflectable Nouns and are labelled as [*nu.*] here.

Table 5 Inflectable and uninflectable nouns

	[*n.*]	[*n.*]	[*ni.*]	[*nu.*]
	'eye'	'canoe'	'brother'	'coconut'
dictionary headword	*maas*	*waa*	*pwii-*	*niu*
independent form	*maas*	*waa*		*niu*
1st pers. sg.	*mesae-y*	*wae-y*	*pwii-y*	
2nd pers. sg	*mesoa-mw*	*woa-mw*	*pwii-mw*	
3rd pers. sg.	*mesa-n*	*waa-n*	*pwii-n*	
1st pers. pl. incl.	*mesa-rh*	*waa-rh*	*pwii-rh*	
1st pers. pl. excl.	*mesae-maem*	*wae-maem*	*pwii-maem*	
2nd pers. pl.	*mesae-mi*	*wae-mi*	*pwii-mi*	
3rd pers. pl.	*mese-er*	*waa-r*	*pwii-r*	
relational form	*mesae-n*	*wae-n*	*pwii-n*	*niu-n*

(c) Relational Nouns [*ni. rel.*]

The Relational Nouns marked as [*ni. rel.*] in this dictionary are a handful of inflected-only nouns that function to specify the "location", "destination", "time", "cause", etc. of an object, motion or event in much the same way as "prepositions" in other languages. For this reason, certain specialists in Micronesian language research prefer to call them "prepositional nouns". *Woa-* 'on', *fae-* 'under', *mmwa-* 'before', *mwiri-* 'after', *yoaru-* 'around' and *ree-* 'by; because' are examples of relational nouns.

(4) a. *Peter   ye   no   woa-y   teo   naan.*
       Peter   he   stay   on-of   islet   that

       'Peter is staying on that islet.'

    b. *Peter   ya   a   yit-tiw   mwiri-ir.*
       Peter   he   perfect   move-down   after-them

       'Peter went down after them.'

    c. *John   me   Thomas   re   mae-noa   ree-n   Peter.*
       John   and   Thomas   they   die-away   because-of   Peter

       'John and Thomas died because of Peter.'

2. Pronouns and Pronominal Suffixes [*pron.*]

Satawalese has four types of personal pronominal elements, namely, Independent Pronouns, Subject Pronouns, Possessive Suffixes and Object Suffixes. They are listed in Table 6 below. The subject pronouns *ye* and *re* change their

forms to *ya* and *ra*, respectively, when followed by the perfective aspect marker *a*. The 3rd person singular object suffix is -*ø* 'zero' when the verb stem ends in a short vowel. It is -*w* after a long and round stem-final vowel. Otherwise, it is -*y*. The "V" in the 3rd person plural possessive and object suffixes is identical with the stem-final vowel when the latter is short. After a long stem-final vowel, the V is zero.

Table 6 Pronominal elements

	INDEPENDENT	SUBJECT	POSSESSIVE	OBJECT
1st pers. sg.	*ngaang*	*yi*	-*y*	-*yaey*
2nd pers. sg.	*yeen*	*wo*	-*mw*	-*k*
3rd pers. sg.	*yiiy*	*ye*	-*n*	-*ø, -w, -y*
1st pers. pl. incl.	*kiirh*	*si*	-*rh*	-*kirh*
1st pers. pl. excl.	*yaemaem*	*yaey*	-*maem*	-*kemaem*
2nd pers. pl.	*yaemi*	*yoawu*	-*mi*	-*kaemi*
3rd pers. pl.	*yiir*	*re*	-*(V)r*	-*(V)r*

As free-standing words, independent pronouns are used when "emphasis" is put on the persons or things they refer to in a way similar to French *moi* 'I' and *toi* 'you'. Subject pronouns, on the other hand, are "proclitics" obligatorily attached to predicate verbs with or without intervening aspect markers or adverbial particles. They may be compared with French *je* 'I' and *tu* 'you'. Object suffixes are integral parts of transitive verbs and express their grammatical objects. Subject pronouns and object suffixes respectively agree in person and number with subjects and objects of verbs. Possessive suffixes typically express the possessors or origins of things or persons signified by noun stems. The following examples will illustrate the use and the characteristics of the four types of pronominal elements.

(5) a. *Ngaang yi   pwe nganno-k rhan ye   yiuniumae-y.*
　　 I   I   will give-you water this drink-my

　　 'I will give you this water of mine.'

　 b. *Mary ye   tuku-ur yaet kkewe   nayi-y.*
　　 Mary she hit-them boy the.plural valuable-my

　　 'Mary hit my sons.'

3. Possessives and Possessive Classifies [PCL]
Possessives are those inflectable nouns which, used appositionally with head

nouns in noun phrases, express "modes of possession" observed between the possessors and the possessed. Depending on grammatical or discourse contexts, a possessor may be placed before or after the head noun it is used with. *Yiuniumaey* 'my drink', *yaarh* 'our commodity' and *nayiun* 'valuable-of' in the following examples are possessives.

(6) a. *yiuniumae-y   niu*
     drink-my   coconut

     'my coconut as a drink'

  b. *yaa-rh   niu*
     commodity-our coconut

     'our coconut as merchandise or construction material'

  c. *pwuuk we nayiu-n   mwaen we*
     book   the valuable-of man   the

     'the man's valued book'

Precisely speaking, the "mode of possession" is expressed by the stem of a possessive as the examples above show. Furthermore, the choice of a possessive stem appears to be determined in a nonarbitrary way according to the nature of the head noun. Thus, some specialists in the study of Micronesian languages call possessive stems "possessive classifiers". In the entries for some major nouns, traditionally preferred choice of possessive classifiers is indicated with the mark *PCL*, which stands for "possessive classifier", and the possessives in their third person singular inflected forms. The following is an example of such an entry.

(7) **pwuna**$_1$ *nu.* the yolk of an egg. NCL: **yefay**, PCL: **yanan**.

Here, it is shown that the uninflectable noun *pwuna* commonly takes a possessive with the classifier *yana-* 'food' when a need arises to express its possessor.

4. Demonstratives [*dem.*]
Demonstratives in Satawalese are subclassified into Adnominal, Adverbial and Predicative Demonstratives and are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7 Demonstratives

| | ADNOMINAL | | ADVERBIAL | PREDICATIVE | |
	SINGULAR	PLURAL		SINGULAR	PLURAL
near speaker					
imprecise	*ye*	*kka*	*yika*	*yiye*	*yikka*
precise	*yeen*	*kkaan*	*yikaan*	*yiyeen*	*yikkaan*
near hearer					
imprecise	*mwu*	*kkomwu*	*yikomwu*	*yimwu*	*yikkomwu*
precise	*mwuun*	*kkomwuun*	*yikomwuun*	*yimwuun*	*yikkomwuun*
anaphoric	*na*	*kkena*	*yikina*	*yina*	*yikkina*
near both	*yeey*	*kkeey*	*yikeey*	*yiyeey*	*yikkeey*
near neither	*naan*	*kkenaan*	*yikinaan*	*yinaan*	*yikkinaan*
understood	*we*	*kkewe*	*yikiwe*	*yiwe*	*yikkiwe*

The adnominal demonstratives are "enclitics", and as such, they attach themselves to preceding nouns with or without intervening modificatory items. The other two types are full-fledged words capable of being used alone in sentences. The predicative demonstratives literally perform a "predicative" function, analogous to that of French *voici* 'here it is' and *voila* 'there it is', and so they may be best translated as 'be this over here', 'be those over there', etc. The demonstratives marked "precise" are used when the speaker wishes to ascertain that the hearer's attention is actually focused on the object he or she is pointing to. The ones labelled as "anaphoric" and "understood" do not refer to objects that are physically present. The speaker uses the former when he or she points to something that has been once mentioned by the hearer, whereas the latter are used when the speaker points to something that he or she believes is tacitly known to both the hearer and him- or herself. Some examples of the use of demonstratives follow.

(8) a. *niu   mwu*   [adnominal, near hearer, imprecise, singular]
    coconut that

    'that coconut near you'

  b. *Yikkinaan   niu   kkewe.*   [predicative, near neither, plural]
    be.there.plural   coconut those   [adnominal, understood, plural]

    'Those over there are the coconuts you and I both know of.'

c. *Moat-tiw yika.*   [adverbial, near speaker]
   sit-down here

   'Sit down here.'

5. Numerals [*num.*, NCL]

Regular cardinal numerals expressing numbers from one to nine are combinations of non-independent Numeral Bases and Numeral Classifiers. Special numerals which are exclusively used in quick serial counting assume unique forms without classifiers. Table 8 below lists (a) the numerals with the "general class" classifier *-w* or *-wu*, (b) the numerals used in serial counting and (c) the numeral bases. The base form of the "general class" classifier is inferred to be *-wuu** or *-wuwa**.

Table 8   Numerals

	GENERAL	SERIAL	NUMERAL BASE
1.	*yeew*	*yeot*	*ye-*
2.	*ruwowu*	*riuw*	*riuwa- / riu-*
3.	*yenuuw*	*yeon*	*yeniu-*
4.	*faawu*	*faen*	*fa-*
5.	*nimowu*	*niim*	*nima-*
6.	*wonowu*	*woon*	*wono-*
7.	*fisuuw*	*fius*	*fisiu- / fiu-*
8.	*wanuuw*	*waan*	*waniu-*
9.	*tiwowu*	*tiiw*	*tiwa-*
10.	*seyik*	*seyik*	

Some examples of numerals with classifiers are given below.

(9) a. *riuwoa-foarh suupwa*   [*-foarh* 'long object]
     two-long   cigarette

     'two cigarettes'

  b. *ye-rhay   yaetemwaen*   [*-rhay* 'animate being']
     one-animate boy

     'a boy'

c. *waniu-fay   pwoor*   [*-fay* 'lump; round object']
   eight-lump   ball

   'eight balls'

d. *ye-rheo   paap*   [*-rheo* 'flat object']
   one-flat   plank

   'a plank'

e. *riuwae-yis   wiirh*   [*-yis* 'hand of banana']
   two-banana.hand   banana

   'two hands of banana'

f. *faa-kat   pwuna*   [*-kat* 'finger-like object']
   four-finger   taro

   'four taro shoots'

In the entry for a major noun in this dictionary, the common or preferred numeral classifier to go with it is shown with the symbol *NCL* followed by the form of the numeral for 'one' that involves the classifier in question.

(10)   **kurukur**$_1$ *nu.* citrus; orange tree or fruit. *NCL:* **yefoarh** 'tree'. *NCL:* **yefay** 'fruit'. *PCL:* **yaan** 'tree'. *PCL:* **worhaan** 'fruit'.

6. Verbs [*vi.*, *vt.*, *vs.*]

There are three types of verbs, namely, Intransitive, Transitive and Semitransitive Verbs. A transitive verb, abbreviated in the dictionary as [*vt.*], is (a) syntactically characterized by being capable of taking grammatical objects and (b) morphologically characterized by showing inflection with pronominal object suffixes. A Semitransitive verb, abbreviated as [*vs.*], (a) is able to take what appears to be an object noun, but (b) does not show any inflection at all. An intransitive verb, abbreviated as [*vi.*], (a) neither takes any object (b) nor does it show any inflection. The following examples will illustrate the forms and the use of the three types of verbs.

(11) a. *John   ye   pwe   yiuniumi-ø   koofi   ye*   [transitive]
        John   he   will   drink-it   coffee   this

       'John will drink this coffee.'

b. *John ye pwe yiun koofi.*   [semitransitive]
   John he will drink coffee

   'John will drink coffee.'

c. *John ye pwe faattapw.*   [intransitive]
   John he will run

   'John will run.'

A transitive verb takes as its object a noun or noun phrase of which the referent is specifically constrained as to its quantity or extent. On the other hand, semitransitive verbs are known to take only nonspecific, unquantified objects. The two types of verbs often come in morphologically related "pairs", and thus this dictionary provides relevant cross-referencing in verb entries.

(12) **towuuw** *vt.* [*vs.* **ttow**] to spear, jab or stab s.t. *Syn:* **nikaeppirhiiy**.

See Sugita (1973) for a discussion of the transitive/semitransitive contrasts in Chuukese and other related Micronesian languages.

Verbs may potentially occur with a set of special suffixes called Directional Suffixes, which include *-to* 'hither', *-noa* 'thither', *-tae* 'up', *-tiw* 'down', *-nong* 'in' and *-wow* 'out'. Since they have very important relevance to the life and culture of the Satawalese speakers, they are discussed in a separate article by KIKUSAWA in this volume.

7. Adjectives [*vi.*]

Adjectives are a subclass of intransitive verbs which are capable of occurring directly after nouns to modify them. No morphological characteristic is observed that distinguishes adjectives from other intransitive verbs, and thus this dictionary treats them in the same way as other intransitive verbs without providing any special label.

(13) a. *man faerekit*   b. *ye-fay faeniyap ccha*
     bird big   one-lump apple red

     'big bird(s)'   'one red apple'

8. Aspect Markers [*asp.*]

Aspect Markers are small particles placed between subject pronouns and verbs to express various aspectual meanings. Important aspect markers include *a* 'change;

completion' (glossed 'perf' for "perfective' in the dictionary), *se* 'non-occurrence of change; negation' (glossed 'not'), *pwe* 'expected occurrence of change' (glossed 'will') and *soapw* 'expected non-occurrence of change' (glossed 'won't').

(14) a. *Rhoapwut kkenaan ra   a   tapwee-yaey.*
      woman   those   they perfect follow-me

      'Those women have come with me.'

   b. *Nngaere wo soapw mwongo, nge yi soapw pwan mwongo.*
      if   you won't   eat,   then I   won't   also   eat

      'If you don't eat, then I won't eat either.'

   c. *Ngaang yi se   noa fita naenew.*
      I   I   not go   fish yesterday

      'I didn't go fishing yesterday.'

9. Adverbs [*adv.*]

   Some Adverbs, such as *faer* 'already; rather', *kaen* 'always; usually', *pwan* 'also', *rhiuwaen* 'still', *mwo* 'even' and *yikin* 'very much', are placed before verbs, and some, like *rhak* 'just; only', may be placed before or after verbs. Some adverbs may co-occur in a single sentence.

(15) a. *Ya a   faer   moan   yengaang we yae-y.*
      it   perfect already finished work   the thing-my

      'My work is done already.'

   b. *Ye rhiuwaen yor   rhak peraas.*
      it still   exist just rice

      'There still is some rice.'

   c. *Re   kaen   mwommwongo ree-y.*
      they usually eat   by-me

      'They usually spend time at my place.'

   d. *Ye pwan kaen   rhiuwaen yikin memmetaek.*
      it also   always still   very ache

      'It still continues to ache very much.'

10. Conjunctions [*conj.*]

Among coordinate conjunctions, *me* 'and' connects nouns or noun phrases in more or less equal status and *nge* 'but; and then' connects clauses. Subordinate conjunctions, such as *aere* 'if' and *pwe* 'because; that', on the other hand, introduce clauses either as adverbial adjuncts or grammatical complements of verbs.

(16) a. *Si   pwe noa nuuk,   nge si   pwe pwan noa yaerhiyoa.*
      we will go troll.fish   but we will also   go   bottom.fish

      'We will go troll fishing, and then go bottom fishing, too.'

   b. *John me   Jim, yiir   pwiipwi.*
      John and Jim they brothers

      'John and Jim are brothers.'

   c. *Ye pwe faer   no   wong   na weyi-tam pwe   ye cchoaw.*
      it will rather stay turtle   that on-float   because it   heavy

      'Leave that turtle as it is on the outrigger float, because it is heavy.'

   d. *Piuniuwae-y we ye yiura pwe ye pwe tapwee-yaey.*
      spouse-my   the he say   that he will follow-me

      'My husband said that he would come with me.'

11. Prepositions [*prep.*]

Satawalese seems to have only one lexical item, namely *me* 'at; from', that deserves the label "preposition". See Section 1 for a discussion of special inflectable nouns called "relational nouns" which perform functions similar to those borne by "prepositions" in other languages.

(17) a. *Thomas   ya   a   too-wow   me   fae-n   soamwoon.*
      Thomas   he   perfect   reach-out from under-of   chief

      'Thomas has stepped down from the chief's position.'

   b. *Yeyisius   ye   wupw   me   Peteneem.*
      Jesus   he   born   at   Bethlehem

      'Jesus was born in Bethlehem.'

12. Interjections [*interj.*]

Words like *yoa* 'yes', *yaapw* 'no' and *fayiirho* 'hello' are called Interjections. They are used more or less freely in a variety of positions in sentences.

(18) a. *Wo   pwe   yit-to   ree-y   nayiu?*
      you   will   move-hither   by-me   tomorrow

      'Will you come to my place tomorrow?'

   b. *Yaapw,   yi   soapw   yit-to.*
      no,   I   won't   move-hither

      'No, I won't.'

   c. *Yoa,   yi   pwe   yit-to.*
      yes,   I   will   move-hither

      'Yes, I will.'

B. Sentences and Phrases

1. Word Order

The basic orders of word arrangement are:

(a) Topic – Comment
  (19) *Mwaen   naan   yiiy   ye-rhay   toakoata.*
      Man   that   he   one-animate   doctor

      'That man is a doctor.'

(b) Verb (intransitive) – Subject
  (20) *Ya   a   yit-to   John.*
      he   perfect   move-hither   John

      'John has arrived.'

(c) Subject – Verb (transitive or Semitransitive) – Object
  (21) a. *John   ye   kotee-y   rhoo   we.*
       John   he   husk-it   ripe.coconut   the

       'John is husking the ripe coconut.' or 'John husked the ripe coconut.'

b. *John ye soapw yiun koofi.*
John he won't drink coffee

'John won't drink coffee.'

2. Typological Characteristics

Typologically, Satawalese appears to be an "accusative" language. No ergative characteristics have so far been reported, and no systematic syntactic or morphological contrast between active and passive voices has been observed. However, further study is needed on those points as there seem to be transitive/ intransitive verb pairs of which the intransitive members show some "passive-like" features.

Like other languages in Micronesia, Satawalese does not appear to have a system of "tense". Specification of the time of an event is most commonly carried out by employing such time-indicating words as *yikina* 'now', *yiwe* 'then', *nayiu* 'tomorrow' and *naenew* 'yesterday'.

3. Composition of the Verb-centered Phrase

The composition of an expanded verb-centered phrase may be illustrated by the following example that involves a multitude of affixes and affix-like elements.

(22) *ra   a   rhopungi-ppakiu-ffenganni-ire-tae*
they   perfect   carry-simultaneously-mutually-them-up

'they carried them up toward each other simultaneously.'

Although the pronoun *ra* 'they' here obviously points to the agent or "subject" of *rhopwungi-* 'hold and carry', it has no independent status as a word. It is a proclitic bound to the verb stem with the intervening aspect marker *a* 'perf', and as such, it is never moved to any other position in a sentence through topicalization, focusing or other syntactic or discourse processes. A verb-centered phrase, like the one here, behaves as if it were a single unit comparable to a word. This seems to show that Satawalese has certain agglutinative features. The subject and the object of a unit of this type are specified on the outside of the unit in the form of independent nouns or noun phrases.

4. Composition of the Noun Phrase

When a noun phrase involves modifiers and determiners, they are arranged in the following order as the bracketed noun phrase *riu-rhay yaet semwaay kkewe nayi-y* in (23) below shows.

Numeral – Head Noun – Adjective – Determiner – Possessive

(23) *Thomas ye tuku-ur* [*rhiu-rhay   yaet semwaay kkewe   naeyi-y.*]
Thomas he hit-them two-animate boy sick   the.plural valuable-my

'Thomas hit those two sick sons of mine.'

When a noun phrase involves a relative clause, the clause follows the head noun without help of any intervening relative marker.

(24) *mwaen kkewe   [Thomas ye tuku-ur.]*
man   the.plural   Thomas   he hit-them

'those men that Thomas hit'

Relative clauses of different types require the presence of a type of relative marker. Further studies are needed in this area.