The adjective class in Doromu-Koki

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1 Introduction
The Doromu-Koki [do'ɾom ū 'qokʰi] language is a Papuan (or non-Austronesian) language of Papua New Guinea. The language community is located in the inland lowland rainforest of the Owen Stanley ranges in the Rigo District of Central Province, at approximately 80 kilometres by air east-southeast of the capital, Port Moresby (or 136 kilometres by road and track). The language area is approximately 400 square kilometres (Quigley and Quigley 1993:1) and encompasses the Mimani (Kemp Welsh)\(^2\), Uma (Margaret) (a tributary of the Mimani) and Ora (Ormond) river valleys to the west of Mount Brown (Dutton 1970:890). The area is bounded by the Barai language (Koiari/Baraic) to the north and west, Sinaugoro (Oceanic) to the south, Maria (Manubaran)\(^3\) to the southeast, Uare (Kwalean) to the west, Grass Koiari (Koiaric) to the northwest, and an uninhabited area to the east in Oro Province.

The total population of the language community is currently estimated to be 2,000, and is comprised of three dialects: the main central dialect Koki, Kokila to the west and Korigo to the northeast,\(^4\) in 13 villages (cf. Map below). Half of the group is living and/or working in Port Moresby, due mainly to difficult access and subsequent lack of resources in the language area.

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\(^2\) Bracketed river names indicate names that are used external to the language community, which will be found on many maps, in lieu of the first names, which are the language community’s names.

\(^3\) Or Manubara, the only other language in the “family”, for which a brief linguistic description has been written (Dutton 1970: 879-983), comparing the Manubaran and Kwalean languages.

\(^4\) See Bradshaw 2008 for further discussion on dialects.
The Doromu-Koki language (Koki dialect) has 12 consonant phonemes and five vowel phonemes (Tables 1 and 2).

**Table 1: Consonant phonemes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active articulator</th>
<th>labio-</th>
<th>apico-</th>
<th>lamino-</th>
<th>dorso-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive articulator</td>
<td>labial</td>
<td>dental</td>
<td>alveolar</td>
<td>palatal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceless aspirated plosives</td>
<td>tʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>кʰ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced plosives</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
<td></td>
<td>g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceless fricatives</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiced fricatives</td>
<td>β</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasals</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhotic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-vowel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Vowel phonemes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Front unrounded</th>
<th>Back rounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-mid</td>
<td>ε</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>α</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.1 Grammatical overview

Doromu-Koki has the following features:

- Two classes of verbs: The first is composed of stems ending \( ar \). The \( r \) is only realised when inflected with suffixes beginning with a vowel, as all syllables are open. The second includes all the remaining verbs (except four others which remain uninflected), ending in the vowels e, i, o and u.

(1)  a. \( ma-\)aka ‘I gave (it to him)’ \( ma-\)gida ‘I will give’
    b. \( re-\)yaka ‘I did (it)’ \( re-\)gida ‘I will do (it)’
    c. \( ri-\)yo ‘he/she/it made (it)’ \( ri-\)do ‘he/she/it makes (it)’
    d. \( bo-\)yagadu ‘should go over’ \( bo-\)giya ‘you (sg) will go over’
    e. \( maku-\)yafa ‘we threw (it)’ \( maku-\)sifa ‘we throw (it)’

- A maximally inflected verb fills up to five slots: stem + mood + aspect + transitive/intransitive subject person-number-tense + switch reference. There is no indication of transitive object on the verb.

- A switch-reference system with ‘simultaneous and sequential same subject’ and ‘simultaneous and sequential different subject’.

- Complex verbs, using mainly the associated simple verbs \( re- \) ‘do’, \( ni- \) ‘say/become’, \( ri- \) ‘make’ and to a lesser extent 25 others: \( ae- \) ‘put’, \( ari- \) ‘arrange’, \( bae- \) ‘come’, \( bo- \) ‘go’, \( dadi- \) ‘get up’, \( di- \) ‘go (around)’, \( fere- \) ‘leave’, \( gurau- \) ‘suffer’, \( imi- \) ‘pierce’, \( iri- \) ‘eat’, \( mar- \) ‘give’, \( moi- \) ‘get’, \( ne- \) ‘go down’, \( nimar- \) ‘commend’, \( nioku- \) ‘testify’, \( nugar- \) ‘cut’, \( ode- \) ‘break’, \( ori- \) ‘burn, cook’, \(oure- \) ‘be first’, \( u- \) ‘hit’, \( vai- \) ‘weave’, \( vai- \) ‘burn’, \( vari- \) ‘plant’, \( ve- \) ‘see’ and \( youfeide- \) ‘surrender’. The associated verb is preceded with various complements. There are two subclasses; the larger (~70%) encompasses frozen forms in which the complements cannot be used on their own without the associated verb (which are indicated by a full stop between the components), and the smaller subclass (~30%) in which the complements are nouns, adjectives or postpositions which can be used on their own in other contexts (which are written as separate words).

(2)  a. abidi.\( re- \) ‘designate’
    b. abata \( re- \) ‘flood’ ‘flood (n)’ + ‘do’
    c. bere \( ri- \) ‘straighten, fill in’ ‘nice and straight’ + ‘make’
    d. negau \( ni- \) ‘approach’ ‘near’ + ‘become’

- Three postpositional clitics =\( ri \) ‘in’, \( at \), =\( sa \) ‘with’, and =\( u \) ‘by, on, in, with’ which can be bound to other postpositions or nouns, adjectives, demonstratives, pronouns, temporal elements and verbs.

There are five open word classes in Doromu-Koki (in relative order of size from largest to smallest): noun, complex verb, adjective, simple verb (semi-open) and adverb.

Certain limited nouns, adjectives and adverbs include forms which can be reduplicated to indicate plurality or intensity while kinship terms have different singular and plural forms.

(3)  a. mida ‘child’ mida-mida ‘children’
    b. keika ‘little’ keika-keika ‘very (many) little’
    c. evade ‘quickly’ evade-evade ‘very quickly’
    d. aufa ‘grandchild’ aufakai ‘grandchildren’
Otherwise verbs receive the most affixation, mainly through suffixes, but also through a few prefixes. Transitive/intransitive subject person-number-tense is referenced on the verb. Default constituent order is AOV/SV.

(4) a. rei-da do-3S.PRS ‘I do (it)’
re-yaka do-1S.PST ‘I did (it)’
ga-re PRHB-do ‘don’t do [it]’
b. Raphael na u-yo Lucy vare-do
(name) 1S hit-3S.PST (name) sleep-3S.PRS
‘R. hit me’ ‘L. is sleeping’

Morphological reduplication in Doromu-Koki is always total, whereas inherent reduplication is more frequently partial. Since morphological reduplication is total, it is difficult to determine direction; inherent partial reduplication can be word-initial or word-final and very rarely word-internal only (due to compounding). Since in a compound noun, the first nominal element is almost always modifying the second, for nouns, the first reduplicand is likewise considered to be modifying the second. This may, following similar reasoning, be the case with manner adverbs, which precede the verb they are modifying. But, as adjectives typically follow the noun, it would appear for them that the second reduplicand modifies the first. Again, this may also be the case for post adjectival degree adverbs. That is, direction is away from the head. There is no suffixal reduplication.

(5) a. bouna ‘another’ bouna-bouna ‘others’
b. akeke ‘special’
c. dudubu ‘shelter’
d. ravegeragera ‘dangerous’
e. nimumugu ‘grumble’
ni-mumugu lit. say-whisper
f. rumana mida ‘boy/son’ esika-esika ‘lots of pain’
    kiya-kiya bodo ‘he walks very slowly’
g. mida keika-keika ‘little children’ no iniye-iniye ‘very very bad’

Reduplication occurs on all open word classes, and even a few closed classes, such as subject/object pronouns with verbs of cognition only (6). Dependent on the semantics, open word classes’ reduplication can be used to indicate plurality, intensity and/or distributive parameters, as seen in Table 3. Note that reduplication of complex verbs is primarily limited to the smaller subclass in which the complement can stand on its own, although there are exceptions as in (6) c. Reduplication does not appear to be productive in distinguishing any apparent subclasses.
(6) a.  
\[
\text{na-na} \quad \text{diba}^5 \quad \text{ina}
\]
\[1S-1S \quad \text{know}^3\]
‘I know him’

b.  
\[
\text{usa-usa} \quad \text{‘prayers’}
\]
\[
\text{usa-usa ni-} \quad \text{‘say prayers’}
\]
c.  
\[
\text{yaga-yaga.} \text{re-} \quad \text{‘shake and shake (earthquake)’}
\]

Table 3: Meanings of reduplication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Manner adverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plurality</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensity</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributive</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of these are exemplified below:

(7) a.  
\[
\text{usa-usa} \quad \text{buni-buni} \quad \text{iri-iri} \quad \text{besa-besa}
\]
‘prayers’  \quad ‘many good (ones)’  \quad ‘eat and eat’  \quad ‘more and more’

b.  
\[
\text{kuni-kuni} \quad \text{ki-mo-ki-mo}
\]
‘very tiny’  \quad ‘very carefully’

c.  
\[
\text{ida-ida} \quad \text{yoko-yoko}
\]
‘different ways’  \quad ‘each one’

2 Adjectives

The adjective class is a large open class, with around 200 members; they can function as copula complement (8) and modify a noun in an NP (e.g. \(\text{rema buni} \quad \text{‘good woman’}\)). They normally follow the noun they modify, and can themselves be modified (cf. §2.3 Intensification, p. 20):

(8)  
\[
\text{Mina bi} \quad [\text{buni} \quad \text{tora} \quad \text{gade}]_{\text{NP}}.
\]
\[
\text{this} \quad \text{TOP} \quad \text{good} \quad \text{big} \quad \text{very}
\]
‘This is very very good.’

Over a dozen are borrowed from English and Hiri Motu\(^\text{6}\), mainly colours and numbers. Adjectives share many syntactic properties with nouns, as can be seen in Table 4. They do also share some limited properties with verbs (and manner adverbs); modifier to a verb is due to adjectives’ ability to modify a complex verb and verbs’ ability to form serial verbs, whilst modifier to another adjective is due to verbs’ ability to form both complex verbs and serial verb constructions as seen in (9), (10) and (11).

\(^5\) From Hiri Motu \textit{diba} to know, understand; knowledge’ (Dutton and Voorhoeve 1974:190).

\(^6\) The lingua franca in southern region of PNG.
Table 4: Syntactic properties of adjectives, verbs and nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic function</th>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
<th>Manner adverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modifier to a verb</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modifier to another adjective</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copula complement</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of NP and argument</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modifier in NP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of a complex verb: complement</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of predicate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjective modifying a complex verb:

(9) Na bi beika nai make=na=ri ame-do sina
    1S TOP what 1S.POSS think=NOM=at stay-3S.PRS word
    ya=sa [gira anarauda re-gida] VP.
    2=AACC hard share do-1S.FUT
    ‘I am going to firmly (lit. ‘hard’) share with you what I’m (lit. ‘is in my’) thinking.’ [Charles Ero, 24 August 2012]

Verb serialisation (verb as modifier to a VP):

(10) Mina biyo bi moi-yo sana=ri [moi dairi ae] VP.
    this cup TOP get-2S.PST place=at get return put
    ‘Put this cup back (lit. ‘get/take return put’) in the place where you got it.’

Verbal compound using an adjective:

(11) Ina bi ada re=si ina vene [ni-gira re-yo] VP.
    3 TOP happiness do-SQSS 3 people say-hard do-3S.PST
    ‘He was happy and encouraged (lit. ‘say hard did’) them.’

Further, according to Aikhenvald (2015:85)’s word classes and functional slots checklist the following can be observed for Doromu-Koki:

Table 5: Word classes and functional slots checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional slot</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Manner adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Within a clause</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Argument</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Copula complement</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Head of intransitive predicate</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Head of transitive predicate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Within an NP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Head of NP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Possessee in NP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Possessor in NP</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Modifier in NP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Within a VP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Modifier of a verb</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Again, we see that adjectives have the most in common with nouns. Therefore, in accordance with Doromu-Koki adjectives’ grammatical properties, adjectives can be classified as type (b) under Dixon’s (2010: 67) parameters:

(b) [NOUN ADJECTIVE VERB]

That is, while adjectives are a separate class, they do have similar grammatical properties to nouns (ibid), in opposition to verbs, where above in Table 5 they only have one item in common (i.e. modifier of a verb).

While in Table 4 adjectives share the first two properties (modifier to a verb and to another adjective) with verbs, this is based on verb serialisation and verbal compounding, not on simple verbs. However, there is yet another feature which adjectives and verbs share: they both allow for the causative prefix, which can occur on postpositions as well (14). Again, this is part of the language’s robust ability to generate verbal constructions by means of complex verbs.

Causative on adjective complement:

(12) Agiya bafu [e-vaya re-yaka] VP. yesterday leftover CAUS-hot do-1S.PST ‘I reheated (lit. ‘caused to be hot’) yesterday’s leftover food.’

Causative on a verb:

(13) Ma mirona amiye yava ina fafau yare si e-muye-yo and that person house 3 on.top.of fall-SQSS CAUS-die-3S.PST bi gokai? TOP how ‘And what about those people on whom a building fell and killed (lit. ‘caused to die’) them?’

Causative on a postposition complement:

(14) Mina bi ini vima yaku [e-negau re-yo] VP. this TOP 3.POSS spirit DM CAUS-near do-3S.PST ‘This was revealed (lit. ‘caused to be/draw near’) by his spirit.’

Adjectives can function as head of an NP, as seen with tora-tora ‘very big’ (15), and head of a predicate, as seen with keika ‘little’ (16). [Note also that tora-tora is possessee.]

(15) [[Nai amiye] NP di tora-tora] NP di nemoko=ri ya yaku 1S.POSS person GEN big-RED GEN eye=at 2 DM voi re-yaine. buy do-3S.JUS ‘You ought to buy it in the presence (lit. ‘in the eyes [sight] of’) of my people’s elders (lit. ‘big ones’).’
Otherwise, a noun phrase can consist of a noun followed by up to one or more adjectives:

$$\text{NP} \rightarrow (\text{DEM}) \ (N) \ (\text{ADJP}) \ (\text{NUM}) \ (\text{PRO}
\text{POSS})$$  
(Bradshaw 2012:59)

The “adjective phrase” can also encompass intensification as seen in (64), (65), (66) and (67) below (p. 21).

Like nouns, reduplication also occurs with adjectives on a limited basis, signalling plurality (17), intensity (18) and/or a distributive meaning (19) according to the semantic properties of the context.

(16) $[\text{Na keika}]_B_{\text{VP}}=\text{ri} \ \text{gutuna} \ \min a \ \kana \ \text{vegu} \ \text{ago} \ \tau a u \ \text{vakoi}$

1S little=at \ from \ this \ like \ practice \ word \ all \ together

moi \ gira \ rei \ bai-da.

get \ hard \ do \ come-1.PRS

‘Since I was young (lit. ‘at when I little’) I have kept (lit. ‘firmly held onto’) all these practices’ words.’

(17) $\ldots[sina \ buni-buni]_{\text{NP}} \ \text{ni-yo} \ \text{dada}$

word \ good-RED \ say-3S.PST \ because.of

‘…because of the many good words/much good talk he was saying’

(18) $\ldots\text{idu} \ \text{ago} \ \text{gira}=\text{ri} \ [\text{bura} \ \text{keika} \ \text{kuni-kuni} \ \text{yokoi}]_{\text{NP}} \ \text{de}$

but \ word \ hard=at \ writing \ little \ tiny-RED \ one \ \text{NEG}

\text{roro.ni-gedi}

disappear-3P.FUT

‘…but in this word each of the very tiny written parts, not one will disappear’

Headless NP:

(19) $\text{bi} \ [\text{kamadaiforo bouna-bouna}]_{\text{NP}} \ \text{nu}\text{fa}$

TOP \ colourful \ different-RED \ with

‘it was very colourful’ (lit. ‘it had differing/varying colourfulness’)

Adjectives perform the two major semantic tasks of further specifying a referent (as we have seen above) and stating a property. In Doromu-Koki, the latter is realised as a head of predicate by means of a copula complement, using the topic marker $\text{bi}$:

(20) $\text{Mida} \ \text{bi} \ \text{tumu.}$

child \ TOP \ short

‘The child is short.’

As Doromu-Koki has a large open class of adjectives, we would expect to find that they encompass a wide range of semantic types, which indeed is the case. Adjectives can be found in each of the three sets (Dixon 2010:73-4), with the majority in Set B and the
least in Set A. All the categories of each set have some representation, except Difficulty, for which terms of this type are expressed by polysemous words in other categories (Table 6) and Speed, in which case there are instead manner adverbs used (Table 7).

Table 6: Polysemous adjectives covering the ‘Difficulty’ semantic type
(From Bradshaw, In progress)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Primary gloss</th>
<th>Alternate glosses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amuta</td>
<td>‘peaceful’</td>
<td>‘smooth, soft, nice, cool, simple, comfortable, kind, gentle, calm’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buni</td>
<td>‘good’</td>
<td>‘well, nice, beautiful, easy, reasonable, sensible, rational, logical, worthy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gira</td>
<td>‘hard’</td>
<td>‘firm, strong, stiff, solid, thick, tough (rough), difficult’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toe</td>
<td>‘heavy’</td>
<td>‘weighty, suffering, judged, problematic, loaded, difficult’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Manner adverbs covering the ‘Speed’ semantic type
(From Bradshaw, In progress)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner adverb</th>
<th>Gloss(es)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>evade</td>
<td>‘quickly, hurriedly’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kimo</td>
<td>‘carefully, slowly, quietly, easily, cautiously’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiya</td>
<td>‘slowly, carefully, cautiously’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The category “Physical properties” has by far the greatest membership. Table 8 includes some representation for the sets found in the language.

Table 8: Adjective semantic types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Gloss(es)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1. Dimension</td>
<td>doba</td>
<td>‘long, tall’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>rome</td>
<td>‘tall and slim’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>romoga</td>
<td>‘tall and slim’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yovirika</td>
<td>‘long and smooth’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kuni</td>
<td>‘tiny’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tumu</td>
<td>‘short, little’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>keika</td>
<td>‘little’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>gib</td>
<td>‘thin’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kakaita</td>
<td>‘narrow, tight, small’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kibobo</td>
<td>‘narrow, tiny’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tora</td>
<td>‘big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>feara</td>
<td>‘flat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>feya</td>
<td>‘flat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>rafó</td>
<td>‘flat, wide’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Bolded glosses cover examples for Difficulty and Speed type.
8 And it actually has a large subclass of corporeal properties, such as aita ‘light weight’, faisara ‘naked’ and titi ‘slanted-eyed’. Faisara is a frozen compound of fai+sara ‘trousers (i.e. clothing)+naked’ (cf. Bradshaw In progress).
9 Note: When multiple glosses are given, the first is considered primary.
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>moka</td>
<td>‘deep’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
autaetae | ‘immature, childish’ |
orova | ‘immature, green, unripe’ |
kiku | ‘immature (betel nut)’ |
matamata | ‘young’ |
ruana | ‘young’ |
ruaka | ‘new, clean, fresh, young’ |
bomudo | ‘old, deteriorating’ |
buruka | ‘elderly, old’ |
kokiya | ‘old’ |
kori | ‘old (things)’ |
sabedo | ‘old, worn out’ |
ugava | ‘old (person)’ |
marada | ‘wild, uncultivated’ |
|   |   |
|buni | ‘good, well, nice’ |
yariyari | ‘good’ |
guta | ‘nice, good’ |
dikadika | ‘very good’ |
burefe | ‘best, very/really good’ |
bere | ‘nice and straight, quiet’ |
no | ‘bad, evil, wicked’ |
irava | ‘poor, destitute, worthless’ |
akeke | ‘special, sacred, holy, taboo’ |
kikifa | ‘honoured, special, holy, taboo’ |
|   |   |
|gabu | ‘black, blue, brown’ |
braun | ‘brown’ |
blu | ‘blue’ |
vegu | ‘green, living’ |
bora | ‘yellow, orange’ |
kaka | ‘red’ |
feyo | ‘white’ |
nega | ‘clear, transparent’ |
kamadaiforo | ‘colourful’ |
|   |   |
|agub o | ‘dull, unclear, dark, gloomy, foreboding’ |
isirema | ‘slippery, oily’ |
kevo | ‘bent, crooked, paralysed’ |
mekuna | ‘round’ |
ravegeragera | ‘dangerous, threatening’ |
rigirigi | ‘furry, hairy’ |
|   |   |
|biyo | ‘sad, sorrowful, despondent’ |
duri | ‘persistent, unrelenting, seductive’ |
murono | ‘lazy’ |
negiyagiya | ‘proud, arrogant, haughty, insolent’ |
vatoru | ‘stupid’ |
vitu | ‘alone, only, orphaned’ |
yora | ‘understanding, listening, obedient’ |
|   |   |
|berou | ‘other’ |
ere | ‘other (person)’ |
idana | ‘other, different’ |
Following are selected examples of the adjectives from each of the various categories:

A1. Dimension: Some adjectives co-occur with others, such as *rome* ‘tall and slim’ in (21); it always only co-occurs with *doba* ‘long’, yet *doba* also occurs on its own (e.g. *ida doba* ‘long way/road’). There are other cases of adjectives co-occurring [cf. (50) below (p. 18)]; and e.g. *buni vavaya* ‘very good’ – *vavaya* ‘very’ always only occurs after *buni* ‘good’), however most freely occur on their own.
(21)  \textbf{Riru yabo bi [doba rome]}\textsubscript{NP}.  
\textit{tree.sp tree TOP long tall and slim}  
‘The riru tree is tall and slim.’

\textbf{A2. Age:} There are differing terms with a couple of semantic sets; \textit{ugava} or \textit{kokiya} ‘old (person)’, \textit{bomudo} ‘old, deteriorating’, \textit{kori} or \textit{sabedo} ‘old, worn out’.

(22)  \textit{[Nai varuka bomudo]}\textsubscript{NP} bi ori kamu re.  
\textit{1S.POSS clothing very old TOP burn completely do}  
‘Burn up my very old clothes.’

\textbf{A3. Value:} An interesting semantic set is \textit{akeke} ‘special, sacred, holy, taboo, forbidden, requiring honour and pleasing behaviours to be shown, otherwise danger can result’; and \textit{kikifa} ‘honoured, special, holy, taboo, separated, respected, reverenced, hallowed, fasted from, avoided.’ \textit{Buni} is the usual word used for ‘good’, however \textit{yariyari} ‘good’ is also available, with as of yet, no apparent difference in meaning.

(23)  \textit{Nai mina sosogi bi yariyari}.  
\textit{1S.POSS this black palm spear TOP good}  
‘This here spear of mine is good.’

\textbf{A4. Colour:} Doromu-Koki colour terms have a wider range than those in English. Original terms include \textit{bora} ‘yellow, orange’ (24), \textit{feo} ‘white’, \textit{gabu} ‘black, blue, brown’, \textit{kaka} ‘red, purple, ripe’ and the modifying noun \textit{vegu} ‘life’ meaning ‘green, living’ (25). Terms borrowed from English include \textit{blu} ‘blue’ and \textit{braun} ‘brown’, allowing for further distinction.

(24)  \textit{Ari buni ni-go, oma bi [bora ni-do]}\textsubscript{VP}.  
\textit{day good become 3S.FUT sky TOP orange become 3S.PRS dada.}  
\textit{because}  
‘It will be a good day, because the sky is orange.’

(25)  \textit{Miya de-yo dada gagani [vegu ni-yo]}\textsubscript{VP}.  
\textit{rain come down 3S.PST so place life become 3S.PST}  
‘The rain came down so the place became green/living.’

The word \textit{kamaidaforo} ‘colourful, attractive, glittery, sparkling’ is used pre-nominally, so that conceivably it forms a headless \textit{NP} in a noun compound meaning ‘colourfulness place’.

(26)  \textit{Odoro Amiye di rautu bi [kamadaiforo gagani]}\textsubscript{NP}.  
\textit{above person GEN village TOP colourfulness place}  
‘The Lord (lit. ‘Above person’)’s place (i.e. ‘heaven’) is a colourful (lit. ‘colourfulness’) place.’
The adjective class in Doromu-Koki

**B5. Physical property:** This is the most populated category, as previously mentioned.

(27) *una tau vanu bi [kino ni-yafa]VP mini*

1P all every TOP dirty become-1P.PST here
‘all/every one of us here have become dirty/defiled’

**Corporeal properties**—A subgroup of physical property: Note the juxtaposition of NPs.

(28) *Kikima ya [yabo abiye]NP teteka=ri*

grey.headed.goshawk DM tree dead branch=at
raka.ni-do.
call-3S.PST
‘The Grey Headed Goshawk is calling out on the dead/dry tree branch.’

**B6. Human propensity:** Note that *usi* ‘follow’ is always followed by a motion verb.

(29) *Buko kana [ada duri-duri]NP usi ne.*

fish.sp like head persistent-RED follow go.down
‘Keep on (lit. ‘go on’) persisting (lit. ‘continuing [with] very persistent head’) like the buko fish.’

**C9. Similarity:** Many are quite prolific, such as *kana* ‘like, as, similar to, about, approximately’ (e.g. …di sisika *kana* [GEN smell like] ‘like its smell’).

(30) *Idu [yokoi ere]NP yaku ema-gasa ni-yo…*

but one other (person) DM rebuke-SIMSS say-3S.PST
‘But the other one rebuked him saying…’

**C10. Qualification:**

(31) *Beika bura re-yadi mina [rama ni-yo]VP.*

what written do-3P.PST this true become-3S.PST
‘What was written has been fulfilled (lit. ‘become true’).’

**C11. Quantification:** Be ‘some (sg)’ and *bedakai* ‘some (pl)’ are the only adjectives to distinguish between singular and plural, in the sense that *be* is for uncountable things (e.g. *suga be* na mafu ‘give me some sugar’).

(32) *Uni uka ya vene rofu bi ya [mai buaru]*

1P.POSS stomach 2 people to TOP DM give whole
re-gam-afa]VP.
do-HAB-1P.PST
‘We have opened our hearts wide (lit. ‘were giving our stomachs wholly’) to you.’

**C12. Position:** *Enana* only means ‘left’, yet *rama* ‘has many meanings: ‘right, true [cf. (31)], indeed, correct, real, genuine, sure, exact’. A semantic pair is *maike* ‘far, long way’ to indicate position, versus *gaima* ‘far away, separate from, apart’ to indicate movement.
He also went down first into the ground’s lower valleys.’

C13. **Cardinal numbers**: For Doromu-Koki, Dutton (1970:924) proposed 1, 2, 2+1, 5-1, 5 (= hand), and later regarding Trans New Guinea Southeast Papuan languages, Dutton (1975:623) says: ‘Counting systems are based on two or three (e.g. 1, 2, 2+1, 2+2, 1 hand, or 1, 2, 3, 2+2, 1 hand).’

Doromu-Koki appears more like the latter, having a basic three set of numbers, yokoi ‘one’, remanu ‘two’, and regode ‘three’, although four is not 2+2, but rather a variation on five (= hand), and so a bit more like 5-1: vana raro (lit. ‘hand line’) ‘four’, sans thumb. Indeed the number ‘five’ is also built from the word vana ‘hand’; vana berou autu (lit. hand empty side, i.e., ‘palm’) ‘five’. The Doromu-Koki numbers ‘one’, ‘two’ and ‘three’ are regularly used. Doromu-Koki four and five are sometimes used, while beyond that the English equivalents are commonly used, except when someone is speaking in front of a non-Doromu-Koki speaker, and does not want them to be able to understand. As the numbers modify NPs in the same way as other adjectives, they are considered as such. The English loans are used in the same manner, after the noun (e.g. amiye ten ‘ten people’), and can be regularly used for any numbers, even one, two and three. Doromu-Koki numbers are listed in Table 9, with one of them shown in (34). Note that the numbers six through nine are a bit cumbersome, so seldom used, except generally for the reason previously mentioned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
<th>Literal meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yokoi</td>
<td>‘one’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remanu</td>
<td>‘two’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regode</td>
<td>‘three’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana raro</td>
<td>‘four’</td>
<td>‘hand line’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana berou autu</td>
<td>‘five’</td>
<td>‘hand side empty’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana berou autu yokoi maka</td>
<td>‘six’</td>
<td>‘hand side empty one only’, i.e. 5+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana berou autu remanu</td>
<td>‘seven’</td>
<td>‘hand side empty two’, i.e. 5+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana berou autu regode</td>
<td>‘eight’</td>
<td>‘hand side empty three’, i.e. 5+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana berou autu vana raro</td>
<td>‘nine’</td>
<td>‘hand side empty hand line’, i.e. 5+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vana ufo</td>
<td>‘ten’</td>
<td>‘hand clap (two hands together)’ , i.e. 5x2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9: Numbers
The adjective class in Doromu-Koki

(34)  [Rema remainu]NP di roka bi Inu Mamaru bona
woman two GEN name TOP (name) (name) and
Dau Mamaru.
(name) (name)
‘The two women’s names were Inu Mamaru and Dau Mamaru.’

[Raphael Totome, Keni Raku, 12 September 2001]

The number yokoi ‘one’ also serves as an indefinite article.

(35)  [Amiye yokoi]NP roka Tau Yagabo yaku ini rautu
person one name (name) (name) DM 3.POSS village
vene omar-o ini muro vari-yaganedi.
people invite-3S.PST 3.POSS garden plant-3P.JUS
‘A man named Tau Yagabo invited his village people to plant his garden.’

[Joe Warika, Ogo ‘Planting’, 1999]

Reduplication gives a distributive meaning, and here is used as head of an NP.

enough one-RED get.up-SIMSS village toward go-3P.PST
‘So one by one as they got up they went back toward the village.’

[Joe Warika, Ogo ‘Planting’, 1999]

When used with maka ‘only’ it means ‘only/just one, alone’.

(37)  To [ini no yokoi maka]NP bi oruma bo-yo
but 3S.POSS bad one only TOP grass go.up-3S.PST
vonen-do.
happen-3S.PRS
‘But the only one bad thing is that weeds come up.’

Note that maka ‘only’ can be used after any NP, including ones with postpositional clitics.

(38)  Kaikai yaku nai vana raroko=ri maka aki.re-yo.
scorpion DM 1S.POSS hand finger=at just bite-3S.PST
‘The scorpion bit me right/just on my fingers.’

There are a couple of idiomatic expressions iconically representing numbers, such
that an individual with limited knowledge of the language would not readily understand;
koru ida ‘six’ (lit. ‘water way/course’) and viro vara ‘seven’ (lit. ‘axe handle’). They are
mainly used for playing cards, and also include auna di yuka ‘club’ (lit. ‘dog’s foot’),
describing a dog’s paw print.

Adjectives in every category available have been observed functioning as complements (about 44%) in complex verbs. Below are representative complex verbs
using adjectives from nine of the categories. (Complements can also be nouns and
postpositions.)
A1. Dimension:

(39) oki-si ame-yo [doba ni-yo]vp
arrive-SQSS stay-3S.PST long become-3S.PST
‘he arrived and stayed on longer (lit. ‘it became long’)

A2. Age: (Note: primary gloss for ruaka is ‘new’.) Here also there is verb serialisation.

(40) Ya ura rei-sa vonisi, ya yaku na [moi ruaka ri-giya]vp.
2 want do-2S if 2 DM 1S get clean make-2S.FUT
‘If you want, you will cleanse/make new/renew (lit. ‘make clean’) me.’

A3. Value:

(41) Ago rama dudu ina vene [moi akeke ri]vp.
word true INST 3 people get holy make
‘Sanctify (lit. ‘make holy’) them by the truth (lit. ‘true/right word’).

A4. Colour:

(42) Muye-yo-ri bi ini roaita [bora ni-yo]vp.
die-3S.PST-SIMDS TOP 3.POSS body yellow become-3S.PST
‘When he died his body was (lit. ‘became’) yellowed.’

B5. Physical property:

(43) Rovaita [toe re-yo]vp, adina ago no ni-yo.
bird heavy do-3S.PST for word bad say-3S.PST
‘He was ashamed (lit. ‘his body was weighed down’), because he spoke badly.’

C9. Similarity:

(44) Yi moko-na moj ruaka ri-na dudu yi vegu
2.POSS think-NOM get new make-NOM INST 2.POSS practice
[moi idana ri-fa]vp.
get different make-2P.IMP
‘Change your practices/ways by the renewing (lit. ‘make different’) of your thinking/mind.’

C10. Qualification:

(45) [Egeregere10 ni-yo]vp.
okay become-3S.PST
‘He felt fine (lit. ‘became okay’).

C12. Position:

(46) Idu kaere iniye [moi odoro ri-go]vp...
but who self get above make-3S.PST
‘But whoever exalts (lit. ‘make above’) himself…’

---

10 From Hiri Motu hegeregere ‘equal, adequate, fair, sufficient, able to’ (Dutton and Voorhoeve 1974:195).
C13. Cardinal numbers:

(47) moi gogo ri-si [moi [yokoi maka]SP ri-yo]VP
get together make-SQSS get one only make-3S.PST
‘he has joined them together making them one’

2.1 Polar adjectives

A small set of adjectives have antonym pairs. (Note: Headings are somewhat arbitrary.)

Table 10: Polar adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive/lesser</th>
<th>Gloss(es)</th>
<th>Negative/greater</th>
<th>Gloss(es)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ada</td>
<td>‘happy’</td>
<td>sibogi</td>
<td>‘unhappy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aita</td>
<td>‘light weight’</td>
<td>toe</td>
<td>‘heavy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amuta</td>
<td>‘peaceful, smooth’</td>
<td>kako</td>
<td>‘rough’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buni</td>
<td>‘good’</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>‘bad’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dabigara</td>
<td>‘lower, bordering’</td>
<td>odoro</td>
<td>‘above, over’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gabu</td>
<td>‘black’</td>
<td>feyo</td>
<td>‘white’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gira</td>
<td>‘hard, firm, strong, stiff’</td>
<td>yau</td>
<td>‘soft, weak, faint’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>itu</td>
<td>‘cold’</td>
<td>vava</td>
<td>‘hot’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kakaita</td>
<td>‘narrow, tight, small’</td>
<td>rafa</td>
<td>‘flat, wide’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keika</td>
<td>‘little, small’</td>
<td>tora</td>
<td>‘big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiku</td>
<td>‘immature’</td>
<td>kiri</td>
<td>‘dry/mature’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mami</td>
<td>‘tasty, delicious, savory’</td>
<td>ru</td>
<td>‘bitter’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>negau</td>
<td>‘near, close (by)’</td>
<td>maike</td>
<td>‘far (away)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roko</td>
<td>‘dry, arid’</td>
<td>dou</td>
<td>‘wet, damp’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rorobo</td>
<td>‘straight, just’</td>
<td>keov</td>
<td>‘bent, crooked’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruaka</td>
<td>‘new, clean, fresh, young’</td>
<td>ugava</td>
<td>‘old’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruana</td>
<td>‘young’</td>
<td>kori</td>
<td>‘old (things)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumu</td>
<td>‘short’</td>
<td>doba</td>
<td>‘long, tall’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Adjective subclasses

There are two subclasses of adjectives: pre-nominal and those that can also function in other word classes.

2.2.1 Pre-nominal

Approximately 11% of the adjectives precede the noun they are modifying; nothing appears to intervene, including iniye ‘very’, they cannot be used as afterthought, nor have they been observed in questions. Often they refer to types of people, or are borrowed colour terms or some physical properties. The typical NP in (48) is interpreted as a compound noun (e.g. ‘old one-person’); but in (49) the pre-nominal use could instead be for contrastive emphasis.
Robert L. Bradshaw, JCU – LCRC

(48) Ina bi [buruka\textsuperscript{11} amiye]\textsubscript{NP}.  
3 TOP elderly person  
‘He is an elderly person.’

(49) [Braun buka]\textsubscript{NP} na ma.  
brown book 1S give  
‘Give me the brown book.’

Both tuma ‘wild’ and gadeva ‘fierce, ferocious, aggressive, brutal, savage’ can occur together before the nouns, in similar fashion to how others occur after. They can both be used separately as in tuma amiye ‘enemy’ (lit. ‘wild person’) and gadeva auna ‘fierce dog’. Note also the compound noun dona auna (pig dog), a generic term for animals.

(50) Ina vene bi [tuma gadeva dona auna]\textsubscript{NP} kana.  
3 people TOP wild fierce pig dog like  
‘They are like wild fierce animals (lit. ‘pig-dog’).’

(51) Dibura bi [refei mida]\textsubscript{NP}.  
(name) TOP lazy child  
‘Dibura is a lazy child.’

This last adjective can also occur after the noun; position may be a matter of topicality, such that when it is placed before the noun it is given higher prominence.

(52) Ya bi [mida refei]\textsubscript{NP} baeko ya vei-da.  
2 TOP child lazy perhaps DM see-1S.PRS  
‘I see that perhaps you are a lazy child.’

Another interesting pre-nominal adjective is viaigana ‘last born’. All of these type have quite limited occurrences, this being one of only two observed to date.

(53) Ina bi nai oure di [viaigana mida]\textsubscript{NP}.  
3 TOP 1S.POSS older GEN last.born child  
‘He is my older brother’s last born child.’

The noun vene ‘people’ formulates compound idiomatic expressions with nouns and adjectives, as well as with the third person pronoun, to distinguish between singular and plural. The same does not occur with the singular amiye ‘person’.

(54) a. ina vene ‘they’  
    b. rema vene ‘women’  
    c. rua vene ‘young people’  
    d. rumana vene ‘men’  
    e. tora vene ‘elders’ amiye tora ‘big person/elder’

\textsuperscript{11} From Hiri Motu buruka ‘(to be) old’ Dutton and Voorhoeve 1974:189.
2.2.2 Multiclass functioning: “Double-duty”

A few adjectives can function as nouns, adjectival modifiers or even manner adverbs modifying verbs. These include aita ‘light (weight)’, berou ‘other’, buni ‘good’, gira ‘hard’, isivaga ‘powerful’, keika ‘little’, no ‘bad’, toe ‘heavy’ and tora ‘big’, and are exemplified below. As proposed earlier, many are functioning as headless NPs.

Adjectives do not modify pronouns, and only host postpositional enclitics as the head of an NP, as here with aita ‘light (weight)’, which is also serving as the head of a predicate:

(55) Yokaru na [aita]NP=ri nai baba bona na sufa-sufa
one.day 1S light=at 1S.POSS father and 1S bush-RED
di-yafa.
go-1P.PST
“One day when I was young (lit. ‘at light weight’) my father and I went to
the deep bush.’ [Joseph Toma, Di bone ka reyaka ‘I was also being lazy’, 22 October 2001]

Again, NPs are joined into a possessive construction with the genitive postposition di, giving further examples of adjectives as headless NPs.

(56) Re-si mina gagani di [berou-berou]NP=ri raga
do-SQSS this place GEN other-RED=from run
re-gam-adi.
do-HAB-3P.PST
‘And they were running from side to side (lit. ‘from other-another’) in this
place.’

(57) ye amiye di [isivaga]NP bi tora
so person GEN powerful TOP big
‘so people’s strength (lit. ‘powerfulness’) is great’

Keika ‘little’, while modifying the idiom koru vava ‘tea’, has a meaning here of ‘small quantity’:

(58) mina ye [[koru vava]NP keika]NP moi-gasa mina di moimai
this so water hot little get-SIMSS this GEN work
raga re-go
run do-3S.FUT
‘so that a little tea (lit. ‘hot water’) will be gotten/received and from this the
work will continue’ [Charles Ero, 24 August 2012]

No ‘bad’ is being used to modify the action in a serial verb construction:

(59) ida=u de-gasa bi [abou no re-yaka]VP
road=by come-SIMSS TOP fall bad do-1S.PST
‘while coming on the road I had a bad fall (lit. ‘fell badly’)’

[Aiyo, abou no reyaka ‘Oh, I had a bad fall’, 2009]
Toe ‘heavy’ is amongst a list of nouns:

(60) Uni rau tu esika-esika, [toe]_{NP}, mukuna=ri ame-sifa dada...
1P.POSS village pain-RED heavy darkness=at stay-1P.PRS since
‘Since we are living in our village in suffering, heaviness (and) darkness…’
[Raphael Tuga, 27 April 2010]

Examples (61) and (62) show tora ‘big’ as headless NP, while (63) shows it as a
nominal modifier:

(61) Dubu ini [tora ere]_{NP} di mosara muro bi
3.POSS brother 3.POSS [big other GEN sweet.potato garden TOP
rama ni tau.tau re-yo dada]
true become all-RED do-3S.PST because
‘because the brother’s other big brother (lit. ‘his other big one’)’s sweet
potato garden greatly produced’ [Rapheal Totome, Uba dubuisa ‘Two brothers together’, 1999]

(62) ...dada Sei rofu [buni tora gade]_{NP} mai-da ma ya rofu
...so God to good big very give-1S.PRS and 2 to
ka.
also
‘…so I thank (lit. ‘give very big goodness’) God and also you.’ [Joseph Toma, 13 October
2018]

(63) Grace di ini yuka bi [[esika tora]_{NP} re-gam-o]_{VP}
(name) GEN 3.POSS leg TOP pain big do-HAB-3S.PST
‘Grace’s leg was in very great (lit. ‘was doing big’) pain
[Grace di ini yuka ‘Grace’s leg’, 5 May 2010]

2.3 Intensification

As seen earlier in (18) [p. 8], adjectival intensification can be indicated by reduplication,
or by use of various terms, listed here in Table 11.

Table 11: Intensification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Gloss(es)</th>
<th>Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gade</td>
<td>‘very’</td>
<td>Only occurs after tora ‘big’, with quantitative meaning ‘great’ as in (8) [p. 5], rather than the usual dimension meaning ‘big’, or after tau ‘many’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iniye</td>
<td>‘very’</td>
<td>The most common form of intensification, homophonous with iniye ‘self’; for non-quantitative meanings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tau</td>
<td>‘many, plenty, a lot, all’</td>
<td>Quantitative intensification, countable items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tora</td>
<td>‘great, much’</td>
<td>Quantitative intensification as in (8), uncountable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vanu</td>
<td>‘every’</td>
<td>Occurs after tau ‘many’, further quantitative intensification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vayavaya</td>
<td>‘very’</td>
<td>Only occurs after buni ‘good’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each of these is exemplified below, unless referred to in a previous example in the table:

(64) *Budoka sau u-si [esi roka no **iniye**] NP ni-yaka.*
dust odour inhale-SQSS cough bad very say-1S.PST
‘I inhaled the dust and coughed very badly (lit. ‘said very bad cough’).’

(65) *Ye [amiye **tau gade**] NP egogo.re-yadi.*
so people many very gather-3P.PST
‘So very many people gathered together.’

(66) *Muro re-si vei-da bi [buni **vayavaya**] NP.*
garden do-SQSS see-1S.PRS TOP good very
‘I work the garden and then I see that it is very good.’

(67) *Mina sina ga ni-yainedi vo.ni-yaka, idu ne-si.*
this word PRHB say-3S.JUS tell.-1S.PST but go.down-SQSS
[amiye **tau vanu**] NP ni-yo.
person all every say-3S.PST
‘I told him not to tell this news, but he went down telling it to everyone.’

These can undergo reduplication as well (e.g. *amiye tora-tora* ‘a crowd’ or *amiye tora gade-gade* ‘a large crowd’ [cf. Bradshaw 2012:62, 64]).

2.4 Comparison

In order to compare items in Doromu-Koki, the strategy used is to state the positive characteristic for one, and the negative characteristic for the other. This only occurs with adjectives.

(68) *Mina bani bi tora mo mirona bani bi keika.*
this yam TOP big at.once that yam TOP little
‘This yam is big and that yam is little.’ (i.e. ‘This yam is bigger than that yam.’)

(69) *Ini meraini bi tora mo ina bi keika.*
3.POSS cousin TOP big at.once 3 TOP little
‘His cousin is big and he is little.’ (i.e. ‘He is smaller than his cousin.’)

Another method of indicating comparison is through the use of *ebu.re-* ‘surpass, beat, win over, conquer, overcome, exceed’. Also note that *doba* ‘long’ is used in a headless NP meaning ‘length/height’.

(70) *[Nai doba] NP bi [yi doba] NP ebu.re-yo.*
1S.POSS long TOP 2.POSS long beat-3S.PST
‘My height surpassed your height.’ (i.e. ‘I’m taller than you.’)
Nouns and nominalised verbs can be used in these constructions as well.

(71) \([\text{Vegu ame-na}]_{np} \ bi \ iruku \ ebu,\text{-do.}\)
\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{life} & \text{stay-NOM} \\
\text{TOP} & \text{food} \\
& \text{surpass-3S.PRS}
\end{array}
\]
‘Living life surpasses food.’

Superlative is indicated by using maka ‘only’. Note also, that it is used with a subject/object pronoun, the only adjective to do so.

(72) \([\text{Sikuru sana=ri} \ bi \ [\text{ina maka}] \ bi \ ni-do \ doba.}\)
\[
\begin{array}{llll}
\text{school} & \text{place=at} & \text{TOP} & \text{3 only} \\
& \text{TOP} & \text{become-3S.PRS} & \text{long}
\end{array}
\]
‘At school he alone is tall.’ (i.e. ‘He is the tallest in the school.’)

Doromu-Koki adjectives, although similar to nouns, and in some situations behaving as nouns, have their own unique properties, and so are a distinct word class in the language. As also common to other classes, adjectives can also be used in complex verbs and as verbal modifiers.

**Abbreviations**

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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>second person</td>
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<td>POSS</td>
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<td>V</td>
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<td>cardinal number</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>transitive object</td>
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</table>
References


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