

GRAMMAR OF MAIANI, MIANI AND MALA - THREE LANGUAGES OF THE KAUKOMBARAN LANGUAGE FAMILY

by Eunice Loeweke and Jean May, February, 1982

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I INTRODUCTION

The Kaukombaran language family is part of the Pihom Stock of the Adelbert Range Super stock of the Trans-New Guinea Phylum. (see map and p. 13 in "Classificatory and Typological Studies in Languages of the Madang District" by J.A. Z'graggen, Pacific Linguistics, Series C - No. 19). Z'graggen lists four languages of the Kaukombaran

- family: Pay with 610 speakers
- Pila with 580 speakers
- Saki with 2070 speakers
- Tani with 2340 speakers

In this paper Tani = Miani and Maiani

Pay = Mala

Not included in this paper Saki = Maia ~~spoken in inland villages~~ spoken in inland villages

Pila = Maia ~~spoken in coastal villages~~ spoken in coastal villages

Z'graggen used the word for 'talk/word' to name the languages. However, speakers of the languages prefer to use the word for 'what' as the name of their language (op. cit., p. 47) so these names will be used in this paper.

Maiani and Miani are dialects according to Z'graggen, but Green (p. 94 in "The Languages Known as Miani or Maiani in Bogia District of Madang Province, PNG," Sept-Nov, 1978 by Ivor and Sylvia Green) finds 3 languages within this 1 language listed by Z'graggen. However, Green does list the things which would not make his conclusions

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final, that is, 100 words is a small number to base conclusions on; no attention was given to grammar or syntax, and no attention was given to mutual intelligibility (op. cit. p. 95).

Phonologically the main difference between the two is that Maiani has only voiceless stops (with the exception of a ~~few~~ voiced stops which ~~are~~^{is a} rare phonemes in a few words) and Miani has both voiceless and voiced stops as phonemes.

In regard to mutual intelligibility, all Mala speakers live in villages on the coast. Maiani is also spoken in villages on the coast. Amongst the national translators working with us the Maiani men can read and speak and hear Mala better than Miani which is spoken in more distant villages and up in the mountains. Socially Maiani speaking people have more to do with Mala speaking people.

A good map of the area and Bibliography is found in ^{Z'graggen} op. cit. map and also pp. 46-50. Z'graggen also is author of "The Languages of Madang District, PNG" Pacific Linguistics Series B - No. 41. In this population figures differ (p. 25-26).

The authors of this paper live in a village of Maiani speaking people and it was in this language that we worked on analysis of grammatical structure. From there we branched out to Miani and Mala. A start was made in Maia, but this has not continued and is not completed at this time.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Data for the Maiani examples comes from many people as the authors took notes upon hearing things around the village. Robert Sambui spent a great deal of time explaining things and checking the examples. Nichlaus Babong also helped check the examples.

For Miani Andrew Gai and Jacob Kulilain provided all the examples. They have also written many stories from which examples could have been collected. However, it seemed best to keep the examples the same and show how the languages were alike or different.

For Mala Peter Maror and Lazarus Samol² provided the examples. They have also written many stories.

It was hoped this grammar would be helpful to the men. It is not. To be helpful to them, one would need to start with the English constructions and show how these are handled in their language. This has been done in class room sessions but has not been written up that way.

The authors have found for themselves the following to be the most helpful: two foolscap sheets of lightweight cardboard with all the pronouns, verb suffixes, etc. listed in chart form for all the languages. Thumbing through pages of a paper like this is too cumbersome for quick reference.

It is hoped this paper will demonstrate a knowledge of the closed classes of morphemes in the three languages mentioned.

On Miani example, should be y

II PRONÓUNS

In the three languages under consideration there are two classes of pronouns:

English	Class 1			Class 2		
Meaning	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Maiani	Miani	Mala
I	yo	jo	e-	{ye-}	{je-}	i-
you (sg)	no	no	{ni-}	{ne-}	{ne-}	{ni-}
he/she/it	o	o	{o-}	{u-} /	{∅}	{u-}
we	i	ji	i-	e-	je-	e-
you (pl)	ni	ni	nai-	ne-	ne-	ne-
they	o	(w)i	ai-	o-	e-	{o-}

In Maiani and Miani pronouns in Class 1 may occur as free pronouns, but not Class 2. In Mala neither Class 1 or Class 2 pronouns may occur as free pronouns. In all three languages both class 1 and Class 2 pronouns may be suffixed. Class 2 pronouns may also be prefixed to verb stems.

Suffixes added to Class 1 pronouns indicate: inclusive, exclusive, possession of objects (not body parts or kinship terms), focus of subject. Suffixes added to Class 2 pronouns indicate: reflexive, ~~possession of body parts and kinship terms,~~ locative and a "genitive" type possession. Prefixed to verb stems Class 2 pronouns indicate indirect/direct object. *Prefixed to nouns indicating body parts or kinship terms Class 2 pronouns indicate possession.* Vowel harmony is a key factor in explaining the allomorph variants. The vowel of the first syllable, in the present instance that of the pronoun, becomes the same as that of the following syllable. This is a very general rule and the finer details

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have not been worked out. These variants are automatic to the men.

The following examples will illustrate Class 1 pronouns and their suffixation first. After this Class 2 pronouns ~~and their suffixation~~ will be illustrated.

1. Class 1 pronouns as free forms may substitute for nouns. In un-elicited material (that is, text material) these pronouns are not used frequently as there is a person-tense marker on all final verbs. In Mala 2 different suffixes are used "seemingly" interchangeably when the pronoun is a subject. As far as can be determined these are a dialect difference with -maka stemming from the villages of Rurunat and Malala and -no stemming from the other villages.

I	e-maka	e-no 'pronoun-equative marker'
you	na-maka	ni-no
he...	a-maka	o-no
we	i-maka	i-no
you	nai-maka	nai-no
they	ai-maka	ai-no

(At first we thought this might be an ergative system with -no marking Subject of transitive clauses and -maka marking subject of intransitive clauses. However, upon checking this does not hold.)

The men explain it in terms of dialect. For the moment we have no other explanation.)

It will be noted in Mala that -no is the equative marker. In all three of these languages the equative marker may be added to a noun (as subject) or a pronoun class 1 (as subject) and as such brings the subject into focus. In Maiani and Miani the

'intensifier very' is an expression which means that something is very great.

6. INTENSIFICATION, such as 'I myself went' is indicated and the result is: by adding an 'intensifier marker' to class 1 pronoun + possessive marker + intensifier

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
I myself	yo-ngor-a	jo-no-ra	e-ngor-auwa
you yourself	no-ngor-a	no-no-ra	ni-ngor-auwa
he himself	o-ngor-a	o-no-ra	o-ngor-auwa
we ourselves	i-ngor-a	ji-no-ra	i-ngor-auwa
you yourselves	ni-ngor-a	ni-no-ra	nai-ngor-auwa
they themselves	o-ngor-a	wi-no-ra	ai-ngor-auwa

7. REFLEXIVENESS is indicated by adding a suffix meaning 'reflexive' to Class 2 pronouns.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
I myself	yi-mi	ji-mi	i-mi
you yourself	ni-mi	ni-mi	ni-mi
he himself	u-mi	o-mi	u-mi
we ourselves	e-mi	jiji-mi	e-mi
your yourselves	ne-mi	nini-mi	ne-mi
they themselves	o-mi	wi-i-mi wi-wi-mi	o-mi

Miani indicates plural by reduplication of the pronoun.

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8. To specify a number such as 'two' or 'three', the plural reflexive pronouns are used along with a number, such as 'two' or 'three'

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
we two	e-mi ner	ji-mi ner	e-mi nger
they two	ne-mi ner		
you two	ne-mi ner	ni-mi ner	ne-mi nger
they two	o-mi ner	we-mi ner	o-mi nger
they three	o-mi arop	wi-mi arop	o-mi ngarop

8x Reduplication is not used to indicate plural in Miani. The ambiguity is reduced by the occurrence of a number.

9. POSSESSION OF BODY PARTS AND KINSHIP TERMS is accomplished by prefixing Class 2 pronouns to the noun stem.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
my leg	yi-riva	jo ji-riva	i-nini
your leg	ni-riva	no ni-riva	ni-nini
his leg	u-riva	o riva	u-nini
our legs	e-riva	ji ji-riva	e-nini
your legs	ne-riva	ni ni-riva	ne-nini
their legs	o-riva	wi i-riva	oi-nini

In Maiani and Miani vowel harmony operate for the pronouns for 'my' and 'your (sg)'. That is, the vowel of the possessive pronoun becomes the same as the first vowel of

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the noun stem. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ This vowel harmony does not operate in Mala.

The possessive pronoun 'my' has the following forms/pronunciations:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
my ha ⁱ k ee	yo-so	jo-so	i-v**
my ear	yi-siwat	jo ji-diwat	i-suat
my eye	yu-muta	jo ju-muda	i-mutak
my an ^{ki} k ee	ye-melup	<u>jo ji-kikimuak</u>	e-dab
my hand	ya-wapu	jo ju-(u)abg*	i-nambe

*elision of u vowel ** elision of i vowel

The possessive pronoun 'your (sg)' has the following forms/pronunciations:

your	Maiani	Miani	Mala
your hair	no-so	no no-so	n-iv**
your ear	ni-siwat	no ni-diwat	ni-suat
your eye	nu-muta	no nu-muda	ni-mutak
your ankle	ne-melup	no hi-kikimuak	ne-dab
your hand	na-wapu	no nu-(u)abo*	ni-nambe

It will also be noted that in Miani singular and plural forms of the class 2 pronouns are often alike. To resolve the ambiguity a class 1 pronoun ~~xxx~~ as a free form precedes the class 2 pronoun bound form.

10 DIRECT/INDIRECT OBJECT is indicated by prefixing class 2 pronouns to verb stems.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Morpheme translation
he is helping me	ye-nēpasi-ke	je-nēba-egea		me-help-he is
he is helping you	ne-nēpasi-ke	ne-nēba-egea		you-help-he is
he is helping him	u-nēpasi-ke	nēba-egea		him-help-he is
he is helping us	ē-n(e)pasi-ke	ji jē-neba-egea		us-help-he is
he is helping you	nē-n(^e / _o)pasi-ke	ni nē-neba-egea		you-help-he is
he is helping them	ō-n(e)pasi-ke	ē-neba-egea		them-help-he is

In Maiani and Miani the stress changes from the first syllable of stem with singular pronouns prefixed to the pronoun itself in the plural form.

10. A class 2 pronoun plus a 'locative' suffix has the meaning of ~~xxxxxxx~~ 'with/near'

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	xxxxxxx
with me	ya-wasi	^j u-wasi	i-kape	
with you	na-wasi	nu-wasi	ni-kape	
with him	u-wasi	wasi	a-kape	
with us	e-wasi	je-wasi	e-kape	
with you	ne-wasi	ne-wasi	ne-kape	
with them	o-wasi	o-wasi	o-kape	

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This kind of locative is used in a sentence such as 'She left the child with his father.'

Maiani:	<u>nata u-nawi</u>	<u>u-wasi</u>	<u>taut</u>
	child his-father	HIM-WITH	left
Miani:	<u>nada nawi</u>	<u>wasi</u>	<u>rasanon</u>
Mala:	mami	a-nawi	a-kape
			taka

14. ANOTHER KIND OF POSSESSION (GENITIVE_TYPE?) is formed by adding a 'possessive' marker to class 2 pronouns. It sort of follows the Tok Pisin 'bilong mi'

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
me-belonging to	yi-sip	ji-si	i-simbi
you-belonging to	ni-sip	ni-si	ni-simbi
him-belonging to	u-sip	u-si	u-simbi
us-belonging to	e-sip	ji-ji-si	e-simbi
you-belonging to	o-sip	ni-ni-si	ne-simbi
them-belonging to		wi-i -si	o-simbi

This kind of possession is used in a sentence such as: 'X~~XX~~ (The fish) broke my ~~XXXX~~ line.'

Maiani:	<u>string yi-sip</u>	<u>pakakanet</u>
	string me-belonging to	broke
Miani:	<u>string ji-si</u>	<u>pakakanen</u>
Mala:	<u>string i-simbi</u>	<u>mbuta</u>

13. Motion of a person object is indicated by a 'motion' marker suffixed to class 2 pronouns.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
me-motion	yi-sip	ji-sip	i-sipi
you-motion	ni-sip	ni=sip	ni-sipi
him-motion	u-sip	o-sip	u-sipi
us-motion	e-sip	ji-ji-sip	e-sipi
you-motion	ne-sip	ni-ni-sip	ne-sipi
them-motion	o-sip	wi-i-sip	o-sipi

Example of this motion of an object in a sentence is: (The truck named) Suwasu brought me back (from the market).

Maiani:	<u>Suwasuni</u>	<u>yi-sip</u>	<u>nivat</u>
	truck-name	me-motion	return
Miani	<u>Suwasuni</u>	<u>ji-sip</u>	<u>nivan</u>
Mala	<u>Suwasuno</u>	<u>i-sipi</u>	<u>nivala</u>

It will be noted that this 'motion marker' and ~~xxx~~ the 'possessive marker' (in No. 11) have exactly the same form. This was a puzzle to us until we saw that Miani and Mala had different forms for these two suffixes.

14. DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS are

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Maiani	Miani	Mala
this/ close by	owe	owe	owo
that/further away	one	one	ono

III. Nouns, adjective & noun phrases

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ADJECTIVES describe nouns and follow the noun in a phrase. One and sometimes two adjectives may follow the noun, ~~but~~ and to have more would overload the phrase.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
a black dog	uwun au dog black	iwun keku dog black	ke ngousiri dog black
a big black dog	uwun au uwo dog black big	iwun keku uwo	ke ngausiri uwa

ADJECTIVES INDICATING QUALITY, such as kind or colour, are:

good	erew	wurew	olov
bad	okele	okore	ingaua
white	waia	waia	ala
black	au	keku	ngousiri
red	kakal	unu	akakalat

ADJECTIVES INDICATED QUANTITY, such as size or number, are

big	uwo	uwo	uwa
long	enak	wanag	arirov
small	mela mete	mede	mindik-mel
short	utinan	kabu	ambu
one	utia	udua	undala
two	ner	ner	nger
many	urin	kumu	ogom
some	uwita	amadavi	ombelenda

ADJECTIVES INDICATING KIND OR COLOUR (QUALITY) come before those INDICATING NUMBER OR SIZE (QUANTITY).

LIMITING THE EXTENT OF THE NOUN is indicated by a small class of words which follow the noun or adjective. That is, they come at the end of the phrase and are the ~~words of focus~~ suffixes for 'focus', 'another' and 'limiter'.

Focus	Maiani	Miani	Mala
The two men (from the group)	muato ner-ni man two-focus	muado ner-ini	muande nger-o
Two other men	muato ner-ta OTHER	muado ner-da	muande nger-nda
Just two men	muato ner-yia	muado ner- ⁱ ta	muande nger-yia

If the adjective does not occur, these clitics come directly after the noun:

The man (from the group)	muato-ni	muado-ni	muande-no
The other man	muato-ta	muado-da	muande-nda
Just the man	muato-yia	muado-ja	muande-yia

LIMITING THE EXTENT OF THE ADJECTIVE is indicated by a small class of words which precede the adjective:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
a small fish	war mel uwo fish LITTLE big	war mede uwo	ngali mel uwa
a medium-sized fish	war sanam uwo fish MEDIUM big	war sanam uwo	ngali melnda uwa

INTENSIFYING THE EXTENT OF THE ADJECTIVE IS INDICATED by a small class of words which follow the adjective:

a very big fish	war uwo nasi VERY	war uwo nadi VERY	ngali uwa ongor ITSELF
very big bettlenut	naw BETTLENUT	uwo ungor big ITSELF	naw uwo ono naw uwa ongor
very, very x big bettlenut	naw uwo nasi ungor	naw uwo nadi ono	naw uwa amande ongor TRUE/ QUICK

2. A NOUN MAY DESCRIBE ANOTHER NOUN. In such cases it is hard to say which ~~one~~ noun is the most important and which one is the modifier. Both are equal. It could be said that one noun classifies the other noun.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
very big ocean waves	opot umukot uwo nasi OCEAN WAVE big very	iwor pumuakoi uwo nadi	iver umukot uwa ongor itself
good canoe wood/ good tree for making a canoe	at nam erew CANOE WOOD good	iwor at nam wuerew* OCEAN CANOE WOOD good	nat nanam olov
black skinned Solomon Islander	Solomon oka au SOLOMON SKIN black	Solomon oga keku	Solomon angar ngausiri
saria head-man's place/ village	saria awaw HEAD-MAN VILLAGE	saria waw	Taria aw
bush tree	yapar nam BUSH TREE	at digow nam	mbour nanam
coconut water	ata yak COCONUT WATER	ata jag	nata ak
Marik's mother	Marik nanan NAME HER-MOTHER	Marik namu	Marik anan

3. ADJECTIVES MAY OCCUR IN A PHRASE WITHOUT A NOUN WHEN THE NOUN IS UNDERSTOOD in the rest of the story or in context.

~~very big indeed~~
~~very big indeed~~
very huge indeed

Maiani
mampu uwo ungor
~~BIG~~ BIG itself
HUGE ~~HUGE~~

Miani
mabu uwo on^o

Mala
mambu uwa ongor

only three

arop-yia
three-limit

arop-aja

ngarop-yia

4 COMPARISON OF SIZE is indicated by adjectives in a noun phrase

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
a small fish	war mel uwo fish LITTLE BIG	war mede uwo	ngali mel uwa
war a medium fish	war sanam uwo fish MEDIUM BIG	war sanam uwo	ngali melnda uwa
truly big fish	war uwo nasi fish BIG VERY	war war uwo nade	gnali uwa ong ^o ar

5. OR is expressed by i 'question', in all three languages. When occurring at the end of a sentence it means a question is being asked. When occurring after a noun^(s) between nouns it means 'or'

~~Maiani~~ An optional word meaning 'not' may occur after the 'or'

Maiani Jin i ~~we~~ we Yunas i Madang ituwa. 'Either Jean or Eunice will go to Madang.
 Jean OR NOT Eunice OR Madang go

Miani Jin ini we Yunas ini Madang aviea.

Mala Jino i ila Yuniso i Madang induwok

Maiani Yaopon i Kosmos Filip uwuta tovia 'Will you take Yaopon or Kosmos and Philip?
 name OR name name together take

Miani Yaopon i Kosmos Filip uwoda otovia

Mala Yaopon i Kosmos Filip arawo osuai

Maiani fok i spun towow 'Take a spoon or fork'
 fork OR spoon take

Miani fok i spun towow

Mala fok i spun suaiyi

↳ When people are grouped in pairs a word meaning 'together' follows the second person. This is the way a DUAL is expressed. Whereas Maiani and Miani have only one word meaning 'together' Mala ~~distinguishes~~ distinguishes 1st person, ~~2nd person dual, 2nd~~ dual (inclusive), 2nd person dual (exclusive of speaker) and 3rd person dual.

~~Maiani~~
dual meaning 'together'

Maiani
uwuta

Miani
uwoda

Mala
i[~]ravi - 1st person
na[~]rava 2nd person
a-rawo 3rd person

Maiani Pita Jon uwuta yak itamot
Peter John together water put

'Peter and John went swimming'.

Miani Pita Jon uwoda yag utamod

Mala Pita Jon arawo ak itom

When only one person is named and the dual form used, the second person is implied

Maiani Pita wirup uwuta tuwamot
Peter wife TOGETHER went

Peter's wife together (with another woman) went

Miani Pita w[~]erub uwoda aviamod

Mala Pita urumb arawo induwom

7 GROUPS OF PEOPLE may be specifically designated by number. In such cases the reflexive form of class 2 plural pronouns are used directly after the noun or pronoun and these class 2 ~~pronouns~~ reflexive pronouns are then followed by a number.

Maiani urupaw omi ner mam punkemot 'The two girls are planting taro.'
girls THEY THEMSELVES TWO taro plant

Miani nada ribaw imi ner mam bunegemod.
child girls

Mala babarat omi nger mam uniminkom.

Maiani i emo arop perke^{mi} 'We three came.'
we WE OURSELVES THREE came

Miani ji jimi arop ribuigimi

Mala ino emi ngarop pisimemi.

Maiani Pita Base Suku omi x arop Madang tuwamot 'Peter, Base, and Suku, the three of
Peter Base Suku THEY THEMSELVES THREE Madang went them went to Madang.'

↪ Mala Pita Base Suku omi ngarop Madang induwom.

Miani Pita Base Suku imi arop Madang aviamod.

*
 § THINGS MAY BE GROUPEd TOGETHER IN PAIRS by adding a suffix meaning 'with/and' to the second noun.
 The form is the same in ~~Maiani and Mala~~ ^{Maiani and Mala} ~~at~~ ^{-at} 'with/and' occurs after words ending in a consonant.
~~ata~~ In Miani it is -ata 'with/and'. In Maiani and Mala -nat 'with/and' occurs after words
 ending in a vowel. In Miani it is -nata 'with/and'

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
pat and dog	pusi uwun-at pusi dog-AND	pusi iwun-ata	pusi ke-nat
woman and child	nanum nata-nat women child-AND	nanum nata-nata nanum nada-nata	nanana mami-nat
rain and wind came	nat puk-at erepat rain wind-AND came	nat iraw-ata ^{ribuan} garegemod	bebi buk-at iromba
He fights with his wife	wirup-at karkemot wife-WITH he-fights	wuerub-ata garegemod	urumb-at kainkom

INSTRUMENTS are ~~ata~~ always expressed with the suffix meaning 'with/and'.

He shot the pig with a spear	wat uyav-at utat pig SPEAR-WITH shot	was ujaw-ata utan	at umav-at uta
We will walk	e-riva-nat erepmi	ⁱ ri-riva-nata ribuimi	en-inin-at irombemi

STEMS
 VERBS may also take this suffix meaning 'and/with'

They are men with knowledge	muato amis-at ike man KNOW-WITH are (i stap)	muado amis-ata gimi	muande mborav-at ikemi
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Adjectives may also have this suffix

This man is old	muato owe apom-at ike man this OLD-WITH is	(muado owe abom-ata gea (i stap))	muande owo akar-at ika
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9. ONE, TWO, OR MANY ITEMS MAY BE LISTED. At the end of the LISTING they are summarized with words meaning 'things those' or things many-with'.

Maiani piv iti muato nanum matamata one 'the ground, mountains, men, women, all those things'
ground mountain men women THINGS THOSE

Miani ^bxiv idi muado nanum madamada one

Mala misir tapa muande nanana mandamanda onono

Maiani isir muat asi tutul matamata one okele 'Centepedes, ^ssnakes, mosquitoes, and ants, all
centepede snake mosquito ant THINGS THOSE bad those things bad...'

Miani isir muat asi tutur madamada one okore

Mala ngaligalir mat ngisi nginga mandamanda onono ingauw^uaa

Maiani isir muat asi tutul urin-at okele 'Centepedes, snakes, mosquitoes, ants, all
~~many-with~~ those things bad...'
MANY-WITH

Miani isir muat asi tutur kumukumu^{an}at okore

Mala ngalingalir mat ngasi nginga ogom-at ingauwua

10 AMPLIFICATION, OR ADDING INFORMATION, is possible by adding a second phrase. The endings of the first phrase and second phrase are the same.

Maiani i awaw kow Niugini awaw kow 'On our ground, here in New Guinea...'
our place HERE New Guinea place HERE

Miani xji waw gaow Niugini waw gaow

Mala ino aw ikawo Niugini aw ikawo

Maiani i urup-at emi urin-at 'with us girls, all of us'
we girls-WITH we-ourselves many-WITH

Miani ji yerub-at yimi kumu-nat

Mala ino babarat-at emi ogom-at

ANOTHER WAY TO ADD INFORMATION is to use a relative clause which ends with the word 'that'

Maiani urupaw omi ^rnew one 'girls, those two'
girls they themselves two THAT

~~Miani~~
Miani ribaw imi ner one

Mala babarat omi nger on

Maiani war mampu uwo, muato uwo nasi one 'the huge fish, that one that was as big as a man
fish huge big man big very THAT

Miani war mabu uwo, muado uwo nadi one

Mala ngali mambu uwa, muande uwa ongor on

REPEATING a stem may indicate a plural

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
many very big many very big bettlenut	naw uwo-wo bettlenut BIG BIG	ungor naw intense	uwo uwo ono naw wu-wua ongor
two	ner	ner	nger
both	ne-ner	ner ner	nger nger

REPEATING A STEM ALSO INDICATES TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF THINGS

one or the other (two kinds)	ne-ne-ner	da ida DIFFERENT DIFFERENT	nger-nger-nger
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REPEATING A STEM MAY INDICATE A REPETITIVE ACTION

Maiani	yak tank ukoma water tank inside	ati-ti-pike GO-GO-is	'water in the tank goes back and forth'
Miani	yag tank gemagama shake	adamesesegea *	
Mala	ak tank akamae shake	indisimbinka	

*Note: Miani and Mala do not use reduplication for this.

IV TIME WORDS ARE:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
day before yesterday	iyeto	jeto	wuete
yesterday	inua	niwua	ongare
today	teremu	teremu	eta
tomorrow	tera	megera	makara
later	anam	anamira	ikira
morning	winawua	winawua	uruvasia
afternoon noon	sisiroa	sisiro	sisir
afternoon to evening	winat	wiranat	sisire
dark/night	aka orot	wira	orond

TIME PHRASES sometimes include the word for 'inside'

On Saturday they are going	Sarere koma kakemot	Sarere gema gagemod	Sarere ona wirave
	Saturday inside going		
He came on Thursday evening	Fonde winat iva perkat		
	Thursday evening here came	Fonde wiranat ova ribuan	Fonde sisire ova pisina
Later in the evening	anam winat koma temot		
they will put it	later evening inside put	anan wiranat gema semod	ikira sisire ona taua

V LOCATION WORDS ARE

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
place	ra	ira	era
on/by-here	ko-n	gaon	ikan <i>ena/ikan</i>
on/by-there	ko-v		<i>IKAV</i>
inside (house)	koma	gema	akama
here	iva	ova	ova
there	ina/iyia	oya	ona/ iya oia
underneath	silpok	nopog	okon
there - far away	kai	gait/gaij	ikat
next to	ukuasir	gasir	agaragare
underneath (ground)/below	umaxi	umua	akama ^e /bad
outside	<i>ipankum</i>	upuri	upan
behind	<i>yu-puri</i>	jupuri	ipur
makaw	<i>me-behind</i>		

A location phrase may have a name, noun/pronoun, and location word. Or it may have a name and location word. Or it may have a noun and location word.

at Tamokot village	Tamokot awaw ra Tamokot village place	Tamokot waw ira	Tamokot aw era
here with Marapin Marapin	Marapin <u>wasi</u> kon name her-with HERE	Marapin wasi gaon	Marapin akape ikan
it is from underneath the ground	piv uma-ni ground under-equative	biv umua	misiv akamae
(bought) in Madang	Madang kai	Madang gait	Madang oia
on the road	ariw ukoma road on	yariw gema	orosivi ona

VI VERBS, adverbs & verb phrases

I. INTRANSITIVE VERBS. Some verbs do not take an object or an indirect object.

They are made up of a stem and a suffix indicating ~~xxx~~ person-tense. Present tense conjugation:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Morpheme translation
I am going	ituw-(i)kemo	avi-(e)gemo	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ kem	go-person tense
You are going	ituw-(i)ki	avi-gia	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ kia	
He is going	ituw-(i)ke	avi-(e)gea	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ ka	
We are going.	ituw-(i)kemi	avi-gimi	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ kemi	
You are going.	ituw-(i)kemet	avi-(^e)geme	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ kama	
They are going.	ituw-(i)kemot	avi-(e)gemo	induw- in ⁽ⁱ⁾ kom	

It will be noted that in each of the conjugations there is something in parentheses. In Maiani i is a transition vowel which is inserted in slow speech when the stem ends in a consonant and the suffix begins with a consonant. In Miani ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ e is also a transitional vowel which is necessary for vowel harmony with the vowel of the following syllable. In Mala in is also transition and blends in with the tendency to prenasalize stops.

INTRANSITIVE VERBS - past tense conjugation

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Morpheme translation
I went.	ituw-amo	avi-amo	induw-em	go-person+past tense
you went	ituw-aro	avi-a	induw-ia	
He went.	ituw-at	avi-an	induw-a	
We went	ituw-ami	avi-ami	induw-emi	
You went	ituw-amet	avi-ame	induw-ama	
They went	ituw-amot	avi-amod	induw-om	

INTRANSITIVE VERBS - future tense conjugation

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Morpheme translation
I will go.	ituw-imo	avi-emo	induw- <i>ek</i>	go-Person+future ten
You will go.	ituw-ie	avi-a	induw- <i>i</i>	
He will go.	ituw-a	avi-ea	induw- <i>ok</i>	
We will go.	ituw-imi	avi-mi	induw-une	
You will go.	ituw-imet	avi-eme	induw-ua	
They will go.	ituw-imot	avi-emod	induw-ue	

In Maiani vowel harmony operates on the person+future tense suffix. Then the stem has high vowels, the suffix starts with a high vowel -i. When the stem has lower vowels, the suffix starts with a lower vowel -e. For example: ar-emo'go north-I will; I will go north

2. TRANSITIVE VERBS - Some verbs have an object. This object is either specifically stated or it may be summarized by the word ma 'something'. This free form object occurs directly preceding the verb. The person+tense suffixes are the same as for intransitive verbs.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala	Morpheme translation
I am eating	ma im-(i)kemo	ma im-egemo	manda nimin-kem	something eat-person+tense
You are eating	ma im-(i)ki	ma im-igia	manda nimin-kia	
He is eating	ma im-(i)ke	ma im-egea	manda nimin-ka	
We are eating	ma im-(i)kemi	ma im-igimi	manda nimin-kemi	
You are eating	ma im-(i)kemet	ma im-egeme	manda nimin-kama	
They are eating	ma im-(i)kkemot	ma im-egemod	manda nimin-kom	
I am eating yam.	aula im-(i)kemo	wanay im-egemo	ara nimin-kem	
I am eating pork	wat im-(i)kemo	was im-egemo	at nimin-kem	
I am washing clothes	klos iwai-kemo	klos yaiw-egemo	klos witain-kem	

3. VERBS THAT HAVE AN INDIRECT/DIRECT OBJECT PREFIX. Some verbs have an 'indirect/direct object' class 2 pronoun prefixed to the verb stem.

	Maiani	Mala	Morpheme translation
He is asking me.	ye-nuti-ke	i-nundain-ka	object person-ask-person+tense
He is asking you	ne-nuti-ke	ni-nundain-ka	
He is asking him.	#-nuti-ke	#-nundain-ka	
He is asking us.	e-nuti-ke	e-nundain-ka	
He is asking you.	ne-nuti-ke	ne-nundain-ka	
He is asking them.	o-nuti-ke	o-nundain-ka	

Miāni does not handle this kind of construction this way. Instead they use two verb stems, the second of which is 'put'. The first verb stem is a separate word. This is followed by a word composed of object class 2 pronoun-verb stem 'put'- person+tense.

All three languages handle benefactive and causative ideas in this way.

He is asking me = He is putting a question to me.	Miana wisip ye-s-gea	Morpheme translation ask/question me-put- person+tense
He ^e is asking you.	'wisip ne-s-gea	
He is asking him	wisip u-s-gea	
He is asking us	wisip e-je-s-gea	ask me-me(reduplication for plural)-put- he is
He is asking you	wisip e-ne-s-gea	
He is asking them	wisip e-s-gea	

4. DOING SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE (BENEFACTIVE) is expressed by two ~~work~~ verbs, the second of which means 'put'. The first verb is the stem only. The second verb has class 2 pronoun - verb stem-person tense suffixes. Miani and Mala have a 'benefactive' marker before the class 2 pronoun of the second verb.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
he is doing it for me	malip yi-s- ⁱ ike work me-put-he is	marip e-je-s-egea work benefactive- me-put-he is	malip a-i-s-inka work benefactive-me-put-he is
he is doing it for you	malip ni-s-ike	marip e-ne-s-egea	malip a-in-s-inka*
he is doing it for him	malip u-s-ike	marip u-s-egea u-s-egea	malip a-u-s-inka
he is doing it for us	malip e-s- ⁱ ke	marip e-je-s-egea	malip ai-e-s-inka
he is doing it for you (pl)	malip ne-s-ke	marip e-ne-s-egea	malip ai-en-s-inka*
he is doing it for them	malip o-s-ke	marip o -e-s-egea	malip ai-o-s- ⁱ inka

*Note: There is metathesis of 2 person singular and plural pronouns in Mala. The consonant and vowel reverse order. If Miani and Mala did not have the benefactive marker, the meaning would be 'He is giving work to you to do'. For example:

	Miani	Mala
He is giving work to me (to do)'	marip je-s-egea	malip i-s-inka
He is giving work to you (to do)'	marip u-s-egea	malip ni-s-inka
He is giving work to him (to do)'	marip u-s-egea	malip u u-s-inka

To make this kind of distinction in Maiani a relative clause precedes the benefactive verbs:

yo malip inek-av one malip yi-s-ike
I work do-purpose that work me-put-he is 'The work that I am to do, he is giving it to me (to do).'

BENEFACTIVE PAST TENSE FORMS ARE:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
he did it for me	malip yi-t-ot ¹	marip e-je-t-on	malip a-i-t-a
he did it for you	malip ni-t-ot	marip e-ne-t-on	malip a-in-t-a
he did it for him	malip u-t-ot	marip ø-u-t-on	malip a-u-t-a
he did it for us	malip e-t-at ¹	marip e-je-t-an	malip ai-e-t-a
he did it for you	malip ne-t-at	marip e-ne-t-an	malip ai-en-t-a
he did it for them	malip o-t-at	marip e-t-an	malip ai-o-t-a

BENEFACTIVE FUTURE TENSE forms are:

he will do it for me	malip yi-t-a ¹	marip e-je-s-ea	malip a-i-t-ok
he will do it for you	malip ni-t-a	marip e-ni-s-ea	malip a-in-t-ok
he will do it for him	malip u-t-a	marip ø-u-s-ea	malip a-u-t-ok
he will do it for us	malip e-t-a ¹	marip e-je-s-ea	malip ai-e-t-ok
he will do it for you (pl)	malip ne-t-a	marip e-ne-s-ea	malip ai-en-t-ok
he will do it for them	malip o-t-a	marip ø-e-s-ea ø-e-s-ea	malip ai-o-t-ok

Verb Suffixes

1. SUMMARY OF PERSON+TENSE SUFFIXES

PRESENT TENSE	Maiani	Miani	Mala
1st person singular	-kemo	-egemo	-kem
2nd person singular	-ki	-igia	-kia
3rd person singular	-ke	-egea	-ka
1st person plural	-kemi	-igimi	-kemi
2nd person plural	-kemet	-egeme	-kama
3rd person plural	-kemot	-egemod	-kom

PAST TENSE

1st person singular	-amo	-amo	-em
2nd person singular	-aro	-a	-ia
3rd person singular	-at	-an	-a
1st person plural	-ami	-ami	-emi
2nd person plural	-amet	-ame	-ama
3rd person plural	-amot	-amod	-om

FUTURE TENSE

1st person singular	-emo	-emo	-ek
2nd person singular	-ia	-ia	-i
3rd person singular	-a	-ea	-ok
1st person plural	-emi	-imi	-une
2nd person plural	-emet	-eme	-ua
3rd person plural	-emot	-emod	-ue

COMMENTS ABOUT SEPARATING PERSON FROM TENSE. In looking at the lists, one could separate person from tense and have them as separate morphemes. For example in Maiani

-ke- 'present tense

-a- 'past tense

-e- 'future tense

-mo '1st person singular

-mi '1st person plural

-met '2nd person plural

-mot '3rd person plural

The difficult part comes in describing 2nd and 3rd person singular. Explanations would have to be made.

We have gotten in the habit of thinking of the person-tense markers as a unit and will leave the description at that.

2 COMMANDS have two forms: singular and plural.

	Maiani	Miani	sg=singular	pl=plural	Morpheme translation
			Mala		
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					
you (sg) sit down	puk-ow	bug-ow	mbuk-i		verb stem-command marker
you (pl) sit down	puk-ewet	bug-ewen	mbuk-ua		
you (sg) speak	∅ an-ow	an-ow	ew-i		
you (pl) speak	an-ewet	an-ewen	ew-ua		
you (sg) go inside	sur-ow	sur-ow	kow-ei		
you (pl) go inside	sur-ewet	sur-en	kow-ua		

Sometimes the plural form is shortened. In Maiani sur-ewet 'you (pl) go inside' is often shortened to sur-et. This shortened form is preferred in Miani.

3. BORROWED WORDS have an ^{suffix} ~~infix~~ meaning 'borrowed' between the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ borrowed verb stem ✕

~~XXXXX~~ person-tense markers

Maiani~~8~~ o-skul-mi-ke
 them-school-BORROW-he is 'He is teaching them.'

Miani o- skul-im-egea

Mala ono o-sule-nein-ka

Maiani samap-mi-kemi
 sew up-BORROW-we are We are sewing.

^{iv}iani samap-im-igimi

^{iv}ala samap-ain-kemi

^{iv}aiani rit-mi-kemo
 read-BORROW-I am I am reading.

^{iv}iani rid-im-egemo

^{iv}ala rid-imain-kem

5. CONTINUOUS/HABITUAL Is expressed in future and past tenses. It is an ~~suffix~~^{suffix} between verb stem and person-tense markers. With future tenses it means that what is being done now will continue into the future.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
I always go	ituw-iker-emo	avi-gis-emo	induw-et-ek
You always go	ituw ⁱ ituw-iker-ie	avi-gis-ia	induw-es-i
He always goes	xituw ituw-iker-a	avi-gis-ea	induw-et-ok
We always go	ituw-iker-imi	avi-gis-imi	induw-es-une
You always go	ituw-iker-imet	avi-gis-eme	induw-es-ama
He always goes	ituw-iker-imot	avi-gis-emod	induw-es-ue

With past tense the meaning is that ~~was~~ what was always done in the past is now COMPLETED, (not being done

I always went	ituw-iker-amo	avi-gisi-rar-amo	induw-es-ame
you you always went	ituw-iker-aro	go-continue-habit-I used to avi-gisi-rar-a	induw-es-ia
he always went	ituw-iker-at	avi-gisi-rar-an	induw-es-anda
We always went	ituw-iker-ami	avi-gisi-rar-ami	induw-es-ami
You (pl) always went	ituw-iker-amet	avi-gisi-rar-ame	induw-es-ama
They always went	ituw-iker-amot	avi-gisi-rar-omod	induw-es-amo

- In Mala variant forms of the past tense suffix are used. 1. -a- is prefixed to the suffix.
- There is metathesis of the form for 1st person singular and 3rd person plural, e.g., em ~~me~~^{me}, om -- mo.
- nd- is inserted to separate the two ~~suffixes~~ -a's of the 3rd person singular form.
- In first person plural -a- which is prefixed to the suffix replaces -e- of the past tense suffix.

Verb phrases

1. ADVERBS MAY DESCRIBE VERBS ~~AND~~ and as such precedes the verb in word order.

Maiani	mel LITTLE	erepow go up	'go up just a little more'
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Miani	medea LITTLE	diwow	
-------	-----------------	-------	--

Mala	mel LITTLE	irombi	
------	---------------	--------	--

Maiani	usola QUICKLY	perkow come	
--------	------------------	----------------	--

Miani:	osora QUICKLY	ribuow	
--------	------------------	--------	--

Mala	otoI QUICKLY	amuni	
------	-----------------	-------	--

2 TO NEGATE A VERB, ^{me} 'negative' ~~the negative particle~~ precedes the verb.

Maiani: me erepow
 NO go up 'don't go up'

Miani: me diwow
 NO

Mala: me irombi
 NO

Maiani me perkow
 NO come 'don't come'

Miani me rubuow
 NO

Mala me amuni
 NO

In a phrase the word meaning 'negative' precedes the adverb.

Maiani: me usola perkaro
 NO ~~osora~~ come 'you didn't come quickly.'

Miani: me osora ribua
 NO

Mala me otol amuni
 NO

3. A NOUN PLUS A VERB may occur as a close knit unit. The verb carries the person-tense suffixes.

Maiani	yak	isike	
	water	put-3rd person present t.	'He is washing/bathing.'
Miani	yag	isegea	
Mala	ak	isinka	

Maiani	yawak	kekenike	
	my-neck	dry-it is	'I am thirsty.'
Miani	yuag	kakayegea	
Mala	ipiri	kekeninka	

4. REPETITIVE VERB PHRASE. A verb repeated means the action occurs over a long period of time. No connective or other word occurs between the verbs.

Maʔiani	uruwami WEXSEAKKEDXXXXXXXXWEXSEAKKED WE SEARCHED	uruwami WE SEARCHED	we not	'we searched and searched and didn't find it.'
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Miani	uruwami	uruwami	we	
Mala	uruwaimi	uruwaimi	ila	

Maianiʔ	ruatami WE WAITED	ruatami WE WAITED	we not	'we waited and waited and he didn't come.'
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Miani	ruwami	ruwami	we	
Mala	tambukaimi	tambukaimi	ila	

6. PURPOSE is expressed by a suffix 'purpose', that is, in order to do something. This 'purpose' suffix is attached to the first verb stem and is immediately followed by a final verb which carries the person-tense suffixes. No other word occurs between the two verbs.

Maiani	ma something	sasan-av buy-PURPOSE	kakkemo go(down)	'I am going (to market) to buy something.'
				or: 'In order to buy something, I am going.'
Miani	ma	sasan-aw	gagegemo	
Mala	manda	tambular-av	wirainkem	
<hr/>				
Maiani	yak water	it-av put-PURPOSE	arikemo go (north)	'In order to bathe, I am going.'
Miani	yag	it-av	gagegemo	
Mala	ak	ka ^{it} -av	induwinkem	
<hr/>				
Maiani	ata coconut	tov-av get-PURPOSE	tuamot went	'In order to get coconuts, they went.'
Miani	ata	tov-av	aviamod	
Mala	ata	suar-av	induwom	
<hr/>				
Maiani	war fish	ut-av spear-PURPOSE	ituvikemo go	'In order to spear a fish, I am going.'
Miani	war	ut-av	aviegemo	
Mala	ngali	kat-av	induwinkem	
<hr/>				

7. To express that you WOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING, BUT IN ACTUAL FACT DID NOT DO IT, the construction used is: verb stem-purpose marker ~~xxxxxxx~~ 'that' final clause

Maiani	yo	at-av	one	nam	waet
	I	go across-PURPOSE	THAT	log	broke
Miani	yo	ad-av	one	nam	tekek
Mala	eno	ind-av	on	nanam	mbuala

Maiani	Pita	Madang	tuw-av	one	mone	welok	
	Peter	Madang	go-PURPOSE	THAT	money	no	"Peter would have gone to Madang,
							but there was no money (for the trip)
Miani	Pita	Madang	avi-av	one	moni	we	
Mala	Pita	Madang	induw-av	on	apasu	ilama	
					seeds=		
					money		

8. A DESIDERATIVE idea may also be expressed with the suffix meaning 'purpose' attached to the verb stem.

This is then followed by the word meaning 'think' (to oneself).

Maiani	uwun	ma	im-av	anisi	
	dog	something	eat-PURPOSE	THINK	'The dog wants x to eat.'

Miani	iwun	ma	im-av	anese	
-------	------	----	-------	-------	--

Mala	ke	manda	nim-av	ewitao	
------	----	-------	--------	--------	--

9. AN INCEPTIVE idea which states^{es} the beginning of an action is indicated by a suffix 'just about' attached to the verb stem. An optional word meaning 'think' may end the sentence and lends a DESIDERATIVE thought to the action.

Maiani ituv-ino
 go-JUST ABOUT PLURAL 'Let's go.' (said in regard to all of us)

Miani avi-no

Mala induv-une

Maiani yo in-ine
 I sleep-JUST ABOUT SINGULAR 'I'm just about sleeping.'

Miani jo in-ine

Mala eno in-ek

Maiani yo in-ine ~~xx~~ anisi
 I sleep-JUST ABOUT THINK 'I want to sleep'

Miani jo in-ine anese

Mala eno in-ek ewitae

Maiani tani-no anisi
 talk-JUST ABOUT THINK 'We want to ~~xx~~ talk.'

Miani tani-no anese

Mala P pau-ne ewitai

// BODY PARTS plus the WORD FOR 'SAY' ARE USED TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS OR STATES OF BEING in

Maiani and Miani. Mala uses specific words rather than the word 'say'.

Maiani	umir his-nose NOSE	kisik poke-up	anike SAY	'squeeze up nose when not willing to do something.' 'dislike'
--------	--------------------------	------------------	--------------	--

Miani	imir	kisik	anegea	
-------	------	-------	--------	--

Mala	omenembe NOSE	airombinka poke-up		
------	------------------	-----------------------	--	--

Maiani	ukema his-LIVER	ri STRONG	anike SAY	'very angry'
--------	--------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Miani	gema ^a	re	anegea anike	
-------	-------------------	----	----------------------------	--

Mala	akama	irorombinka come-up	(with reduplication to express the strong emotion of anger)	
------	-------	------------------------	---	--

Maiani	umuta his-eye	wuluk come-out	anike SAY	'stares'
--------	------------------	-------------------	--------------	----------

Miani	muda	wuruk	anegea	
-------	------	-------	--------	--

Mala	umutak	wirimasinka stare		
------	--------	----------------------	--	--

12. A word indicating SOUND OR LIGHT followed by the word 'say' indicate things that can be seen or heard. Only in two of the examples does Mala use the word 'say' and these will be listed first.

Maiani	lak SPILL	anike SAY	hearing 'liquid spilling over, such as tank water overflowing'
Miani	rak	anegea	
Mala	lak	ewinka SAY	
<hr/>			
Maiani	upup conch	wuk BLOW	anike SAY 'hearing a conch shell being blown'
Miani		wuk	anegea
Mala	ubob	wu	ewinka
<hr/>			
Maiani	kuru RUMBLE	anike SAY	'thunder'
Miani	guru	anegea	
Mala	gurai	rombinka come-up	
<hr/>			
Maiani	amut fire	wulu light	anike SAY 'flames'
Miani	evan	werek	anegea
Mala	mund	rerekesinka flashing	
<hr/>			
Maiani	tampir dish	petek CRASHING-SOUND	anike anike SAY 'dish falling down - hear the sound of it crashing'
Miani	kapir tabir	pi	anegea
Mala	tambir	pasuninka fall-down	

13 SOME FEELINGS are expressed by a noun/verb stem followed by the word 'hit', in Maiani and Miani.

The word 'hit' takes a class 2 pronoun object as prefix and 3rd person singular present tense suffix.

Mala uses various words rather than just the one which means 'hit'.

* Maiani	wisa pain	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am feeling pain.'
Miani	wisaw	ye-n-egea	
Mala	itorimb-inka pain-3 person sg present		
<hr/>			
Maiani	wano hungry	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am hungry'
Miani	wano	ye-n me -egea	
Mala	ane	i-mua-s-inka me-hit-put-3person sg present	
<hr/>			
Maiani	naw bettlenut	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am dizzy' (from chewing bettlenut).
Miani	naw	ye-n-egea	
Mala	naw	i-mua-s-inka	
<hr/>			
Maiani	puk wind	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am cold.'
Miani	giragir	ye-n-egea	
Mala	bug	ya-inka touch-3 person sg present	
<hr/>			
Maiani	sina ¹ shame	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am ashamed.'
Miani	sina	ye-n-egea	
Mala	sina	ya-inka	
<hr/>			
Maiani	masal ¹ crave	yi-n-ike me-hit-3 person sg present	'I am craving (a certain food/bettlenut).'
Miani	masari	ye-n-egea	
Mala	matal	ya-inka	

Further example

Maiani	puila sick	yi-n-ike me-hit-is	'I am sick'
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Miani	buirā	ye-n-egea
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Mala	wak sick	ivin-kem throw-1st sg present
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15. COMPLETED ACTION is expressed by a verb stem plus the word meaning 'finish'.

Maiani	malip	weser	
	work	finish	'I finished doing it.'
Miani	marip	pada	
Mala	malip	weser	

16 CONTINUING ACTION is expressed by a verb stem plus a word meaning 'sit'.

Maiani	ata	waiy	iri	pukike	
	coconut	dry	SCRAPE	IS-SITTING	'She is scraping and scraping the dry coconut.'
Miani	ata	kekaj	ere	bugegea	
Mala	nata	okorikor	rosi	mbukinka	

Maiani	kaul	iwin	pukike	
	hook	throw	IS SITTING	'He is throwing and throwing the hook' (He He is fishing.)
		THROW		
Miani	uk	z turuw	gm bugegea	
Mala	kaul	iwini	mbukinka	

VII. CLAUSES

There are five kinds of clauses.

1. Intransitive clause has

±Subject ± time/location + predicate with intransitive verb

2. Transitive clause has

± Subject ± time/location + object + predicate with transitive verb

3. Indirect object clause

± Subject ± time/location + object + predicate with indirect object verb

4. Benefactive clause

± Subject ± time/location ± object + predicate with benefactive verb

5. Equative/stative clause

+ Item + Complement ± equator

TWO OR MORE ACTIONS MAY OCCUR ONE AFTER THE OTHER. This is expressed by a suffix ~~xxx~~ meaning 'and in sequence' attached to the verb stem. Another verb(s) ~~xx~~ or clause may follow. A whole series of events may occur and be marked by this suffix.

Maiani:	war	mete	pwai-si	imov	
	fish	little	cut-AND	eat	"You cut this little fish and eat it!;
Miani:	war	mede	wabua-ese	imov	
			AND		
Mala:	ngali	ledev	mbasi-ta	nimi	
			AND		

Maiani:	lap	one	galasmi-si	war	tovi-si	tonolvi-si	puki-si	ike.
	boy	that	dive with-AND	fish	get-AND	rope-AND	sit-AND	is(staps)
			eye glass					

Miani	nada	one	galasane-ese	war	tov-ese	doboruw-ese	bug-ese	gea
			AND		AND	AND	AND	

Mala	lap	ono	galasai-tao	ngali	suai-tao	sungurimi-tao	mbuki-tao	ika
			AND		AND	AND	AND	

Free trans-lation: That boy dived with an eye-glass and got some fish and put them on a rope and is sitting.

In summary the suffix meaning 'and in sequence' in the three languages is

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
and in sequence	-si	-ese	tao~ ta

2. TWO ACTIONS WITH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS are joined by the word na 'and' in all three languages. na is preceded by a final verb, that is a verb with person+tense suffixes. It is followed by a clause or verb which has a different subject from the preceding clause.

Maiani: Helen kov ike na pato walamat.
 Helen here is AND duck disappeared 'Helen was (still) here and the duck disappeared

Miani: Helen gaow gea na pato waraman.
 AND

Mala: Helen ova ika na pato alamala
 AND

Maiani: lap owasi ituamo na yenutakamot
 children near I-went AND to me they talked 'I went over by the children and they talked to me.'

Miani: nada emeto aviamo na tan yetemod
 AND talk to me-put

Mala: lap akape induwem na imuatom.
 AND

Maiani: yapar koma umot na toltolwamot
 bush inside he-died AND they-buried 'He died in the bush and they buried (him there).'

Miani: digow gema umon ina teterumamod
 AND

Mala: masi a^kamae umon na ototouwom
 AND

Miani has a morpheme variant ina when the previous word ends in a consonant. na is used when the preceding word ends in a vowel.

In Maiani ~~na na na na~~ na 'and' has a variant ra when it occurs after a 'command suffix'.
 Miani has the variant ira 'and' following a 'command suffix'.
 It remains na in Mala.

Maiani:	e-t-ow us-give-command	ra AND	akine you can look	'Give (them) to us and you can look at them.'
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Miani	ye-t-ow	ira AND	agine	
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Mala:	e-s-i	na AND	kikek	
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Maiani:	ewat-ow us call-command	ra AND	irino go	'Call us and we'll go.'
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Miani:	yewat-ow	ira AND	irino	
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Mala:	ewas-i	na AND	induwune	
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Maiani:	tow-ow get-command	ra ma AND some- thing	misto cook	'You get it (salt water in a bamboo) and she'll cook it.'
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Miani:	tow-ow	ira ma AND	midido	
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Mala	sua-i	na ma AND	namunaok	
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ADJECTIVES IN EQUATIVE OR STATIVE CLAUSES take the 3rd person past tense suffix.

Maiani	winat	koma	apa	erev-at	
	evening	enside	time	good-3rd PERSON PAST TENSE	'This time at dusk is a good time.'

Miani	naroba	gema	aba	wuerew-an	
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Mala	sisir	alana	mba	olow-ala	
------	-------	-------	-----	----------	--

Maiani	lul	au-nat	na	kisikisi	urin	ikemot	
	sand	black-3rd	and	sand-flies	plenty	are	'The sand is black and there are plenty of sand flies.'
		PERSON					
		PAST					
		TENSE					

Miani	raw	keku-nat	ina	marakasikasi	kumu	gemod	
-------	-----	----------	-----	--------------	------	-------	--

Mala	kongor	ngausiri-nala	na	milingit	ogom	ikom	
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Maiani	yu-kula	anam-at					
	my-sister	LATER-3rd	PERSON	PAST	TENSE		'My sister is last (the youngest).'

Miani	yu-gura	anam-an					
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Mala	e-babarat	amba-ta					
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VIII Sentences

1. A ~~SUPPOSITION~~ ^{SUPPOSITION} is indicated by a word 'if' which follows the verb of the first clause. Verbs in both clauses take the person-tense suffixes.

Maiani	uyav spear	tovkamo took	ka IF	wat pig	uskamo shot	'If I had taken a spear, I would have shot the pig.'
--------	---------------	-----------------	----------	------------	----------------	--

Miani	ujav	tovigamo	ga	was	usigamo
-------	------	----------	----	-----	---------

Mala	umav	suaikame	ka	at	usikame
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Maiani	no you	epurine follow	anov say	ka IF	winawa morning	ya yet	teterov. get-up	'If you say "I'll come with you, get up early in the morning.'
--------	-----------	-------------------	-------------	----------	-------------------	----------------------	--------------------	--

Miani	no	yupirine	anov	ga ga	winawa	ija	padirov.
-------	----	----------	------	---------------------	--------	-----	----------

Mala	nino	epuraek	ewi	ka	uruwasi	ya	teremi
------	------	---------	-----	----	---------	----	--------

Maiani	ata coconuts	wekerikat wekerikat broke	ka IF	uwutia with-you	tuvikami go	'If he weren't breaking coconuts, I would have gone with you (but I can't because I'm helping him.)
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Miani	ata	wuegigan	ga	nanata	avigami
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Mala	nata	aiwusikame	ka	kambune	induwikami
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2 THEREFORE is expressed by a word meaning 'therefore' occurring at the beginning of a second sentence. This kind of construction occurs in Maiani and Mala, but no equivalent has been found in Miani. Instead they use the word meaning 'and'

Maiani	ungor palang one tovisi wal ^w maskeramot. Ne XXXXXXXXXX kaukonke	
	his plank that took hit	THEREFORE shouted. 'They took his plank and hit him. Therefore he shouted.'

Miani	ono palang one tovese waroatamod. Ina wiegea
	AND

Mala	ongor palang on suaitao ai ^{ai} amuatom X . Ne kaukouna
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Maiani	Bogia lain oni tipami on-pun otamot. Ne XXXXXXXXXX sursi tuwamot.	
	Bogia line they came them-too chased. THEREFORE afraid went.	'The Bogia men ^C came and chased them too. Therefore they fled in fear.'

Miani	Bogia lain onini ribuame everaramod. Ina biadese aviamod.
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Mala	Bogia laen onono simbambu osuaitao opuraom. Ne merivi induwom.
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3. QUOTES have been found with no opening or closing formula, with both opening and closing formula, such as 'he said', and with just a closing formula. It seems that as a written style is developing, an opening and closing formula is being used - more so than in the spoken stories.

An example with an opening and closing formula 'he said'

Maiani	Bogia kuapa koma walwatomot na anet	"Ye me yewalwatet. Yo doktani yetambu tamot."	anet na wel
	Bogia sore inside hit	and HE-SAID "me no hit. my doctor forbid said"	HE-said and n ^k
Miani	Bogia mavi gema warupamod ina anen	"Yo me yewarupen. Yo doktani yetambu samod."	anen ina we-nadi
Mala	Bogia akapae akamae aimuatom na ewa	"Ya me imuasuala. Eno doktano tambu itaom"	ensi ewa na ila ALL SAME SAID

Free translation 'The Bogia men hit his (leprous) sore and he said, "Don't hit me. The doctor has forbidden (that my sores by made worse)." He said and they disregarded it.'

An example with only a closing formula 'he said'

Maiani	Kevenam ⁱ ni girl's name-FOCUS	"yoruatet." Anet na... me-wait SAID and	'Kevenam said, "Wait for me." She said and..."
Miani	Kevenam-ini	"yuruwaen." Anen na...	
Mala	Kevenam-o	"itambukaua" Ewa na...	

4. WHEN STATING THE OBVIOUS a word meaning 'indeed' is put at the end of the sentence. The vowel of the word is lengthened and starts low with a rising intonation. It is used when ~~y~~ telling you something you should know. Sometimes a parent will use it to remind a child to do something they know they should be doing. At other times it is used to state the obvious.

Maiani	nek.	Yo	kolos	we ove	tamo	ka	
	yes	I	clothes	these	put	indeed	'Yes, indeed I put these clothes (here).'
Miani	ore.	jo	kolos	ove	samo	a	
Mala	te.	Eno	kolos	ov	taem	ka	

5. REASON is expressed by a word meaning 'because of that/thus it is'.

~~Maiani oooooooooooooo~~

Maiani matamata me kara anet. Ineki ike na teremu amona tamo
 something nog dry says BECAUSE is and today again put 'Some things (clothes) weren't dry
 and because of that I put them out again
 today.

Miani madamada me kakayan . Enege^{gea}ina teremu eba samo.

Mala mandamanda menda parurae. Ensi ika na eta amona taem.

Maiani item-ni kapa ukuvike. Ineki amumike. 'The sun beats down on the iron roof
 sun-subject copper beats BECAUSE OF it cries. and so it makes that noise.'
 roof THAT/SO

Miani isaw-ini kapa upagegea. Enege nevegea

Mala Otem-o kapa ukivinka. Ensi muminka

7. When a question is asked the ~~x~~ the ~~answer~~ ANSWER IS NOT KNOWN, the answer ~~is~~ may be prefaced with a word meaning 'don't know' and the sentence finishes with another word which seems to have the same meaning 'don't know'.

Maiani: Question: kar ove kava ituvike?
car this where is going 'Where is this car going?'

Miani kar ove igava aviegea?

Mala kar ovo amaera induwinka

Maiani: Answer: Aison. Kava ituvike yon
don't know where is going don't know 'I don't know where it is going.'

Aison igava aviegea- da

Aison amera induwinka yo

Maiani: Question: war ta towat̄i we
fish some get-? no 'Did he get some fish or not?'

Miani war tovani we

Mala war nda sual̄ai ila

Maiani Answer: Aison. Towat̄i yon
don't know get-? don't know

Miani Aison tovan-i da

Mala Aison x sualai ila yo

IX Questions

QUESTION WORDS are:

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
how	ikaniki	igaegi	indosi
where	kava	igava	apasa ame-ra where-locative
who	ya-ni who-focus	ja-ni	a-no
when	tipinawa	tipinawe	ndepine
how many	tipi	tipi	^d ndepi
why	walam	waram	alam
what	maiani maia-ni what-focus	mia-ni	mala-no

Examples of a few of the above question words used in sentences:

How are you making it?	ikaniki malipiki HOW work	igaegi maripigia	indosi malipeinkia
Where are you going?	kava tuwiki WHERE go	igava avigia	ame induwinkia
Who is going?	ya-ni ituwike WHO-FOCUS go	ja-ni aviegea	ano induwinka
How much is it?	puatun tipi seeds HOW MANY	nam ^u ado tipi tree-seeds	apasu ndepi

QUESTIONS may be asked WITHOUT USING A QUESTION WORD. This is done by using a 'question' marker at the end of the sentence.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
Are you going?	no ituwiki i*	no avigia i	nino induwinikia i
Is he going?	o ituwike i	o aviegea i	ono induwinika i
Does Laopi sleep with you?	Laopi no uwuta inikemet i		
Do you and Laopi sleep together?	together	Laopi no nata inegeme i	Laopi namaka narawa ininkama i
	Laopi you together sleep ?		

These questions are answered 'yes' or 'no'.

*Note: elision occurs so the final i is not heard separately.

To this kind of question may be added the word for 'not'

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
Are you going or not?	no ituwiki i we	no avigia i we	nino induwinikia i ila*
Is the plate on the table or not	tapir tebol kon ike i we		
	dish table on is ? NOT		
		tabir tebol gaon gea i we	tambir tebol ona ika i ila

*Note: elision occurs and two is are not heard.

Are you feeling all right or not?	no erew iki i we*	no werev igia i we	nino olow ikia i ila
	you good are ? NOT		

EQUATIVE/STATIVE ~~QUESTION~~ CLAUSE QUESTIONS have an ~~item~~ followed by a question word with 'equator' suffix

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
Whose house is this?	tawua owe ya-ni house this who-equator	dua ove ja-ni	ndan ow ^a an-no
Whose pig is this?	wat owe yani pig	was ove ja-ni	at ow ^a an-no
Who is that?	one ya-ni that	one ja-ni	ono an-no
What is this?	owe maia-ni	ove mia-ni	owo mala-no

EQUATIVE/STATIVE CLAUSES are used to answer the above questions. These clauses have an optional item ~~for~~ word followed by a complement word to which the 'equator' is suffixed.

(It is) Buang's house	Buang tawua-ni Buang house-equator	Buang dua-ni	Buang ndan-no
(Is is) Committee's pig	Komiti wat-ni Committee pig-equator	Komiti was-ini	Kometi at-o
He is a Karkar man.	o Karkar muato-ni he Karkar man-equator	o Karkar muado-ni	o Karkar muande-no
This is a coconut.	owe ata-ni this coconut-equator	ove ata-ni	owo nata-no

Another form of EQUATIVE CLAUSE QUESTION has an item followed by a question word, but the latter is not suffixed with an 'equative' marker.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
Who is her father?	o u ⁿ nawi ya she her-father s who	o nawi ja	o a-nawi ao
What is your name?	no ni-num ya you your-name who	no ni-num ja	nino ni- ⁿ num ao
How many children do you have?	no nata tipi you child how-many	no nada tipi	nino mami ndepi
How much are those bananas?	uti one moni tipi	udi one moni tipi	ngi one apasu ndepi

Answers to these questions ~~have~~ take the form of an EQUATIVE CLAUSE with an item and a complement, but no 'equator'.

	Maiani	Miani	Mala
Her father is Buang	o u-nawi Buang	o nawi Buang	o anawi Buang
My name is Lamut	yo yi-num Lamut I my-name Lamut	jo ji-num Lamut	eno i-num Lamut.
I have three children	yo nata arop	jo nada arop	eno mami ngarop
These bananas are 30 toea	uti owe moni arop	^d ^v u ti owe moni arop	ngi owo apasu ngarop.