

Kobon

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Davies (1981)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kobo1249>
- ISO-identifier: kpw
- Speakers:
- Location: Papua New Guinea
- Geneology: Nuclear Trans New Guinea > Madang > Kalamic South-Adelbert > Kalam-Kobon > Kobon

2 Nominal Morphology

Only the nouns referring to kin relationships are marked for number. The pronouns have three forms - for singular, dual, and plural.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb has person-number suffixes for each person and number (singular, dual, plural).

4 Conjunction

The most common way of coordinating sentences is repeating the final verb of a sentence at the beginning of the following one. The verbal forms *nöh* 'to perceive' and *nöhöm* are used as conjunctions. *pe*, *pen*, *ji*, and *gi* are the adversative conjunctions.

- (1) Hon yaŋ mid-no Komji kaj anöbu dam ulöm mögan yaŋ
 1PL below be-DS.1PL Komji pig that take hole hole below
 yu-öp. Yu-öp nöŋ-un Jo piksa yaŋ
 throw-PERF.3SG throw-PERF.3SG perceive-SS.1PL Jon photograph below
 ugal-öp adog g-un ram au-bun.
 take-PERF.3SG back do-SS.1PL house come-PERF.1PL
 'We stayed down there and Komji took the pig and threw it down the hole and
 after Jon had taken a photograph we came back to the house.' [Davies, 1981,
 p. 68]
- (2) Nipe hag-a nab möhöŋ wanaŋ yad si up-pil a
 3SG say-REMPAST.3SG 2POSS two eek 1SG illicitly take-PERF.3SG quote
 g-a. G-ei-a nöŋöm bi majö möhau kale
 do-REMPAST.3SG do-DUR-REMPAST.3SG CONJ man mature two 3DUAL
 hag-lö wasö ñi möhau kale ud-ag-lö a
 say-PERF.3SG no boy two 3DUAL take-NEG-REMPAST.3DUAL quote
 gi-lö.
 do-REMPAST.3DUAL
 'He said,"Your two sons have stolen my eel." He was saying this and the two
 men said, "No, the two boys didn't take it"' [Davies, 1981, p. 68]
- (3) Aram aram l-ul am daŋ nöŋ-lo wip
 go go put-SS.1DUAL go across perceive-REMPAST.1DUAL corpse
 rigöl gi-la. Rigöl gi-la nöŋöm hol bi
 burial.place do-REMPAST.3PL burial.place do-REMPAST.3PL CONJ 1DUAL man
 dum au laŋ ar-lo.
 hilltop there above go-REMPAST.1DUAL
 'We went on and on and then we saw across (from where we were) that they
 had put the corpse in the burial place. They had put the corpse in the burial
 place and we two went up to the top of the hill.' [Davies, 1981, p. 68]
- (4) Dam ribö yaŋ l-öm aul had g-öm böŋ lau ke
 take river below put-SS.3SG bone split-SS.3SG one.side that self put-SS.3SG
 l-öm böŋ lau ke l-öm l-ab-in g-a.
 one.side that self put-SS.3SG put-PRES-1SG do-REMPAST.3SG be-DS.3SG
 Mid-ö mid-ö sib g-a.
 be-DS.3SG darkness do-REMPAST.3SG
 'He took it down to the river and split the bone in two. Presently it got dark.'
 [Davies, 1981, p. 69]
- (5) Wal wayön be ar-bil. Be ar-bil pe ñi ne
 possum cassowary forest go-PERF.3DUAL forest go-PERF.3DUAL CONJ boy 3SG
 milon g-öm rilale nöp l-öp.
 crying do-SS.3SG discontent EMPH put-PERF.3SG
 'They went to the forest for wild animals. They went to the forest and the boy
 cried and was discontented.' [Davies, 1981, p. 69]

The postpositional particle *aip* is used to indicate accompaniment. If both NPs are followed by *aip*, the verb shows agreement with both. If only one NP is followed by the particle, the verb either agrees with the accompanier, or with the accompanier and the accompanied.

- (6) Juab aip Minöp aip kale be ar-bil.
 Juab with Minöp with 3DUAL forest go-PERF.3DUAL
 'Juab and Minöp have gone to the forest.' [Davies, 1981, p. 73]
- (7) Juab (nipe) Minöp aip be ar-öp/ ar-bil.
 Juab 3SG Minöp with forest go-PERF.3SG go-PERF.3DUAL
 'Juab went to the forest with Minöp.' [Davies, 1981, p. 73]

VPs are coordinated by juxtaposition in a specific sequence of the verbal elements. The last of them carries the inflectional or derivational suffixes.

- (8) Yad gigir iñ wañib yag dam im-bin.
 1SG corn seed string.bag put.in take plant-PERF.1SG
 'I put the corn seed in the string bag and took and planted it.' [Davies, 1981, p. 74]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is marked by AKA 'or'.

- (9) Ne maj ñiñ-mön aka mi ñiñ-mön.
 2SG sweet.potato eat-PRESCRIPT.2SG or taro eat-PRESCRIPT.2SG
 'Will you eat sweet potato or taro?' [Davies, 1981, p. 73]
- (10) Ne maj aka mi ñiñ-mön.
 2SG sweet.potato or taro eat-PRESCRIPT.2SG
 'Will you eat sweet potato or taro?' [Davies, 1981, p. 74]
- (11) Ral ar-mön aka ruö ar-mön.
 tomorrow go-PRESCRIPT.2SG or day.after.tomorrow go-PRESCRIPT.2SG
 'Will you go tomorrow or the day after?' [Davies, 1981, p. 74]
- (12) Ral aka ruö ar-mön.
 tomorrow or day.after.tomorrow go-PRESCRIPT.2SG
 'Will you go tomorrow or the day after?' [Davies, 1981, p. 74]

6 Postpositions

There are four postpositions in Kobon.

1. *aip* marks the preceding noun/pronoun as accompanier or accompanied

2. *abe* marks the preceding noun/pronoun as a coordinated nominal
3. *halö* marks the preceding noun as a circumstance
4. *nöbö* marks the preceding noun as the 'place from which'

References

Davies, John (1981). *Kobon*. Amsterdam: North-Holland.