A short overview of the word classes in Brokpa

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A short overview of the word classes in Brokpa

Corinne Mittaz
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ABSTRACT
This paper presents a first overview of the word classes in Brokpa and how they differ structurally from each other. Brokpa distinguishes eleven word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, copulas, relator nouns, pronouns, numerals, quantifiers, conjunctions and particles. Semantic, morphological and syntactic aspects of these word classes will be presented and set in relation to each other.

KEYWORDS
Brokpa, Tibetic languages, word classes, nominals, noun modifiers, verbs, copulas, adverbs, conjunctions, particles
A short overview of the word classes in Brokpa*

Corinne Mittaz
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1 Introduction

This paper presents word classes, also called parts of speech, of the Brokpa language of Bhutan. Brokpa distinguishes nouns, relator nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numerals, quantifiers, verbs, copulas, adverbs, conjunctions and particles. The major word classes are nouns, verbs and adjectives. They constitute open-class categories, meaning that they are able to incorporate new class members. The basic word order of Brokpa is SOV. The nominal categories nouns, relator nouns and pronouns are presented in section 2. Section 3 discusses word classes which modify nouns, like adjectives, numerals and quantifiers. Section 4 turns to verbs and copulas and section 5 to adverbs. The smallest categories, conjunctions and particles, are treated in section 6 and 7, respectively.

2 Nominals

Nominals include nouns, pronouns and relator nouns. They either can constitute a noun phrase or are dependent on nouns. Nouns are discussed in more detail in section 2.1, relator nouns in 2.2 and pronouns in 2.3.

2.1 Nouns

Nouns are the heads of nominal phrases. They can occur either on their own or together with adjectives, demonstratives, possessive pronouns, numerals, quantifiers and relator nouns. Semantically, nouns denote objects and morphologically, they inflect for number and case. The basic structure of the noun phrase in Brokpa is demonstrative - possessive pronoun - noun - adjective - numeral - quantifier - relator noun or definite article. The definite article =di, which is

*I would like to express my gratitude to Tshering Leki. This work would not have been possible without him. I would also like to thank my colleagues of the Brokpa Documentation and Description Project (BDDP) Damian Funk, Sara Rüfenacht, Sereina Waldis and especially Pascal Gerber and Selin Grollmann for the exchange, numerous joint discussions and the great support. Another thanks go to several anonymous reviewers for their helpful and valuable comments.

1For general information about the Brokpa language and the Brokpa Documentation and Description Project as well as for the list of abbreviations and the transliteration of Written Tibetan used in this issue, see Gerber & Grollmann (this issue).
a clitic, never occurs after a relator noun, therefore either a relator noun or a definite article or neither of them can be at the end of a noun phrase.

Nouns can take the plural clitic =*ba*, but the plural marker is optional if plurality can be inferred from the context (see Rüfenacht, this issue). Brokpa exhibits five different case markers: agentive =*je*, genitive =*gi*, dative =*la*, ablative =*ne* and comitative =*day*. Case and number markers are clitics. Therefore, they not only occur after a noun but generally at the end of the noun phrase. Nouns can be modified by demonstratives, adjectives, quantifiers and numerals. Demonstratives precede the noun, whereas adjectives, quantifiers and numerals follow it. For more information on nominal morphology, see Rüfenacht (this issue). The sentences in (1) - (5) show five examples of nouns with case markers.4

(1) kʰegi cʰimamgi miŋ tci na
kʰegi cʰimam=gi miŋ tci na
2SG.GEN=GEN wife=GEN name what COP.EQ.ASM
What’s your wife’s name?’

(2) di ri o ri=je kʰɔl kʰɔ=la kʰɔ=gi
TOP mountain DEM.PROX mountain=AGT 3SG.M=DAT 3 SG.M=GEN
pʰo=la nima kap-cina=se
palace=DAT sun block.PRS-PRS.ALLO=REP
‘The mountain, that mountain shielded him, his palace from the sun.’ [BO]

(3) mi cik ti=je supta=la rip tuk
mi=cik ti=je sup-ta=pe teŋ=la ri-ga
person=INDF knife=AGT stab-do-NMLZ.PST plain=DAT fall.over-leave tuk
COP.EX.ACQ
‘A person was stabbed by a knife and is lying on the ground.’

(4) lum dũkn=ne cʰŋne na
lum dũk=ne cʰŋ=pe na
lum Bhutan=ABL bring-NMLZ.PST COP.EQ.ASM
‘Lum is brought from Bhutan.’

(5) ki mibombo=daŋ nambo gasŋ
ki mĩ bombo=daŋ nambu ga-soŋ
dog human big=COM together leave-PST.SEN
‘The dog and the tall man left together.’

2 The agentive can also be used to mark the instrument of an action (see Rüfenacht, this issue).
3 The dative expresses locations, beneficiaries and maleficiaries, goals, possession, time-periods and final states of transformations (see Rüfenacht, this issue).
4 A more detailed description of the case markers is given in Rüfenacht (this issue).
Verbs differ from nouns in that they cannot take case and plural markers and occupy a different position within the sentence. But, with nominalizer suffixed to verbs they change the word class and become nouns (see also section 4).

2.2 Relator Nouns

Relator nouns are not independent nouns, because they cannot be the head of a nominal phrase by themselves. They need a lexical noun with which they occur in a genitive construction. This is comparable to DeLancey’s description for Classical and Lhasa Tibetan (2003a: 264, 2003b: 275). In everyday language the genitive case marker can be omitted, however there is no difference in the meaning of the sentence. Relator nouns always take either the ablative or the dative case marker. Semantically, they denote spatial relationships or have abstract meanings. Because of the case markers, relator nouns appear to be grammaticalized from full-fledged lexical nouns. In contrast to full-fledged lexical nouns, relator nouns never take the definite article =di. Examples (6) and (7) show the relator nouns cap 'behind' and naŋ ‘inside’ with and without a genitive construction in a spatial relationship, whereas the relator nouns tonda ‘in order to’ and kor ‘about’ in examples (8) and (9) denote abstract meanings.

(6) ʃaŋkʰi eŋgi cap tuk
ʃaŋkʰi e=gi cap=la tuk
Yangki tree=GEN behind=DAT COP.EX.ACQ
‘Yangki is behind the tree.’

(7) ʃa cʰim naŋla eukpe
ʃa cʰim naŋ=la euk pe
1SG house inside=DAT enter-NMLZ.PST
‘I went inside the house.’

(8) ɲe kʰola ter mi tonda kitap kʰer-co?
ɲe kʰo=la ter mi tonda=la kitap
1SG.AGT 3SG.M=DAT give.PRS-NMLZ.ACT in.order.to=DAT book
kʰer-co? take-PRS.EGO
‘I take a book with me in order to give it to him.’

(9) ɔt cʰim bombogi kor-ne lap-co?
ɔti cʰim bombo=gi kor=ne lap-co?
DEM.PROX house big=GEN about=ABL say-PRS.EGO
‘It’s the big house I am talking about.’

Table 1 shows a few relator nouns of the Brokpa language. If a relator noun can only take either the dative or the ablative marker, this marker is given in parentheses.
2.3 Pronouns

Personal pronouns are the head of a nominal phrase. Unlike nouns, personal pronouns cannot be modified with adjectives. Personal pronouns can take the agentive and genitive case markers to form agentive pronouns and possessive pronouns, respectively. Another marker found with pronouns is derivational =ray, which is attached to the personal pronouns to generate the reflexive form. The personal pronouns are listed in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1SG</th>
<th>ma</th>
<th>1PL.INCL</th>
<th>neraŋ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1PL.EXCL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SG</td>
<td>cʰo</td>
<td>2PL</td>
<td>kʰi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG.M</td>
<td>kʰo</td>
<td>3PL</td>
<td>kʰoŋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG.F</td>
<td>mo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns marked with the genitive case are used as possessive pronouns. They occur before a noun to indicate the possession of the noun. This is exemplified in (10) with the first person singular pronoun.

(10)  
ne=gi cʰimam=gi miŋ ... na
nej = GEN wife=GEN name ... COP.EQ.ASM  
‘My wife’s name is...’

The adding of agentive and genitive case marker leads to a change in the stems of singular pronouns. With the genitive, even two different stems are possible, one of these two stems being
identical with the agentive stem. All personal pronouns with agentive and genitive case markers are listed in Table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agentive</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SG</td>
<td>ŋe</td>
<td>ŋe=gi, ŋe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SG</td>
<td>kʰe</td>
<td>kʰe=gi, kʰe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG.M</td>
<td>kʰoe</td>
<td>kʰo=gi, kʰoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG.F</td>
<td>moe</td>
<td>mo=gi, moe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1PL.INCL</td>
<td>pəran=je</td>
<td>pəran=gi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1PL.EXCL</td>
<td>ni=je</td>
<td>ni=gi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2PL</td>
<td>kʰi=je</td>
<td>kʰi=gi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3PL</td>
<td>kʰon=je</td>
<td>kʰon=gi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Personal pronouns with genitive and agentive case markers

Brokpa distinguishes three different demonstratives which indicate two degrees of distance. These are oti ~ ot for proximal and epi and pʰegi for distal. Of the last two epi is much more used than pʰegi. The demonstratives can replace a head noun and therefore form the head of a noun phrase, or they can occur with a noun within a noun phrase in which they precede the noun as indicated in example (11). Examples (12), (13) and (14) show demonstratives forming an own noun phrase.

(11) REFERRED ot eva tɕә na tʰaɕɔrɕik tuk
 ot  tɕә=gi  na  tʰaɕɔrɕik  tuk
 DEM.PROX tea=GEN inside=DAT salt much COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘The tea is very salty.’

(12) REFERRED ot eva cam na
 oti  mo=gi  cam  na
 DEM.PROX 3SG.F=GEN traditional.brokpa.hat COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘This is her hat.’

(13) REFERRED ot eva na
 oti  tɕi  na
 DEM.PROX what COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘What is this?’

(14) REFERRED eʔi tɕi na
 eʔi  tɕi  na
 DEM.DIST horse COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘That is a horse.’

Demonstratives take =ba in the plural. This is exemplified in (15).
There are four interrogative pronouns in Brokpa. The first is \textit{sù} ‘who’. It behaves like a personal pronoun and can constitute the head of a noun phrase, as in example (16). With the genitive case marker \textit{sù} forms a possessive construction. This is indicated in example (17).

(16) \textit{kʰiba kaŋjone cʰim təocəgin sù jo?}\newline kʰi=ba kaŋjo=ne cʰim tə-ə-gən sù jo?\newline 2PL=PL all=ABL house make-know-NMLZ.AGT who COP.EX.EGO\newline ‘Who of you all is the one who knows how to build a house?’

(17) \textit{syi təptənə na}\newline sù=gi təptəmə na\newline who=GEN slipper COP.EQ.SAM\newline ‘Whose slipper is it?’

The second interrogative pronoun is \textit{tɕí} ‘what’. It always constitutes the head of a noun phrase as in examples (18) and (19).

(18) \textit{ɔt tɕí na}\newline oti tɕí na\newline DEM.PROX what COP.EQ.ASM\newline ‘What is this?’

(19) \textit{cʰo tɕí sagin təco}\newline cʰo tɕí sa-gin to-co\newline 2SG what eat.PRS-NMLZ.AGT want-FUT\newline ‘What do you want to eat?’

The interrogative pronoun \textit{ka} ‘where’ also forms the head of a noun phrase. In contrast to the other two interrogative pronouns \textit{ka} always needs the dative or ablative case marker, as example (20) shows.

(20) \textit{cʰo kane jin}\newline cʰo ka=ne jin\newline 2SG where=ABL COP.EQ.EGO\newline ‘Where are you from?’

The last interrogative pronoun is \textit{kaŋ} ‘which’. Its usage is comparable with the other interrogative pronouns, as illustrated in examples (21) with \textit{kaŋ} ‘which’ in (21a) and \textit{sù} ‘who’ in (21b). Both occur before the copula and after the first noun phrase.
3 Noun Modifiers

Adjectives, numerals and quantifiers are part of the noun phrase and modify the head noun. Therefore, they are summarized in one chapter as noun modifiers. Section 3.1 focuses on adjectives, followed by numerals in section 3.2 and quantifiers in 3.3.

3.1 Adjectives

Adjectives modify the noun in a noun phrase. In Brokpa they always follow the noun they modify, as can be seen in example (22).

(22) do bomo cʰimgi tsél tuk
dog inside=DAT big=DEF house=GEN on=DAT COP.EX.ACQ
‘The big stone is on the house.’

Adjectives can take the comparative and superlative suffixes -ɕo and -da, respectively. The comparative marker -ɕo is often shortened to -ɕ, as in example (23). For the superlative marker see example (24).

(23) mento marbo di: mento ɲunbu jap-ne bomo tuk
flower red=DEF flower blue do-CVB2 big-COMPR COP.EX.ACQ
‘The red flower is bigger than the blue flower.’

(24) ki duŋgin di: ɲrugu tewŋda na
dog beat-NMLZ.AGT=DEF child small-SUP COP.EQ.ASM
‘The one who hit the dog was the smallest child.’

Predicate adjectives always need a copula to complete the sentence. This can be seen in the examples (25) and (26).
Adjectives can form the head of a nominal phrase. This is possible with the adjective nominalizer -\textit{cu}, as example (27) shows, or with the definite article =\textit{di} as in (28).

(27) \textit{k\'e e\text{\textipa{\textit{fi ri}ncu\text{\textipa{\textit{ba t\'ong-co?}}}}}
\textit{k\'e ep\text{\textipa{\textit{i ri}ŋpo-cu=ba t\'ong-co?}}}
2SG.AGT DEM.DIST tall-NMLZ.ADJ=PL see-PRS.EGO
‘Can you see the tall ones?’

(28) \textit{t\text{\textipa{\textit{u}ŋku d\text{\textipa{\textit{i}}}t\text{\textipa{\textit{u}ŋku=di}}}}
DEM.PROX small=DEF
‘the small one’

3.2 Numerals

Like adjectives, numerals modify the head of a noun phrase. They always occur after the noun they modify, as illustrated in the examples (29) and (30). Numerals can form ordinal numbers with the suffix -\textit{pa} and they can also occur predicatively. The numerals from 11-19 follow a decimal system, whereas a vigesimal system is used for numerals over 20 with the word \textit{k\'a} 'score' as its base. However, younger Brokpa speakers tend to count in Dzongkha or English for numbers over 20. For numerals higher than 100, two variants exist; a modern decimal system and a more archaic vigesimal system. For more detailed information, see Funk et al. (this issue). Table 4 gives an overview of the Brokpa numerals from 1 to 20.

(29) \textit{e\text{\textipa{\textit{fi}la t\text{\textipa{\textit{a} n\text{\textipa{\textit{i}}} t\text{\textipa{\textit{k}}}}}}uk}
\textit{ep\text{\textipa{\textit{i}}=la t\text{\textipa{\textit{a} n\text{\textipa{\textit{i}}} t\text{\textipa{\textit{k}}}}}}uk}
DEM.DIST=DAT horse two COP.EX.ACQ
‘Those are two horses.’

(30) \textit{ce: je te\text{\textipa{\textit{s}\text{\textipa{\textit{on}}}}}}n
\textit{ce: je te\text{\textipa{\textit{sin\text{\textipa{\textit{on}}} }}}}
gift eight give-PST.SEN
‘I got eight gifts.’
Table 4. Numerals 1-20

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>teik</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>sum</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ei</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>nga</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>tuk</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>dyn</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>je</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>gu</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>teutampa</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Quantifiers

Quantifiers modify the head noun of a noun phrase. They follow nouns, adjectives and numerals. In contrast to numerals or adjectives no affixes are used with quantifiers. Words which quantify nouns in Brokpa are for example kanjo 'all', -jeraŋ 'all of' (only with numerals), coreik 'much/many' and rikse 'every'. Quantifiers are not attested as predicate of a sentence. Three examples are shown in (31) - (33).

(31) coφ rixse ηα to saco?
    cop'a rikse ηα to sa-co?
    morning every 1SG cooked.rice eat.PRS-PRS.EGO
    'Every morning I eat rice.'

(32) ɔt lumbala c°im bom coreik tuk
    oti lumba=la c°im bombo coreik tuk
    DEM.PROX region=DAT house big many COP.EX.ACQ
    'In this region, there are many big houses.'

(33) ɔt mi sumjeraŋ ɖuk=ne jοŋfe na
    oti mi sum-jeraj ɖuk=ne jοŋ-pe na
    DEM.PROX person three-all.of Bhutan=ABL come-NMLZ.PST COP.EQ.ASM
    'All three people come from Bhutan.'

Another quantifier is the interrogative word tsam 'how many':

(34) c°o ɖukla dynta tsam teti
    c°o ɖuk=la dynta tsam te-pe
    2SG Bhutan=DAT week how.many stay.PST-NMLZ.PST
    'For how many weeks have you been in Bhutan?'
4 Verbs

Verbs form the head of a verbal clause. Lexical verbs and copulas in Brokpa differ in several aspects. The former are discussed in section 4.1 and the latter in section 4.2.

4.1 Lexical Verbs

Most Brokpa verbs have only one stem (cf. Mittaz, this issue [b]). Some few verbs, however, distinguish two or even three verb stem forms. Most of the verbs with two stems differentiate between a stem for present/future and past tense and one for the imperative. Some verbs distinguish a separate past stem, whereas the stem for present/future and imperative is the same. There is only one verb in the corpus, ter ‘to give’, which has a separate present/future stem and does not distinguish between a past and an imperative stem. The verbs with three stem forms distinguish stems for present/future, past and imperative. This stem alternation in Brokpa is historically conditioned (cf. Hahn 1994: 68). A list of all verb stems in Brokpa is available in the appendix of this issue (cf. Leki et al., this issue).

There are several finite and infinite affixes that can be attached to the verb stems (see Mittaz, this issue [b]; Waldis, this issue). Finite markers denote tense, aspect, mood and evidentiality. With nominalizers verbs become nouns (see examples (8), (16) and (21a)). In Table 5 all verbal markers are listed in the first column. The second column describes the functions and the third indicates whether the affix is finite or infinite, respectively. The verbs in Brokpa have a close relationship to the copulas. This can be seen in section 4.2. A more detailed description and examples of the verbal markers in Brokpa are given in Mittaz (this issue [b]) and Waldis (this issue).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affixes</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Finiteness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-coʔ</td>
<td>Present egophoric</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cina</td>
<td>Present allophoric</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-co (+Copula)</td>
<td>Future</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mi-</td>
<td>Negation of future</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma-</td>
<td>Negation of past, imperative, adhortative</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-soŋ</td>
<td>Sensory past tense</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ko</td>
<td>Adhortative</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ro</td>
<td>Subjunctive</td>
<td>FIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pe (+Copula)</td>
<td>Past, past nominalizer</td>
<td>FIN/NFIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gin</td>
<td>Agentive nominalizer</td>
<td>NFIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-mi</td>
<td>Action nominalizer</td>
<td>NFIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sa</td>
<td>Location nominalizer</td>
<td>NFIN</td>
</tr>
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<td>-sin</td>
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<td>NFIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ne</td>
<td>Converb 2</td>
<td>NFIN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. Verbal markers
A few verbs in Brokpa can function as auxiliary verbs. This is illustrated in examples (35) and (36) with the auxiliaries sin ‘finish’ and go ‘have to’. Auxiliary verbs are conjoined to the bare stem of the main verb.

(35) ŋa kaŋ bruxsni
ŋa kaŋ bruk-sin-pe
1SG hole dig-finish-NMLZ.PST
‘I finished digging a hole.’

(36) saŋ pruguba iskur tɔqɔnɔ
saŋ prugu=ba eskur ʃo-go-co na
tomorrow child=PL school go.PRS-have.to-FUT COP.EQ.ASM
‘The children have to go to school tomorrow.’

4.2 Copulas

Copulas form a special group of verbs. They link two nominal phrases as subject and copula complement. Unlike lexical verbs, copulas cannot take verbal markers. There are different forms for affirmative and negative copulas. The affirmatives can be seen in Table 6, and the negative copulas in Table 7. More information and examples about copulas in Brokpa are given in Funk (this issue [b]).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existential</th>
<th>Equative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egophoric</td>
<td>jo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assimilated</td>
<td>jena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquired</td>
<td>tuk</td>
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</table>

Table 6. Affirmative copulas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existential</th>
<th>Equative</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egophoric</td>
<td>me</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assimilated</td>
<td>mena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquired</td>
<td>min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7. Negative copulas

5 Adverbs

Adverbs modify the verb in a verbal phrase. They form lexical morphemes. The position of the adverbs in a sentence is variable. If the focus lies on the adverb, the position is at the beginning of the sentence. But adverbs can also occur in the middle of a sentence, mostly after the subject. Temporal adverbs include for example tirin ‘today’, ta ‘now’, saŋ ‘tomorrow’, ʃaŋ ‘yesterday’, ʃoˈpɛ ‘soon’, tirĩsɔŋ ‘nowadays’, ʨeɕi ‘later’, unla ‘previously’, etc. Other adverbs denote direction,
like tʰur ‘downwards’, jen ‘upwards’ and pʰre ‘horizontal (on a hillside)’. Compared to relator nouns, adverbs cannot take case markers. The sentences in (37) and (38) show two examples for the variable position of the adverbs.5

(37) saŋya cʰimla toco
   saŋ ya cʰim=la t-o-co
   tomorrow 1SG house=DAT go.PRS-FUT
   ‘Tomorrow, I will go home.’

(38) ni kanyo saŋ ḋukla ḏogoro
    ni kanyo saŋ ḋuk=la t-o-go-ro
    1PL.EXCL all tomorrow Bhutan=DAT go.PRS-have.to-SBJ
    ‘We all have to go to Bhutan tomorrow.’

Two interrogative words in Brokpa are adverbs: tɕin ‘how’ and tsan ‘when’. The usage of these interrogative adverbs is shown in the examples (39) and (40).

(39) ya merakla tɕin tōena
    ya merak=la tɕin t-o-cina
    1SG Merak=DAT how go.PRS-PRS.ALLO
    ‘How can I go to Merak?’

(40) cʰo tsan tɕoɕna
    cʰo tsan t-o-go-co na
    2SG when go.PRS-want-FUT COP.EQ.ASM
    ‘When do you want to go?’

6 Conjunctions

The most frequently used conjunctions in Brokpa are daŋ ‘and’ and jine ‘but’. The conjunction daŋ has the same form as the comitative marker and is historically related to it (see Rüfenacht, this issue), but unlike the comitative, is a free form and not a clitic. The usage of the conjunction daŋ can be seen in the example (41). The use of jine is illustrated in example (42).

5 Adverbs of manner are derived adjectives. With the verb ḋap ‘to do’ and the converb marker -ne adverbs are derived from adjectives. This is indicated in example (i). Manner adverbs are not lexical adverbs and are therefore not explained further in this chapter.

(i) ya kipto ḋap-ne t-e pe jo
    ya kipto ḋap-ne te-pe jo
    1SG comfortable ḋap-CVB2 stay.PST-NMLZ.PST COP.EX.EGO
    ‘I am sitting comfortably.’
(41) ŋa daŋ co  
   ŋa daŋ co  
1SG and 2SG  
'I and you'

(42) jaŋkila medɔŋ jine tsʰeringla jena  
jaŋki=la  medɔŋ  jine  tsʰering=la  jena  
Yangki=DAT COP.EX.NEG.EPI but Tshering=DAT COP.EX.ASM  
'Yangki might not have but Tshering has.'

7 Particles

Particles in Brokpa are function words with a grammatical meaning which cannot be inflected. It seems that particles in Brokpa never occur within a sentence but always at the end or between two sentences. There are two question markers in Brokpa. The particle e is used for polar questions, as in examples (43) and (44).

(43) cʰo tɕa tʰuŋ e  
cʰo  tea  tʰuŋ  e  
2SG  tea  drink  Q  
'Would you like to drink tea?'

(44) cʰola cʰimam jo e  
cʰo=la  cʰimam  jo  e  
2SG=DAT  wife  COP.EX.EGO Q  
'Do you have a wife?'

For tag questions the particle mo is used. This is illustrated in example (45).

(45) kʰe ŋala ce: eik teinsŋ mo  
kʰe  ŋa=la  ce:=eik  tein-soŋ  mo  
2SG.AGT 1SG=DAT gift=INDF give-PST.SEN Q  
'You gave a gift to me, didn't you?'

Another particle is =se, which denotes hearsay evidentiality. This particle too occurs always at the end of the sentence. Unlike the other particles, =se is a clitic and bound to its host, as can be seen in example (46).

(46) jebodi gi pʰoŋgi ŋote:1 ta rieik jenas  
jebo=di=gi  pʰoŋ=gi  ŋo=la  ta  ri=eik  
king=DEF=GEN palace=GEN front=DAT now mountain=INDF  
jena=se  
COP.EX.ASM=REP  
'In front of the king's palace was a mountain.' [BO]
The particle *one* has the function of a fill-in. It normally occurs between two sentences in narratives. This is illustrated with example (47) taken from a narrative about the *tcupun*, a person from the Brokpa area with a special function.

(47) *one: parpareng jel lumbala mi ḏonpø jetcit djsxsm tea:dik daŋ oto ḏoŋčena*

*one* parpareng ja=la lumba=la mi ḏonpø jetcitpo

*and.then sometimes up=DAT region=DAT person guest important*

*dok-sin tcadik daŋ oto ḏap-go-cina*

*arrive-CVB1 preparation and thus do-have.to-PRS.ALLO*

“[...] And every now and then when important guests arrive up in our community, they have to do the preparations.” [VH]

8 Conclusion

The aim of this paper was to give a first overview of the word classes in Brokpa. Brokpa exhibits eleven different word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, relator nouns, pronouns, copulas, numerals, quantifiers, conjunctions and particles. Nouns constitute the head of noun phrases. Modifiers of nouns can be adjectives, numerals and quantifiers. Brokpa distinguishes lexical verbs and copulas. Lexical verbs take verbal markers denoting tense, aspect, mood, evidentiality, epistemicity and various subordinating suffixes. Copulas cannot take any productive inflectional suffixes. Adverbs in Brokpa constitute only a secondary word class since adverbs of manner are derivations of adjectives with the verb ḏap ‘to do’ and the converb marker -ne. Finally, Brokpa exhibits the two functional word classes conjunctions and particles.

References


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