Dott, aka zo i (Chadic, West-B, South-Bauchi):
Grammatical notes, vocabulary and text
Bernard Caron

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Zodi, aka Dott (Chadic, West-B, South-Bauchi):
Grammatical notes and vocabulary

B. CARON
Llacan*

1. Introduction

Zodi, called Dott by Shimizu (78 : 13), belongs to the Southern Bauchi group of the West Chadic-B sub-branch (SBW) of Chadic (Afroasiatic). Zodi is the ethnonym of a group of people living in the village of Dott, and 7 of the 11 wards ruled over by its chief. The 7 wards are: Wakili, Kuletô, Galađiima, *abaar, Sâráári, Cirooma, oundi. Hausa and Fulɓe are spoken in the other wards: Kâgaďâamâ, Sâbôngari, Gôôbirâavâ and Hárdô. They call their language ñérêm zodi, the language of the Zodis. The Zodis started converting to Islam in the 60’s, and are now mainly Muslims, with few Christians and Animists among them. The language borrows heavily to Hausa, both in the vocabulary (25 % of our lexical entries) and in the grammar (conjunctions, auxiliaries, topicalization particles). However, it has retained the essential of its typical SBW character.

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1 This paper is the result of 3 field trips to the village of Dott, of 3 to 4 days each, between 1998 and 2002. I want to express my deep gratitude to the Sarkin Dott, and to the Ubandoma, Ahmed A. Domas and his family. Ahmed has been an extremely patient and gifted language assistant, and has liberally given me his time and energy, driving me around on the back of his motorcycle on the paths of numerous villages, looking for mysterious Chadic languages way beyond the Zodi area. He and his family have made my stay in his compound in Dott a real pleasure. Many thanks to Ahmed’s brother, Nuhu A. Domas, for answering my unending questions.

Transcription system: Long vowels are indicated by double letters; high (Hi=H) tone = â/â; low (Lo=L) tone = a/aa; falling tone = â/â; rising tone = â/â. We have preferred to use the IPA instead of Hausa spelling conventions to transcribe Zodi sounds. i.e. Hausa ç is ç; j is ç. However, outside the consonant chart, for the sake of legibility, we have kept the letter y to transcribe IPA j.
2. Phonology

2.1 Consonant phonemes

As in Hausa, all Zodi words begin with a consonant and vowel-initial words in the transcription are preceded by a glottal stop: a, at; u, af; éhi, fowl = ?a, ?u, ?éhi. The voiced lateral fricative \([\tilde{\eta}]\) is absent.

\(/k/\) has many allophones whose distribution is not clear: it is pronounced \([k]\) in initial position, \([y]\) in intervocalic position: [bayöhärka] < ba ko bárka, [he] greeted you, lit. gave you welcome, but cf. [bukáá], after. It is pronounced \(x\) when followed by a nasal: [kó̃] = kó̃, arm, wing, branch; [kaaxii] < kaak-ni, praise-pl; cf [maakaak?] < ma kaak Cak, thank you (lit. we+Aor. praise Perf., Hau mun gode). It is pronounced \([k]\), sometimes \([-q-]\) when followed by other consonants, except in the context a\_t where it is pronounced \([x]\): [kaaxiti] < kaak-ti, praising. At the end of an utterance, it is pronounced \([q]\) or \([?]\).

The tendency to labialise consonants in front of short \(/a/\) is not as systematic as in Zaar for example: gon, here = [gwôn-gôn]. g, \(ŋ\), l, r, m, n and \(ŋ\) are palatalised in front of \(/v/\) and \(/e/\).

2.2 Vowels

Zodi has a six-vowel system, all of them except for \(/o/\) occurring short and long, with no nasals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>short</th>
<th>long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td>aa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pending a deeper phonological analysis, we have chosen to account for diphthongs as a sequence vowel+glide: aw; ay; oy; uy; ay. These sequences don’t appear in the stock Zodi lexicon. They occur only in loan-words from Hausa, or result from suffixation with -i(i) morphemes.

2.3 Tones

Zodi has two levels of tone (Hi, Lo), plus a rising tone (Lo-Hi) and a falling tone (Hi-Lo).

3. Verbal morphology

3.1 Verb classes

Zodi has one and two-syllable verbs, with various tone schemes:

2 Uvular stop.
3 There is 1 verb borrowed from Hausa with HHL tones: káránta, read.
3.2 Verb plurality
Verb plurality is not consistently marked in Zodi. Verbs and verbal nouns sometimes take a -ni suffix (with a floating Hi tone) in agreement with plural subjects or objects: pór/pórni, do; ci/cíni, eat; tóbátní, get up, grow up, migrate (Haus. tashi).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 syll.</th>
<th>2 syll.</th>
<th>3 syll.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L (56%)</td>
<td>HL (20%)</td>
<td>LL (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fée</td>
<td>kástir</td>
<td>takaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>turn round</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>swallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H (13%)</td>
<td>HH (3ex.)</td>
<td>súkát</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This suffix is incompatible with the Perfective.

3.3 Verbal extensions
One verbal extension was identified, elicited with Hausa grade 5 ‘causative’ verbs. It is fairly common in the small corpus we used. The form is -r with a Hi tone suffixed to CV verbs, and -dar with a Hi-Lo tone scheme suffixed to CVC verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>original vb.</th>
<th>Hausa</th>
<th>Zodi</th>
<th>derived vb.</th>
<th>Hausa</th>
<th>Zodi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>come out</td>
<td>fita</td>
<td>tâ</td>
<td>fitar (da)</td>
<td>târ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get down</td>
<td>sauka</td>
<td>fīj</td>
<td>saukar (da)</td>
<td>fīr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>climb</td>
<td>hau</td>
<td>tswaa</td>
<td>hawar (da)</td>
<td>tswâr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hide (int.)</td>
<td>foye</td>
<td>fun</td>
<td>ñuyar</td>
<td>ñûndar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get spoil</td>
<td>ñata</td>
<td>mal</td>
<td>ñatar (da)</td>
<td>ñâldar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pour</td>
<td>zuba</td>
<td>ñat</td>
<td>zubar</td>
<td>ñándar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sit</td>
<td>zauna</td>
<td>suk</td>
<td>zaunar (da)</td>
<td>súkârdar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some verbs have the form of a causative, without any obvious original verb to be associated with: mándar, sell; sîndar bring; ndár, rîddar, take to.

3.4 Verbal nouns
There exists two type of Verbal Nouns (VN) in Zodi. They both have -ti suffixes but they differ by their tones. The VN appearing in non-Continuous constructions have Lo tones:

| say      | ñët   | ñëtti |
| put      | wáá   | waati |
| swallow  | taka  | takaati |
| get up, etc. | tóbátní | tóbáttí |

In the Continuous, the tones depend on the number of syllables of the verb.

For one syllable verbs, the Verbal Noun takes a Hi tone on the first syllable. Compare the following examples contrasting continuous and non-continuous uses of the verbal nouns:

| márabá | ú     | ñëtti |
| greetings with coming | 3pl.+Cont. coming |
| taa   | ñëtti |
| Welcome! | they are coming |

| ar | gu | Tába | footí | kí | mu | (...)
| 3sg. | that already (Aux.) | telling | 2sg. | Comp. |
| he who has already told you that (...) |
4. Numerals

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>nám</td>
<td>sup-cedií-nám</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>rop</td>
<td>sup-cedií-rop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>maakó</td>
<td>sup-cedií-maakó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>wópsa</td>
<td>subii-rop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>nantám</td>
<td>subii-rop-cedií-nám</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>maamak</td>
<td>subii-maakó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>wusúr-maakó</td>
<td>subii-wópsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>wusúpsa</td>
<td>subii-nantám</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>natúrúpsa</td>
<td>subii-sup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>sup</td>
<td>1000 dúbúú</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordinals are made with the preposition ú preceding the cardinal number, which appears in the definite form, viz suffixed with an -ú: ú rófi, second; ú maakóy, third, etc. ú kana, ú párko, first, is an exception. kana is to be compared to Zaar kéni, face, front, forward. párko is borrowed from Hausa.

5. Nouns

5.1 Gender

There is no morphological gender in Zođi.

5.2 Plural

In nouns, plurals are rare, lexical, and limited to humans: women (mwaţi, sg. maaš), children (méër, sg. wun). men (mín) for example, is a collective noun. However, in the nominal system, plurality is marked in the indefinite, in deictics and relative pronouns.

5.3 Possessive NP + NP constructions

Possessive constructions in Zođi use the genitive link ú: lok ú zodi ‘king of Dot’; bàn ú bas ú wun, ‘(the) house of (the) father of (the) girl’.

The genitive link ú is polyfunctional. Its use is not limited to possession, but expresses a more abstract link between two notions. It is used also for adjectival constructions (cf. infra XXX) and composition (qom ú zii ‘iron’, lit. ‘metal of black’; qom ú laari ‘copper’, lit. ‘metal of red’; peedi ú bari ‘sunlight’, lit. ‘sun of white’; tafar ú bari ‘moonlight’, lit. ‘moon of white’; róbú-đi ‘food’, lit. ‘thing of food’). It is used to introduce complements of nominal predicates

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4 In the compound rób ú-đi, the genitive link [ʔu] has lost its initial [ʔ].
5.4 Definiteness

5.4.1 Definite

The -i suffix in Zodd expresses a low level of definiteness and can be interpreted as a mark of individuation.

5.4.2 Indefinite

The indefinite determiner is galómb for the singular, and djilómb for the plural. It can be used pronominally:

áp! ay galómb a gon!

excl. excl. some at here

Look, there’s one! (Hau: Ap! Ai ga wani nan!)

When used as a determinant, it can occur on the right of the noun:

dii ma ban arómb galómb ndi
Neg 1pl know thing some Neg

We don’t know anything

bukáá mbérti djilómb
after day some

after a few days

or on the left. In this case, its becomes MH and it is followed by the definite (-i) form of the noun:

dii a tába patti galómb arómbi gu májilómb slam mbi
Neg 1sg already get some thing that spoil+1sg heart Neg

I never got anything that made me sad (lit. spoil my heart).

5.5 Quantifiers

The distributive quantifiers are kóóno (pro.), everybody; kóógee (det.), each/every (for a thing).

kóóno a gyamlatí.
everyone Cont laughing

Everybody is laughing.

The determinant kóógee is followed by a noun phrase with the -i definite suffix:

kóógee dženi
each day+def

djóógee džen
each day five+def

nantami
every year
every five year

The global quantifier kúm, all, has both adjectival uses

kúm arómb gu jájilómb mak ...
all thing that bother+1s Perf ...

all the things that bothered me...

and pronominal uses:

miní sálla miní
people+of prayer people+of

kírísta kúm tida mááni sóy
Christ all 3pl+Hab gather+pl. 3pl.+pl

Muslims, Christiants, all gather.
6.6 Deictics

Zodi uses proximal and distal deictics. Pronouns and determinants are sensitive to number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>proximal</th>
<th>distal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adverbs</td>
<td>woní</td>
<td>wáy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determinants</td>
<td>sg (táá) goni</td>
<td>pl (táá) dgoní</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronouns</td>
<td>sg goni</td>
<td>pl wúrdgóní</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Adjectives

Although there are a certain number of verbs with a stative meaning, the adjectival function is relatively well developed in Zodi, with adjectives proper and participles.

6.1 Adjectives proper

Adjectives are not uncommon in Zodi, and are represented beyond the class of colour terms: bári, white; laari, red; júdí, blue; zíi, black; bári, big; boli, sweet; dasári, ugly; dokáni, wet, unripe; limí, deep; mámbári, new; jindi, cold. The unusual adjective mbaa, big, is found in the expression mbaa iwaar, big spirits.

6.2 Participles

Participles are derived from verbs with the suffix -(n)i—often pronounced -(n)ay—and a MH(M) tone scheme:

| verb | meaning           | tone |
|------|-------------------|------|%
| ban  | heat up           |      |
| dzú  | fill              |      |
| kút  | circle            |      |
| kóyan| be dry            |      |
| mása | be narrow         |      |
| ndóraŋ| get old          |      |
| ngyóó| ripen             |      |
|пусáŋ| remain            |      |
| ros  | rot               |      |

Some participles cannot be linked to a verb: fopläni, void; ndzoŋi, sour; qgwakáni, crooked; soorí, evil, mad; sokí, [swóvóyí], honest.

6.3 Adjectival constructions

6.3.1 Attributive adjectives

The paratactic construction uses the Noun + Adjective: leemú báli, an orange (lit. lemon sweet); táá bári, a black cow (lit. cow black)


ma dal tágláaa ú limí
1+Aor cross river of deep
I crossed a deep river.

6.3.2 Predicative adjectives

Predicative adjectives use the non-verbal predicate ni⁵ (‘be’) with the order Noun + Adjective + ni:

---

⁵ This word is pronounced [ni] in sentence-final position and [na] elsewhere.
6.4 Participle constructions

6.4.1 Attributive participles

There exists only a paratactic construction, with the order Participle + Noun, using the short form of the participle.

```
give+me dry bread Perf
```

```
Give me some dry bread!
```

6.4.2 Predicative participles

In the affirmative, predicative participles use the non-verbal predicate \( \text{be} \) only, without genitive link, and the word order Noun + Participle + \( \text{be} \). The negation uses the Negative Perfect of the corresponding verb. (cf. § 8.2.3)

```
bread+def be dry
the bread is dry
```

```
bread+def Neg dry Neg
the bread is not dry
```

7. Pronominal paradigms

7.1 Subject pronouns

There are three basic paradigms: Aorist, Continuous and Future.

```
1sg. a máá ám
2sg. ú kíí kyáà
3sg. Ø Ø tyáà
1pl ma man maa
2pl ko kon kwaa
3pl ti tin taa
```

In the Continuous, the verb is replaced by a Verbal Noun (cf. § 3.4).

The Future often appears with -\( \text{ni} \) suffixed to the verb:
They will touch the cow.

However, the same suffix can appear with other tenses, such as the Aorist used with stative verbs:

- **I like hot food.**

With a nominal subject, the aspect morpheme appears alone: zero (Ø) for the Aorist, a for the Continuous and ní for the Future.

- **Rabbit got angry about what He-goat was doing.**

7.1.2 Derived TAM’s

7.1.2.1 Perfect

The Perfect is a combination of the Aorist + CaK at the end of the Verb Phrase. The initial /C/ of the particle assimilates to the preceding consonant or becomes [h] when following a vowel. If the initial C of the particle has assimilated to a nasal, a lateral, a semi-vowel, or [h], the utterance-final /K/ is realised [h].

- **People don’t go to war empty-handed (Hau. «akan koyar da yara harbi »)**

7.1.2.2 Habitual

The habitual is marked by da inserted between the Aorist subject pronouns and the verb.

- **People don’t go to war empty-handed (Hau. «akan koyar da yara harbi »)**

---

6 When utterance final, the [q] can be replaced by the glottal stop [ʔ].
da is related to the adverb afa, again\(^7\). This adverb often appears redundantly with the Habitual, as in the example above.

### 7.2 Other pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object pronouns</th>
<th>Possessive pronouns</th>
<th>Nominal Predications</th>
<th>ICP</th>
<th>Independent pronouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg. dama</td>
<td>gín</td>
<td>ám</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>ám</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg. ki</td>
<td>gec</td>
<td>kí</td>
<td>-kí</td>
<td>kí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg. ari</td>
<td>gas</td>
<td>ari</td>
<td>-tí</td>
<td>ari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl ma</td>
<td>gám</td>
<td>ma</td>
<td>-ma</td>
<td>ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl ko</td>
<td>gəğ</td>
<td>ko</td>
<td>-ko</td>
<td>ko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pl sán</td>
<td>gásáŋ</td>
<td>sán</td>
<td>-sán</td>
<td>sán</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments:**

- 3 kinship terms (bàà, husband; kon, son; tʃénsɪ, mother’s brother) have a special genitive paradigm:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possessive pronouns</th>
<th>uncle</th>
<th>husband</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg. -núí</td>
<td>tʃenúí</td>
<td>baanúí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg. -ńínggee</td>
<td>tʃenínggee</td>
<td>baanínggee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg. -nás</td>
<td>tʃenás</td>
<td>baanás</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl -ńíma</td>
<td>tʃeníma</td>
<td>baaníma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl -ńínggən</td>
<td>tʃenínggən</td>
<td>baanínggən</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pl -násáŋ</td>
<td>tʃenásáŋ</td>
<td>baanásáŋ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ICP’s are suffixed to the verb, with frequent consonant assimilation. The 1st person singular is marked by a Hi tone on the last syllable of the verb.
  NB: the 3rd person singular -tí which, with the Continuous tʃáá, is the only survival of the common Chadic personal mark, under the form of the feminine pronoun. Elsewhere, the 3rd person mark is replaced by the word ari, which is to be compared to the word aróm, thing.

- The Dative does not have a specific paradigm, but is only marked in the 3rd person by a -if suffixed to the verb. It replaces the Direct Object 3rd person singular pronoun ari, and the 3rd person plural pronoun sán, becomes Lo:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfect</th>
<th>sg</th>
<th>to sündəríi yà?</th>
<th>they brought (it) to him</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>sg</td>
<td>taa sündərtii</td>
<td>they are bringing (it) to him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pl</td>
<td>taa sündərtii</td>
<td>they are bringing (it) to them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td>sg</td>
<td>tən sündənníi</td>
<td>they will bring (it) to him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pl</td>
<td>tən sündənníi</td>
<td>they will bring (it) to them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8. Syntax

#### 8.1 Verbless sentences

**8.1.1 Identification**

Identification is expressed either with a zero predicate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>jin</th>
<th>gìn</th>
<th>Ò</th>
<th>múúsás</th>
<th>zeyláníí.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>1s.poss</td>
<td>Equ</td>
<td>Musa</td>
<td>Zailani</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

My name is Musa Zailani.

or with the non-verbal predicates ni or sàŋ:

\(^7\) The relation with the polysemic afa of location is not clear (cf XXX)
You are the King of Dott.

Dauda Musa is the King of Dott.

8.1.2 Location
Location typically uses the non-verbal ni and prepositional phrases beginning with a, at : a but(t), on top of; a gas, under; a dalá, across; a ká, behind; a dum, a kanaa, in front; aas, inside; a ndá, outside; a bii, near, etc.

kwálbá naa (<ni+a) bat téébur
cup (<be +at) top table
The cup is on the table

8.1.3 Existence, location & possession
The non-verbal predicate ada is highly polysemic. From a basic locative meaning, depending on the semantic properties of the NP’s it is associated with, it will express existence, location or possession:

Existence:

ee yanzú ada
yes Yanzu Loc

Yes, there’s Yanzu

stúti ú dosor ládabí ada
staying of formerly respect Loc

In older days, there was respect.

Location:

ám a ban rap gu ám ada
1sg 1sg know place Rel 1sg Loc

(only) I know where I am

Possession:

ám ada ú 'yerám würdgu [...] 1sg Loc of friend Rel+pl.
I have friends who [...]

tí ada ú wúni galám 3pl Loc of young some
they have a small (one)

lok ada ú vee ndí king Loc of tail Neg
the king doesn’t have a tail

8.2 Negation
Negation is marked by the particle ndi/mbi at the end of the phrase or the sentence.

8.2.1 Non-verbal sentence

yee minís maní si ada ndí maní si doq söqi
see people+3s. how many Foc Loc Neg how many Foc return 3pl.
He saw how many of his people were not there, how many had come back.

8.2.2 Verbal sentence

ú ban yaan da rós a maanṭí ú tó mat ndí
2sg+Aor know one Hab go at war with hand empty Neg
One doesn’t go to war empty-handed.
8.2.3 Perfect

In the Perfect, the discontinuous negation dìì ... ndì replaces the Affirmative Perfect mark Cak.

\[
\text{dìì ti pat gàlìba a bòt ma ndì}
\]

Neg 3pl.+Aor get victory at top 1pl. Neg

They have not overcome us.

8.2.4 Hausa loanwords

The negative marker baa (borrowed from Hausa) is often used at the beginning of negative phrases and sentences.

\[
\text{baa ni bākí ú bari ndì}
\]

Neg Ident. Festival of big Neg

It is not a big festival.

In the same way, kada is borrowed from Hausa for the negation of the subjunctive uses of the Aorist :

\[
\text{dón káda mini kàn òróm gàsàg ndì}
\]

because Neg people+def take thing 3sg.+Poss Neg

So that people don’t take his things.

8.3 Focus

The focused element is fronted, preceded by the identification predicate ni, and followed by the topic particles si for subjects and gu\(^8\) for other functions. With circumstantial complements (place, time, manner, cause) there appears the resumptive location particle ada.

Non-focused sentence :

\[
\text{wùnì wù ñgin asi gaa}
\]

child+def. pour milk into calabash

The girl poured milk into a calabash.

Focused subject

\[
\text{ni wùn si wù ñgin asi gaa}
\]

Ident. child Foc pour milk into calabash

It’s the girl that poured milk into the calabash.

Focused object

\[
\text{ni ñgin gu wùnì wù asa gaa}
\]

Ident. milk Rel child+def. Pou into calabash

It’s milk that the girl poured into the calabash.

Focused circumstancial

\[
\text{ni asi gaa gu wùnì wù ñgin ada}
\]

Ident. into calabash Rel child+def. pour milk Pro

It’s into the calabash that the girl poured milk.

8.4 Question

8.4.1 Yes/no questions

Yes/No questions have the same syntactic structure as declarative sentences. They are characterised by a falling intoneme at the end of the sentence, which is perceived only when the sentences finishes with a Hi tone, and a lengthening of final vowels.

\[
\text{(kòó) ú pár màkàràntà hák?}
\]

(or) 2s.+Aor do school Perf

Did you go to school ?

\(^8\) gu is also the relative complementiser (cf. infra).
When the sentence is not in the Perfect, 

\[
\text{kì ada ú 'yerīmaa} \\
2\text{sg. Poss of friend+Quest}
\]

Did you have friends?

\[
\text{kọda bani wurbi, wanto sadākē?} \\
2\text{pl.+Hab. Give+pl. money that is dowry+Quest}
\]

Did you use to give money, that is a dowry?

8.4.2 Wh- questions

Zodi questions words are: nen, what; noo, who; gee, which one; geegoy (< gee+go, 'day'+ def.), when (lit. which day); maní, how many; nómi, how; shép nin / sherém nin, why. The same falling intoneme is used with Wh questions and yes/no questions. Questions words appear either in situ, or in a focus construction.

8.4.2.1 In situ constructions

\[
\text{tāmti ú nás sáá ú bas gee fot tāmti?} \\
\text{pleasure of mother with of father which one exceed pleasure}
\]

Between a mother’s joy and a father’s, which one is the best?

\[
\text{máti gee manú?} \\
\text{wife 2s.+Poss how many}
\]

how many wives do you have?

\[
\text{ú wómmi nómi goo gu ti [...]?} \\
\text{2s.+Aor feel+Pl. how day that 3pl.+Aor}
\]

how did you feel the day that they [...]?

\[
\text{wún koni yépni máásaí ayo?} \\
\text{child boy buy+Pl. pancake+def. where}
\]

Where did the boy buy the pancake?

8.4.2.2 Focus construction

In the focus construction, the question word comes first in the sentence, followed by the focus markers: si to question subjects, and gu to question the other syntactic functions. Circumstantial complements are characterised by the resumptive pronominal mark ada, followed by either the definite suffix -i or the question mark -oo

8.4.2.2.1 Subject

\[
\text{gyee si fot tāmtû?} \\
\text{which one Foc exceed pleasure+Quest}
\]

Which one is the best?

\[
\text{manú si más kî?} \\
\text{how many Foc die 2sg+Quest}
\]

How many [children] did you lose? (lit. died [on] you)

8.4.2.2.2 Object

\[
\text{nên gu wún koni cî?} \\
\text{what Rel child boy eat+Quest}
\]

What did the child eat?

8.4.2.2.3 Circumstancials

\[
\text{geegwey / ayo / nómi / shyáp nin gu yep máása aday / adaw ?} \\
\text{when / where / how / why Rel buy pancake aday+def. aday + Quest}
\]

When / where / how / why did he buy pancake?

\[
\text{noo gu ko fot súkti ko kóódaw ?} \\
\text{who Rel 2sg. exceed staying 2sg. 2sg.+ada+Quest}
\]

Who did you most stay with?
8.5 Complex sentences

8.5.1 Relative clauses

The relative pronouns are **gu** for singular and **wúrdgu** for plural pivot nouns.

```
Well, then the child did what he wanted.
```

```
Well, then the children girls Rel. pl. 3pl. + Aor take men + def.
```

```
Then, the girls who had found a husband did not return.
```

8.5.2 Subordination

Subordination can be unmarked, with subordinate clauses as a mere topic interpreted as a condition, cause or temporal clause according to the context. Conjunctions can be either of **Zodi** origin (**gu** / **súugu**, **wher**; **nzie gu**, **before**; **bukáá**, **after**; **shép**, **because**, **so that**; **kóógu**, **although**) or borrowed from Hausa (**say**, **then**; **kanfin**, **before**; **tun**, **since**; **don**, **because**, **so that**). We will just illustrate this with conditionals.

Except for the 1st person singular, the condition (generally with a temporal meaning) is marked by **sí**

```
If they follow them, then [...] 
```

```
If I find people fighting, then [...] 
```

If the verb of the protasis is in the 1st person singular, the condition is expressed by a specific form of subject pronoun : **ámaa**

```
If I find people fighting, then [...] 
```

The protasis can also be a non-verbal clause.

```
If it is not the day of fwak-fwak, well, then [...] 
```

---

9 It is difficult not to relate this sí to the Focus marker. This poses an interesting problem for general linguistics which, since Haiman, tends to consider conditionals as topics.
Counterfactuals are introduced by the saŋ particle:

\[
\text{saŋ} \quad \text{yàáñí} \quad \text{díi} \quad \text{pat} \quad \text{karaatú} \quad \text{ndi} \quad \text{áy} \quad \ldots \\
\text{Count.} \quad \text{People+anaph.} \quad \text{Neg} \quad \text{get} \quad \text{education} \quad \text{Neg} \quad \text{excl.} \quad \ldots
\]

*If people hadn’t got any education, well […]*

9. References