

Basic Grammar

In Kaupelanese there is no definite article. The same word can be noun, adjective, adverb or verb depending on the position of the word in the phrase or, in certain cases, of the affixes added to it. The order of the words in the phrase is normally *subject-verb-object*.

Nouns

Nouns do not change with respect to gender and, normally to number. The so-called *class words* are frequently employed before the word to restrict its meaning. Examples:

wau nu "coconut" (literally, "coconut fruit") is formed with the class word **wau** ("fruit")
manu kibuma "cockatoo" (or, "crowned bird") uses the class word **manu** ("bird")
majang wana "tiger female" uses **majang** ("tiger") as class word

Some words of Sanskrit origin has the feminine formed with the suffix **-i**, like **puri** "princess" (from Sanskrit **putri**, feminine of **putra**, "prince").

The plural of nouns can be obtained by the use of class the with collective meaning (**haima** "people" or **ngaja** "group", for instance), by the use of suffix **-ra** (**tau** "person", **taura** "persons") or by duplicating the noun (**iha** "fish", **iha-iha** "school of fishes"). The suffix **-ra** becomes **-a** before *r* and *l* or **-da**, before *n* (**gilan** "ring", **gilanda** "rings", **lakal** "potato", **lakala** "potatoes").

Adjectives

Adjectives and other words used as qualifier always follow the qualified noun. The augmentative form is made with **mais** "more" preceding the adjective. The superlative is created with **sahera** "the most". Analytical constructions are used to express the mood of the adjective. Examples:

kar lama "old car"
uma watu "stone house"
basa fèranse "French language"
in mais nguwa ji u "he is *stronger* than me"
rata adau kelau sahera hi dara "that is the *highest* mountain in the world"
waili ina nidan inmu "drinkable water"

Adverbs

The most part of the adverbs is adjectives that become adverbs due to its location in the phrase. Adverbs are usually placed after the verb. For example:

hami ti uhain kelaim *wiya* "we do not eat *good* food" (**wiya** is adjective)

hami ti uhain *wiya* "we do not eat *well*" (**wiya** is adverb)

Numerals

Cardinal and ordinal numerals are normally placed after the noun. Cardinals can be placed before the nouns (typically for units like kg, km, etc.) using the suffix **-hi** or **-i** (after consonants) Some examples of numeral are given below:

1. sai	11. sahui sai	1 000 000. sai yuta
2. rau	12. sahui rau	1994. sai iyu iwa atu iwahul hai
3. telu	20 rawahul	3 rd track hudak <i>yatelu</i>
4. hai	21. rawahui sai	track 3 hudak <i>ina</i> telu or hudak <i>wam</i> telu
5. ima	30. tewahul	3 tracks hudak telu
6. ne	40. hayahul	3 tracks <i>teluhi</i> hudak
7. hitu	50. imahul	173 rd <i>yasai</i> atu hiwahul telu
8. walu	100. sai atu	1/80 sai hi wawahul
9. iwa	600. ne atu	60% nahul pèrsen
10. sahum	1000. sai iyu	100km sai <i>atuhi</i> kilomètar

Pronouns

Personal pronouns can be used either as subjective or objective pronouns. The only exception is the first person singular that has a different form for each case. The personal pronouns are also used as possessive. There are two pronouns for "we", **hami**, excluding the person(s) addressed, and **wiri**, including them. The personal pronouns are:

au "I, my", **u** "me"

hau "you (singular), your"

in "he/she/it, him, her, its"

hami "we (exclusive), us, our"

wiri "we (inclusive), us, our"

haura "you (plural), your"

era "they, them, their"

Reflexive Pronoun

The reflexive pronoun **ana** can be used with *transitive verbs* to indicate reflexive actions, with *personal pronouns* to indicate "myself, himself, ourselves, etc." or as possessive pronouns to indicate that the subject (3rd person) is the possessor. Some examples:

au wami umedèsin *ana*

"I medicated myself"

era dahuk imahakani hau *ana* ang?

"Have they identified yourself?"

Lowok iwasa *in* ni dinahu ai u

"Lowok told me his (another person's) secret"

Lowok iwasa *ana* ni dinahu ai u

"Lowok told me his (own) secret"

Affixes

Wai- – Prefix used to transform intransitive verbs, adjectives, nouns and adverbs into "causative verbs". This prefix can also be added to some transitive verbs. Examples:

song "to enter"	waisong "to make enter, to place"
yunti "big"	wayunti "to make bigger, to enlarge"
waha "to suffer" (transitive)	waiwaha "to make suffer, to punish, to submit"

Ya- – Prefix used to transform cardinal into ordinal numerals and is also used to form adjectives (continuous).

telu "three"	yatelu "third"
sihai "end"	yasihai "last"
anti "to wait"	yahanti "pregnant"

Ki- – Prefix used to obtain the passive form of transitive verbs or to transform verbs into adjectives (perfective).

ingiya "to inhale"	kingiya "inhaled"
wayari "to drain"	kiwayari "drained"
sulatu "to prepare"	kisulatu "prepared, ready, prompt"

A- – Prefix employed to give nouns or verbs the meaning of "agent". The prefix **taw-** (or **to-** before consonant), for person, or class words, like **dèwais** "device", can be used instead.

ayak "to open"	ahayak or dèwais ayak "opener"
kisa "spear, weapon"	akisa or tokisa "soldier"
wasi "iron"	awasi or tawasi "smith, blacksmith"

Ji- – Prefix employed to transform nouns into adjectives with the meaning of "like, similar to".

maja "lie"	jimaja "incredible ("looks like a lie")"
mas "gold"	jimas "golden"
ira "red"	jihira "reddish"

-E – Suffix used to transform verbs in nouns with the meaning of "state or condition". It transforms transitive or causative verbs into nouns indicating "action".

airi "to isolate"	ariye "isolation"
duhu "to stop"	duhute "stop"
banik "to order"	banihe "order"
wong "to connect"	wonge "connection"
waikalu "to simulate"	waikaluwe "simulation"

-Laim – Suffix used to create abstract nouns from adjectives, nouns and verbs in the passive form.

ura "young"	uralaim "youth"
tali "rope"	talaim "net"
madan "long"	madandaim "length"

Some ancient affixes – inactive in the modern language – like the prefix **u-** (from old Kaupelanese **wok** "to go") that gives the idea of movement and the infix **-in-** to make passive forms, can have their meaning depicted from some examples:

usahi "to attack" (from the ancient woksage "go over")
uja "to fail" (from wokjaat "wrong")
dinahu "secret" (from daqut "to hide")
inuri "native" (from (m)uri "to be born")
rinim "proof, evident" (from rym "to taste, to test")

Possessive Case

Like other Austronesian languages spoken in Eastern Indonesia, in Kaupelanese the possessive is formed following the rule "*possessor-possession*", the so-called inverted order. The *possessor* can be a noun or a possessive pronoun.

Inalienable possessions (body parts, inherent, inseparable or kinship relationships) are formed with the suffix **-n** unless they end in consonant, when the suffix **-ni** is used instead.

Alienable possessions (temporary, separable, alienable, non-consanguineal kinship relationships) can also be formed with the suffix **-n** or, in a more erudite way, using the word **ni** before it. If the possession ends in consonant, the latter form is mandatory.

The direct order "*possession-possessor*" can be obtained using the word **umana** ("belonging to") between them.

Examples:

au aman	"my father"
Ismail ni kar	"Ismail's car"
manik Kira uman yunti or manik Kira ni uma yunti	"prince Kira's big house"
in ninan ni telwijun	"his/her mother's television set"
telwijun umana in ninan	"television of (belonging to) his/her mother"

Verb Conjugation

Another feature of Kaupelanese similar to other Eastern Indonesian languages is the verb conjugation using pronominal prefixes. The prefix **u-** or **w-** (before vowel) is used for the first person singular and exclusive plural; **mo-** or **m-** (before vowel) for the second person; **i-** or **y-** (before vowel) for the third; and **ta-** or **t-** (before vowel) for the first person inclusive plural. The passive voice is made with prefix **ki-** and the imperative with suffix **-m** (second person only). As an example, see the conjugation of verb **huwai** "to make":

au uhwai	"I make"
hau mohuwai	"you make"
in ihwai	"he/she/it makes"
hami uhwai	"we (excl.) make"
wiri tahuwai	"we (incl.) make"
haura mohuwai	"you make"
era ihwai	"they make"
mohuwai	"make it"
humai mohuwai	"don't make it"

The verb to be does not exist in Kaupelanese. So, for example:

adi kani "this (is) personal"
au hi in uman waba "I (was) in her home yesterday"

Auxiliary particles are used to indicate verbal tense, mood and aspect. The order *tense – mood – (conjugated) verb – aspect* must be observed.

The following particles are used for tense: **kena** for the future, **dahuk** ("already") for the past perfect and **wami** ("then") for the imperfect.

These particles are used for mood: **kidai** for "conditional", **kumu** for "mandatory", **nidan** for "potential".

For aspect, the particles are: **duhu** for continuous action, **sahi** for increasing action, **ayau** for ceasing or evanescent action and **leyai** for repetitive action ("again").

There are also verbal phrases where two or more conjugated verbs are used together.

Below, some examples:

mokina mosong	"please come in (humble request)"
mokina tukain hiyadau	"let's (you and I) go there"
mokina hami usong ang?	"may we come in?"
au wamu winmu	"I want to drink"
hami kumu usong	"we must come in"
in nidan itetem adi	"he can work on this"
Akeri dahuk ibumuk yukain Santui	"Akeri has needed to go to Santoi"
era kidai ita duhu adi	"they would keep looking at this"
dam lau telu adau yamu duwit	"those three little boy want money"
wahulangi ikira imitu ngi kuhul aur hitu	"the plane should arrive at seven o'clock"

Passive Voice

The pronominal prefixes are added to the verb in the *personal passive voice* and the prefix **ki-** is used for the *impersonal passive voice*. The passive agent is preceded by **la** ("by"). See some examples:

hau mopana sauli ai u (active voice)	"you gave me the drawing"
sauli mopana ai u (personal passive voice)	"the drawing was given to me by you"
sauli kipana la hau ai u (impersonal)	"the drawing was given to me by you"

Interrogative Phrases

In interrogative phrases where the interrogative pronouns, **awa** "what", **i** "who", **ngiwa** "when", **wira** "how much", **sui** "where", **nguya** "how" and **du awa** "why" are not used, the particle **ang** is used instead at the end of the phrase. The order *subject-verb-object* does not change. Examples:

hau hiyadau waba ang?	"have you been there yesterday?"
wira indi mohuni?	"how many dogs do you have?"

Negative Phrases

There are several words that can be used to make negative phrases, for example:

waba in ti iwalani	"yesterday he did not come home"
in nga nidan idular	"he can <i>not</i> play <i>anymore</i> "
au mene aba tong sahum walu	"I am <i>not yet</i> eighteen years old"

sèngurita *makilu* hiyadau
hau *bani* mita ang?
mayo wami hi uma
humai puhum

"the girl have *never* been there"
"did *not* you see *anything*?"
"*nobody* was home"
"*do not* smoke"

Certainty Level

Some words express the level of certainty/uncertainty in a phrase. See the examples below:

Waduk *kenina* yumaing wasak
Waduk *ikira* yumaing wasak
Waduk *kena* yumaing wasak

"Waduk will *possibly* come tomorrow"
"Waduk will *probably* come tomorrow"
"Waduk will *certainly* come tomorrow"

Time Reference

Some ways of expressing time:

jahuk kena imitu *ngi saudi rungi*
era kumu ihuwai adau *ngirama wa rungi*
kuhul *hihai ai ima hari*
hau hiyadi *ngisak aur telu hihai*
hau hiyadi *ngi kuhul telu na rungi huran*
hul tahuni *minut hayahul na sekon imahul*

"the vehicle will arrive *at midnight*"
"they have to do that *in half a day*"
"it's *a quarter to five p.m.*"
"be here *after three quarter of hour*"
"be here *at a half past three a.m.*"
"we still have *40 min. and 50 sec.*"

Spatial Reference

In expressions denoting location, like *in front of*, *behind*, *inside*, or *above* for example, the adverb can be placed immediately after the preposition or after the referenced noun, in the possessive construction. The latter form is considered more erudite. See some examples:

hirama uma or *hi uma raman*
hi di kau or *hi kau din*
ai parau tasi or *ai tasi paraun*
mauli simal porta or *mauli porta simalni*
hi ba hau or *hi hau ban*

"inside the house"
"beside the tree"
"to the bottom of the sea"
"from the right side of the door"
"in front of you"

Origin

The words denoting nation, language and nationality come frequently from foreign languages and in the most part are derived from nouns (France, Italy, America, Europe).

Some of them, however, are derived from adjectives (Greek, English). Usually they are all preceded by class words, as follow:

<i>basa</i> gèrik, fèranse, jermani, indya	"Greek, French, German, India <i>language</i> "
<i>haima</i> arabi, sina, bèrèsil	"Arabic, Chinese, Brazilian <i>people</i> "
<i>haima</i> amerka, rusya, nisèrlan	"American, Russian, Dutch <i>people</i> "
<i>tau</i> indonesya, jawa, sèpen	"Indonesian, Javanese, Spanish <i>person</i> "
<i>tau</i> jèpan, timor, yurope	"Japanese, Timorese, European <i>person</i> "
<i>tana</i> norwai, suwiden, sèwis, austèralya	"Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia"

Specific Vocabulary

Another peculiar feature of Kaupelanese is the rich vocabulary to describe, for example, the weather, the color of skin or the rain. So, the weather can be described as **langi yaing** "blue sky", **langi ngali** "sky with white clouds", **langi kiyalu** "foggy weather", **langi kipu** "grey sky", **langi ngaidau** "sky with dark clouds". The color of skin can vary from **danga mai** "(European) white skin", **danga hauli** "(Malay) tanned skin", **danga bibi** "(Bandanese) light brown skin", **danga mal** "brown skin", **danga dana** "(aborigine) dark brown skin" and **danga sau** "(Papuan) dark skin". For the types of rain, **aji mung** "moisture", **aji wagin** "drizzle", **aji aji** "rain shower" and **belala** "thunderstorm" can be used.