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Author(s)	Hieda, Osamu
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A Grammatical Sketch of the Koegu Language

HIEDA Osamu

1. Introduction

The Koegu language is spoken in the area along the Omo River in the extreme southwestern corner of Ethiopia, by a very small group numbering about 300 individuals, who call themselves /koegu/, and who are called Muguji by the Kara (an Omotic speaking people) and Umucu by the Bume (an Eastern Nilotic speaking people).

The Koegu language is one variant of the Kwegu-Muguji languages which belong to the southeast Surma group within the Surmic languages in the Nilo-Saharan phylum. Another variant of the Kwegu-Muguji languages is the Kwegu language, which is spoken by a small group (numbering probably no more than 300 individuals according to Turton & Bender, 1976), who call themselves Kwegu, and who are called Nyidi (pl.) by the Mursi and Yidi (pl.) by the Bodi.

Haberland mentions kwoygi, a caste of hunters among the Dizi (an Omotic speaking people). But it is impossible to decide whether the kwoygi speak a variant of the Kwegu-Muguji languages, due to lack of linguistic data.

The Koegu and the Kwegu variants show sufficient convergence to be dialects of one language group, though not a few differences are observable between them. The Koegu language shows considerable divergence lexically and grammatically from Surma patterns because it is strongly influenced by the Kara language.

2. Short phonological sketch

The Koegu language has twenty-five consonantal phonemes and five vocalic phonemes.

2.1. Consonants

Explosive	voiceless	p	t	c	k	(?)
	voiced	b	d	j	g	
Ejective		t'	c'	k'		
Implosive		ɓ	ɗ			
Fricative	voiceless		s	ʃ		h
	voiced		z			
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Flap			r			
Lateral			l			
Semi-vowel		w		y		

For convenience' sake implosives /ɓ/ and /ɗ/ are typewritten 'b and 'd. A voiceless fricative /ʃ/ is typewritten sh, and nasals /p/ and /ŋ/ are typed ny and ng' respectively. And the glottal stop /ʔ/ is typed ?.

The status of the glottal stop is still unclear. It appears mainly intervocally, e.g. [toʔo] 'hut'.

The voiceless glottal fricative /h/ is frequently mute in an auditory sense, e.g. [hur] ~ [ur] 'man'. But it is phonologically a rigid phoneme. For example /h/ is mute at stem-initial position of a verb stem, e.g. -hiuniyaa : [-iuniyaa] 'to pray'. In verbal morphology /g/ is attached to the stem-initial position of the 3rd person plural form when a verb stem begins with a vowel, e.g. g-ibajaa (3.pl.) 'they hear'. The /g/ is not attached to the stem-initial position of the stem which begins with /h/, though there is no auditory difference between the stem beginning with a vowel and the stem beginning with /h/, e.g. hiunaa : [iunaa] (3.pl.) 'they pray'.

Alternation between the phonemes /n/ and /w/ is observed in some words, e.g. /nanda/ ~ /wanda/ 'reason'.

In addition to the above twenty-five consonants, the fricative ejective /ts' / is observed in the nouns which are borrowed from the Kara language.

2.2. Vowels

i	u
e	o
a	

A short vowel is sometimes pronounced long, e.g. [damo] ~ [daamo] 'tomorrow', though the phonological distinction between a short vowel and a long vowel is observed, e.g. /anashiyaa/ 'I become satisfied' vs. /anashiiyaa/ 'I like'. In verbal morphology a plural stem is made by changing a stem-final /i/ into /a/, e.g. /anashayaa/ 'we become satisfied'. When a verb stem has a long vowel at stem-final position, the glide /y/ is inserted before the plural stem-final /a/, e.g. /anashiyayaa/ 'we like'. This fact suggests that the long vowel is a combination of two short vowels.

The Koegu language has now only five vowels, though it is supposed that the Koegu language had originally seven vowels like the other Surmic languages.

2.3. Tone

There are two tones in the Koegu language, High and Low. The functions of the tone have not yet been sufficiently investigated. In this paper the tone is not described.

3. Pronoun

3.1. Personal pronoun

The following table shows the Koegu personal pronouns.

	Singular	Plural
1st	aan	uao
2nd	iin	iyou
3rd	irun, ishi	galgita?an, galgitai?i

The first persons are marked by /a/, and the second persons are marked by /i/. Two variants are recorded in the third person pronouns. It is not clear how these variants are distinguished semantically and pragmatically. These variants do not seem to be originally personal pronouns, but seem to be originally demonstratives.

The grammatical gender is not distinguished in the Koegu language.

These personal pronouns are independent pronouns and are used for subject, object, etc. There is no case distinction.

aan	aoshi	maten	oisho
I	I-want	to drink	coffee
'I want to drink coffee.'			

buure	indaa	aan
tsetse fly	bite	me
'A tsetse fly bites me.'		

3.2. Possessive pronoun

The following table shows the Koegu personal possessive pronoun.

	Singular	Plural
1st	naani	guayu
2nd	nuunu	guuyu
3rd	neeni	ka galgita?an

While the first persons and the second persons are marked by /a/ and /i/ respectively in the case of personal pronouns, the first persons and the second persons are marked by /a/ and /u/ respectively in the case of possessive pronouns. Moreover, the third person singular is marked by /e/. These two patterns, 1st /a/, 2nd /i/, 3rd /Ø/ or /e/ and 1st /a/, 2nd /u/, 3rd /Ø/ or /e/, are also found in other Surmic languages. The Koegu language has these two patterns in itself. The third person plural possessive pronoun is a

genitive construction. The first element *ka* is a preposition which connects a possessed noun and a possessor noun. The second element is the third person plural pronoun.

Possessive pronouns distinguish only the number of the possessor unlike other Surmic languages. The Koegu language has no different forms of possessive pronouns according to the number of the possessed noun. The plurality is marked by /g/. This element /g/ is also observed in personal pronouns.

Possessives have not only a pronominal use but also an adjectival use.

naani		'mine'
guayu		'ours'
to?o	naani	'my hut'
hut	my	
kianan	guayu	'our dogs'
dogs	our	

3.3. Demonstratives

There are three sets of demonstratives, each having a singular and a plural form.

	'this'	'that'	'that over there'
Singular	hi?ing'	ha?ang'	hi?ing' ka ham
Plural	gita?an	gita?an ha?ang'	gita?an ka ham /gitai?i ka ham

The difference among the three sets seems to lie in the relative distance to the denoted referent from the speaker. As mentioned in the possessive pronouns, the plurality is marked by /g/. Plural forms of the demonstrative, *gita?an* and *gitai?i*, are observed in the third person plural pronoun and the third person plural possessive pronoun. The third person plural pronoun and the third person plural possessive pronoun seem to be originally derived from the demonstratives. The distinction between the two plural forms referring to an object over there, *gita?an ka ham* and *gitai?i ka ham*, is not clear.

Demonstratives have not only a pronominal use but also an adjectival use.

hi?ing'	a	nia	naani
this	is	wife	my
'This is my wife.'			

ha?ang' a hur ka koegu
that is man of Koegu
'That is a Koegu man.'

to?o hi?ing' a naani
hut this is mine
'This hut is mine.'

uuta ha?ang' a nia naani
newly married woman that is wife my
'That newly married woman is my wife.'

There are also three demonstrative adverbs. The difference among the three demonstrative adverbs seems to lie in the relative distance to the denoted referent from the speaker.

'here'	'there'	'overthere'
ong'	ta?ang'	galgitai?in

4. Noun

4.1. Case

The Koegu language makes no morphological distinction between nominative and accusative. The segmental and tonal differences between them are not observed.

hur niishaa moho
man kill lion
'A man kills a lion.'

moho niishaa hur
lion kill man
'A lion kills a man.'

Other grammatical roles in a sentence, genitive and locative, etc. are expressed by prepositions.

peng' ka koegu
land of Koegu
'Koegu land'

ikuuni oke o?ong'
you-come from where
'Where do you come from?'

The concept of locality can be sometimes expressed by postpositions.

alga ane to?o tuong'
bed there is hut inside
'There is a bed inside a hut.'

4.2. Number

The morphology of number with Koegu nouns is quite systematic and simple unlike other Surmic languages. The Koegu language distinguishes only two categories of number, singular and plural. There is only one suffix -an making plural forms in the Koegu language. Singular forms have no suffix.

When a singular form ends with a consonant, the plural suffix -an is attached directly after the consonant.

Singular	Plural	
puup	puupan	'white hair'
mish	mishan	'food'

When a singular form ends with a vowel, the vowel is deleted and then the plural suffix -an is attached.

Singular	Plural	
shubo	shuban	'head'
da?ano	da?anan	'stiff porridge'

When a singular form ends with a diphthong, or a singular form is monosyllabic and ends with a vowel, a glide is inserted between the vowel and the plural suffix -an.

Singular	Plural	
bua	buawan	'hand, arm'
gu	guwan	'fire'

There are some irregular plural forms. Some nouns whose singular forms end with a diphthong lose the latter element of the diphthong, when the plural suffix -an is attached.

Singular	Plural	
goa	gowan	'loin'

Some nouns whose singular forms end with a diphthong are accompanied by a suffix -n, not by the suffix -an in the plural.

Singular	Plural	
ongolei	ongolein	'island'

There are some nouns which have quite different forms in the singular and the plural.

Singular	Plural	
balgin	balgan	'rainy season'
hing'ashi	hing'an/hing'atan	'girl'

The Koegu language has now only one productive plural suffix -an. But it seems that it had originally more plural suffixes and also a singulative suffix. For example the singular form of the noun 'girl' can be analyzed into the stem hing' and the fossilized singulative suffix -ashi. And the variant plural form can be analyzed into the stem and the fossilized plural suffix -at plus the plural suffix -an.

The Koegu plural suffix -an seems to correspond to other Surmic plural suffixes, Majang -V (especially -a) and -(V)n, Didinga -a and -n(a) and -wa, Mursi -a and -en(a), and Me'en -a and -na, e.g.;

Majang	: ashkari(sg.) / ashkariya(pl.)	'servant'
	ari(sg.) / ar(i)n(pl.)	'arm'
Didinga	: EEt(sg.) / EEta(pl.)	'person'
	xEEt(sg.) / xEEa(pl.)	'tree'
	bUrE(sg.) / burettwa(pl.)	'smoke'
Mursi	: bang'i(sg.) / bang'a(pl.)	'pond'
	dori(sg.) / doren(pl.)	'house'
Me'en	: riibi(sg.) / riibia(pl.)	'back'
	kEdo(sg.) / kEna(pl.)	'tree'.

The Koegu fossilized singulative suffix -ashi seems to correspond to other Surmic singulative suffixes, Majang -t, Didinga -(V)c, and Me'en -(V)c, e.g.;

Majang	: konat(sg.) / konan(pl.)	'guest'
Didinga	: Ung'Ic(sg.) / Ung'I(pl.)	'nose'
Me'en	: gi?ec(sg.) / gi?a(pl.)	'bone'.

The Koegu fossilized plural suffix -at seems to correspond to other Surmic plural suffixes, Majang -tun, Didinga -ita and -ti, and Me'en -ata and -t0, e.g.;

Majang : war(sg.) / wartun(pl.) 'dog'
 Didinga : xEEIAAng' (sg.) / xEEIAAng' ItA(pl.) 'leopard'
 EIE(sg.) / eeleti(pl.) 'body'
 Me'en : koono(sg.) / koonata(pl.) 'smoke'
 zunk'u(sg.) / zunk'ut0(pl.) 'sheep'.

4.3. Noun and its modifiers

Nominal modifiers are preceded by the noun which they modify.

4.3.1. Adjective

Adjectives are preceded by the noun which they modify. The noun modified by an adjective does not undergo any morphological change. That is, the noun is not affixed by the relator which combines the noun and its modifier in the Me'en language.

hur tac' i
 man big
 'an adult'

c'erashi dimugu
 hair black
 'a black hair'

cf. Me'en
 c'Or-ec-e kOrOy
 hair-sg. -REL black
 'a black hair'

In principle the plurality is marked only once at the last element of the nominal phrase. The plural form of an adjective is preceded by the singular form of the noun. The plural form of an adjective does not coexist with the plural form of the noun.

hur tatac'an
 man big, pl.
 'adults'

*huran tatac'an
 man, pl. big, pl.
 'adults'

*huran tac' i
 man, pl. big
 'adults'

When adjectives are used predicatively, the relator is, of course, not found between the noun and the adjective.

hur a tac' i
 man is big
 'The man is big.'

c'erashi a dimugu
 hair is black
 'The hair is black.'

A number of plural forms of adjectives are systematically made by affixing the plural suffix -an to the singular forms in the same way as those of nouns.

Singular	Plural	
kudi	kudan	'small, little'
geco	gecan	'old'

There are comparatively many irregular plural forms in the adjectives.

Singular	Plural	
tac' i	tatac' an	'big'
diini	aishaishan	'small'
kabe	kabekabeyan	'medium-sized'

There are some adjectives which seem to have a relationship with verbs. It is not clear whether the adjectives are derived from the verbs, or on the contrary whether the verbs are derived from the adjectives.

Adjective		Verb	
coamake	'a few'	coamaa (3. sg.)	'to become reduced in number'
c'ac' egu	'red'	c'ac' aa (3. sg.)	'to become red'
makale	'yellow'	makaliaa (3. sg.)	'to become yellow'

Some nouns are derived from adjectives by adding the suffix -(V)ti.

Adjective	Noun	
diyau	diyauti	'nearness'

Adjective	Noun	
'duk	'dukati	'farness'

4.3.2. Genitive construction

A possessed noun is followed by a possessor as the other modifiers. A possessed noun and also a possessor noun do not undergo any morphological change. The Koegu language has neither a relator which is affixed to a possessed noun as in the Me'en language, nor a possessive suffix which is affixed to a possessor noun as in the Me'en language. They are simply connected by a preposition, ka.

juu ka shete
 pot of milk
 'milk pot'

c'erashi ka gate
 hair of baboon
 'baboon's hair'

cf. Me'en
 juu-de mOkaj-un
 pot-REL woman-GEN
 'woman's pot'

Since the plurality is marked at the end of a nominal phrase, a plural suffix -an is attached to a possessor noun, when the object referred to by the nominal phrase is plural.

Singular		Plural
c'erashi ka gerigeri		c'erashi ka gerigeran
hair of armpit		hair of armpits
'hair of armpit'		'hairs of armpit'
maari ka karbo		maari ka karban
face of eye		face of eyes
'forehead'		'foreheads'

4.3.3. Relative clause

A relative clause follows an antecedent which it modifies. A noun modified by a relative clause does not undergo any morphological change. The Koegu language has not a relator which is affixed to an antecedent noun as in the Me'en language. The Koegu language has an independent relative marker which connects an antecedent and a relative clause. The relative marker is the

same form as the demonstrative which refers to a near object from a speaker.

hami a hur hi?ing' kiuba hiari
singer is man who sings a song
'A singer is the man who sings a song.'

to?o hi?ing' ageiyaa a tac' i
hut which I-saw is big
'The hut which I saw was big.'

4.3.4. Numerals

Numerals follow a noun without any relator.

hur 'daa
man two
'two men'

An optional element is sometimes observed between a noun and numerals. It is not clear whether the element is originally a relator or not.

hur gai 'daa
man two
'two men'

The first ten numerals and 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100 are:

1. kium	6. la	
2. 'daa	7. ts'oba	
3. jien	8. lonkai	
4. ahur	9. sal	
5. cun	10. tomon	
20. lamatam	60. latam	
30. makamtam	70. ts'obatom	
40. oitam	80. lonkaitam	
50. dontam	90. saltam	100. dip

Numerals from 11 to 19 are indicated by "ten" plus the numerals from "one" to "nine" without any conjunction.

- 11. tomon kium
- 12. tomon 'daa

When numerals larger than two modify a noun, a plural form of the noun is

not used, though the object which the noun refers to is plural. Because numerals larger than two connote plurality, and because the plurality is marked only once at the end of a nominal phrase, a singular form of a noun is used when a noun is modified by numerals larger than two.

When a noun is modified by a quantifier connoting plurality, the singular form of the noun is also used.

imish gai 'daa
buffalo (sg.) two
'two buffaloes'

*imishan gai 'daa
buffaloes two
'two buffaloes'

imish juano
buffalo (sg.) many
'many buffaloes'

*imishan juano
buffaloes many
'many buffaloes'

4.3.5. Possessives and demonstratives

Possessives and demonstratives also follow a noun which they modify. A more complete description has already been given above (see 3.2 and 3.3).

hing'ashi naani
girl my
'my girl'

hing'ashi hi?ing'
girl this
'this girl'

When a nominal phrase refers to a plural object, a plural form of a demonstrative is used. Both a singular and a plural forms of nouns can be used with the plural form of a demonstrative. Only plural forms of demonstratives can coexist with plural forms of nouns, though plural forms of the other nominal modifiers cannot coexist with plural forms of nouns.

imish gita?an
 buffalo (sg.) these
 'these buffaloes'

imishan gita?an
 buffaloes these
 'these buffaloes'

5. Verb

5.1. Tense and aspect

Morphologically, the Koegu verbs distinguish between unmarked tense, imperfective and perfective aspect. In order to make clear what are these three tense or aspects, further investigation is needed. The unmarked tense normally represents present-future, and it is also used when an action is habitual or is performed at an unspecific time. The imperfective aspect is used when an action is not accomplished at a time. The perfective aspect is used when an action is accomplished at a specific time, whether in the past, at the present, or in the future.

5.2. Unmarked tense

A verb form in the unmarked tense is basic in the verbal morphology. Verb stems are not affixed by any tense suffix. Every Koegu verb has two basic stems, singular and plural. Except for a few irregular verbs a singular stem ends with a vowel /i/ and a plural stem ends with a vowel /a/. The following matrix displays the conjugation of the unmarked tense.

	mat 'drink'			am 'eat'	
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	amati	amata	1st	aami	aama
2nd	imati	imata	2nd	iami	iama
3rd	mati	mata	3rd	ami	gaama

In the verbal conjugation the first and the second persons are marked by the prefixes a- and i- respectively. The third person has no subject prefix. When a verb stem has a vowel at the stem-initial position, the third person plural is marked by the prefix g(V)-.

5.3. Imperfective aspect

An imperfective aspect form is made by adding the suffix -ba, which is sometimes pronounced [-wa], to a singular or a plural verb stem.

mat 'drink'		am 'eat'			
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	amat(i)ba	amataba	1st	aam(i)ba	aamaba
2nd	imat(i)ba	imataba	2nd	iam(i)ba	iamaba
3rd	mat(i)ba	mataba	3rd	am(i)ba	gaam(a)ba

The stem-final vowel is sometimes lost before the imperfective suffix. The vowel loss occurs more frequently, after a voiceless consonant, and in the singular person conjugation. Moreover /b/ of the suffix is sometimes pronounced as the voiceless /p/ after a voiceless consonant. The vowel loss and the devoicing of /b/ do not always take place obligatorily, so that some verbs have free variants which retain the stem-final vowel, and free variants which lose the stem-final vowel, and further free variants which change the consonant /b/ to the voiceless consonant /p/ in the imperfective suffix, e.g. amatiba~amatba~amatpa.

A nasal consonant is pronounced at the same point of articulation of the initial consonant of the imperfective suffix -ba, when it is directly followed by the imperfective suffix.

koh 'cultivate'		rigishen 'be shy'			
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	akohpa	akohaba	1st	arigishemba	arigishenaba
2nd	ikohpa	ikohaba	2nd	irigishemba	irigishenaba
3rd	kohpa	kohaba	3rd	rigishemba	rigishenaba

5.4. Perfective aspect

A perfective aspect form is made by adding the suffix -yaa to a singular or a plural verb stem. The stem-final vowels -i and -a, which differentiate the singular and the plural forms, are lost in the third person, so that the singular and the plural forms cannot be distinguished in the third person without an independent personal pronoun. And the semi-vowel /y/ at initial position of the perfective suffix is lost in the third person.

mat 'drink'		
	Singular	Plural
1st	amatiyaa	amatayaa
2nd	imatiyaa	imatayaa
3rd	mataa	(galgitai?i) mataa

When a verb stem begins with a vowel, the third person plural form can be distinguished from the third singular form by the initial consonant /g/.

ibaj 'know'		
	Singular	Plural
1st	aibajiyaa	aibajayaa
2nd	iibajiyaa	iibajayaa
3rd	ibajaa	gibajaa

When a singular verb stem ends with a long vowel, /ii/, or a diphthong, /ai/, /oi/, /ei/, /ui/, or /au/, the latter element of them turns to a glide before the vowel of the suffix which makes the plural verb stem. The stem-final vowels -i and -a, which make the singular and the plural verb stems, are lost in the third person, so that the singular and the plural forms cannot be distinguished in the third person. A semi-vowel /y/, which is a part of the verb, is retained in this case.

nashi 'like'			wai 'hear'		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	anashiiyaa	anashiyayaa	1st	awaiyaa	awawayaa
2nd	inashiiyaa	inashiyayaa	2nd	iwaiyaa	iwawayaa
3rd	nashiyaa	nashiyaa	3rd	wayaa	wayaa

When a singular verb stem ends with a vowel /e/ or /u/, the plural verb stem is formed by adding -te instead of a plural stem-final vowel -a, except for the third person. The singular and the plural in the third person cannot be distinguished without an independent personal pronoun.

toku 'sprawl'			hage 'block the way'		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	atokuyaa	atokuteyaa	1st	ahageyaa	ahageteyaa
2nd	itokuyaa	itokuteyaa	2nd	ihageyaa	ihageteyaa
3rd	tokuaa	tokuaa	3rd	hageaa	hageaa

When a singular verb stem ends with /ne/ or /me/, the plural verb stem is formed by adding -te instead of a plural stem-final vowel -a, except for the third person. And a vowel /e/ is lost between a nasal /n/ or /m/ and a consonant /t/ of the suffix -te.

harigine 'refuse to give'		
	Singular	Plural
1st	aharigineyaa	ahariginteyaa
2nd	iharigineyaa	ihariginteyaa
3rd	harigineaa	harigineaa

When a singular verb stem ends with /she/ or /ce/, the /she/ or /ce/ is

replaced by the suffix -te in the plural, except for the third person.

	hurishe 'pile'	
	Singular	Plural
1st	ahurisheyaa	ahuriteyaa
2nd	ihurisheyaa	ihuriteyaa
3rd	hurisheaa	hurisheaa

These verbs which have the stem-final suffix -te in the plural always end with a vowel /e/ or /u/ in the singular stem. This fact gives a hint that the Koege language had originally seven vowels.

5.5. Irregular verbs

There are some verbs which have wholly different stems in the singular and the plural.

	'go'		'come'	
	Perfective		Perfective	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	akuiyaa	apayayaa	akuuniyaa	apainayaa
2nd	ikuiyaa	ipayayaa	ikuuniyaa	ipainayaa
3rd	kuyaa	kuyaa	kuunaa	kuunaa
	Imperfective		Imperfective	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	akuiba	apaiba	akuun(u)ba	apainaba
2nd	ikuiba	ipaiba	ikuun(u)ba	ipainaba
3rd	kuiba	paiba	kuun(u)ba	painaba
	Unmarked tense		Unmarked tense	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	akui	apaya	akuuni	apaina
2nd	ikui	ipaya	ikuuni	ipaina
3rd	kui	paya	kuuni	paina
	'lie down'		'sit down'	
	Perfect		Perfect	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	aung'iyaa	arabayaa	auhiyaa	akobayaa
2nd	iung'iyaa	irabayaa	iuhiyaa	ikobayaa
3rd	ung'aa	gung'aa	uhaa	guhaa

	'lie down'		'sit down'	
	Imperfect		Imperfect	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	aumba	arababa	auhpa	akobaba
2nd	iumba	irababa	iuhpa	ikobaba
3rd	umba	rababa	uhpa	kobaba
	Unmarked tense		Unmarked tense	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	aung' i	araba	auhi	akoba
2nd	iung' i	iraba	iuhi	ikoba
3rd	ung' i	raba	uhi	koba

5.6. Unmarked tense, imperfective, and perfective

All of the nouns have not always these three forms, namely unmarked tense, imperfective, and perfective aspect forms. The action verbs, that is, the verbs which are used when an action is done at any moment, have always these three forms. But the stative verbs, namely the verbs which express the state, or the character of matter, have only two forms, i.e. unmarked tense and perfective aspect forms. The stative verbs have not the imperfective form. The aspect which verbs essentially have puts restrictions on the verbal morphology.

Action verb

	'drink'	'wash (tableware)'	'vomit'
Unmarked tense	amati	auani	abiaji
Perfective	amatiyaa	auaniyaa	abiajiyaa
Imperfective	amat(i)ba	auan(i)ba	abiajiba
	'put in'	'wash (clothes)'	'spread to dry'
Unmarked tense	ajugi	ac'oubi	ac'uakeshi
Perfective	ajugiyaa	ac'oubiyaa	ac'uakeshiyaa
Imperfective	ajugiba	ac'oubba	ac'uakeshiba

Stative verb

	'resemble'	'be drunken'	'be equal'
Unmarked tense	anasii	acoi	aai
Perfective	anasiiyaa	acoiyaa	aaiyaa
Imperfective	---	---	---

Stative verb

	'like'
Unmarked	anashii
Perfective	anashiiyaa
Imperfective	---

5.7. Verbal extension

Various derived verbs are made by adding suffixes to a verb stem.

A progressive form is made by adding a progressive suffix -en to a verb stem.

	aamiyaa	'I eat.'
Progressive	aameniyaa	'I am eating.'

A causative form is made by adding a causative suffix -ishe to a verb stem.

	aashikiiyaa	'I work.'
Causative	aashikiisheyaa	'I make (somebody) work.'

The following is also a part of usage which a causative form has.

wa?ati otaa
fat melt
'Fat melted.'

aan aotisheyaa wa?ati
I melt fat
'I melted fat.'

An intransitive form is made by adding an intransitive suffix -(V)ne to a verb stem. An intransitive form cannot take an object.

	akohiyaa dowada	'I fish dowada(a species of fish).'
Intransitive	akoh(o)neyaa	'I fish.'
	*akoh(o)neyaa dowada	

The Koegu language does not seem to have a passive form. A sentence using an intransitive form is equivalent to a passive sentence.

daar goma kanke
 mud hold (3.sg.) car
 'Mud holds a car.'

Intransitive kanke gomneaa daari
 car hold (Intr. 3.sg.) mud
 'A car is held by mud.'

5.8. Infinitive

The Koegu language has two different infinitive forms. When the embedded sentence has the same subject that the main sentence has, an infinitive suffix -en is added to a verb stem. When the object in the main sentence is the subject in the embedded sentence, an infinitive suffix -e is added to a verb stem in order to make an infinitive.

aoshi oisho mat-en
 want (1.sg.) coffee drink (Inf.)
 'I want to drink coffee.'

aoshi hing'ashi mat-e oisho
 want (1.sg.) girl drink(Inf.) coffee
 'I want a girl to drink coffee.'

5.9. Verbal noun, gerund

The Koegu language has suffixes which make a verbal noun form and a gerund from a verb stem. A verbal noun seems to be made by affixing a suffix -into, which is likely a borrowed form from the Kara language, or a suffix -intamo, to a verb stem. A gerund seems to be made by affixing a suffix -oung' to a verb stem. But more investigations are needed to make clear about these forms and their usage.

Muuda a hur ka ashik(i)into (ashiki- 'work')
 Muuda is man of work (Verbal noun)
 'Muuda is a worker.'

nanda ka gecintamo neeni (gec- 'become old')
 reason of become old (Verbal noun) its
 'because of its oldness'

aan i ung'oung', ijung' asawaa (ung' - 'sleep')
 I sleep (Gerund) spirit tell
 'When I slept, a spirit told.'

6. Sentences

6.1. Affirmative

The usual word order is SVO, but the word order is fairly free in the Koegu language.

Muuda mataa oisho giyagon
Muuda drink(3 sg.) coffee yesterday

Muuda oisho mataa giyagon
Muuda coffee drink(3 sg.) yesterday
'Muuda drank coffee yesterday.'

A subject can also follow a verb in an answer to a question as in the following example.

oisho mataa nin
coffee drink(3 sg.) who
'Who drank coffee?'

mataa Muuda
drink(3 sg.) Muuda
'Muuda drank.'

In this case, even though an agent of the verb is other than the third person singular, the verb can have the inflection of the third person singular, or can agree with the agent in number and person. If a subject precedes a verb, the verb must agree with the subject in number and person.

mataa aan
drink(3 sg.) I
'I drank.'

amatiyaa aan
drink(1 sg.) I
'I drank.'

aan amatiyaa
I drink(1 sg.)
'I drank.'

*aan mataa
I drink(3 sg.)

6.2. Negative

There are two types of negative sentences. The one is formed by affixing a negative marker -ken to a verb stem. The other is constructed by a verbal complex which consists of a negative verb, mai, and an infinitive verb. Since the negative suffix -ken is added directly to a singular and a plural verb stems instead of tense and aspect markers, the distinction among the unmarked tense, the perfective and the imperfective aspects is lost in a negative sentence. The stem-final vowel is sometimes not pronounced before the negative suffix.

mat 'drink'			am 'eat'		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	amat(i)ken	amataken	1st	aam(i)ken	aamaken
2nd	imat(i)ken	imataken	2nd	iam(i)ken	iamaken
3rd	mat(i)ken	mataken	3rd	am(i)ken	gamaken

Irregular verbs

'go'			'come'		
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
1st	akuiken	apayaken	1st	akuuniken	apainaken
2nd	ikuiken	ipayaken	2nd	ikuuniken	ipainaken
3rd	kuiken	payaken	3rd	kuuniken	painaken

The negative suffix can be added after the verbal extension suffixes. The possibility of coexisting with the negative suffix distinguishes the verbal extension suffixes from the tense and aspect suffixes.

am-en 'eat-Progressive'		
	Singular	Plural
1st	aamen(i)ken	aamenaken
2nd	iamen(i)ken	iamenaken
3rd	amen(i)ken	amenaken

The negative sentence can be constructed by the verbal complex which consists of the negative verb, mai, and an infinitive verb. This negative verb is conjugated in number and person as other verbs.

mai maten 'not to drink'				
	Singular		Plural	
1st	amai	maten	amaya	maten
2nd	imai	maten	imaya	maten
3rd	mai	maten	maya	maten

6.3. Interrogative

6.3.1. Yes-No question

Yes-No questions are usually formed by affixing an interrogative marker -i to a verb or an adjective in a predicate, or are formed by using intonation. Intonation has not yet been fully investigated. There is no particular word order for a Yes-No question.

Muuda mataai oisho giyagon
Muuda drink-Inter. coffee yesterday

Muuda oisho mataai giyagon
Muuda coffee drink-Inter. yesterday
'Did Muuda drink coffee yesterday?'

Muuda mataa oisho giyagon
Muuda drink coffee yesterday

Muuda oisho mataa giyagon
Muuda coffee drink yesterday
'Did Muuda drink coffee yesterday?'

When a predicate consists of a copula and an adjective, the interrogative marker can be added to the copula or to the adjective.

Damo ai shuka
Damo is-Inter. fine

Damo a shukai
Damo is fine-Inter.
'Is Damo fine?'

6.3.2. Wh-question

Interrogative pronouns, interrogative adjectives or interrogative adverbs are usually placed at the sentence-final position, except that adverbs can follow them. The negative marker -i is not affixed to a verb or to an adjective in wh-questions.

Muuda mataa o giyagon
Muuda drink what yesterday
'What did Muuda drink yesterday?'

Muuda oshi apala o
 Muuda want clothes what
 'What clothes did Muuda want?'

Muuda oisho mataa aaming'
 Muuda coffee drink when
 'When did Muuda drink coffee?'

oisho mataa nin
 coffee drink who
 'Who drank coffee?'

*nin mataa oisho
 who drink coffee

*oisho mataai nin
 coffee drink-Inter. who

6.4. Imperative

The imperative is formed by deleting the subject and by using a singular or a plural verb form of the unmarked tense and the imperfective aspect without personal prefixes. Perfective aspect forms cannot be used for the imperative.

	mat 'drink'		am 'eat'	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Imperfective	mat(i)ba	mataba	am(i)ba	gamaba
Unmarked	mati	mata	ami	gama

Irregular verbs

	'go'		'come'	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Imperfective	kuiba/kamba	paiba	kuun(i)ba	painaba
Unmarked	kui/kam	paya	kuuni	paina

mat(i)ba oisho
 drink(sg.) coffee
 'Drink coffee.'

gamaba mish
 eat(pl.) food
 'Eat food.'

The negative imperative is constructed by adding a negative marker *ti* to the affirmative imperative. It is not clear if the negative marker is an independent or a dependent morpheme.

	mat 'drink'		am 'eat'	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Imperfective	ti mat(i)ba	ti mataba	ti am(i)ba	ti gamaba
Unmarked	ti mati	ti mata	ti ami	ti gama

6.5. Coordination

Clauses are coordinated by means of one of the conjunctions.

Muuda mataa oisho ye Damo amaa mish
 Muuda drink coffee and Damo eat food
 'Muuda drank coffee and Damo ate food.'

Muuda mataai oisho mo amaa mish
 Muuda drink-Inter. coffee or eat-Inter. food
 'Did Muuda drink coffee or eat food?'

6.6. Subordination

Subordination has not yet been fully investigated. A few examples are cited in the following. In addition to demonstratives which are used for a relative marker, a relative marker is observed.

hur ma aainiyaa deesha ka gie arushaa giyagon
 man who I give medicine of wound die yesterday
 'The man whom I gave a medicine for wound died yesterday.'

The infinitive has already been described. Furthermore a temporal expression can be constructed by the infinitive and a conjunction.

aan i mwa maten kiani ye, Daamo kuunaa
 I water drink (Inf.) inside and Daamo come
 'During my drinking water, Daamo came.'

The gerund has already been described. A temporal expression can be constructed by the gerund.

aan i ung'oung', ijung' asawaa
 I sleep (Gerund) spirit tell
 'When my sleeping, a spirit told.'

The conditional clause precedes a main clause, and is connected to it by a conjunction 'yan'.

Muuda kuun(i)ken yan, aan akui 'borok
Muuda come-Neg. if I go village
'If Muuda does not come, I go to the village.'

NOTES

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