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GRAMMATICAL NOTES ON SOME AGARABI TEXTS

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I INTRODUCTION

The texts presented here have been selected from material gathered in the Agarabi village of Punano in the highlands of New Guinea. Two men recorded them on tape during the period March to May, 1963. They recorded them first in normal speech and then at dictation speed. Those given for dictation were usually shorter and somewhat simplified; these were the type chosen for this paper. The choice of subject matter was left up to the informants and included folklore, tribal history, events in the life of the men themselves and current village "news".

The seven texts chosen for presentation here represent a cross-section of the types given. These include two describing some of the changes in tribal life due to the coming and influence of Europeans (any white men), three describing the trip made by the younger man when he left the tribal area to work for two years on a plantation and two of 'village gossip'.

Text materials are interesting not only for their content, but for what can be learned about the language by studying them. There are two general areas of interest exhibited in these texts, Morphology - here, primarily the composition of verbs and nouns, and Syntax, the larger area of relationships between verbs in sentences and paragraphs.

Key to pronunciation:

p, t, k, are stops initially and following consonants, and
fricatives between vowels
w is pronounced b, w, or bw initially and following consonants and w between vowels
y is pronounced d, y or dy initially and following consonants and y or j between vowels
h is a glottal stop
r is a flap
m, n as in English
a is pronounced as u in but
aa is pronounced as a in part
i " " " i in pit
e " " " e in pear
o " " " o in soap
u " " " u in suit

Travel to Mutoh I

1 oreruhna₁ Yawaauruh₂ moh₃ manaa₄ Taarareh₅ arurehkun₆ Manteh₇
 waah₈ Tunteh₉ waah₁₀ Tarinteh₁₁ waah₁₂ Ponteh₁₃ pa₁₄ waah₁₅
 2 Paranteh₁ aakurah₂ tihpi₃ erein₄ e₅ tiwiran₆ toru₇ wāraapin₈
 oriyaah₉ oriyaah₁₀ inuhpah₁₁ airaanipin₁₂ Mutohkah₁₃ mo₁₄
 kaaih₁₅ yoriyaah₁₆ waah₁₇ maipahke₁₈ inteh₁₉ erehu₂₀

1 After I went₁ to Rabaul₂ I spent₆ one₄ week₅ there;₃ Monday₇
 I waited,₈ Tuesday₉ I waited₁₀ Wednesday₁₁ I waited,₁₂ Thurs-
 day₁₃ I just₁₄ waited₁₅ 2 On Friday₁ morning,₂ after the ship₃
 came₄ it took me₆ on the sea,_{7,8} I was going₉ (and) going;₁₀
 in the afternoon₁₁ (it) put me₁₅ there₁₄ in an island,₁₂ on
 Mutoh,₁₃ I stayed₁₇ working,₁₆ from this place₁₈ (when) I
 finished₁₉ I came.₂₀

Travel to Mutoh II

1 oreruhna₁ Yawaauruh₂ morah₃ manaa₄ Taarareh₅ arurehkun₆
 Manteh₇ pa₈ waah₉ Tunteh₁₀ pa₁₁ waah₁₂ Tarinteh₁₃ pa₁₄ waareh₁₅
 Ponteh₁₆ pa₁₇ waah eken₁₈ Paraanteh₁₉ tihpiano₂₀ e₂₁ tiwiren₂₂
 toru₂₃ waraapin₂₄ oriya₂₅ oriya₂₆ Mutohkah₂₇ morah₂₈ yoriyaah₂₉
 waareh₃₀ inteh₃₁ erehu₃₂ 2 inkaih₁

1 After I went₁ to Rabaul₂ I spent₆ one₄ week₅ there;₃ on
 Monday₇ I just₈ waited,₉ on Tuesday₁₀ I just₁₁ waited,₁₂ on
 Wednesday₁₃ I just₁₄ waited and₁₅ on Thursday₁₆ I just₁₇
 waited₁₉ on Friday₁₉ a ship₂₀ took me₂₂ on the sea_{23,24} going₂₅
 (and) going₂₆ on Mutoh₂₇ there₂₈ I worked₂₉ I stayed₃₀ I finished₃₁
 I came.₃₂ 2 The end.₁

Travel from Mutoh

1 intarekun₁ mahtahe₂ ten₃ 2 inka₁ ei₂ yei₃ intemino₄ intemipo₅
 3 Mante₁ pa₂ waa₃ Tunte₄ pa₅ waa₆ Tarinteh₇ yamuh₈ tihpiano₉ e₁₀
 awirantemino₁₁ tikan₁₂ 4 waare eken₁ Tarinteh₂ yamuh₃ tihpiano₄
 o₅ tiwira₆ 5 ereruhna₁ Yawaauroh₂ merah₃ waareh₄ mana₅ Taarareh₆
 arurekun₇ Mante₈ pa₉ waa₁₀ Tunte₁₁ pa₁₂ waa₁₃ Tarinteh₁₄
 warutimano₁₅ o₁₆ tiwira₁₇ 6 ereruhna₁ Kewiang₂ e₃ kumane₄
 penitini₅ e₆ ware₇ 7 erein₁ Manutipahkena₂ penitini₃ e₄ warah₅
 mairahkeh₆ erehna₇ Wewaake₈ e₉ kumane₁₀ mairahkeh₁₁ Manteh₁₂
 ereh₁₃ Mantampah₁₄ mai₁₅ warutimano₁₆ me₁₇ kaauhye₁₈.....

1 I finished and₁ the white man₂ said,₃ 2 "Finally₁ your₂ days₃
 are finished,₄ really done!₅ 3 On Monday₁ just₂ wait,₃ on
 Tuesday₄ just₅ wait,₆ on Wednesday_{7,8} a ship₉ will take you!"_{10,11}
 he said.₁₂ 4 I waited and₁ on Wednesday_{2,3} a ship₄ took me_{5,6}
 5 After I came₁ to Rabaul₂ I stayed_{4,7} there₃ one₅ week₆ on
 Monday₈ just₉ waited₁₀ on Tuesday₁₁ just₁₂ waited₁₃ on Wednesday₁₄
 a plane₁₅ took me₁₇ 6 After I came₁ to Kaviang₂ it put down,₄
 got₇ fuel₅ here.₆ 7 After it came₁ we got₅ fuel₃ from Manus;₂
 then₆ we came₇ to Wewak₈ (and) put down;_{9,10} then₁₁ on Monday₁₂
 we came₁₃ to Madang₁₄ this₁₅ plane₁₆ put me down₁₇ here.₁₈...

No Rest-days

1 Pepah₁ tinaahu₂ tiraaho₃ ihyaa₄ oyaa₅ tiren₆ awikiyaamih₇
 2 para₁ yoran₂ ineineanaa₃ en₄ oriyaamih₅ 3 oriyaahin₁
 inaamuni₂ ema₃ iyampon₄ kaaihmai₅ mairah₆ yunaan₇ taahen₈
 niyaaken₉ oyaaen₁ tiren₂ pa₃ waamih₄ 5 tarehaa₁ tehtimpin₂
 kamani₃ erein₄ ten₅ Taararetah₆ yohan₇ aahpihen₈ Taanteh₉
 awikaanoo₁₀ tikah₁₁ 6 tarehaa₁ tehtimpin₂ mahaa₃ tikah₄
 tehti₅ tiwikiyaahu₆ 7 pepah₁ tinaahu₂ tiraaho₃ mai₄ kayo₅
 ihyaa₆ awikana₇ iniyaamih₈ 8 para₁ yoran₂ ineineanaa₃ en₄
 oriyaamih₅ 9 aruwin₁ ineineanaa₂ en₃ oriyaam₄ tarehaa₅
 tehtimpin₆ Taanteh₇ tiwikehiyaahu₈ inkaih₉

1 Before, ₁our grandfathers₂ (and) our grandmothers₃ did not₄
 say₆ 'it is a holiday'₅ and rest.₇ 2 They just₁ went on₅
 thinking only₃ of work.₂ 3 As they went on,₁ if there was₃ a
 child,₂ when the child₄ was born,₅ then₆ they prepared₈ food₇
 (and) ate.₉ 4 "its a holiday,"₁ they said and₂ just₃ stayed
 around.₄ 5 Now,₁ in our time,₂ after the government₃ came,₄
 it said,₅ "On Saturday₆ work₇ a half (day),₈ on Sunday₉
 rest!"₁₀ they said.₁₁ 6 Now,₁ in our time,₂ we have spoken₄
 thus₃ (and) we rest._{5,6} 7 Before,₁ our grandfathers₂ (and)
 our grandmothers,₃ this₄ group,₅ they were not₆ thinking₈
 of rest.₇ 8 They just₁ went on_{4,5} thinking only₃ of work.₂
 9 They went on_{3,4} thinking only₂ of fighting;₁ now,₅ in our
 time,₆ we make a habit of resting₈ on Sunday.₇ The end.₉

Possessions

1 pepah₁ tinaahu₂ tiraahopin₃ ihyaa₄ oona₅ waamih₆ 2 manaa₁
 wahyo₂ wan₃ matamen₄ waamih₅ 3 uwe₁ itana₂ maiha₃ yanaanaa₄
 waahikan₅ namuroanoma₆ wakuhyan₇ maikanan₈ oonaanaa₉ amaren₁₀
 uhpimpah₁₁ karaampin₁₂ tihtoh₁₃ maah₁₄ uwamahaken₁₅ maipin₁₆
 o₁₇ wariyaamih₁₈ 4 mahai₁ iyaahin₂ tarehaa₃ kamani₄ erihkan₅
 minoh₆ perehti₇ taatoh₈ tohpe₉ witukaa₁₀ taaraah₁₁ taantun₁₂
 mai₁₃ yanaatinta₁₄ 5 aman₁ maahnaun₂ kaain₃ wahkan₄ 6 maiano₁
 oonaih₂ ukan₃ waamih₄ 7 pepah₁ ihyaa₂ mahanten₃ oona₄ waamih₅
 8 tarehaa₁ kamani₂ erein₃ me₄ tihtuhaah₅ kaaikan₆ wahkan₇
 maipinte₈ minoh₉ yanaah₁₀ aman₁₁ kaain₁₂ wahkan₁₃ maiano₁₄
 oonaih₁₅ ukan₁₆ waamih₁₇ 9 inkaih₁

1 Before₁ in our grandparents time_{2,3} there were₆ not₄
 possessions.₅ 2 One₁ (thing), bark_{2,3} there was.₅ 3 Arrows₁
 (and) bows,₂ these₃ things only,₄ there were;₅ if an enemy₆
 they pursued,₇ they took up₁₀ these two₈ possessions only,₉ and
 in the undergrowth₁₂ in the woods₁₁ they made₁₅ a little₁₃
 house₁₄ (and) in this₁₆ they were sleeping.₁₈ 4 After being₂
 thus,₁ now₃ the government₄ has come₅ (and brought) many₆
 plates,₇ spoons,₈ machetes,₉ knives,₁₀ forks₁₁ (and) axes,₁₂
 these₁₃ things for us.₁₄ 5 After they put (them)₃ inside
 the house₂ they remained.₄ 6 this₁ is₃ the possessions₂
 (that) there are.₄ 7 Before₁ there were₅ not₂ possessions₄
 like that.₃ 8 Now,₁ after the government₂ came,₃ here₄ they
 put₆ stores₅ (which) stay₇ In these₈ they brought₁₁ lots₉
 of things₁₀ (and) put them₁₂ to stay;₁₃ there being₁₆ these₁₄
 possessions₁₅ they stay.₁₇ 9 The end.₁

Sickness

1 ihyamuh₁ para₂ waaren₃ inuran₄ arah₅ orikan₆ 2 tihiyaahuno₁
 tiren₂ 3 tikan₁ we₂ anohe₃ arun₄ mahen₅ 4 kaa₁ kan₂ orein₃
 Weweti₄ nehne₅ moo₆ tin₇ ere₈ e₉ awirah₁₀ yohtaampah₁₁ moruh₁₂
 yah₁₃ waano₁₄ tikan₁₅ 5 erein₁ e₂ awiren₃ 6 arawein₁ yohtaampah₂
 moruh₃ yan₄ waratin₅ amikan₆ oo₇ akonaaih₈ waratin₉ wihan₁₀
 karuhyaren₁₁ purikan₁₂ awiren₁₃ 7 ehyein₁ muhyan₂ we₃ amaah₄
 wahkan₅ Wehwaah₆tin₇ amaah₇ karapuntaahin₈ yo₉ uwan₁₀ karuhyaren₁₁
 maipin₁₂ e₁₃ awihan₁₄ kaa eken₁₅ wakan₁₆ 8 ena₁ namun₂ uwah yen₃
 maipin₄ e₅ awihan₆ kaain₇ wakan₈ minopimpahkeh₉ maipin₁₀ e₁₁
 wan₁₂ arunanaah₁₃ waren₁₄ inuran₁₅ waamih₁₆.

1 The day before yesterday₁ she just₂ stayed and₃ at night₄ she
 had diarrhea_{5,6} 2 "I am sick!"₁ she said.₂ 3 Since she said
 this₁ her₂ mother₃ felt sorry_{4,5} 4 At dawn_{1,2} after she went₃
 to Weweti₄ and others₅ she said₇ there₆ "Come,₈ let's take her₁₀
 to the doctor's,₁₁ (and) put (her) there_{12,13} (to) stay!"₁₄ she
 said.₁₅ 5 After they came,₁ they took her.₃ 6 After they went
 down₁ to the doctor's₂ they put her down there;_{3,4} they gave her₆
 they gave her₆ medicine,₅ (and) her mouth₇ being tight₈ she spit
 up_{10,11} the medicine and₉ died₁₂ they took her (away).₁₃

7 After they came up₁ they put her up there (at)₂ her₃ house₄
 (to) stay;₅ Wehwaah₆tin₇ threw out₁₁ the partitions₈ being₁₀
 there₉ (in) his house;₇ they took her₁₄ in here₁₂ (and) put
 her₁₅ (to) stay.₁₆ 8 Another₁ house₂ they built₃ (and) took her₆
 (and) put her₇ in here₄ (to) stay;₈ from every place₉ in here₁₀
 they stayed,₁₂ were sorry,_{13,14} stayed₁₆ (all) night.₁₅

NOTES ON AGARABI

Waampeya

1 Aapeihpah₁ anaati₂ pahkemih₃ 2 mai₁ aarinta₂ awih₃ Waampeya₄
 pahkaaken₅ anaati₆ ono₇ tiren₈ 3 yunaan₁ upiyaante₂ oriyaareh
 ikah₃ aarintano₄ temih₅ 4 peyan₁ waanta₂ tiponkei₃ auyen₄
 waanta₅ waraantehuno₆ tiren₇ 5 me₁ ipaahe₂ Kainantumpah₃
 tihtuah₄ woi₅ waaihpa₆ e₇ wakaahin₈ 6 we₁ ayopi₂ erein₃ e₄
 awirahkan₅ tiponkah₆ tehi₇ mai₈ waanta₉ waraanowan₁₀ erehuno₁₁
 tikan₁₂ 7 ipaahe₁ oremih₂ 8 o₁ wakaare₂ waanta₃ kayo₄ o₅
 awire₆ 9 erein₁ me₂ koh₃ tika₄ mahtahe₅ temih₆ 10 peyan₁
 waanta₂ ipaahono₃ auyen₄ waanta₅ ipaahono₆ ena₇ waanta₈ waraanoo₉
 tikan₁₀ 11 eyo₁ tiren₂ oren₃ 12 orein₁ para₂ waamih₃ 12
 aarinta₁ waramuno₂ temih₃

1 At Aapeihpah₁ they caught₃ a woman.₂ 2 This₁ girl,₂ her name₃
 (is) Waampeya₄ they grabbed;₅ "You are₇ a married woman!"₆ they
 said.₈ 3 While they were going₃ (to) dig out₂ food,₁ the girl₄
 said₅ 4 "I don't want₃ an old₁ man₂, I will get₆ a young₄ man₅!"
 she said.₇ 5 She gave up₂ here₁ (and) slept₈ at the store₄
 boy's₅ place.₆ 6 After her₁ brother₂ came₃ (to) take her,₅ "I
 don't want₆ (to go) I came₁₁ (because) I want to get₁₀ this₈
 man!"₉ she said.₁₂ 7 He gave up₁ (and) went.₂ 8 Having slept₂
 there,₁ a group₄ of men₃ took her.₆ 9 After they came₁ here₂
 they held a court;_{3,4} the white man₅ said,₆ 10 "Forget about₃
 the old₁ man,₂ forget about₆ the young₄ man,₅ get₉ another₇
 man!"₈ he said.₁₀ 11 "O.K.",₁ they said₂ and went.₃ 12 After
 they went₁ they just₂ stayed.₃ 12 "I want to stay₂ single,"₁
 she said.₃

II MORPHOLOGYA Verbal affixes

There are a large number of verb constructions in the texts. These provide abundant illustrative material for discussion of verbal affixes. Agarabi verbs not only express action; but, by adding suffixes to the stem, they indicate the subject and something about the kind and/or time of the action. In addition all verb stems may be affixed to function as either independent or dependent verbs. These functions are determined by the different sets of subject suffixes that occur with them and by the possible presence of relational suffixes on dependent forms. These latter suffixes occur when it is important to denote the relationship between the verbs or clauses of the sentence.

Independent forms are those which can occur alone as sentences and in the final position in expanded sentences. Dependent forms never occur alone as sentences and normally take a medial position in the sentence.

The types of action, or aspect, suffixes illustrated in these texts are -iyaa, continuative; and -ra, narrative which occurs in conjunction with the neutral tense. The tense suffixes are -e, neutral which replaces the vowel of the preceding morpheme; -nte, simple time in the future; -ke, simple time in the past; and -kaa (-ka in dependent forms), time in the past, denoting completed action. The two mood suffixes are -ram, general desire and -nowan, emphatic or immediate desire.

Key to symbols referring to texts:

TfM - Travel from Mutoh
 TMI - Travel to Mutoh I
 TMII- Travel to Mutoh II
 P - Possessions
 NR - No Rest Days
 S - Sickness
 W - Wampeya

1, 2,, etc. - sentence numbers

Examples:

continuative	TMI9	or- <u>iyaa</u> -h	'I (was) going...' a dependent form, context supplies the tense.
narrative	S1	waa- <u>re</u> -n	'...she styaed and...'
neutral	W9	or- <u>e</u> -n	'...they went...'
future	W4	waraa- <u>nte</u> -hu-no	'...I will get!'
past	P8	uwamaha- <u>ke</u> -n	'...they made...'
perfect	S6	a-mi- <u>ka</u> -n	'...they gave her...'

NOTES ON AGARABI

desiderative W11 wa-ram-u-no '...I want to stay...'

immediate

desiderative W6 waraa-nowan '...I want to get now...'

Independent verb forms are always marked for; first, second or third person subject and occasionally for number. The plural affix, however, does not occur at all in these texts--the context is expected to supply that information. The independent forms may also add emphatic markers following the person suffixes. The singular person-subject suffixes are -hu, first; -o, second and -mih, third. The ordinary emphatic is -no and the certitulative, -po.

Examples

1st person sg. ere-hu '...I came.' TMI13

2nd person sg. ipaah-o-no '...you forget! W10

3rd person pl. te-mih '...she said.' W11

emphatic ere-hu-no '...I came!' W6

certitulative intemi-po 'It is completely finished.' TFM

Dependent verbs are not always marked for person, they may occur with only tense or aspect suffixes; for example in TIII-8 oriyaa, go + continuative. In simple person-subject suffixes often occur, -h, first person; -n, third person. Second person is unmarked.

Some of the relational suffixes are complex forms which include the type of relationship plus the person-subject. Such a suffix is the contingent sequential suffix which expresses the idea that the first action must take place before the second one. In these texts we find examples of the first person contingent sequential, -ruhna; and of the third person, -in.

Examples

Simple first person - waa-h '...I stayed...' TMI5

third person - te-n '...he said...' TFM2

There are no second person forms in our text.

Contingent Sequential-

first person - ore-ruhna Yawauroh 'After I went to Rabual, then...' TMI1

third person - tihpi ere-in '...after the ship came, then...' TMI7

NOTES ON AGARABI

B. Non-Verbal affixes

Agarabi nouns, pronouns (possessive and demonstrative), and adjectives may occur unaffixed. When affixed, they may all occur with the same sets of affixes. Those that are illustrated by the accompanying texts include the locatives: -pin, in; -tah, on; -naun, inside; -pah, place or at and -ke, from. Others are likeness: -ten, like; predicative: -ih, it is and those denoting number: -ano, a, the; -anaa, only; and -kanan, two.

Examples:

locatives:	in	toru wara <u>apin</u>	'in the salt water, TMI8 or, on the sea'	
		teht <u>ipin</u>	'in our time'	NR9
		ma <u>ipin</u>	'in this place'	P9
	on	tarrare <u>tah</u>	'on Saturday'	NR11
		Mutoh <u>kah</u>	'on Mutoh'	TMI10
	inside	maah <u>naun</u>	'inside the house'	NR14
	place at	Apeih <u>pah</u>	'a village name'	W1
		yohtaam <u>pah</u>	'at the doctor's'	S5
	from	Manutipah <u>kena</u>	'from Manus'	TfM17
likeness:	like	mahan <u>ten</u>	'like thus'	P16
predicative:		oonaa <u>ih</u>	'it is possessions'	P15
number:	the	tihp <u>piano</u>	'the ship'	T M8
	only	yanaa <u>anaa</u>	'(the) only things'	P4
	two	maika <u>nan</u>	'these two'	P6
combinations:		minohpim <u>pahke</u>	'from everywhere'	S10
		maip <u>ahke</u>	'from this place'	TMI2

C Affixes common to both verbs and nouns

The only prefixes in Agarabi occur on both nouns and verbs. These are the personal referents; ti- first person; a- non-first person, i.e. second or third, according to the context. It occurs obligatorily with some verbs and also obligatorily to some of the nouns.

When personal referents occur with verbs they function as object, direct or indirect depending on the meaning of the verb.

NOTES ON AGARABI

C Affixes common to both verbs and nouns

<u>a</u> mikan	'gave to her'	S6
<u>a</u> wiren	'took her'	S5
<u>t</u> iwiren	'took me'	TMI7

When the personal referent occurs with nouns they indicate possession. It is obligatory to all body parts, kinship terms and a few other nouns such as sickness, fear, yawn and shadow. It also occurs optionally with a few others.

<u>t</u> inaahu	'my/our grandfather'	P1
<u>t</u> iraaho	'my/our grandmother'	P1
<u>a</u> nohe	'her mother'	S3
<u>a</u> yopi	'her brother'	W6
<u>a</u> wih	'her name'	W2
<u>a</u> maah	'her house' (optional)	S7

There are also two suffixes which may occur with both nouns and verbs. The conditional: -mai, "if" or "when" occurs with dependent forms of the verb and on nouns. The other is benefactive: -tinta, "for me/us;" -anta, "for you/her/him/them".

conditional:

verbal	-	iyampon	kaa <u>i</u> h <u>m</u> ai	'if a child was born	
		child	put-it	then...	NR5
			when		

non-verbal	-	namuroa	no <u>m</u> a	wakuhyan	'when they pursued
		enemy-a-	when	pursue	an enemy...' P5

benefactive:

non-verbal	-	yanaa	<u>t</u> inta	'things for us'	P13
		things-	for-us		

There are no examples of the verbal in these texts.

III Syntax

A. Simple Sentences: The simplest of sentences consists of one independent final verb in the imperative form.

oro 'go!'

naa 'eat!'

However, any sentence containing only one verb is here considered a simple sentence. The sentence may be expanded by the addition of other words and still be considered a simple sentence.

Pepah tinaahu tiraashopin ihyaa oona waamih.

'In our grandparents time there were no goods.' Pl

Aapehipah anaati pahkemih.

'They caught a woman at Aapehihpah.' Wl

There is some freedom of position of subject, object, locatives etc., but the verb nearly always closes the construction. The only cases observed in which some other word closed the construction were for emphasis. This is rare.

B. Multiple verb sentences: Most narration and everyday conversation contain multiple verb sentences. In these cases there will be one or more dependent verbs in each sentence and one final verb to close the construction. In the following section several of the interesting features of these expanded constructions which can be observed in the text material will be presented. There is much more that could be said but the incomplete analysis of the language at this stage will not allow more.

It is often possible in Agarabi to have only one independent form in an entire text, that which closes it. For example the two short texts on the trip to Mutoh each have but one independent form, the last in the text. In the 'Sickness' the only independent form other than the one that finishes the text is one in the first quotation.

It is also possible to string a number of dependent forms one following the other without any intervening words as in 'Sickness':

wihan karuhyaren purikan awiren ehyein muhyan ...
spit threwout and died took after put

her they came

'She spat it out and died. They took her and, after
they came , put her .ḡḡ.'

NOTES ON AGARABI

For the sake of clarity in translation, punctuation is inserted here but there is not necessarily any justification for it in the language itself.

In some instances the verb, especially in its continuative form may be repeated as in Mutoh 1 and 2 oriyaa oriyaa to indicate that the person went and went - a long trip.

There are also several cases where a verb is repeated with different affixes over a clause break. In some cases this is a matter of style only. In others it indicates that that action has been completed and what follows came later in time.

Examples:

....ineineanaa en oriyaamih oriyaahin NR2,3

"... they went on thinking ... As they went on

tihiyaahuno tiren tikan ... S2,3

"I am sick!" she said. Since she said ...

In quotations the verb 'say' is used in different forms to open and close the quotation.

ten inka ei yei ... awirantemino TfM1,3

he said "finally your days will take you!" he said

Occasionally this rule is not followed as in Sickness sentence number 2, where there is no introductory word, only the verb 'say' following.

tihiyaahuno tiren "I am sick!" she said.

In contrast, in sentence number 4, the quote is introduced by tin and closed by tikan. In the cases where the first verb is not included the quotes may be set apart from the rest of the text by the first person personal-referent on the first word of the quotation, See S2 (above) and the following example.

tiponkah tehi mai waanta ... W6

"I don't want (to go), this man ..."

C. Idioms: There are several examples of idioms in these texts. The translation is not the literal equivalent of the Agarabi words but of the underlying meaning.

NOTES ON AGARABI

Examples:

arah orikan literally, 'her intestines went' S1
but the meaning is that she had diarrhea.
yoran ineineanaa en oriyaamih literally 'work, the
only thought was going' NR2
but the actual meaning is that the people went on
thinking only of work.

In the story of Waampeya we are told that at the village of Aapeihpah they caught a woman. This is a 'cultural idiom'. The catching of a woman like this means that a man is taking hold of a girl, signalling that she is to marry him. It is not exactly an engagement; but, perhaps, the nearest thing in Agarabi culture to an engagement though the girl has not necessarily given her assent.