7.1. Function Words:

The four major form classes which are established for Malto are nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. The forms which belong to the noun system are marked with formative elements like gender, number or case. The uninflected forms which function as attributes to the noun are called adjectives. They occur with nouns in endocentric modification structures or as predicate adjectives. The forms which belong to the verb system are marked with formative elements like mood, tense, aspect and person. Adverbs are uninflected forms which occur as sentence adjuncts. They function as attribute to the verbs. The adverbs include all words that fill the same function as the adverbial.

Besides these four major form classes, all other uninflected particles are function words and include the conjunctives, relators, intensifiers, emphatics etc. The function words of Malto are all particles and barring a few cases they are generally uninflected. These function words are divided into groups according to their syntactic
usage. These are,

(1) Words that connect two syntactic units:
   (a) when the particles are constituents of either of the units they are called **conjunctives**, 
   (b) when the particles are constituents of one of the units they are called **relators**.

(2) Words which intensify a single syntactic unit and are neither adjectives nor adverbs, they are called **intensifiers**. They place emphasis upon a particular word or phrase.

(3) Words which are syntactically independent and are completely independent of the sentence are **interjective** particles. This group includes mainly the interjections and vocatives of the language which occur within a sentence without affecting the syntax of the sentence itself.

7.2 Conjunctives:

Conjunctives are the function words which connect two similar syntactic units, without being an immediate constituent of either unit. These are,

**tan** - 'that'

*a: loker tundnar tan laboh ote* - Those people saw that it was very heavy.

**je** - 'that'

*a:r awdnar je ni:m tı:ql lotan ondratar* - They say that you took the pot of rice.
ki - 'that'

ra:jah budi lagatarah ki i:le kot ka:me manenid -

The king thought that the work would not be done this way.

ar - 'and'

setaler ar pahryar laray manjar - The Santals and the Pahariyas fought.

mala - 'or'

iden oya mala aden oya - Take this or take that.

pa:re - 'but'

a:r pudyar pa:re oyot lo:rlar - They poured but they could not take it.

ate - 'otherwise'

ina jahan kucoed eratarad ate keylegen - Fortunately the dog saved you today, otherwise would you not have died?

andih - 'therefore'

ni:m baksan ondratar andih e:m kirtaratam - You brought the box, therefore we returned it.

7.3. Relators:

1. The relators are the function words which cannot two units and are immediate constituents of one of the units. Structurally the post-positions also fall into this category.

ambat - 'till'

e:n beri ambat do:ktan - I was there till the evening.

Tak - 'up to'

iranpur tak e:n sat bara - Come with me up to Hiranpur.
lagca - 'for'

e:n tundo lagcan baran - I shall come to see.

orgi - 'till'

e:n baroh orgin oka - Sit till I come.

lagno - 'by the side of'

orgdu dad lagno becyad - The house was by the side of the forest.

7.3.1. Postpositions:

The postposition occurs after a noun or a noun phrase which it governs. The noun which is governed is in oblique case if it is a two stem noun or else it is uninflected.

kon - 'near, towards'

e:kon bara - Come near me

a:h ra:ja kon arsyah - He reached near the king.

sat - 'with, in company of'

e:n sat bara - Come with me.

a:h ra:ja sat e:kdah - He is coming with the king.

or - 'till'

ma:q or a:r na:lanar - They will dance till night.

da:ma - 'like'

a:h tu:d da:na nirq dah - He is roaring like a tiger.

leko - 'like'

a:r em leko tarbalin: calatarot bad manjar - They knew to fence like us.

camo - 'in front of'

e:n ahi camo oka gogin - I am speaking sitting in front of him.
upur - 'upon, with'

setaler inraji upur ra:garar - The Santals were angry with the English.

7.4.1, Intensifiers:

The intensifiers are function words which are linked with a single syntactic unit which it emphasizes.

i - 'certainly'

e:n e:kan i - I shall go certainly'

ako - 'perhaps'

e:n e:kan ako - I shall go probably'

ay - 'quotative'

e:n ina barcatan ay - "I came today", so said.

to - 'very one'

i:de to ti:ql lota malad - This very one is not the pot of rice.

jan - 'too'

e:n jan copan ciylayin - I too have not given the husk.

jahan - 'also'

iker jahan puçylar - No one also cared.

on - 'too'

nim sat e:m on e:klem - If we too could go with you.

bay - 'god-damn fellow'

ni:n bay jarqlene - You fool, won't you fall down.

ga - 'also'

ni:n ga ikdek e:kde - Where you too are going?
7.5.3. Interjectives:

The interjectives are the function words which are syntactically independent of the utterance in which they occur, or by themselves form an utterance. They include the vocatives, interjections and a set of special command words.

(i) Vocatives:

are -
are aba, e:n qondtan - Oh, father! I am tired.
are -
are, ni:n bay jarqlene - Hei you Won't you fall down?

(ii) Interjections:

oo - 'yes'
oo, e:n baran - Yes, I will come.
mala - 'no'
mala ra:ja, e:m iriki țakan țundlaladəm - No, king!
We have not seen their money.
uhu - 'use for pleasant surprise'
uhu, muri maqo pindid - Aha! The little dove is cooing.
bapre - 'my god!'
bapre, golond ja:gun ikeh onganah - My god! Who will finish a granary full of rice.
aca - 'alright'
aca, ni:n bara - Okay, you come
kejane - 'dubitative'

kejane, ik kara jare poyenid - Who knows, when would it rain.

ci - 'disgustion'

ci, nu:toma - Don't touch.

(iii) Command Particles:

deka/dekre - 'come on'

deka qo:wa - Come one, carry it.

ambe - 'wait'

ambe mendoma - Hold it, don't bury.

unda - 'take it'

unda ku:re - Take it (used for one person).

unda ku:ne - Take it (used for more persons).