CHAPTER - 5

NOMINALS

Pittman (1959) defines a simple word as, "any sequence of phonemes of a given language which belongs to a class of unlimited membership, and which is not analyzable into a combination containing a shorter sequence belonging to a class of unlimited membership."\(^1\) This means that "morphologically, a word may contain the root alone or a root plus one or more affixes."\(^2\)

Based on the above definition of Pittman the words in Adi may be classified into five categories, viz., nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs. There are also functional morphemes like determiners, conjunctives and postpositions, which may also be considered as words. However, these morphemes are free in form as opposed to bound morphemes.

The morphological processes found in simple words are prefixation, suffixation, modification and reduplication, of which the most common is suffixation. (The morphological processes are discussed in detail in the last chapter).

In the Adi language, nouns are the stems, which take number, gender and case suffixes. Nouns fall into two classes- (i) simple and (ii) derived. Simple nouns comprise forms for human, animate non-human and

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\(^2\) Biligiri, H S, *Kharia*, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona, 1965, p 35
inanimate entities, and the derived nouns are those other classes of words that take nominalizers.

**Simple nouns** comprise forms for human, animate non-human and inanimate entities. Examples:

**Human nouns**

ojing  baby
koo   child
milo  man
ane  mother
ami’ people
yaame’ young man

**Animate non-human**

gure’ horse
gooru cow
kandari cat
e’k pig
ekki dog

**Inanimate nouns**

aaape’ cane container
sakpur basket
abbuk gun
Derived nouns are differentiated from other nouns in that they are formed by the suffixation of nominalizers. The nominalizers are –nam and –kan, which may be suffixed to either an infinitive form of a verb or an adjective.

Examples:

do → do-nam

eat → eatable/food

ti → ti-nam

drink(v) → drink(n)

kamo → kamo-nam

dark → darkness

ai → ai-nam

good → goodness

do → do-kan

eat(v) → food/eatable

(A more detailed discussion of –nam and –kan as nominalizers is given in 5.7).
The noun phrases form one of the major constituents of Adi sentences. The noun phrases can include several smaller constituents, viz, determiners, demonstratives, nouns, pronouns, numerals, modifying adjectives and case markers. However, no single one of these constituents occurs in every noun phrase. But any one of them except a case marker can constitute a noun phrase all by itself. Case markers, when present, are always suffixed to the head nouns.

The noun phrase includes a noun, which can be regarded as the “head” of the noun phrase. Nouns can have a variety of suffixes. A ‘noun stem’ is the word to which these noun suffixes can be attached. Three kinds of suffixes can be used with the noun stem: plural markers, case markers and gender markers with –human, + animate nouns.

5.1. Plurality: Adi does not make use of inflections for plurality of the nouns. When plurality is intended, the suffix -kidar or ki’di’emte meaning ‘many’ is used.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{e.g.:} & \quad \text{ami} & \text{man} \\
& \quad \text{ami-kidar} & \text{men} \\
& \quad \text{ko} & \text{boy} \\
& \quad \text{ko-kidar} & \text{boys}
\end{align*}
\]

5.2. Gender markers: Adi has natural gender but lacks grammatical gender. In the case of human beings, suppletive forms reflect gender.
e.g.: abu (father)       ane (mother)  
      biro (brother)    birme (sister)  
      abing (elder brother)  agu or mimi (elder sister)  
      ani (younger brother)  birme aniyang (younger sister)  
      apang (uncle)       anyi (aunt)  
      aki (maternal uncle) amo (maternal aunt)  

With regard to animals, the suffixes for gender are \textit{–bo} for masculine and \textit{–ne} for feminine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic</th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eikki (dog)</td>
<td>ki-bo</td>
<td>ki-ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perok(hen)</td>
<td>rok-po</td>
<td>rok-ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eg (pig)</td>
<td>e-bo</td>
<td>e-ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soben (goat)</td>
<td>ben-bo</td>
<td>ben-ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eso (cow)</td>
<td>so-bo</td>
<td>so-ne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The nouns drop their initial syllables when they take these suffixes; normally the syllables dropped are the head. But fuller expressions are also permissible as in \textit{eki-ki-bo}, \textit{perok-rok-po} and so on. In such cases, the second syllable of the noun is reduplicated. The names of animals unless distinguished by a masculine or feminine suffix, and all inanimate objects, are of the neuter gender.
Gender in the young ones of animals is denoted by suffixes, the forms of which depend on the root word.

e.g.:  eg (pig)  eg-yego (pigling)
       perok (hen) perok-rogo (chicken)
       eso (cow)  eso-so (calf)
       soben (goat) soben-beno (kid)
       ekki (dog)  kisung (puppy)

5.3. Case and Postposition: Adi uses postpositions. The postpositions come at the end of the noun or the noun phrase and they precede the case markers. Some cases are expressed by the postpositions.

E.g.: (1)  bi’  ekum ara  lokke len-dung
       3s  house inside ABL  come-PRG
       ‘He is coming from the house.’

       (2)  ekki de  te’bul teyo-lo  du-dung
            dog  DET  table  on-LOC  sit-PROG
       ‘The dog is sitting on the table.’

In Adi, grammatical relationships are expressed by means of phoneme or morpheme suffixation.
5.3.1. **Nominative**: nouns are case marked for nominative by suffixing –e for generic nouns and –de for particularized nouns.

e.g.: (3) ekki kidar-e ai-mang  
dog pl-NOM good-NEG  
‘Dogs are not good.’

(4) ekki-de ai-mang  
dog-NOM good-NEG  
‘That dog is not good.’

(5) kolom-de olet-to  
pen-NOM fal-PST  
‘The pen fell.’

(6) kitab-de ai-mang  
book-NOM good-NEG  
‘The book is not good.’

5.3.2. **Accusative**: The accusative suffix is –em, –m for pronouns depending on the phonological shape of the preceding morpheme: (if the preceding morpheme ends with a consonant, the accusative suffix is -em), –me for proper nouns and –m for all other instances.
e.g.:

(7) ngo-m bi-langka
    1s-ACC give-IMP
    'Give it to me.'

(8) jon-me bi-langka
    John-ACC give-IMP
    'Give it to John.'

(9) ngolu-m bi-langka
    1p-ACC give-IMP
    'Give it to us.'

(10) ngo nolu-m bi-ye
     1s 2p-ACC give-FUT
     'I will give it to you.'

(11) shedi bi' tani among-em pi-to
     god 3s world-ACC make-PST
     'God made the world.'

(12) shedi bi' adam-me-lang ib-me pi-to
     god 3s Adam-ACC-CONJ Eve-ACC make-PST
     'God made Adam and Eve.'
(13) jon bi' mari-me po-to ngo nom aya-dung
John 3s Mary-ACC say-PST 1s 2ACC love-PROG
‘John said to Mary, “I love you.”

5.3.3. Genitive or possessive: the genitive case suffix –k/-kke is taken by the nouns and pronouns, for possession both forms can be used, but when it is used with the postposition ‘for’ the pronoun takes only the form -k and the proper nouns take only -ke.

e.g.: (14) mina-ke kitab-e
Mina-GEN book-NOM
‘Mina’s book.’

(15) bi-kke ekum
3s-GEN house
‘His/her house.’

(16) no-k legape
2s-GEN pp
‘For you.’

(17) ngo-kke
1s-GEN
‘Mine.’
(18) bulu-kke ekum
       3p-GEN house

'Their house.'

Table 1. Personal pronouns in different cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>ngo</td>
<td>ngonyi</td>
<td>ngolu</td>
<td>ngom</td>
<td>ngonyim</td>
<td>ngolum</td>
<td>ngok/ ngokke</td>
<td>ngonyik/ ngonyikke</td>
<td>ngoluk/ ngolukke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>nonyi</td>
<td>nolu</td>
<td>nom</td>
<td>nonyim</td>
<td>nolum</td>
<td>nok/ nokke</td>
<td>nonyik/ nonyikke</td>
<td>noluk/ nolukke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>bi</td>
<td>binyi</td>
<td>bulu</td>
<td>bim</td>
<td>binyim</td>
<td>bulum</td>
<td>bik/ bikke</td>
<td>binyik/ binyikke</td>
<td>buluk/ bulukke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.4. Locative: The locative suffix in Adi is -lo.

e.g.: (19) a. ngo pasighat-lo du-dung
      1s Pasighat- LOC sit-PROG
      'I am staying in Pasighat.'

      b. opek ekum ara-lo du-dung
      Opek house inside-LOC sit-PROG
      'Opek is inside the house'
5.3.5. **Instrumental:** The case marker for the instrumental case is *lok* or *lokke*.

* e.g.: (20) ngo asek lok dem-do
  
1s stick INST beat-PRES

'I beat with a stick.'

5.3.6. **Ablative:** The case marker for the Ablative case is *lok* or *lokke*. The Ablative and Instrumental case markers are homonymous.

* (21) ngo shiliong lokke a-dung
  
1s Shillong ABL come-PROG

'I am coming from Shillong.'

Adi has different markers for indicating dissociation (i.e. movement away from a point) as well as for indicating the level - whether same, higher or lower. The suffixes are:

* **be-lok(ke)** (movement away to a lower level)

  * e.g.

  (22) Mizoram belok ngo saato

  Mizoram ABL 1s come

  'I have come (down) from Mizoram.'

* **lok(ke)** (away from)

  * e.g.

  (23) ngolu teyong telok giyasang-ye-ku

  1pl heaven ABL ascend-fut

  'We will ascend to heaven'
**sok(ke)** (away from)

**te-lok(ke)** (move away to a higher level)

**e-lok(ke)** (same level)

### 5.3.7. Associative:
Associative case markers are **–king** and **–min**. They occur together in the same sentence.

**Example:** (24)  ngo-k-king a-min tola

1s-ACC-ASSOC come-ASSOC IMP

'Come with me.'

(25)  ngo-k-king do-min ma-peka

1s-ACC-ASSOC eat-ASSOC NEG-IMP

'Do not eat with me.'

### 5.3.7. Vocative Case:
The Vocative case in Adi is marked by suffixing the morpheme **-e** to a proper noun or other common nouns.

**Example:** (26)  Mibom-e apim do-langka

Mibom-VOC rice eat-IMP

'Mibom, eat rice.'

(27)  abu-e no asi ti-li-du-n

father-VOC 2s water drink-DES-be-Y/N

'Father, do you want to drink water?'
The Noun phrases can include determiners, other nouns, pronouns, numerals, modifying adjectives and case markers.

5.4. **Determiners:** Determiners in Adi either follow the nouns or else they occur concurrently before and after the noun. They are usually used as demonstratives. The determiners are *e, de, si, ko*.

e.g.:  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{si kitab si} & \quad \text{DET book DET} \\
& \quad \text{‘This book’}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{si galuk si} & \quad \text{DET coat DET} \\
& \quad \text{‘This coat.’}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
amik-si & \\
\text{eyes-DET} & \quad \text{‘The eyes’}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
(28) \quad \text{doreng longe ko} & \quad \text{bright day DET} \\
& \quad \text{‘It is a bright day}
\end{align*}
\]
When the determiner occurs twice, the determiners before and after the noun is automatically similar.

E.g.

si galuk si
this coat this
‘This coat’

de ekum de
that house that
‘That house’

5.5. **Numerals**: In Adi, numerals follow the 10+1, 10+2, ..... pattern.

5.5.1. **Cardinal numbers**

akon/atel - one
annyi - two
angum - three
appi – four
pilngo – five
akke – six
kinit - seven
pinyi - eight
konang – nine
rying – ten
rying kolang atel/akon – eleven
In 1999, the Central body of Adi Agom Kebang (AAK), which is an association organized to improve the Adi language introduced a new counting system. The numbers from 1-10 are unchanged, but from 11 onwards they are shortened for convenience.

In shortening the names of the numerals, the morphological process involved is deletion of the first syllable of the first and second words. Then the second syllable of the first word is compounded with the second syllable of the second word.

\[ \text{e.g: } \text{yipi} + \text{akon} = \text{pikon} \]
\[ \text{forty} \quad \text{one} \quad \text{forty-one} \]

\[ \text{atel} + \text{akon} = \text{telkon} \]
\[ \text{one} \quad \text{one} \quad \text{eleven} \]

\[ \text{atel} + \text{annyi} = \text{telnyi} \]
\[ \text{one} \quad \text{two} \quad \text{twelve} \]

\[ \text{atel} + \text{akon} = \text{telkon} \]
\[ \text{one} \quad \text{one} \quad \text{eleven} \]
angum + konang = ngumnang
three nine thirty nine

akke’ + appi = ke’pi
six four sixty four

appi + konang = pinang
four nine forty-nine

5.5.2. **Ordinal numbers**—in the construction of ordinal numbers, except in the case of the word meaning ‘first’, *len-* is prefixed to the second syllable of the corresponding numbers, and the nominalizer –*na* is suffixed.

*E.g.*:
kerayalumpe first
len-nyi-na second
len-ngum-na third
len-pi-na fourth
len-ngo-na fifth

5.5.3. **Fractionals**

The Adi word for ‘half’ is *arot*.

atel kolang arot
one Conj half
‘one and a half’
5.6. Noun Classifiers (numeral adjectives)

Like many Southeast Asian languages, Adi uses noun classifiers. Classifiers are words used with regard to collective nouns. Extensively, the classifiers follow determiners.

The classifier used for people is **midum**.

E.g. midum atel ko

person CL one DET

‘One person’

midum anynyiko

person CL two DET

‘Two persons’

midum angum ko

person CL three DET

‘Three persons’
second syllable of the classifier and the first syllable of the numeral word in the process.

E.g. mitel ko
one person DET
‘One person’

minyi ko
two persons DET
‘Two person’

mingum ko
three persons DET
‘Three persons’

mipi ko
four persons DET
‘Four persons’

For animals the classifier is -dor

E.g.

a -dor-ko (one animal)
dor-nyi – ko (two animals)
eso dor-nyi (two mithuns)
eki domyi (two dogs)
eso dor-nyi (two mithuns)

eki dornyi (two dogs)

goru dorum (three cows)

Trapped rats and birds when kept on a string or a stick (which is called koyar) to be dried are counted not individually but by the number of the koyar (ropes or sticks) used, i.e., many rats or birds may be kept in just one stick or tied in one rope.

E.g.: All the rats or birds in one stick are referred to a yarkon

yar-nyi

CL-two

'Two sticks of dried rats/birds'

While counting ropes or traps made from bamboo the classifier used is sunam, but only the first syllable su is used as a prefix to the numeral.

e.g.: su-kon

CL-one

'One trap'

su-nyi

CL-two

'Two traps'
su-ngum

CL-three

‘Three traps’

The classifier used with sticks or other objects of long, cylindrical shapes is *asong*. It is shortened to *song* as a prefix for one but for the rest of the numbers it is further shortened to *so*.

e.g.: song-kon

CL-one

‘One stick’

so-nyi

CL-two

‘Two sticks’

so-ngum

CL-three

‘Three sticks’

yoyi so-ngum

Cane CL-three

‘three canes’
tabat so-ngo
sugarcane CL-five
'Five sugarcanes'

pi- is prefixed to the numerals when the objects referred to are globular or round in shape.

umtir pi-pi
orange CL-four
'four oranges'

rokpi pi-nyi
eggs CL-two
'two eggs'

(29) kopung pi -nam-em ngo ken-mang
bracelet CL-manner 1s know-NEG
'I do not know how to mould a bracelet.'

(30) dem asi dem so etu so pi'-lik-langka
DET water DET DET bowl DET CL-put-IMP
'Put the water in the bowl'

circular things -bi
a-bi ko
one-CL DET
'One necklace'
bamboo/cane        -bung/bu

(31)    dibang bu-um ko ngo pa-to
        bamboo   CL-three DET 1s cut-PST
       'I've cut three bamboos.'

load   -get

(32)    e-get ge-lik toka
        CL       carry IMP
       'carry a load'

For knives the classifier used is song, which is contracted to so-
when it is prefixed to the second syllable of a numeral.

E.g.       eyok so-ying ko
           knife   CL-ten  DET
       'Ten knives'

Felled trees are classified by using song or so-

E.g. (33)  esing a-song ko telet-to
       tree   one-CL  DET  cut down-pst
       'A tree is cut down'

       (34)  esing so-nyi ko telet-to
              tree   CL-two  DET  cut down-pst
       'Two trees are cut down'
a hand of bananas -pak-

E.g.  
kopak  pak-peng
banana  Cl
‘bunches of bananas’

kopak  pag-ying  ko
banana  CL-ten  DET
‘Ten bunches of bananas’

Classifiers occurring with nouns that have high frequency usage take the last syllable of the nominals as classifiers.

Egs.  
e’g  yeg-nyi
pig  CL-two
‘two pigs’

eso  so-nyi
mithun  CL-two
‘two mithuns’

ditak  tak-nyi
year  CL-two
‘two years’
ro       ro-nyi
morning  CL-two
‘two mornings’

alo       lo-nyi
day       CL-two
‘two days’

Other examples are:

among a-lung-ko  ‘one field’
field      CL

apong e-zung-ko  ‘one cup of beer’ (also used for other utensils)
beer       CL

kitab  a-bor-ko  ‘one book’ (also used for other flat objects)
book      CL

tokta  atak      ‘one cot’ (also used for other rectangular objects)
cot       CL

epuk  a-song-ko  ‘one arrow’ (also used for other long objects)
arrow    CL
kedi a-ming-ko ‘one mango tree’ (also used for other tall objects)
mango tree CL

engo a-pir-ko ‘one fish’ (also used for insects, body parts,
fish CL months, creepers, etc.)

5.7. Nominalizers:

-<i>nam</i>: The suffix <i>-nam</i> changes a verb into a verbal noun and an adjective
into an abstract noun.

e.g.: do → do-nam
     eat eatable/food
ti → ti-nam
drink(v) drink(n)

kemo → kemo-nam
dark darkness

ai → ai-nam
good goodness

-<i>nam</i> is also used as a relative pronoun in the objective case and
conveys the sense of ‘that’ or ‘whom’. It occurs in a relative clause as the
relative clause is nominalized.
-**kan** is also used as a nominalizer.

e.g.:  
\[
\begin{array}{ll}
do & \rightarrow \ do-kan \\
eat(v) & \text{food/eatable}
\end{array}
\]

5.8. **Quotative**: A quotative is derived from the verbs of 'say'. In Adi the quotative is **emnam**.

(35)  
\[
\begin{array}{llllllll}
3s & \text{Mibom} & \text{QUO} & \text{person DET} & \text{see-PST}
\end{array}
\]

'He saw a man named Mibom.'

(36)  
\[
\begin{array}{llllllllllllll}
\text{people-NOM} & 3s-ACC & \text{truly believe} & \text{QUO}
\end{array}
\]

'When Odi heard that people truly believed in her, she was happy.'

Lit: 'Hearing the saying that people truly believed in her, Odi was happy.'

(37)  
\[
\begin{array}{llllllllllllll}
\text{Kaling} & 3s & \text{Aroty} & \text{QUO} & \text{young woman DET-LOC} & \text{go-PST}
\end{array}
\]

'Kaling went to a young woman named Aroty.'
5.9. **Interrogatives:**

**Wh- words** in Adi are interrogative pronouns and they can also function as nominals. The Wh-words are as follows-

- **seko** - who
- **ingkuem** – which
- **ingkolo** – where
- **ingkue** – what
- **seko-me** – whom
- **edilo** – when
- **edit** – how (many)
- **kape** – how
- **editko mote** – how far
- **kape- ila** – why

Wh- words occur in the same slot as the constituent questioned. They are accompanied by a suffix *-n*, which is suffixed to the verb in the question.

* e.g.: (38) no seko
  2s WH
  ‘Who are you?’

(39) si ingkue

DET WH
‘What is this?’
(40) no ingkolo gi-ye-n
   2s WH go-fut-Q.MKR
   'Where are you going?'

**Yes/no questions:** Yes/No questions are made by suffixing -nia/-n to auxiliary verbs -dung/-do and the past morpheme -to.

e.g. (41) nolu pasighat-lo 'ekum kadu-nia
   2p Pasighat-LOC house be-Y/N
   'Have you a house at Pasighat?'

(42) no petang dem ka-to-n
   2s bird DET see-PAST-Y/N
   ‘Did you see the bird?’

**Tag questions:** adding *ai* to a statement forms Tag questions.

e.g.: (43) guname, ai
   hot tag
   ‘It’s hot, isn’t it?’

5.10 **PRONOUNS**

5.10.1. **Personal Pronouns:** Adi provides for three categories of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd personal pronouns- singular, dual, and plural.
Table 2. Personal pronouns in different numbers.

The pronouns do not show agreement for verbs, tense, gender or number.

Examples:

(44) (a) ngo keno dung
1s hungry PROG
'I am hungry.'

(b)  ngonyi keno dung
1dl hungry PROG
'We (two) are hungry.'

(c)  ngolu keno dung
2p hungry PROG
'We are hungry.'

5.10.2 Reflexives

The reflexive base of the verb is formed by suffixing \(-su\) to the verb root. The verb thus formed indicates an action of which the subject or agent
and object are co-referential. Verbs with reflexive bases are used with reflexive pronouns.

E.g.:  
- ger-nam  ger-su-nam  
  'to work'  'to work oneself'

- melik-nam  melik-su-nam  
  'to put'  'to put oneself'

- mi-nam  mi-su-nam  
  'to think'  'to think for oneself'

- mo-nam  momin-su-nam  
  'to punch'  'to fight'

- ir-nam  ir-su-nam  
  'to bathe'  'to bathe oneself'

5.10.3 Emphatic Reflexives:

The reflexive pronoun in Adi is ai-e or a-gi-e for the nominative case.

E.g.:  
- bi a-gi-e  
  he himself or she herself
ai which means 'self' when prefixed by -e becomes myself, yourself, him/herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, or themselves depending on the pronoun preceding it.

5.10.4 Reciprocals

Reciprocals are formed by suffixing -bosu to the root verb.

e.g.:  
\begin{tabular}{ll}
  do-nam & do-bosu-nam  \\
  'to eat' & 'to eat with each other'
\end{tabular}

ti-nam & ti-bosu-nam  \\
'to drink' & 'to drink with each other'

5.11. ADJECTIVES

Adjectives in Adi occupy modifying slots in the noun phrase and can either precede or follow the noun. Adjectives do not take person, number and gender suffixes.

Adi adjectives have the following characteristics:

(1) Adjectives are basic and derived.

(2) Adjectives are not inflected for gender and number.
5.11.1. **Basic adjectives:**

botte  
‘big’

gunam  
‘hot’

aro  
‘true’

amena  
‘small’

Derived adjectives are of two types – attributive and predicative.

kamo-na yo  
‘Dark night.’

dark-suf night  
‘The night is dark.’

botte-na ko  
‘Big boy.’

‘The boy is big.’
5.11.2. Derived Adjectives

Derived attributive adjectives: The adjectives precede the nouns when they are attributive. When they are used as attributives, adjectives take the suffix –\textit{na}.

e.g.: mik-ma-na ami
      amik-mang-suffix man
      eye-NEG-suf man
      ‘Blind man’

In this example, the morpheme for ‘eye’ which is \textit{amik} is shortened to \textit{mik} and the negative suffix –\textit{mang} is shortened to –\textit{ma}. The literal meaning of the sentence would be ‘no eye man’

agom po-ken-ma-na
agom po-ken-mang-suffix
word say-know-NEG-suf
‘Dumb’

In this example also, the literal meaning of the adjective if used in a sentence would be ‘cannot say a word person’.

asi ti-ling
water drink-DES
‘Thirsty’
**Derived predicative adjectives:** When the adjectives are predicative, the suffix -**na** is absent, and the negation -**mang** is used in the full form. In these constructions, the adjectives follow the nouns modified.

(45) ngolu-kke ejoe mik-mang-dung
    1p-GEN old woman eye-NEG-be
    ‘Our old woman is blind.’

(46) bi’ gom-mang
    3s speech-NEG
    ‘He/She is dumb.’

5.11.3. Adjectives derived from verbs

The verb particle -**po** is suffixed to certain verbs to form adjectives these carry the sense of the action being pleasant.

(47) Olom-ke ome-em kam-po-do
    Olom-GEN daughter-ACC see-prt-PRES
    ‘Olom’s daughter is beautiful’

(48) Boger-ke ekum-e duu-po-do
    Boger-GEN house-NOM sit-prt-PRES
    ‘Boger’s house is nice.’
    Lit: ‘Boger’s house is nice to sit in’
Depending on the nouns to be qualified, Adi has different words for the same adjective for different nouns, although they may have the same meaning.

e.g.: ege yorana
cloth black ‘Black cloth’

(51) lobo-lo ege yorana pamki-dung
summer-pp cloth black warm-be
‘In summer a black cloth is warm.’

ekki kingka
dog black ‘Black dog’
(52) ngo (ekki) kingkako ka-dung
1s dog black DET have-PROG
‘I have a black dog.’

goru ruka
cow black ‘Black cow’

(53) korong kolo (goru) ruka ko dag-dung
river pp cow black DET stand-PROG
‘A black cow is standing by the river.’

In the above two examples, the nouns *ekki* which means ‘dog’ and
*goru* which means ‘cow’ can be dropped, as *kingka* and *ruka* are sufficient to
mean ‘black dog’ and ‘black cow’ respectively.

erenAESING
dry-na wood
‘Dry wood’

pitil-na ege
dry-suf cloth
‘Dry cloth’

am min-na
paddy dry-suf
‘Ripe paddy’
baldin-e  pun -do
silver-prt  bright-be
'Silver is bright'

ngargo  long-e-ko
bright  day-prt-DET
'A bright day.'

donyi-e  angun-do
sun-prt  bright-be
'The sun is bright'

long-e-de  ansing –na -ko
day-prt-DET  cold-suf-DET
'A cold day'

tapam-e  ansing-do
ice  prt  cold-be
'Ice is cold'

For certain nouns, the adjectival forms are formed by a complete or partial reduplication of the second syllable of the noun.

e.g.:  eso  sote
mithun big
'Big mithun'
solung-lo eso sote-em ar-do
Sulong-pp mithun big-ACC sacrifice-be
‘A big mithun is killed at Solung (festival)’

‘ey’ek yek-ra
pig big-suf ‘Big pig’

krismas-lo eyek yekra ba-do
Christmas-pppig big sacrifice-be
‘At Christmas a big pig is sacrificed.’

(Arnam, which means to sacrifice, becomes bado when used with pigs and chicken)
ekum kumdong
house long ‘Long house’

bi-k ekum de kumdong do
3s-GEN house NOM long be
‘His/her house is long.’
ekum kumne
house big ‘Big house’
(57) ngo ekum kumne ko mo-dung
1s house big DET make-PROG
‘I am building a big house.’

ensing siyar
tree tall ‘Tall tree’

(58) ngo esing siyar ko pa-to
1s tree tall DET cut-PST
‘I cut a tall tree.’

asi sikil
water hot ‘Hot water’

(59) sikil ti-milo aki-e aidung
hot water drink-CONDNL stomach-NOM good
‘If one drinks hot water, the stomach is well.’

eyok yokrat
dao sharp ‘Sharp dao’

(60) eyok-em yokrat -pe ge-langka
knife-ACC sharp-ADVBLZR carry-IMP
‘Carry a sharp knife.’
(ami) mijing
man old ‘Old man’

(61) bi mijing kai
3s old man PERF
‘He has become old.’

5.11.4. Quantitative adjectives:

Adjectivals, which indicate quantity are anyongko meaning ‘some’ and anyongoko which means ‘a little’

e.g.: (62) ngom alo anyongko bi-langka
1sACC salt some give-IMP
‘Give me some salt.’

(63) ngo lotel-lonyi-ko ki-to
1s one day-two days-DET fever-PST
‘I had fever for a few days’

5.11.5. Adjectives formation:

When –nam is suffixed to some verbs, they act as adjectives.

e.g.: (64) apel de do-nam aye
apple DET eat-NOMNLZR fruit
‘An apple is an eatable fruit’
5.11.6. Degrees of adjectives:

5.11.6 (a) The comparative degree in Adi is *ya* followed by the tense markers. The marker of comparison follows the standard of comparison, and the standard of comparison follows the noun qualified.

e.g.:

(65) si ekum si em ekum -em botte ya-do
DET houseDET DET house DET big COMP.MKR.-PRES
‘This house is bigger than that house.’

(66) ngo sim ekum sim botte-ya-na-ko mi-do
1s DET house DET big-COMP.MKR-suf-DET want-PRES
‘I want a bigger house than this.’

(67) otem bi oken-me bodong ya-do
Otem 3s Oken-DET tall COMP.MKR.-PRES
‘Otem is taller than Oken.’
(68) mari bi odi-me kampo ya-dung
Mary 3s Odi-ACC beautiful COMP.MKR.-be
'Mary is more beautiful than Odi.'

5.11.6 (b) The superlative degree is yalumdo.

Example: (69) obang bi takaam lokke bodong yalumdo
Obang 3s all from tall SUP
'Obang is the tallest of all.'

5.11.7. Intensifiers:

nge and nge sekre

Example: (70) bi'm dem-nge ngesik-toka
3s ACC beat-INT INT-IMP
'Beat him thoroughly.'

(71) bi nom pa nge-ye
3s 2NOM beat INT-will
'He will beat you severely.'

(72) ngo no-m lu-nge sekre-la lu-ye
1s 2s ACC scold- INT-ADVBLZR scold-FUT
'I will give you a thorough good scolding.'
In Adi, plurality, gender (in -human, + animate nouns) and case are all indicated by the use of suffixes. Although Adi does not have the ergative-absolutive case, it is remarkably rich in other case markers, as has been illustrated. It is also rich in noun classifiers and moods.

Adi makes distinction between cardinal and ordinal numbers; the numerals follow the 10+1, 10+2... pattern.

Questions are fairly simple. In an Adi Wh-question, the Wh-word occurs in the same slot as the constituent questioned. Yes/no questions are formed by means of suffixation of a morpheme.

Regarding the pronouns, Adi has three categories- singular, dual and plural.
Adi is rich in adjectives. Depending on the nouns to be qualified, there are different words for the same meaning intended. This is achieved by the partial reduplication of the noun qualified.