

# A grammar of Rapa Nui

Paulus Kieviet

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# A grammar of Rapa Nui

Paulus Kieviet



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This grammar is a somewhat revised version of my PhD thesis, which I defended in July 2016. The PhD project formally started in November 2012, but the journey leading to this grammar has been much longer. In 2004, my wife Antje and I went to live in French Polynesia with our daughters Mattie and Nina, to assist language groups there with Bible translation work. After learning Tahitian, in 2005 I started to study Rapa Nui as well and became involved in checking the Rapa Nui translation of the New Testament. In 2007 we moved to Easter Island and ended up living there for three years. Among other things, I was involved in Bible translation, the edition of educational materials and the elaboration of a lexical database. In the course of time I started to collect observations on the grammar of Rapa Nui. Coming from French Polynesia, there was much of interest in a language so similar to Tahitian, yet so different in many respects.

This grammar would not have been possible without the help of many people. First of all I would like to thank Bob (Roberto) and Nancy Weber, who have devoted their lives to the Rapa Nui people and who have done a tremendous amount of work on vernacular education, Bible translation and linguistic research, as well as assisting the Rapa Nui community in anything having to do with the language. They were the ones who invited us to join them on Easter Island, made us feel welcome and helped us in many ways. Their observations, notes and suggestions helped me a great deal to learn to know the language. Over the years and decades, they have collected the texts which have served as corpus for this grammar.

I wish to thank the Rapa Nui translation team and various other people who welcomed us on the island and made their knowledge of the language available: María Eugenia Tuki Pakarati, long-time translator and linguistic worker; Alfredo Tuki Pakarati, who helped us through the visa application; Pai Hiti 'Uira Rano Moai; María Virginia Haoa Cardinali; Victoria Hereveri Tuki; Virginia Atan Tuki.

A big thank you to my supervisors, Lourens de Vries and Ross Clark, who guided me through the process of writing a book that had to meet the requirements of a descriptive grammar and a dissertation; encouraging, correcting, fine-tuning where needed. Thanks also to the members of the reading committee for their willingness to review this dissertation: Aone van Engelenhoven, Ben Hermans, Marian Klamer, Pieter Muysken and Ger Reesink. A special thank you to Marian Klamer and Ger Reesink for their many helpful comments on earlier versions of the manuscript.

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## *Acknowledgments*

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I am grateful to Martin Haspelmath and Sebastian Nordhoff at Language Science Press, who accepted this grammar for publication and carefully coached me through the process of revision and electronic conversion. They never failed to respond promptly to any questions I raised. Thanks also to the anonymous reviewers for their many helpful comments, and the proofreaders who took the time to get this grammar into shape.

Nico and Pam Daams were the people who invited us to join them in Bible translation work in Polynesia. Their friendship, help and encouragement over the past fifteen years have been truly invaluable.

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Paulus Kieviet

*Alblasserdam, The Netherlands, January 2017*



# List of abbreviations

(Abbreviations for text sources are listed in Appendix B.)

## Grammatical categories

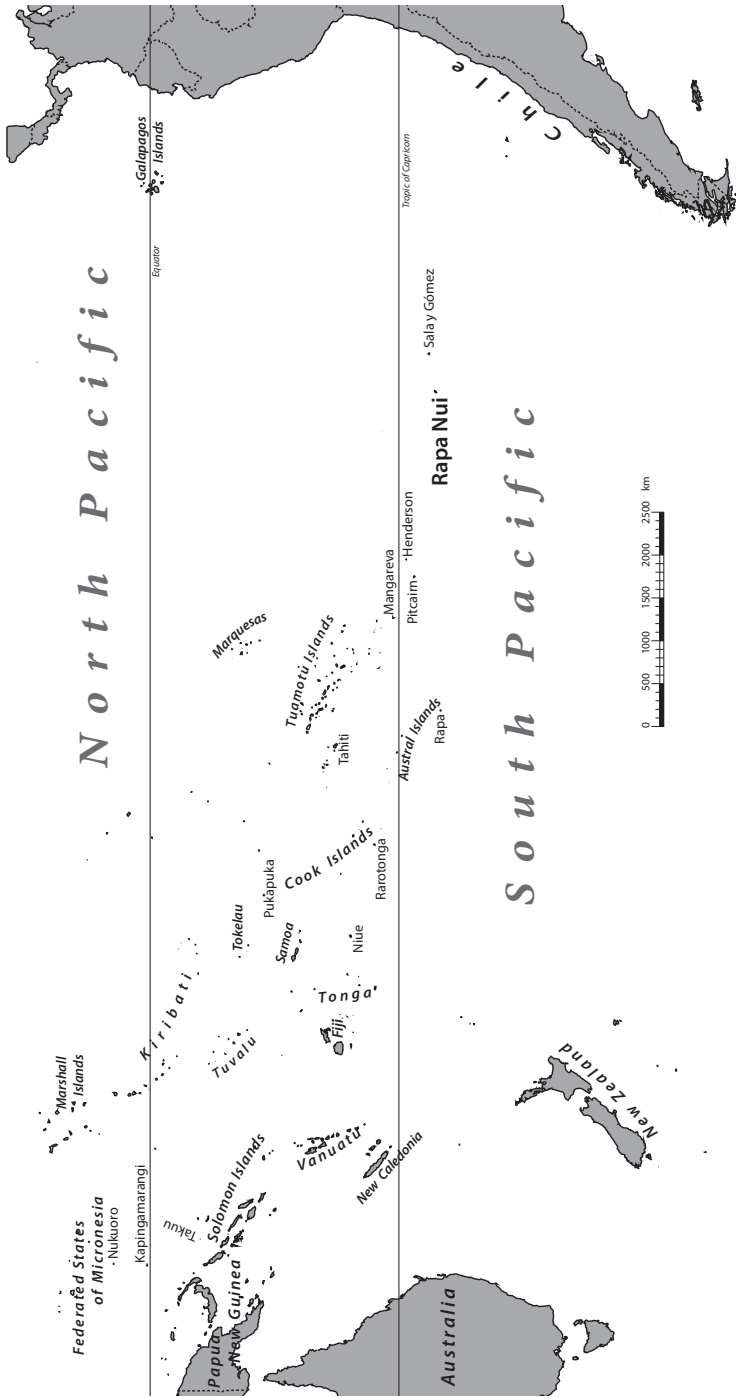
*	ungrammatical; reconstructed protoform
(*XX)	ungrammatical if XX is included
*(XX)	ungrammatical if XX is omitted, i.e. XX is obligatory
>	becomes
∅	zero
/.../	phonemic transcription
[...]	in Chapter 2: phonetic transcription; elsewhere: constituent
1, 2, 3	first, second, third person
A	(in possessives:) <i>a</i> -class possession
A	(verb argument:) the most agentive argument of a transitive verb
A/M	aspect/mood marker
ACC	accusative ( <i>i</i> )
AG	agentive ( <i>e</i> )
ANA	general anaphor ( <i>ira</i> )
ART	article ( <i>te</i> )
BEN	benefactive
C	consonant
CAUS	causative ( <i>haka</i> )
CNTG	contiguous ( <i>ka</i> )
COLL	collective ( <i>kuā/koā</i> )
COM	comitative ( <i>koia</i> )
CONT	continuous (' <i>ā/ana</i> )
CQ	content question ( <i>hē</i> )
DEIC	deictic
DEM	demonstrative
DIST	distal (far from speaker)
DO	direct object
DU	dual
DUB	dubitative ( <i>hō</i> )
EMPH	emphatic ( <i>rō</i> )
EXCL	exclusive
EXH	exhortative ( <i>e</i> )

### *List of abbreviations*

FUT	future
HORT	hortative ( <i>ki</i> )
IDENT	identity (' <i>ā</i> / <i>'ana</i> )
IMM	immediate (' <i>i</i> )
IMP	imperative ( <i>ka</i> )
INCL	inclusive
INS	instrumental ( <i>hai</i> )
INTENS	intensifier ( <i>rā</i> )
IPFV	imperfective ( <i>e</i> )
IRR	irrealis ( <i>ana</i> )
LOC	locative; locational
MED	medial distance
N	noun
NEG	negation (' <i>ina</i> )
CONNNEG	constituent negation ( <i>ta'e</i> )
NMLZ	nominaliser
NTR	neutral aspect ( <i>he</i> )
NUM	numeral marker
NUM.PERS	personal numeral marker ( <i>hoko</i> )
O	(in possessives:) <i>o</i> -class possession
O	(verb argument:) the least agentive argument of a transitive verb
PAST	past
PFV	perfective ( <i>i</i> )
PL	plural
PND	postnominal demonstrative
POSS	possessive
PQ	polar question ( <i>hoki</i> )
PRED	predicate marker ( <i>he</i> )
PRF	perfect ( <i>ko/ku</i> )
PROM	prominence marker ( <i>ko</i> )
PROP	proper article ( <i>a</i> )
PROX	proximal (near speaker)
PVD	postverbal demonstrative
PVP	postverbal particle ( <i>ai</i> )
QTF	quantifier
RED	reduplication
S	the single argument of an intransitive verb
SG	singular
SUBS	subsequent (' <i>ai</i> )
SVC	serial verb construction
V	verb; vowel
V <sub>NOM</sub>	nominalised verb
VOC	vocative ( <i>e</i> )

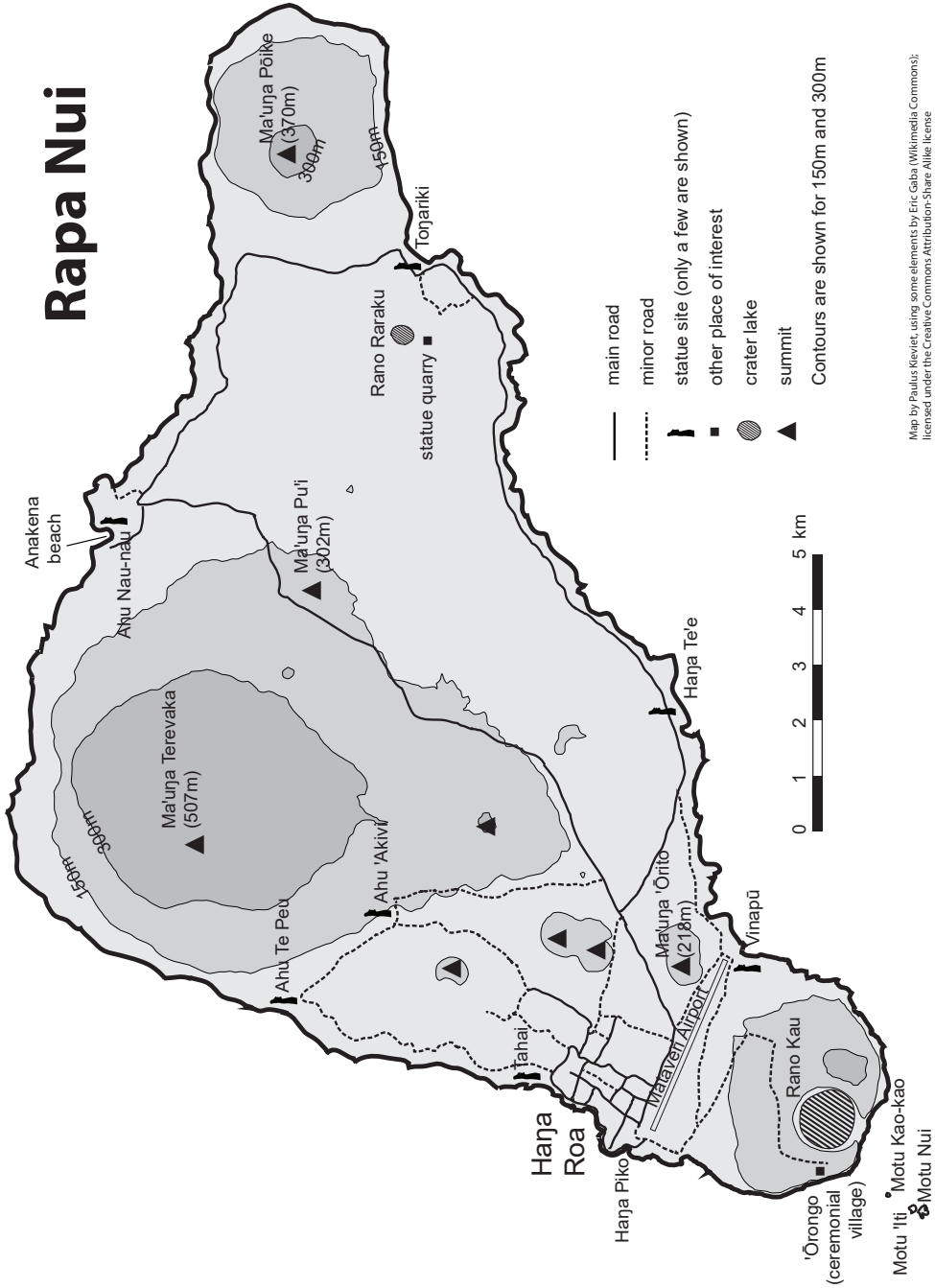
## Language groups and protolanguages

PAN	Proto-Austronesian
POc	Proto-Oceanic
PEO	Proto-Eastern Oceanic
PPN	Proto-Polynesian
(P)NP	(Proto) Nuclear Polynesian
(P)SO	(Proto) Samoic-Outlier
(P)EP	(Proto) Eastern Polynesian
(P)CE	(Proto) Central-Eastern Polynesian
(P)Ta	(Proto) Tahitic
(P)Mq	(Proto) Marquesic



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# Rapa Nui



Map by Paulus Kievit, using some elements by Eric Gaba (Wikimedia Commons); licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike license



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Rapa Nui: the island and the language

### 1.1.1 The island and its name

Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, is located at 27°05'S 109°20'W. The island is known for its giant statues (*mōai*), as well as for its extreme isolation: while the nearest islands (Sala y Gómez) are at a 400 km distance, the nearest inhabited island is tiny Pitcairn, 2100 km away. The closest population centres are Tahiti in French Polynesia (over 4200 km to the west) and Valparaíso on the Chilean coast (3700 km to the east).

The island forms a triangle, composed of three extinct volcanoes, with a surface of about 165 km<sup>2</sup>. The highest point is Mt. Terevaka (507m).

At the last census (2012), the island's population numbered 5,761.<sup>1</sup> Almost all inhabitants live in the town of Hanga Roa. Roughly half of the island's population is of Rapa Nui origin; other inhabitants include continental Chileans, as well as small numbers from other nationalities. Conversely, numerous ethnic Rapa Nui live in continental Chile, while there is also a Rapa Nui community of a few hundred people on Tahiti.<sup>2</sup>

The number of ethnic Rapa Nui does not coincide with the number of speakers of the Rapa Nui language. Wurm (2007) estimates the number of speakers at 2,400–2,500, but the actual number is probably lower. Makihara (2001b: 192) gives an estimate of 1,100 speakers, out of 1,800 ethnic Rapa Nui on the island; linguists Bob & Nancy Weber (p.c.) give a rough estimate of 1,000 speakers.

The name Rapa Nui, literally 'great Rapa', is used for the island, the people and the language.<sup>3</sup> It may have been coined in 1862, when Rapa Nui people came in contact with people from Rapa, the southernmost island of what is nowadays French Polynesia (Fischer 1993c: 64; Fischer 2005: 91); the latter is also called Rapa Iti, 'little Rapa'.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ine.cl/canales/chile\\_estadistico/familias/demograficas\\_vitales.php](http://www.ine.cl/canales/chile_estadistico/familias/demograficas_vitales.php) (accessed 27 October 2015); the projected population for 2016 is 6,600.

<sup>2</sup> It is extremely hard to estimate the total number of ethnic Rapa Nui. Estimates over the past years range from 2,600 to 7,748 (Bob Weber, p.c.). According to the 2012 census, 63.81% of the inhabitants of Rapa Nui (i.e. 3,676 out of 5,761) belong to an indigenous people group. According to the same census, 2,697 people on Rapa Nui, and 4,934 people in Chile as a whole, are able to conduct a conversation in Rapa Nui. Though these figures seem to be impossibly high, they may give an indication of the number of people on the island and on the Chilean mainland adhering to the Rapa Nui identity.

<sup>3</sup> The name is often spelled as a single word: Rapanui. In this grammar, the spelling Rapa Nui is used, in accordance with the accepted orthography (§1.4.4). The spelling sparked some debate in the *Rapa Nui Journal*: Fischer (1991; 1993b,a); Weber & Weber (1991).

<sup>4</sup> The meaning of the name Rapa itself is unknown, despite Caillot's assertion that there cannot be any doubt that it means "en dehors, à l'extérieur [...] de l'autre côté" (outside, at the exterior, on the other side;

## 1 Introduction

The island has been known by many other names (Fischer 1993c), all of them of post-contact origin. The name Easter Island and its corollaries in other European languages (Isla de Pascua, Osterinsel, Paaseiland, et cetera) dates back to 1722; it was given by the Dutch explorers who discovered the Island on Easter Sunday, April 5. No pre-contact name for the island or the people has been transmitted, and none may ever have existed.

### 1.1.2 Origins

Linguistic, biological and archaeological data unambiguously indicate that the Rapa Nui people are Polynesians (Green 2000; Kirch 2000; Stefan, Cuny & Weisler 2002 and refs. there). In a certain sense, the early history of the island is uncomplicated. The island has a single language and there is no evidence that it was settled more than once. The date of settlement of the island is usually assumed to coincide with the date at which Rapa Nui split off from its protolanguage.

Even so, the prehistory of the Rapa Nui people is still surrounded by uncertainty, despite extensive archaeological, biological and linguistic research. The only virtually uncontested fact is, that the first settlers of the island came from somewhere in east Polynesia.<sup>5</sup> They probably arrived by a voyage of purposeful exploration rather than by chance (Bahn & Flenley 1992: 72–79; Kirch & Kahn 2007: 199). Some scholars suggest an origin from the Marquesas (cf. Bahn & Flenley 1992: 66), but the current consensus is that an origin from southeast Polynesia is much more likely, given the distance and prevailing winds. This means that the people who first discovered Rapa Nui probably arrived from Mangareva, Pitcairn and/or Henderson (Green 1998; Stefan, Cuny & Weisler 2002). Henderson Island, the closest habitable island to Rapa Nui (c. 1900 km), is deserted nowadays but was populated in the past, possibly as early as 700–900 AD (Weisler 1998; Green & Weisler 2002).

A more southern origin, from or through the Austral islands, has also been proposed (Langdon & Tryon 1983), but is generally rejected (Green 1985; 1998).

The date of initial settlement of the island is much debated. In the past, attempts were made to date the split-off of Rapa Nui from its protolanguage by means of glottochronology (using the amount of lexical change and an assumed rate of change), but these did not give satisfactory results: Emory (1963) obtained glottochronological dates as far apart as 1025 BC and 500 AD, and settled on an estimate of 500 AD on the basis of a single radiocarbon date provided by Heyerdahl & Ferdon (1961: 395).<sup>6</sup> Green (1967), Green (1985:

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Caillot 1932: 69); the lexical sources for Rapa (Stokes 1955; Fischer 1996a [= James L. Green, 1864]; Kieviet & Kieviet 2006) do not list a lexeme *rapa*. In Rapa Nui there are two lexemes *rapa*: 1) 'to shine, be lustrous'; 2) 'ceremonial paddle'.

<sup>5</sup> Thor Heyerdahl's theory that the Rapa Nui came from South America, is commonly rejected (see Bahn & Flenley 1992 for an extensive critique), though Schuhmacher (1990) continues to explore the possibility of (secondary) influence of South-American languages on Rapa Nui. On the discussion about possible non-Polynesian elements in the Rapa Nui language, see Footnote 11 on p. 150.

<sup>6</sup> In general, Eastern Polynesian languages have changed vocabulary at a much higher rate than other Polynesian languages. Pawley (2009) calculates replacement rates of 0.67–2.0% per century for a number of non-EP languages, against 2.0–3.4% per century for EP languages (2.5% for Rapa Nui), based on retention of basic PPN vocabulary. This is explained by the "founder effect", i.e. rapid change in a small isolated speech community (Marck 2000: 138, Wilmshurst et al. 2011: 1818).



21), Emory (1972) and Kirch (1986) also give an estimate between 400 and 600 AD based on radiocarbon dates. Du Feu & Fischer (1993) and Fischer (1992) suggest a possible split between Rapa Nui and its relatives as early as the first century AD. Others give later dates: between 600 and 800 AD (Fischer 2005, based on a radiocarbon date of  $690 \pm 130$  given by Ayres 1971; Green & Weisler 2002), or between 800 and 1000 AD (Green 2000: 74; Spriggs & Anderson 1993; Martinsson-Wallin & Crockford 2001).

More recently, even later dates have been proposed. Re-examination of radiocarbon dates from Rapa Nui and other islands in east Polynesia, eliminating those samples not deemed reliable indicators for initial settlement, has led some scholars to date the onset of colonisation after 1200 AD (Hunt & Lipo 2006; 2007; Hunt 2007; Wilmshurst et al. 2011).

Others continue to propose dates late in the first millennium AD (Kirch & Kahn 2007; Mieth & Bork 2005; 2010).

The date of settlement of Rapa Nui is closely linked to the question of the colonisation of east Polynesia as a whole, an issue which is in turn linked to the relative chronology of the different archipelagos in east Polynesia. Here as well, a wide range of dates has been proposed. Settlement of east Polynesia started either in the Society Islands, with Tahiti at the centre (Emory 1963; Kirch 2000; Wilmshurst et al. 2011), in the Marquesas (Wilson 2012: 290, Green 1966), or in the Societies/Marquesas area as a whole (Kirch 1986: 9; Marck 2000: 138). According to Spriggs & Anderson (1993), there is solid archaeological evidence for human presence in the Marquesas from about 300–600 AD and in the Society Islands from 600–800 AD. Kirch (1986: 9) suggests that the Marquesas may have been peopled as early as 200 BC. On the other hand, Wilmshurst et al. (2011) date the initial settlement of the Societies as late as 1025–1120 AD, while all the other archipelagos in east Polynesia (including Rapa Nui) followed after 1190.

The relation between the Rapa Nui language and Eastern Polynesian is discussed in §1.2.2 below.

### 1.1.3 Snippets of history

After its initial settlement, Rapa Nui may have maintained contact with other islands in east Polynesia, despite its geographical isolation (Clark 1983b: 424; Green 1998; 2000; Kirch & Kahn 2007).<sup>7</sup> At some point, there must even have been contact between at least one Polynesian island and South America, given the fact that the sweet potato and the bottle gourd spread from South America throughout Polynesia prior to European contact; Green (1998: 98) suggests that Rapa Nui people may have travelled to South America, returning either to Rapa Nui or to another island.

---

<sup>7</sup> Walworth (2015a) gives four words uniquely shared between Rapa Nui and Rapa. However, three of these (Rapa *matu* 'to advance', *kakona* 'sweet-smelling', *reka* 'happy') are also shared with other EP languages, and the fourth (*honi* 'peel') is a shared semantic innovation rather than a uniquely shared lexeme. Moreover, unique shared lexemes are not a strong indication of direct contact: Rapa Nui uniquely shares two words (*ua* 'war club', *ma'a* 'to know') with Rennell in the Solomon Islands, even though direct contact between the two islands is very unlikely.

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However, contact between Rapa Nui and other islands was probably very intermittent; Rapa Nui language and culture developed in relative isolation, an isolation which at some point became complete. This explains the high amount of lexical innovation noticed by Emory (1963), Langdon & Tryon (1983: 45) and Bergmann (1963: 36).

The history of Rapa Nui is described in Bahn & Flenley (1992), McCall (1994), Flenley & Bahn (2002) and Fischer (2005). Rapa Nui's prehistory is the tale of a society constructing hundreds of increasingly large stone statues (*mōai*) and transporting them to almost all corners of the island; a number of often feuding tribes whose names survive in legends; the gradual deforestation of an island once covered with giant palm trees;<sup>8</sup> and the 'birdman' cult, which involved an annual contest between young warriors for the season's first tern egg on one of the islets off the coast.

Rapa Nui entered written history on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1722, when it was sighted by a Dutch fleet of three ships, commanded by Jacob Roggeveen. Later in the 18th century, the island was visited by a Spanish expedition led by Don Felipe González in 1770, followed by James Cook in 1774 and Count La Pérouse in 1786. From the early 19th century on, many explorers, traders and whalers called at the island.

The repeated arrival of foreigners caused epidemic diseases, which in turn led to depopulation and a major socio-cultural upheaval. A greater trauma was yet to follow: in 1862–1863, ships raided the Pacific in search of cheap labour for mines, plantations and households in Peru. Several of these visited Rapa Nui and at least 1400 people were abducted or lured away and taken to Peru.<sup>9</sup> Most of them died of smallpox; when a few survivors were repatriated late 1863, they brought the disease with them. As a result, the population of Rapa Nui dropped even further. The events of 1863 were fatal for Rapa Nui culture, leading to the collapse of the structure of society and ultimately to the loss of old customs and traditions (Knorozov 1965: 391).

In 1870, the French trader/adventurer Dutrou-Bornier, acting for a Scottish company, managed to acquire title to most of the island and started to convert it into a giant sheep ranch. As the traditional power structure had collapsed, Dutrou-Bornier had free rein. When the situation for the remaining Rapa Nui seemed hopeless, bishop Tepano Jaussen of Tahiti formed the plan to evacuate all remaining inhabitants of the island; only the limited capacity of the vessel come to fetch them forced 230 people to stay on the island, while 275 left to settle in Mangareva and Tahiti. (In the 1880s, some of them returned, bringing with them Tahitian elements which were subsequently incorporated into the Rapa Nui language.) The number of people on Rapa Nui further decreased to 111 in 1877, after which it started to rise slowly again, doubling by 1897 and again by 1934.

In 1888, Rapa Nui was annexed by Chile. Even so, the island remained a sheep ranch under commercial control until 1953, when it passed under naval authority. During much of that time, islanders were not permitted to leave the island (presumably because of leprosy, an illness imported in the 1880s from Tahiti), so contact with the outside world was largely limited to the few foreign residents and visitors to the island.

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<sup>8</sup> The causes of the deforestation of Rapa Nui (human or by rats?) and the question whether it led to a socio-cultural collapse (traditionally dated around 1680) have been the subject of much debate, see Flenley & Bahn (2002); Diamond (2005); Mulrooney et al. (2007; 2009); Hunt (2007); Mieth & Bork (2010); Boersema (2011).

<sup>9</sup> In the course of these events, the name Rapa Nui may have emerged, see §1.1.2 above (Fischer 2005: 91).

In 1966, Rapa Nui became a civil territory, a department (since 1974 a province) within the 5<sup>th</sup> region of Chile, consisting of a single municipality (*comuna*). The Rapa Nui people received Chilean citizenship. From 1960 on, Rapa Nui came out of its isolation. More and more Rapa Nui started to travel to the Chilean mainland for education and jobs; many of them settled there or emigrated to other countries. On the other hand, tourists and other visitors started to arrive in great numbers after the construction of the airport in 1967.<sup>10</sup> More jobs came available in the public sector (administration, education, health...), while the quickly expanding tourist industry also started to provide a host of job opportunities in hotels and guest houses, the building industry, retail and traditional crafts. As a result, over the past decades the island has experienced rapid economic development, but also a large influx of non-Rapa Nui residents (mainly from Chile). Tourism has continued to grow; currently the island attracts more than 40,000 people annually.

## 1.2 Genetic affiliation

### 1.2.1 Rapa Nui in the Polynesian language family

Rapa Nui is a member of the Austronesian language family; its complete classification according to the *Ethnologue* (Lewis, Simons & Fennig 2015) is as follows: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, Central Pacific, East Fijian-Polynesian, Polynesian, Nuclear, East. The language has no dialects.

Rapa Nui's immediate relatives are the other Polynesian languages,<sup>11</sup> which number around 35. These languages are spoken within a triangle delineated by New Zealand in the south-west, Hawaii in the north and Rapa Nui in the east; a number of Polynesian groups (known as Outliers) are located outside this area.

The basic subgrouping of the Polynesian languages was established in the 1960s. While earlier approaches used lexicostatistics and glottochronology to measure relative distance between languages (see e.g. Elbert 1953; Emory 1963), in the mid-1960s research started to focus on shared innovations: languages are likely to form a subgroup when they have a significant number of phonological, lexical and/or grammatical innovations in common. This resulted in a hypothesis which became the standard theory for Polynesian subgrouping (see Pawley 1966; Green 1966; Marck 2000), and which is represented in Figure 1.1 (based on Pawley 1966; Clark 1983b; Marck 2000). In this subgrouping, all but two languages belong to the Nuclear Polynesian (NP) branch. NP is divided in two branches: Samoic-Outlier (SO) and Eastern Polynesian (EP). Within EP, Rapa Nui forms a branch on its own, coordinate with Central-Eastern (CE) languages. CE in turn branches into Tahitic (TA) and Marquesic (MQ).<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> From 1970 on, Rapa Nui has been serviced by long-range jet airliners. As of October 2015, there were eight weekly flights to/from Santiago and one flight to/from Tahiti.

<sup>11</sup> See Krupa (1982) for a typological overview of Polynesian languages and Krupa (1973) for a history of research. More recent overviews are available for larger groupings: Lynch, Ross & Crowley (2002) for Oceanic, Blust (2013) for Austronesian.

<sup>12</sup> The evidence for EP and CE will be reviewed in §1.2.2 below.

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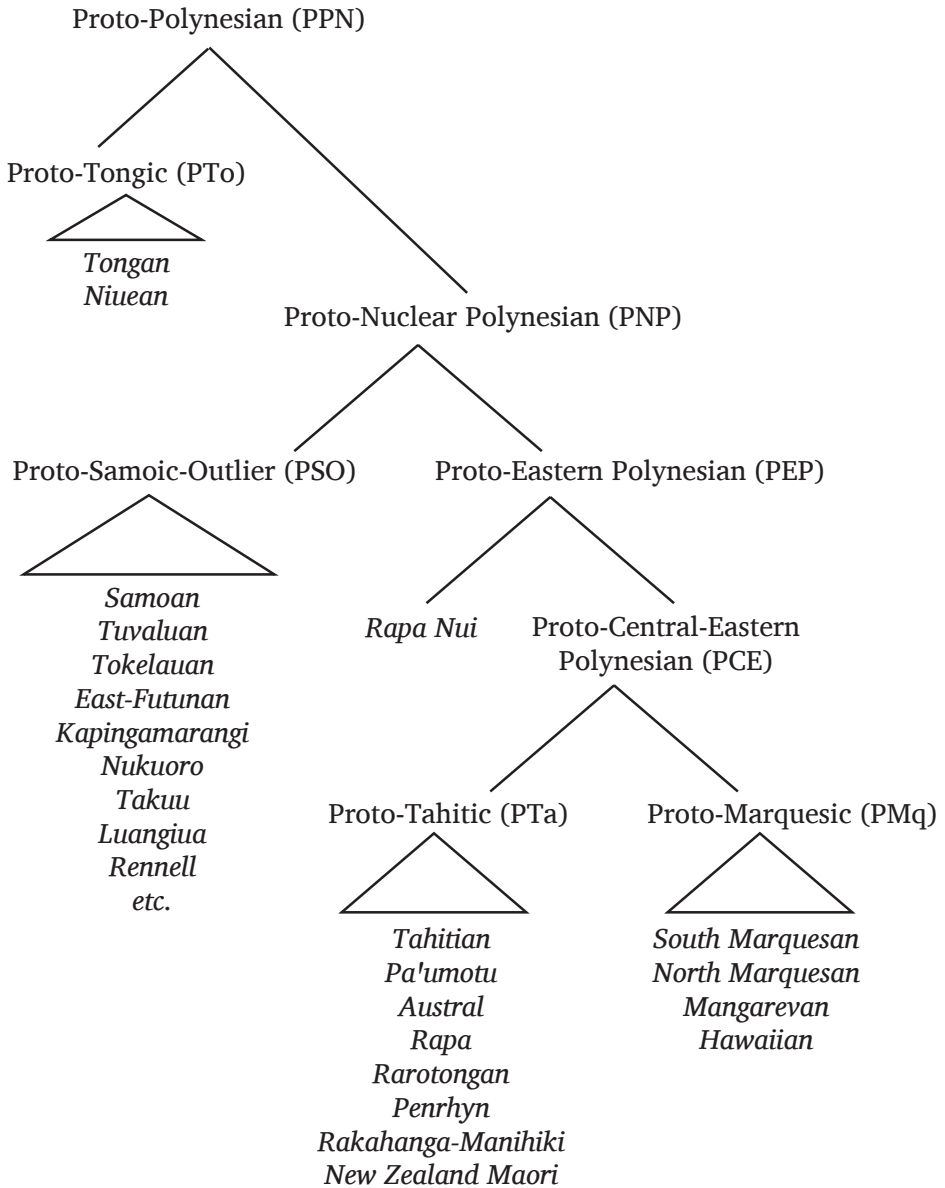


Figure 1.1: Genetic classification of the Polynesian languages

Though there is a wide consensus on the basic tenets of this subgrouping, various refinements and modifications have been proposed.<sup>13</sup> I will mention a few which directly or indirectly affect the position of Rapa Nui.

Firstly: within SO, there is evidence for a subgroup consisting of the Northern Outliers (NO), spoken in the northern Solomons (including the North Solomons province of Papua New Guinea) such as Takuu and Luangiua. A slightly larger group has also been suggested, consisting of the NO languages plus Kapingamarangi, Nukuoro and Tuvalu (‘Ellicean’, see Howard 1981; Pawley 2009). Wilson (1985; 2012) discusses a number of innovations shared between the Northern Outliers and EP: a thorough restructuring and reduction of the pronominal system, as well as various other grammatical and lexical innovations. This leads him to suggest a NO-EP subgroup; in this hypothesis, the East Polynesians originated from the Northern Outliers, possibly migrating through the Ellice and Line Islands.

Secondly, Marck (1996a; 2000) proposes a few refinements within CE languages: nuclear Tahitic includes all Tahitic languages except New Zealand Māori; nuclear Marquesic includes Marquesan and Mangarevan, but not Hawaiian.<sup>14</sup>

Finally: more recently, the validity of Tahitic and Marquesic as clear-cut subgroups has been questioned. Walworth (2012) points out that the evidence for both subgroups is not very strong, something which has been recognised before (see e.g. Green 1966; Marck 1996a). Neither subgroup is characterised by regular sound changes or morphological innovations; the only evidence consists of lexical and semantic innovations (Green 1966) and sporadic sound changes (Marck 2000). Walworth suggests that there never was a Proto-Marquesic or a Proto-Tahitic language; rather, both branches may have developed through diffusion of features over certain geographical areas. She maintains the status of Proto-CE, which will be discussed in the next section.

### 1.2.2 Evidence for Eastern Polynesian and Central-Eastern Polynesian

As Rapa Nui is the only language distinguishing EP from CE, it is worthwhile to examine the evidence for both groupings. This evidence was collected by Pawley (1966) and Green (1985) and reviewed by Marck (1996a); while Pawley did not differentiate between EP and CE for lack of data on Rapa Nui, Green did take Rapa Nui into account, though on the basis of limited data. Marck (2000) provided further evidence on the basis of incidental sound changes. Here I will review the evidence adduced for both subgroups

<sup>13</sup> One proposal generally rejected is that by Langdon & Tryon (1983), who propose a Futunic subgroup including East Futunan, East Uvean, Rennell and Rapa Nui. The evidence for this subgroup is scant (see Clark 1983b; Green 1985).

<sup>14</sup> A different grouping is presented by Fischer (2001b), who proposes a subgroup on the basis of doublets in Mangarevan, such as *'a'ine* ‘woman’ ~ *ve'ine* ‘wife’. The first member of these doublets has not participated in the sound change *\*faf* > *\*vah*, which is common to all CE languages but does not occur in Rapa Nui (§1.2.2 below). According to Fischer, this constitutes evidence for a Proto-Southeastern Polynesian substratum, a subgroup which predates the differentiation of PCE into PTa and PMq, and which includes Rapa Nui. However, this analysis has been questioned: the doublets can also be explained as an incomplete phonological change (Rutter 2002), and even if they suggest a substratum in Mangarevan predating PCE, there is no evidence that this branch includes Rapa Nui (Marck 2002).

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in the light of data and analysis for Rapa Nui presented in this grammar. In the list below, each proposed innovation is evaluated as valid (OK), invalid for the subgroup under consideration (X), or questionable (??).

For Eastern Polynesian, the following innovations have been suggested:

### Morphology

1. The past tense marker *i* (non-EP languages have *na*, *ne* or *ni*): occurs in Rapa Nui. OK
2. The negation *kāore/kore*: occurs in Rapa Nui, though with limited use. OK
3. *pafa* ‘perhaps’: probably reflected in Rapa Nui *pēaha*. OK
4. Progressive *e V 'ana*: occurs in Rapa Nui. OK
5. *afa* ‘what’, against SO *aa* and TO *haa*: incorrect. \**Afa* goes back to PPN \**hafa*, the form *afa/aha* occurs in several SO languages. X
6. *e aha ... ai* ‘why’: occurs in Rapa Nui; however, the same construction occurs at least in Nukuoro as well. X
7. *hei* ‘future location’: only occurs in Tahitic languages; the supposed Rapa Nui cognate *he* is a different lexical item. X

### Lexicon

8. 157 entries in Pollex (2009)<sup>15</sup> are reconstructed for PEP.

### Sporadic sound changes (Marck 2000: 131)

9. PNP \**maŋawai* > PEP \**manavai* ‘tributary water course’; Rapa Nui *manavai* ‘rock garden’. OK
10. PNP \**salu* > PEP \**seru* ‘to scrape’; Rapa Nui *heru*. OK

The following innovations are considered characteristic for Central-Eastern Polynesian:

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<sup>15</sup> Lexical data for individual languages have mostly been taken from the lexical database Pollex (2009 version; Greenhill & Clark 2011).

## Phonology

11. Loss of the PPN glottal plosive: basically correct, though the glottal left traces in some CE languages (Marck 2000: 70–71). In any case, loss of the glottal happened several times independently in Polynesian languages and is no strong evidence for subgrouping. ??
12. \**f* merges with \**s* medially and before round vowels: this is in fact an EP innovation. The same happened in Rapa Nui, where \**f* and \**s* both became \**h* in all environments (§2.2.1). X
13. \**f* > *v* before \*-*af*: Rapa Nui *haha* ‘mouth’ ~ PCE \**vaha*; Rapa Nui *haho* ‘outside’ ~ PCE \**vaho*. However, both Marquesan (*haha/fafa* ‘mouth’) and Mangarevan (‘*a’a* ‘mouth’, ‘*a’ine* ‘woman’) have forms in which the change did not take place (Elbert 1982: 509, Wilson 2012: 351–352, Fischer 2001b). ??

## Morphology

14. *tei* ‘present position’: only occurs in Tahitic languages → PTa rather than PCE. X
15. *inafea* ‘when’ (past): this is part of a larger change \**ana* > \**ina*, which only occurs in Tahitic languages (see Footnote 62 on p. 133), except Marquesan *inehea* ‘when’ ??
16. The pronominal anaphor *leila*: reflected in Rapa Nui *ira* (§4.6.5.2). Moreover, it also occurs in Samoan (Pawley 1966: 45). X
17. Possessives starting in *nō/nā*: as I argue in Footnote 9 on p. 290, these probably date back to PEP; in Rapa Nui, they merged with Ø-possessives. X
18. *me* ‘and, plus’ (< PNP \**ma*): *me* indeed occurs in a range of CE languages but not in Rapa Nui; however, the original *ma/mā* continues in CE as well. *Mā* occurs in Rapa Nui, but probably as a Tahitian loan (see Footnote 9 on p. 148); this means that the shift *ma* > *me* is indeterminate between EP and CE. ??
19. *taua* ‘demonstrative’: reflected in Rapa Nui *tau* (see Footnote 53 on p. 194). X
20. *ānei* ‘interrogative’: occurs in Tahitian and Pa’umotu, but I have not found the supposed reflexes in Mangarevan and Hawaiian → PTa rather than PCE.<sup>16</sup> X
21. *vai* ‘who’ (< PPN \**ai*). According to Wilson (2012: 300), *vai* only occurred by PTa; Hawaiian *vai* could be under Tahitian influence. X
22. *vau* ‘1sg’ as variant of *au*. Only in Tahitian and Pa’umotu, and as a rare variant in Hawaiian. ??

<sup>16</sup> Alternatively, *ānei* may reflect an earlier stage than PEP, as suggested by *anii* ‘question marker’ in Takuu (see Moyle 2011: 23).

## 1 Introduction

### Syntax

23. Loss of ergative traces. However, Rapa Nui is fully accusative (§8.4.2), so ergative traces may have been lost by PEP. X

### Lexicon & semantics

24. 553 entries in Pollex are reconstructed for PCE. Notice, however, that given the fact that PCE is distinguished from PEP by a single language, a lexeme reconstructed for PCE is not necessarily a PCE innovation: it could also be a PEP lexeme that was lost in Rapa Nui, or for which there are no data for Rapa Nui (cf. Geraghty 2009: 445).<sup>17</sup> In fact, the Rapa Nui lexicon is known to show a high degree of innovation (Langdon & Tryon 1983: 45, Bergmann 1963: 36). ??
25. PPN *\*tafito* ‘base’ > PCE ‘ancient’ (cf. Rapa Nui *tahito* ‘base’; cf. PPN *\*tuai* ‘ancient’, also reflected in Rapa Nui). OK
26. PPN *\*kite* ‘to see’ > PCE ‘to know’ (cf. Rapa Nui *tike'a* ‘to see’; cf. old Rapa Nui *ma'a* ‘to know’, modern Rapa Nui *'ite* ‘to know’ < Tah.) OK

### Sporadic sound changes (Marck 2000: 41, 96–97)

27. For PEP *\*hugovai* > PCE *\*hugavai* ‘parent-in-law’, reflexes of the PEP form occur not only in Rapa Nui, but in Māori and Pa’umotu as well. X
28. PEP *\*kai* > PCE *\*koi* ‘sharp’, cf. Rapa Nui *ka'i*. OK
29. PEP *\*tafora'a* > PCE *tofora'a*, cf. Rapa Nui *ta'oraha* (an irregular reflex, but displaying the PEP vowel pattern). OK
30. Marck (2000) gives four more PCE sporadic sound changes; as none of the words in question occurs in Rapa Nui, these sound changes are indeterminate between EP and CE. X

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<sup>17</sup> In fact, for any language X in family A, there will be a number of proto-A reconstructions for which there is no reflex in language X. This means that a subfamily B can be set up consisting of all languages of family A except language X, however implausible such a subgrouping may be on other grounds. For example, out of 710 EP+CE reconstructions, only 67 are represented in Rapa. On the basis of lexical data alone, one could thus propose a subgroup – let’s call it North-Eastern Polynesian – consisting of EP minus Rapa, with no less than 643 reconstructions, while EP itself would be represented by only 67 reconstructions. ‘NEP’ would thus seem to be even more strongly motivated than CE. Even so, no one has ever proposed such a grouping. The small number of Rapa reflexes can be explained by a small vocabulary (i.e. widespread loss) and lack of data.

For both Rapa and Rapa Nui – and in fact for all EP languages – the total number of reflexes in EP and CE reconstructions is roughly in proportion to the total number of reflexes in Pollex as a whole.

A lexeme occurring in a branch of languages is likely to be an innovation of that branch if it can be shown to replace a lexeme with the same meaning occurring in a higher-order branch.



To summarise:

- EP is supported by four morphological changes (1, 2, 3, 4), two sporadic sound changes (9, 10), and a number of lexical innovations (8). In addition, one phonological and two morphological changes attributed to CE are actually EP innovations (12, 17, 19); the same may be true for one or two other morphological changes (16, 18), one syntactic change (23) and four sporadic sound changes (30).
- CE is supported by two semantic innovations (25, 26), two sporadic sound changes (28, 29) and possibly a third (30), and a number of lexical innovations (24). In addition, it may be characterised by one or two phonological changes (11, 13) and possibly up to three morphological changes (15, 18, 22).

We may conclude that both subgroups are reasonably well established, though on re-examination the evidence for CE is considerably weaker than has been suggested so far. This provides at least a partial solution to the challenge posed by newer theories of settlement, according to which eastern Polynesia was colonised late and rapidly (§1.1.2 above). In these scenarios, there is not much time for EP and CE to develop in isolation, so a small number of innovations for both groups is expected.

The evidence still suggests that there is a CE subgroup within EP. However, the small number of innovations and a possibly shorter chronology call into question the identity of PCE: was there ever a community speaking PCE? In other words, did all the CE innovations occur in a unified language, before subgroups (TA and MQ) and individual languages started to diverge? Or did these innovations spread over the PCE area through contact, possibly after the protolanguage had started to diverge into different dialects? Walworth (2012) proposes that innovations in Tahitic and Marquesic were not part of a unified protolanguage but spread by diffusion through different speech communities. The data above suggest that the same is true for PCE.

This also means that the first colonisers of Rapa Nui did not necessarily leave an EP homeland where PEP was spoken as a unified language. If Rapa Nui was settled from southeast Polynesia, as is the growing consensus (§1.1.2), it is conceivable that the language spoken in that area, at the time Rapa Nui split off, was already starting to differentiate from PEP towards a proto-Marquesic speech variety. This possibility is suggested by the fact that Rapa Nui shares considerably more lexemes with Marquesic than with Tahitic (Emory 1963: 94; Langdon & Tryon 1983: 42–44; Clark 1983b: 424). This scenario is not in contradiction with the standard theory (according to which Marquesic and Tahitic languages together form the CE branch): it is altogether likely that speech communities within Eastern Polynesia, especially those relatively close together such as the Societies, the Tuamotus, Marquesas and Mangareva, remained in close contact, which facilitated the diffusion of subsequent “CE” innovations. In other words, CE innovations did not necessarily predate the onset of differentiation between Tahitic and Marquesic.

## 1.3 The Rapa Nui language: typology and innovations

### 1.3.1 General typology

Rapa Nui is characterised by the following typological features, most of which are shared by the Polynesian languages in general:

- The phoneme inventory is small: ten consonants, five short vowels and five long vowels.
- Syllable structure is restricted to CV(:). Moreover, there are strict metrical constraints on phonological words.
- The basic constituent order is Verb – Subject – Object. Determiners and adpositions precede the noun; adjectives, possessives (except pronominal possessives) and relative clauses follow the noun.
- In the area of word classes, there is a basic distinction between full words and (pre- and postnuclear) particles. There is a great freedom of cross-categorial use of nouns and verbs, to the extent that the existence of lexical nouns and verbs has been denied in some analyses of Polynesian languages.
- Verbs are preceded by a preverbal marker. These markers form a multi-category paradigm, indicating either aspect, mood, subordination or negation.
- Rapa Nui is an isolating language, even to a greater degree than other Polynesian languages, because of the loss of the passive suffix. There is no agreement marking on verbs, nor number marking on nouns.
- In first person pronouns, there is a distinction between dual and plural, and between inclusive and exclusive. Unlike other Polynesian languages, Rapa Nui does not have a dual/plural distinction in second and third person pronouns.
- There are two semantic categories of possession. These are not structurally different, but marked by a distinction between *o* and *a* in the possessive preposition or pronoun.
- There is a general preference for nominal(ised) constructions (§3.2.5).

### 1.3.2 Innovations and losses in Rapa Nui

In the course of history, a number of developments took place in Rapa Nui which did not take place in PCE (though they may have taken place independently in daughter languages). In this section, only phonological and grammatical changes are listed; lexical changes are not included.

### 1.3 The Rapa Nui language: typology and innovations

1. Merger of \**f* and \**s* in all environments (§2.2.1). (This development also took place independently in a number of CE languages: Mangarevan, Hawaiian, Rapa, Rarotongan.)
2. Enforcement of strict metrical constraints, so that all word forms conform to a metrical scheme (§2.3.2).
3. A large number of sporadic phonological changes, such as metathesis and vowel shifts (§2.5.2).
4. Monophthongisation (sometimes with shortening) of a number of CVV particles (§2.5.2).
5. A copying strategy for prepositions around locationals (§3.6.2.2).
6. Extension of the second and third person dual pronouns to plurality (§4.2.1.1).
7. Loss of the neutral set of possessive pronouns *taku*, *tō*, *tana* (Wilson 2012, cf. §4.2.2.1.1).
8. Loss of possessive pronouns starting with *na-* and *no-*; their function was taken over by  $\emptyset$ -forms (see Footnote 9 on p. 290).
9. Development of definite numerals, formed by reduplication (§4.3.4).
10. Loss of the PPN numeral distributive prefix \**taki-* (see Footnote 16 on p. 152).
11. Possibly: merger of the numeral prefixes \**hoko-* and \**toko-* (see Footnote 17 on p. 154).
12. Development of certain sentential particles: deictic *'ī* and *'ai*, intensifier *rā*, dubitative *hō*, asseverative *'ō* (§4.5.4).
13. Loss of the demonstrative determiners \**teenei*, \**teena*, \**teera* (see Footnote 65 on p. 201; cf. Pawley 1966: 44).
14. Development of the prepositions *pē* 'like' (§4.7.9) and *pe* 'towards' (§4.7.6).
15. Development of the instrumental preposition *hai*, probably from the prefix *hai-* (§4.7.10).
16. Emergence of the collective marker *kuā/koā* (§5.2).
17. Restriction of prenominal possessives to pronouns; full noun phrases as possessives only occur after the noun (see Footnote 3 on p. 282).
18. Loss of the distinction between *o-* and *a-*possession in common nouns and plural pronouns (§6.3.2).

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19. Possibly a shift in marking of the Agent in nominalised constructions: possessive agents are *o*-marked, against *a*-marking in other Polynesian languages (see Footnote 20 on p. 304).
20. Development of the plural marker *ηā* from a determiner into a particle co-occurring with determiners (though there are traces of this development in other EP languages as well) (§5.5.1.1).
21. Loss of certain headless noun phrase constructions (§5.6). For example, headless relative clauses (including clefts) are excluded (§11.4.1, §9.2.6); attributive clauses need a predicate noun (§9.2.7).
22. Extension of the use of the postverbal continuity marker *'ana* to the noun phrase (§5.9).
23. Development of the nominal predicate marker *he* into an aspect marker (§7.2.3).
24. Obligatory occurrence of the continuity marker *'ana/'ā* after the perfect aspect marker *ku/ko* (§7.2.7).
25. Restriction of the postverbal anaphoric particle *ai* to the perfective aspectual *i*, with extension in use from an anaphoric marker to a general postverbal demonstrative (§7.6.5).
26. Development of the preverbal modifier *rava* 'usually, given to' (§7.3.1).
27. Reduction of the set of directionals to *mai* 'hither' and *atu* 'away' (§7.5). A third directional, *iho*, was reanalysed as an adverb (§4.5.3.1); others were lost.
28. Emergence of a serial verb construction with repetition of the preverbal marker (§7.7).
29. On the premise that PEP had accusative case marking: extension of the agentive marker *e* from passive to active clauses (§8.2–8.4).
30. Emergence of a nominal actor-emphatic construction, besides a perfective and an imperfective actor-emphatic (§8.6.3).
31. Restructuring of the negation system, with the development of *'ina* as neutral, *e ko* as imperfective and *kai* as perfective negator, while *ta'e* is relegated to constituent negation and *kore* to noun negation (§10.5).
32. Possibly: development of bare relative clauses, i.e. without preverbal marker (§11.4.5).
33. Development of the benefactive preposition *mo* into a preverbal purpose marker (§11.5.1; cf. Finney & Alexander 1998: 27).
34. Possibly: emergence of the preverbal irrealis marker *ana* (§11.5.2; NB preverbal *ana* is used in certain contexts in Māori as well).

In recent times, the following developments took place:

35. Disappearance of the preposition copying strategy around locationals (§3.6.2.2).
36. Replacement of numerals by Tahitian equivalents: numerals 1–7 in some contexts, those above 7 in all contexts (§4.3.1).
37. Restructuring of the quantifier system through borrowing and reanalysis of Tahitian (and, to a lesser extent, Spanish) quantifiers (§4.4.1, §4.4.11).
38. Development of demonstrative determiners *nei*, *nā* and *rā* (§4.6.4).
39. Extension in use of the collective marker *kuā/koā* (§5.2).
40. Increased use of the existential verb *ai* in existential and possessive clauses (§9.3.1, §9.3.3).
41. Extension of the use of agentive marker *e* (§8.3.5).
42. Incipient development of copula verbs (§9.6).
43. Emergence of exclamative constructions introduced with the prominence marker *ko* (§10.4.2).
44. Introduction of conjunctions 'e 'and' (§11.2.1) and 'o 'or' (§11.2.2), as well as 'ātā 'until' (§11.6.2.5), *ante* 'before' (§11.6.2.4), *pero* 'but' (§11.2.1).
45. Introduction of modal verbs from Spanish: *puē* 'can', *tiene que* 'must' (§11.3.6).

## 1.4 Sociolinguistic situation

Rapa Nui has undergone profound influence from two major sources: Tahitian and Spanish.

### 1.4.1 Influence from Tahitian

Tahitian started to exert its influence in the 1880s, when Rapa Nui speakers who had migrated to Tahiti in the 1870s started to remigrate (§1.1.3 above). After 1889, contacts between Rapa Nui and Tahiti were scarce (Fischer 2005: 141); they slowly resumed in the mid-20th century. To this day, a few hundred Rapa Nui live on Tahiti, and a weekly flight enables regular contact between the two islands.

The influence of Tahitian on modern Rapa Nui is striking. In my lexical database, which contains 5,833 lexical entries, 543 items are marked as (probably) of Tahitian origin, and another 89 as possibly Tahitian. Many of these can be distinguished phonologically, as the Tahitian and Rapa Nui consonant inventories are different, especially in the distribution of the glottal plosive (§2.2.1). Others can be recognised because of their semantics and/or recent introduction (see e.g. the discussion about *riro* 'to become'

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in §9.6.2). Tahitian vocabulary includes a number of very common words, such as *'ite* 'to know', *ha'amata* 'to begin', *'ī* 'full', *hāpī* 'to learn', *māuruuru* 'thank you' and the everyday greeting *'iorana*.

One reason why Tahitian elements are easily adopted into the language, is their 'vernacular feel'. Tahitian words match the Rapa Nui phoneme inventory and word-forming constraints, with a few exceptions (§2.5.3.2). As a result, Tahitian borrowings are not perceived as intrusions; unlike Spanish borrowings, they are not avoided in written language and formal styles.

On historical grounds it seems plausible to date the intrusion of Tahitian elements to the 1880s (cf. Fischer 2001a: 315), when Rapa Nui remigrated from Tahiti. This remigration happened at the time when the population was at an all-time low, a situation conducive to rapid language change. Moreover, in the same period Tahitian catechists came to Rapa Nui, as well as foremen and labourers for the sheep ranch (Di Castri 1999: 101). According to Métraux (1971: 32), by 1935 many Tahitian words had entered the language; already in 1912, Knoche (1912: 65) noticed that Tahitian had exercised "einen grossen Einfluss auf Sitten und Sprache der Insulaner" (a large influence on the customs and speech of the islanders).

However, when we look at Rapa Nui texts from the 1910s–1930s (§1.6.2), the scarcity of Tahitian influence is striking, in comparison to modern Rapa Nui. The Tahitian numerals (§4.3.1) are not used, except the occasional *va'u* 'eight' (though the original *varu* is much more common). The Tahitian quantifiers *ta'ato'a* and *paurō* 'all' (§4.4.2, §4.4.3) do not occur either. Certain Tahitian words are commonly used in older texts (*rava'a* 'to obtain', *'ī* 'full', *mana'u* 'think', *'a'amu* 'story'), but many words common nowadays occur rarely or not at all in older texts: *'ite* 'to know', *riro* 'to become', *'onotau* 'epoch', *ha'amata* 'to begin', *māere* 'to be surprised', *māhatu* 'heart', *māuruuru* 'to thank; thanks', *nehenehe* 'beautiful', *'e* 'and', *nu'u* 'people', and so on.<sup>18</sup>

This suggests that many Tahitian words common nowadays only came into use after the 1930s. The Tahitian influence noticed by Knoche and Métraux must have been less pervasive than it is today. An alternative explanation would be, that the language of the older texts is archaic and reflects a variety which was current before 1880, possibly through verbatim transmission of old legends; after all, many of these texts represent old traditions. This is not very likely, however: it would leave unexplained why certain Tahitian words are very common, while many others – equally common nowadays – do not occur at all. Neither would it explain why roughly the same picture emerges from all corpora of older texts (Egt, Ley, Mtx and MsE), including a long text which tells of post-1880 events (Ley-9-63, memories of catechist Nicolás Pakarati, recounted by his widow).<sup>19</sup> It is hard to conceive that scores of words borrowed 50 or 60 years previously would have been completely avoided in traditional stories, while others were freely used. Rather, the picture that emerges is one of two waves of Tahitian intrusions: one in the 1870s and 1880s, followed by a much bigger one after 1960, when intensive contacts between Rapa Nui and the outside world (including Tahiti) were established.

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<sup>18</sup> Of these words, only *'ite* is found in Englert's dictionary (first published in 1948). Notice, however, that Englert does not include words known to be of recent origin.

<sup>19</sup> Only for a few words do the corpora differ mutually: *'ati* 'problem' occurs in Mtx and Ley, but not in MsE.

### 1.4.2 Influence from Spanish

The Spanish influence on modern Rapa Nui is likewise massive. This influence is not noticeable in the older texts, even though Rapa Nui had been a Chilean territory for almost 50 years by the time these texts were collected. Spanish influence only started to make itself felt from the 1960s on, when Rapa Nui speakers acquired Chilean citizenship, began to participate actively in government and politics, acquired jobs for which proficiency in Spanish was a prerequisite, and increasingly took part in secondary and tertiary education. Spanish is also the language of the media, the predominant language of the Roman Catholic church, and the language of the many Chileans from the mainland who moved to the island (ultimately resulting in a high proportion of intermarriage). All of this led to a gradual incursion of Spanish elements into the language.

My lexical database contains 201 lexemes of Spanish origin, but this only represents words well entrenched in the language, often with adaptation to Rapa Nui phonology (§2.5.3.1). In everyday speech, the number of Spanish words is much higher. Most of these are not considered as part of the Rapa Nui lexicon but as foreign intrusions, i.e. as instances of code mixing.

Code mixing is extremely common in modern Rapa Nui speech, involving single words, phrases, sentences or longer stretches of speech; see Makihara (2001a,b; 2004; 2007; 2009) for examples and discussion. In most modern Rapa Nui texts in my corpus, the amount of code mixing is considerably lower than in Makihara's examples. This can be explained by the fact that a large part of my corpus consists of text types for which the use of Spanish is considered less acceptable: (a) traditional stories; (b) written texts; (c) edited spoken texts.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, traditional stories make less reference to modern institutions and artifacts, so there is less need for the use of Spanish elements.

Makihara (1998; 2009) signals a growing trend of purism, in which people attempt to speak Rapa Nui free of Spanish influence. This happens especially in political discourse, but is spreading to other domains.

The extent of Tahitian influence has led Fischer (1996c: 47) to characterise modern Rapa Nui as a "Rapanui-Tahitian hybrid", a product of "language intertwining" (Fischer 2008a: 151). However, while the lexicon of modern Rapa Nui is heavily influenced by Tahitian, the grammar has not been affected to the same degree, as the following chapters will make clear (cf. Makihara 2001b: 194). Even in areas where massive replacement by Tahitian terms has taken place, e.g. quantifiers (§4.4.11) and numerals (§4.3.1), these terms have been reinterpreted into a "native" Rapa Nui syntax.

The same is true for Spanish. Spanish has certainly influenced the grammar of Rapa Nui, but Spanish borrowings have been integrated into Rapa Nui grammar without transfer of their syntactic features. For example, the Spanish noun *kampō* 'countryside' (< *campo*) became a locational (§3.6.3.3); *kā* 'each' (< *cada*) became a quantifier compatible with plurality (§4.4.8.2). The modal verbs *puē* 'can' and *tiene que* 'must' were borrowed (§11.3.6), but the third person singular of these verbs is used with all persons and numbers,

<sup>20</sup> Another reason for the discrepancy may be that much of the corpus is slightly older (1977–1990) than Makihara's data (after 1990). However, relatively high amounts of code mixing are found in some of the oldest (informal) texts in the corpus.

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and they are used with Rapa Nui syntactic features like *mo*-complements. On the other hand, certain Spanish semantic and syntactic features have become common without borrowing of the lexical items: *kē* ‘several’ (§4.4.8.1), copular verbs (§9.6), the coordinating conjunction ‘*e*’ ‘and’ (§11.2.1), the construction *oho mo* ‘to be about to’ (§11.3.2.4), et cetera. These elements have affected Rapa Nui grammar to a certain degree, but the same cannot be said of the numerous Spanish words and phrases interspersed in everyday speech. The fact that Spanish intrusions are avoided in certain types of discourse, confirms that these are instances of code switching and belong to the domain of language use (*parole*), without having profound effect on the linguistic system (*langue*) of modern Rapa Nui (cf. Makihara 2001b: 193).

### 1.4.3 Language use and vitality

As indicated in §1.2.1 above, Rapa Nui does not have dialects. On the other hand, there is considerable idiolectal variation between the speech varieties of individual speakers and of different families, e.g. in the use of certain lexical items and the degree of Tahitianisation (cf. Fischer 2008a: 154).

While Rapa Nui grammar has retained its distinctive character and has not become a Rapa Nui-Tahitian and/or Rapa Nui-Spanish mix, the language is certainly endangered. The factors mentioned above which led to Spanish influence on the language (participation in Chilean civil life, education, jobs, immigration of mainland Chileans, intermarriage) also led to a gradual increase in the use of Spanish by Rapa Nui people. From the 1960s on, Rapa Nui people started to aspire to “being Chilean” (Fischer 2001a: 315), something for which proficiency in Spanish was essential. As a result, it became common for Rapa Nui people to use Spanish, initially in interaction with mainland Chileans, but then also between each other, both in public and at home. From the 1980s on, this meant that many children – even those from two Rapa Nui parents – learned Spanish as their first language. Weber & Weber (1990) found that the number of primary school children who were fully proficient in Rapa Nui (either as first language or by being bilingual) had decreased from 77% in 1977 to 25% in 1989. This can only partly be explained from an increased proportion of children from continental or mixed households. In 1997, a production/comprehension test among primary school children living on the island showed that only 49 out of 558 children (9%) were fully bilingual; an additional 80 (14%) had a reasonable level of comprehension and production in Rapa Nui (a score of 4 or higher on a scale of 0–7); 329 (59%) had virtually no proficiency at all (Weber & Weber 1998).

This trend did not go unnoticed. Various measures were taken to enhance the chances of survival of the language, many of these initiated or assisted by the *Programa Lengua Rapa Nui*. One of these was the institution of an immersion program in the local primary school, extending from kinder until year 4. This program has achieved a varying degree of success (Makihara 2009). Other initiatives include the publication of two series of textbooks (Weber, Weber & team 1990a,b) and other educational materials, the foundation of a language academy (*Academia de la lengua*) and an annual Language Day (*Día de la lengua*). At the same time, the use of Rapa Nui in public domains increased, e.g. in politics (Makihara 2001b: 204).



In 2011, a new survey was conducted using the same criteria for comprehension and production as in 1997 (Calderón Haoa et al. 2011). In this survey, the same persons included in the 1997 survey were interviewed again (as far as they could be traced), as well as young people in the age 5–19. The results were as follows: out of 1338 interviewees, 138 (10.3%) were fully bilingual; another 235 (17.6%) had a score of 4–7 in comprehension and production; 721 (53.9%) had virtually no proficiency. This means that proficiency in Rapa Nui had somewhat increased since 1997, despite the fact that the proportion of children from a non-Rapa Nui background was higher than in 1997.

Ultimately, the survival of Rapa Nui will depend on whether speakers succeed in passing the language on to the next generation.

#### 1.4.4 Orthography

Even though Rapa Nui has a small phoneme inventory (§2.2), in three areas an orthographical choice needs to be made between various alternatives: the velar nasal /ŋ/, the glottal plosive /ʔ/ and vowel length.

In old word lists and lexicons, such as Roussel (1908), neither the glottal plosive nor vowel length is marked. In later sources, if the glottal plosive is marked, it is usually written as an apostrophe, either straight (') or curled (‘ or ’); a few sources (Fuentes 1960; Salas 1973) use the IPA glottal or a similar symbol (ʔ ? ʔ).

Vowel length is represented in various ways: *aa* (Fuentes 1960; Salas 1973), *â* (Englert 1978, Conte Oliveros 1996), *á* (Du Feu 1996), or *ā* (Blixen 1972; Chapin 1978).

The velar nasal has been represented as *ng* (Métraux 1971 [1940]; Blixen 1972; Conte Oliveros 1996) or *g* (Roussel 1908; Chapin 1978). Engert was the first to use the *ŋ* symbol, a practice adopted by Fuentes (1960), Salas (1973) and Du Feu (1996).

In the *Programa Lengua Rapa Nui* (PLRN, see §1.6.2 below), the following choices were made:

- In the typewriter era, /ŋ/ was written as *g̃* (Weber & Weber 1985); later this was replaced by *ŋ* (Weber & Weber 2005).
- The glottal plosive is represented by a straight apostrophe '.<sup>21</sup> Though it is considered an alphabetic character (named *e'e*), it is not alphabetised separately but according to the following vowel (*a 'a a'a...*). Also, the glottal does not have a lowercase/capital distinction; if a glottal-initial word is capitalised, it is the vowel after the glottal which gets the capital: *'A'amu* 'story'.
- Vowel length is represented by a macron over the vowel.

These choices are presented and discussed by Weber & Weber (1985); Weber & Weber (2005).

<sup>21</sup> To prevent word processors from turning ' into curly brackets (‘ or ’), which take up more space and disrupt the visual unity of the word, a special font was used in the past containing a symbol '. More recently, the development of Unicode has obviated the need for a special font; the code point UA78C ('Latin small letter saltillo') is now available for a symbol ' which is not confused with an apostrophe by word processors.

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Another issue concerns word boundaries: should the causative marker *haka* be connected to the root (*hakaoho* ‘to cause to go’) or be treated as a separate word (*haka oho*)? The same question applies to nominalisers like *iŋa: vānaŋaiŋa* or *vānaŋa iŋa* ‘speaking’? In most Polynesian languages, these elements are connected to the root, but in the PLRN orthography of Rapa Nui, they are written as separate words.<sup>22</sup>

Other grammatical elements are written as separate words as well: determiners, the proper article *a*, prepositions, aspect markers, et cetera. The same is true for phrasal proper nouns, hence *Rapa Nui*, not *Rapanui*; *Haŋa Roa* (town); *Te Moko 'a Raŋi Roa* (protagonist of a legend). On the other hand, certain lexical compounds are written as a single word (§5.7.2; Weber & Weber 1985: 27).

One more choice which differs from the current practice in most Polynesian languages concerns the orthography of reduplications. In most languages, these are connected to the root; in Rapa Nui, they are separated from the root by a hyphen: *riva-riva* ‘good’, *tē-tere* ‘to run (Pl)’, *vānaŋa-naŋa* ‘to talk repeatedly’. This applies even to lexical reduplications, for which the base does not occur independently in Rapa Nui: *nao-nao* ‘mosquito’, *'ā-'anu* ‘to spit’ (§2.6.3).

Over the years, the PLRN orthography has gained acceptance among the Rapa Nui community, including teachers and members of the Rapa Nui Language Academy. It is increasingly seen in publications (e.g. Gleisner & Montt 2014). In this grammar the same orthography is used, with two exceptions:

- Reduplications are written as single words: instead of the PLRN orthography *riva-riva* ‘good’, this grammar has *rivariva*. Use of the hyphen would create confusion in interlinear glossing and violation of the Leipzig glossing rules,<sup>23</sup> as the reduplicant does not have a ‘glossable’ sense separate from the root.
- A few words separated in the PLRN orthography are a single word in this grammar, as they have a non-composite sense. These words start with the causative marker *haka*, followed by a root which does not occur in Rapa Nui or which has a totally unrelated meaning. This affects the following words: *haka'ou* ‘again’, *hakarono* ‘to listen’, *hakarē* and *hakarere* ‘to leave’, *hakame'eme'e* ‘to mock’ and *hakatiu* ‘to watch, wait’.

## 1.5 Previous work on the language

### 1.5.1 Lexicon

A good number of early visitors to the island gathered a short word list of the language. The first of these was compiled by Don Francisco Antonio de Agüera during the Span-

<sup>22</sup> This not only serves to avoid long words like *hakamāramama* ‘to cause to be intelligent’ but also prevents potential spacing conflicts: both *haka* and *iŋa* may be separated from the root by certain particles or adverbs (see (52) on p. 98; (100) on p. 342).

<sup>23</sup> See <http://grammar.ucsd.edu/courses/lign120/leipziggloss.pdf>. Lehmann (2004) notices that there is no satisfactory solution for hyphens that do not correspond to morpheme breaks, as in *vis-à-vis*.

ish expedition in 1770 (Ross 1937; Corney 1908), followed by the German botanist Johann Forster, part of Cook's expedition in 1774 (Schuhmacher 1977). Father Hippolyte Roussel, who stayed on the island in the late 1860s, compiled a dictionary which was published posthumously.<sup>24</sup> It contains almost 6,000 Spanish lemmas with a total of about 1,800 unique Rapa Nui words; unfortunately it is heavily contaminated by Mangarevan and Tahitian vocabulary (Fischer 1992) and therefore far from reliable. Other early vocabularies include Philippi (1873), Geiseler (1883) (see also Ayres & Ayres 1995), Thomson (1889), Spanish translation Thomson (1980), Cooke (1899) and the short dictionary by Martínez (1913). The extensive vocabulary in Churchill (1912) is based on Roussel's dictionary and some of the other vocabularies.

Father Sebastian Englert, who served on the island as parish priest from 1935 until his death in 1969, was the first person to study the language in depth. His dictionary (published in Englert 1948 and revised in Englert 1978) is an invaluable resource for the language as it was spoken in the first half of the 20th century. Another extensive dictionary is Fuentes (1960). Recent dictionaries include Fedorova (1988), Conte Oliveros (2000), Hernández Sallés et al. (2001) and Hotus Chavez (2008). Publications on specific lexical domains include Gunckel (1968) and Rauch, Ibañez & Ramirez (1996) on flora, Pinochet Carte (1980) on mollusks, Randall & Cea Egaña (1984) on fish, and Bierbach & Cain (1996) on religion.

Over the past years, a number of phrase books for the wider public have been published: Haoa Rapahango & Liller (1996), Hotus Tuki (2001) and Pauly & Atán (2008).

## 1.5.2 Grammar and sociolinguistics

The first grammar of Rapa Nui was written by Father Sebastian Englert (included in Englert 1948, revised version 1978). It is relatively short but remarkably accurate. Other grammar sketches and concise grammars include Fuentes (1960), Chapin (1978), Munro (1978), Fedorova (1988) (Russian), Conte Oliveros (1996) and Rubino (1998). The latter is a reordering of material from Du Feu (1996).

The most extensive grammar is Du Feu (1996), published in the *Descriptive Grammars* series.<sup>25</sup>

Several theses, articles and unpublished papers have been written on specific aspects of the language.

The phonology of Rapa Nui is described in Du Feu (1985), Guerra Eissmann et al. (1993), Salas (1973) and Weber & Weber (1982). An important landmark in Rapa Nui linguistics was the discovery that Rapa Nui preserves the PPN glottal plosive, a phoneme which has disappeared in all other EP languages. The glottal plosive was largely ignored in early

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<sup>24</sup> The French original was published in Roussel (1908), a Spanish translation in Roussel (1917); the latter was republished in Foerster (2013), with a critical introduction by Bob Weber.

<sup>25</sup> This grammar suffers from some serious flaws, as pointed out in reviews by Mosel (1997) and Weber & Weber (1999). It follows the *Descriptive Grammars* questionnaire closely rather than presenting material in categories relevant to the language. Moreover, the analysis presented is often unclear, incomplete or incorrect. Some of the examples adduced are unnatural or even incorrect, while the glosses are often inadequate.

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descriptions, though Englert's dictionary registers it in many words. Its phonemic status was brought to light by Ward (1961; 1964) and Blixen (1972).

The noun phrase is described in Du Feu (1987) in broad outline. Another paper on the noun phrase is Gordon (1977).

The verb phrase is discussed by Weber (1988b) (Spanish version Weber 2003b), who offers a thorough analysis of aspect marking. Papers by Fuller (1980) and Wittenstein (1978) deal with the directional markers *mai* and *atu*. Chapin (1974) analyses the use of the postverbal particle *ai*, which is difficult to define in Rapa Nui.

Grammatical relations in Rapa Nui have been the subject of several studies, especially Agent marking. The supposedly ergative traits of the case system have drawn the attention of several linguists<sup>26</sup> (Alexander 1981a,b; 1982; Finney & Alexander 1998; Finney 2000; 2001). Weber (1988b) (Spanish version Weber 2003b) argues against an ergative analysis.

Other grammatical topics include the following: modality (Du Feu 1994); interrogatives (Du Feu 1995); possession (Mulloy & Rapu 1977); reduplication (Johnston 1978), nominalisation (McAdams 1980), relative clauses (Silva-Corvalán 1978), sentence structure (Smith 1980), and negation (Stenson 1981).

Sociolinguistic aspects (language use and vitality) are discussed by Weber & Weber (1984); Weber & Weber (1990; 1998), Gómez Macker (1977; 1979) and Haoa Cardinali (2012). Makihara (1998; 1999; 2001a,b; 2004; 2007; 2009) has studied the use of Rapa Nui and Spanish in spoken language. Other studies on the influence of Spanish on modern Rapa Nui are included in Stolz, Bakker & Salas Palomo (2008).

## 1.6 About this grammar

### 1.6.1 A corpus-based study

This grammar is based on the analysis of a large corpus of Rapa Nui texts, in addition to observations and discussion/elicitation sessions during the time when I lived on Easter Island (November 2007 – December 2010). In addition to grammatical research, I developed a comprehensive lexical database (hitherto unpublished) based on all available lexical sources and text materials (2008–2010), and carried out an exegetical check of the Rapa Nui translation of the New Testament (2005–2013). The lexical database has served as an additional resource for this grammar, providing data for example in the area of the relation between nouns and verbs (Chapter 3).

A corpus-based approach has several advantages (cf. McEnery & Wilson 1996: 12): it is based on actual, natural data, which are not biased by the linguist's interest; a large corpus includes data from a wide range of speakers; it enables discourse analysis; the data are verifiable; and finally, a large corpus allows statistical analysis. Moreover, the corpus used for this grammar allows diachronic analysis (see below). Two possible disadvantages of corpus-based research are, that less common phenomena are harder to analyse, as they

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<sup>26</sup> According to Mosel (1997: 182), "The most striking feature of Rapanui is that it shows traces of ergativity and hence similarities with West Polynesian languages."

are rare in texts (Chapin 1978), and that the corpus only shows what is possible, not what is impossible (Biggs 1974: 412). These problems were overcome to a certain degree (a) by using a large corpus (over 500,000 words), and (b) by supplementing corpus analysis with personal observations and elicitation/discussion sessions with a speaker of the language. The corpus is described in §1.6.2 below.

All texts in the corpus were digitised and converted to the accepted Rapa Nui orthography (§1.4.4), with consistent marking of glottal plosives and vowel length. The corpus has been formatted as a Toolbox database, which is linked to the lexical database mentioned above.

The analysis in the following chapters is based on the corpus as a whole. For certain topics (especially aspect marking and clause structure & case marking), a subcorpus of 29 texts was analysed in more detail (c. 58,000 words; see Footnote 3 on p. 314, Footnote 2 on p. 376).

This grammar also has a comparative component: for many grammatical elements and constructions, the historical derivation and occurrence in related languages is discussed, mostly in footnotes. Comparative data are mainly taken from languages for which a thorough description is available. Data from Eastern Polynesian languages (Tahitian, Māori, Hawaiian, etc.) are of primary importance; sometimes, reference is made to non-EP languages (Samoan, Tongan, Tuvaluan, etc.).

Finally, this grammar has a diachronic dimension. The corpus includes texts from the past 90 or 100 years, a period during which the language has changed considerably; this offers a certain historical perspective which has been taken into account in the analysis.

This grammar is written within the tradition of “basic linguistic theory”, the approach which has become common in descriptive linguistics and which eclectically employs concepts from both traditional linguistics and various theoretical frameworks (Dryer 2001; 2006; Dixon 2010a,b; 2012).

## 1.6.2 The corpus

The corpus used as data for this grammar contains two subcorpora: older texts (c. 1910–1940, 124,500 words) and newer texts (c. 1977–2010, 399,000 words). In addition, there is a small collection of texts from the early 1970s (14,500 words). This section gives a description of the different parts of the corpus. The texts in the corpus are referenced with three-letter abbreviations in this grammar; a full listing is given in Appendix B. In this grammar, the term *older Rapa Nui* is used for features only found in pre-1940 texts; features only occurring after 1970 are labelled *modern Rapa Nui*. These labels are used for convenience, without implying that the pre-1940 texts reflect the pre-contact language sometimes referred to “Old Rapa Nui”.

The corpus contains a wide variety of texts. Narrative texts – both spoken and written – are the largest category. Other genres include speeches, conversations, radio interviews, poetry, newspaper articles, procedural texts (e.g. descriptions of traditional customs and techniques) and expository texts (e.g. episodes of the history of the island). The sources are as follows:

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1. In the first decades of the 20th century, a number of Rapa Nui men wrote down a cycle of traditions in what came to be known as Manuscript E (MsE).<sup>27</sup> The manuscript was published and translated by Thomas Barthel (Barthel 1978) and recently republished in Rapa Nui with a Spanish translation (Frontier 2008).
2. In the 1930s, a large number of legends and other stories was collected by Father Sebastian Englert. Many of these were included in Englert (1939a,b,c); the full compilation was published posthumously with Spanish translation in Englert (1980) and with English translation in Englert (2001).<sup>28</sup> A few other texts were included in Englert (1948).
3. The Swiss ethnologist Alfred Métraux, who visited the island in 1934–1935, included a large number of stories in his ethnography (Métraux 1971): some in Rapa Nui with translation, others in translation only. For the latter, the original text was preserved in his notebooks (Métraux 1935), which I transcribed and added to the corpus.<sup>29</sup>
4. In the 1970s, Rapa Nui texts were published by Fritz Felbermayer (Felbermayer 1971; 1973; 1978) and Olaf Blixen (Blixen 1973; 1974).
5. In 1977, SIL linguists Robert and Nancy Weber started the *Programa Lengua Rapa Nui* (PLRN), a collaboration between the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and SIL International, which aimed at language preservation, education and documentation. They started collecting texts, recording and transcribing stories by notable storytellers, commissioning written texts, transcribing radio emissions, et cetera. Many new texts were written and published during two writers' workshops in 1984 and 1985; the texts from the first workshop were republished in Paté Tuki et al. (1986). Other texts were added to the corpus during the preparation of a series of school books (Weber, Weber & team 1990a,b). Over time, many more texts were added, for example texts by Rapa Nui authors for which the Webers acted as linguistic consultants, such as Cuadros Hucce (2008) and Pakarati Tuki (2010). Details about the texts are listed in Appendix B.

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<sup>27</sup> MsE is one of six manuscripts (labeled A–F) discovered during the Norwegian archeological expedition in 1955; see Barthel (1965), Horley & Labbé (2014). MsE is by far the most extensive of the six; the others mainly contain lists and fragmentary material. Barthel (1978: 298) considers MsE as a copy of an original written before 1914. Recently, a set of photographs of a hitherto unpublished manuscript were discovered; the ms. was written in the same hand as MsE and is now labelled Manuscript H (Horley & Labbé 2014; 2015).

<sup>28</sup> Despite the late date of publishing, most – possibly all – of these texts were collected in the 1930s. Many were published (sometimes with minor variations) in Englert (1939a,b,c); all of these were written in 1936. Of the stories not included in these publications, the majority were transmitted by the same narrators mentioned in Englert (1939a,b,c): Mateo Veriveri, Juan Tepano and Arturo Teao. Other stories were told by the wife and sons of the catechist Nicolás Ure Potahi (1851–1927).

Many of the texts in Englert (1939b) are not included in Englert (1980); these are not included in the corpus, as I only discovered this publication in November 2015.

<sup>29</sup> According to Fischer (2008b; 2009), the original notebooks were lost, though a photocopy was preserved; Davletshin (p.c. 2016) pointed out to me that the originals still exist, and are in the Thomas Barthel Nachlass in Tübingen.

6. Finally, the largest single text in Rapa Nui is the translation of the New Testament, as well as portions of the Old Testament. This translation (as yet unpublished) was made by a number of Rapa Nui speakers, with exegetical and linguistic advice from Robert & Nancy Weber. In 2006–2012, the New Testament was meticulously checked for naturalness by a team of Rapa Nui speakers. In this grammar, the Bible translation is used as a secondary resource, especially to illustrate phenomena for which few or no clear examples are available otherwise.

Not included in the corpus are a number of other Rapa Nui texts:

- The oldest surviving Rapa Nui text is the catechism translated by Father Hippolyte Roussel in 1868 (Roussel 1995). Roussel, who had worked in the Tuamotus and on Mangareva, used a language heavily influenced by the language varieties spoken in those islands.
- Songs, chants and recitations have been handed down from the past (see e.g. Campbell 1970; Barthel 1960); these are often syntactically fragmentary and difficult to interpret. See Fischer (1994) for an interpretation of an old chant.
- A distinctive corpus is formed by the *kōhau rongorongo*, a number of wooden tablets inscribed by a script unique to Rapa Nui. Several attempts at interpretation have been made (Barthel 1958; Fischer 1997), but the script has not been definitively deciphered so far (Davletshin 2012).<sup>30</sup>
- Gleisner & Montt (2014) include a number of stories and descriptive texts (c. 36,000 words); this corpus came to my attention when this grammar was nearly finished. Another recent collection is Tepano Kaituoe (2015), a bilingual edition of 75 notebooks of Rapa Nui text by Uka Tepano Kaituoe (1929–2014).

### 1.6.3 Organisation of this grammar

This grammar is organised as follows.

Chapter 2 deals with the phonology of Rapa Nui. The following topics are discussed in turn: phonemes (with special attention to the glottal plosive), syllable and word structure, stress, intonation, phonological processes, and reduplication.

Chapter 3 deals with nouns and verbs. In many analyses of Polynesian language, the existence of lexical nouns and verbs is denied; rather, the two categories are defined syntactically (“a noun is any word preceded by a determiner”). Arguments are given to show that this approach obscures various differences between nouns and verbs, and that the distinction between both should be maintained. A classification of nouns is proposed, as well as a classification of verbs. Adjectives (a subclass of verbs) and locatives (a subclass of nouns) are discussed.

<sup>30</sup> Several scholars have suggested that *rongorongo* was developed after the Rapa Nui witnessed writing in 1770, when Spanish explorers drew up a deed of cession in which the island was handed over to the Spanish crown (Emory 1972; Fischer 1996b; 1997).

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Other word classes are discussed in Chapter 4: pronouns, numerals, quantifiers, adverbs, demonstratives and prepositions. Not treated in this chapter are words exclusively occurring as particles in the noun and/or verb phrase, such as determiners and aspect markers.

The noun phrase potentially contains a large number of elements; these are discussed in Chapter 5. Two determiners are discussed extensively: the article *te* (which marks referentiality, not definiteness or specificity) and the predicate marker *he*. Possessive relationships are also discussed in this chapter; possessives can be marked with *o* or *a*, depending on the relationship between possessor and possessee. Another area discussed here is compounding, and the difference between compounding and modification.

Chapter 6 deals with possessive constructions. Possessors occur as modifiers in the noun phrase, as predicates of nominal clauses, and in various other constructions. A common feature in Polynesian is the distinction between *o*- and *a*-marked possessors; this is discussed in detail.

Chapter 7 discusses the verb phrase. A major topic is the use of aspect markers, a set of five preverbal particles. Other common verb phrase particles include directionals and postverbal demonstratives. Finally, a section is devoted to serial verbs, a construction not found in other Polynesian languages.

Some Polynesian languages are accusative, others are (partly) ergative; at first sight, Rapa Nui does not seem to fit either pattern. In Chapter 8 on the verbal clause, I show that Rapa Nui is accusative, and that case marking of Agent and Patient is governed by an interplay of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors. A passive construction is shown to exist, even though it is less obvious than in related languages. Other topics in this chapter include non-canonical case marking, constituent order, comitative constructions and causatives.

Nonverbal clauses are common in Rapa Nui; these are discussed in Chapter 9. Two major types are classifying and identifying clauses, respectively. Existential clauses can be verbal or non-verbal. The chapter closes with an unusual feature in Rapa Nui (compared to other Polynesian languages): the emergence of copula verbs in classifying clauses.

Chapter 10 deals with mood (imperatives, interrogatives, exclamatives) and negation.

Constructions involving multiple clauses are discussed in Chapter 11: coordination, relative clauses, clausal complements and adverbial clauses.

Appendix A provides illustrative interlinear texts. Appendix B lists the texts in the corpus used as data for this grammar.

This grammar does not contain a separate section on discourse issues. Discourse-based analysis has been applied to a number of phenomena in different sections of the grammar instead: pre- and postnominal demonstratives (§4.6), aspect marking (§7.2), directional particles (§7.5), subject and object marking (§8.3–8.4), non-canonical subject marking and non-standard constituent orders (§8.6).



# 2 Phonology

## 2.1 Introduction

As this grammar is primarily based on corpus research, it does not include a complete phonology; rather, what follows is a relatively brief phonological sketch. The following topics are discussed:

- the phoneme inventory (§2.2);
- phonotactics: syllable structure (§2.3.1), word structure (§2.3.2) and cooccurrence restrictions (§2.3.3);
- suprasegmentals: word and phrase stress (§2.4.1) and intonation (§2.4.2);
- phonological processes: regular phonological processes (§2.5.1), lexicalised sound changes and alternations (§2.5.2) and the phonological treatment of borrowings (§2.5.3).

Rapa Nui is one of the few Polynesian languages in which the glottal plosive is a contrastive phoneme; it is discussed in detail in §2.2.4–2.2.5. The discussion will show that while the glottal plosive is clearly contrastive in lexical words, in prenuclear particles the situation is different.

Phonological processes such as metathesis and vowel shifts have profoundly affected the lexicon of Rapa Nui, perhaps more so than in other Polynesian languages. These processes are described and illustrated in §2.5.2.

Finally, §2.6 deals with reduplication. Rapa Nui has two types of reduplication; first the form, then the function of each type is discussed.

The research for this grammar does not include formal acoustic analysis (though for certain topics a speech corpus was used). This means that the pronunciation of phonemes is only indicated in general terms (§2.2.1–2.2.2). Likewise, the treatment of intonation is limited to general statements. A full analysis of the phonetics of Rapa Nui has never been carried out so far.

## 2.2 Phonemes

The phoneme inventory of Rapa Nui consists of 10 consonants and 10 vowels (5 short and 5 long).

## 2 Phonology

### 2.2.1 Consonants

**Inventory** The consonant inventory of Rapa Nui is given in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Consonant inventory

	bilabial	labiodental	alveolar	velar	glottal
voiceless plosive	p		t	k	ʔ
nasal	m		n	ŋ	
voiceless fricative		(f)	(s)		h
voiced fricative		v			
flap			r		

/p/ is a voiceless unaspirated bilabial plosive.

/t/ is a voiceless unaspirated alveolar plosive.

/k/ is a voiceless unaspirated velar plosive. Before front vowels /e/ and /i/ it is somewhat fronted towards the palatal position.

/ʔ/ is an unaspirated glottal plosive. It is sometimes realised as creaky voice on the surrounding vowels. It is not unusual for the glottal plosive to be elided; this happens especially in rapid speech and/or between identical vowels (e.g. *to'o* 'take', *nu'u* 'people'). Elision of the glottal plosive is more common with certain speakers than with others.

/m/ is a voiced bilabial nasal.

/n/ is a voiced alveolar nasal.

/ŋ/ is a voiced velar nasal.

/h/ is a voiceless glottal fricative. Between vowels, it may become voiced in rapid speech.

/v/ is a voiced labiodental fricative. In rapid speech it may become a labiodental approximant [ʋ].<sup>1</sup>

/r/ is a voiced alveolar flap [ɾ], not a trill [r].

The remaining two consonants only occur in loanwords:

/f/ is a voiceless labiodental fricative.

/s/ is a voiceless alveolar fricative.

Even in loanwords, /f/ and /s/ are often changed to native phonemes (§2.5.1 below).

In this grammar, all phonemes are written in accordance with standard Rapa Nui orthography (§1.4.4), i.e. /ʔ/ is written as ' , /ŋ/ as *η*.

**Contrastive sets** All consonants are contrastive both word-initially and between vowels. The following minimal sets show contrastivity for groups of similar consonants.

<sup>1</sup> Guerra Eissmann et al. (1993: 14) notice that a few of their consultants tend to pronounce it as a bilabial fricative. However, Fischer (2001a: 317–318), quoting – among others – Weber & Weber (1982), confirms that despite pervasive Spanish influence on the language, /v/ is still a labiodental.

Bilabials and labiodental: *p, m, v*

- |                             |                       |                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) <i>pā</i> 'to encircle' | <i>mā</i> 'plus'      | <i>vā</i> 'to resonate' |
| <i>'apa</i> 'part'          | <i>'ama</i> 'to burn' | <i>'ava</i> 'liquor'    |

Alveolars: *t, n, r*

- |                               |                            |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (2) <i>tō</i> 'to rise (sun)' | <i>nō</i> 'just'           | <i>rō</i> 'EMPH'           |
| <i>pota</i> 'leaf vegetable'  | <i>pona</i> 'to tie a net' | <i>pora</i> 'reed floater' |

Velars and glottals: *k, ŋ, ', h*

- |                          |                       |                             |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (3) <i>kau</i> 'to swim' | <i>ŋau</i> 'to bite'  | <i>'au</i> 'smoke'          | <i>hau</i> 'cord'   |
| <i>haka</i> 'CAUS'       | <i>haŋa</i> 'to want' | <i>ha'a</i> 'cooked leaves' | <i>haha</i> 'mouth' |

Glottal versus Ø

- |                           |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| (4) <i>ono</i> 'six'      | <i>'ono</i> 'rich'        |                       |
| <i>uru</i> 'enter'        | <i>'uru</i> 'breadfruit'  |                       |
| <i>moa</i> 'chicken'      | <i>mo'a</i> 'to respect'  |                       |
| <i>hau</i> 'cord'         | <i>ha'u</i> 'hat'         |                       |
| <i>ui</i> 'generation'    | <i>'ui</i> 'to ask'       | <i>u'i</i> 'to watch' |
| <i>ao</i> 'to serve food' | <i>'ao</i> 'dance paddle' | <i>a'o</i> 'speech'   |

These examples show that the glottal plosive is contrastive word-initially; however, this does not mean that it is contrastive phrase-initially (§2.2.5).

Plosives: *p, t, k, '*

- |                             |                       |                       |                    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| (5) <i>pā</i> 'to encircle' | <i>tā</i> 'to tattoo' | <i>kā</i> 'to kindle' | <i>'ā</i> 'CONT'   |
| <i>tapa</i> 'side'          | <i>tata</i> 'to wash' | <i>taka</i> 'round'   | <i>ta'a</i> 'your' |

Nasals: *m, n, ŋ*

- |                           |                       |                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (6) <i>mao</i> 'fine, OK' | <i>nao</i> 'temple'   | <i>ŋao</i> 'neck'      |
| <i>tumu</i> 'tree'        | <i>tunu</i> 'to cook' | <i>tuŋu</i> 'to cough' |
| <i>mama</i> 'limpet'      | <i>mana</i> 'power'   | <i>maŋa</i> 'branch'   |

Fricatives: *v, h*

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (7) <i>vī</i> 'stubborn' | <i>hī</i> 'to fish'               |
| <i>ava</i> 'ditch'       | <i>aha</i> 'what'                 |
| <i>heve</i> 'perchance'  | <i>hehe</i> 'cooked sweet potato' |

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*v* versus *u* (notice that the segmental difference in these pairs also implies a difference in syllable structure: *'a.va.hi* versus *'a.u.a.hi*, see §2.3.1)

- (8) *'avahi* 'to split'            *'auahi* 'chimney'  
*rava* 'sufficient'            *rāua* 'they'  
*vaka* 'boat'                    *'uaka* 'rod'

*h* versus  $\emptyset$

- (9) *ai* 'exist'                    *hai* 'INS'                    *ahi* 'fire'  
*vai* 'water'                    *vahi* 'to separate'  
*tui* 'string'                    *tuhi* 'to point out'

$\eta$  is relatively rare word-initially. Only about 1/6 of its token occurrences in the text corpus are word-initial, and 2/3 of these concern the plural marker  $\eta\bar{a}$ . (Likewise, of all occurrences of  $\eta$  in the lexicon, less than 1/6 is word-initial.)

**Derivation** The consonant correspondences between Rapa Nui and its ancestors (Proto-Polynesian, Proto-Nuclear Polynesian and Proto-Eastern Polynesian)<sup>2</sup> are given in Table 2.2 (data from Marck 2000: 23–24). The consonants of Proto-Central-Eastern Polynesian and Tahitian are also included, not only because Central-Eastern languages are Rapa Nui's closest relatives (§1.2.1), but also because Rapa Nui borrowed extensively from Tahitian (§1.4.1; §2.5.3.2).

Table 2.2: Derivation of consonant phonemes

PPN	*p	*t	*k	*m	*n	* $\eta$	*ʔ	*f	*s	*h	*w	*l	*r
PNP	*p	*t	*k	*m	*n	* $\eta$	*ʔ	*f	*s	$\emptyset$ /*h	*w	*l	*l
PEP	*p	*t	*k	*m	*n	* $\eta$	*ʔ	*f	*s <sup>3</sup>	$\emptyset$ /*h	*w	*r	*r
Rapa Nui	p	t	k	m	n	$\eta$	ʔ	h	h	$\emptyset$	v	r	r
PCE	*p	*t	*k	*m	*n	* $\eta$	$\emptyset$ /(ʔ)	*f	*s	$\emptyset$ /*h	*w	*r	*r
Tahitian	p	t	ʔ	m	n	ʔ	$\emptyset$	f/h	h	$\emptyset$	v	r	r

As Table 2.2 shows, the PPN glottal plosive was retained in Rapa Nui but lost in PCE (though it is sporadically retained in some words in CE languages, see Wilson 2012: 335). This means that Rapa Nui is the only EP language where it was preserved. The phonemic status of the glottal is discussed in more detail in §2.2.4 below.

<sup>2</sup> See the Polynesian language tree in Figure 1.1 on p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> PPN \*s was still present in PEP and PCE, but Penrhyn is the only EP language to retain it; in all others, \*s became *h*, as in Rapa Nui.

PEP *\*f* and *\*s* became *h* in all environments in Rapa Nui. In fact, *\*f* merged with *\*s* in all EP languages, either in some or in all environments.<sup>4</sup> One change which occurs in all CE languages but not in Rapa Nui, is *\*faf-* > *\*vah-*: PPN/PEP *\*fafa* ‘mouth’ > PCE *\*vafa*, but Rapa Nui *haha*; PNP/PEP *\*fafie* ‘firewood’ > PCE *\*vafie*, but Rapa Nui *hahie* (§1.2.2 no. 13).

PPN *\*h* is lost in most languages. In some NP languages (including some EP languages), PPN *\*h* is reflected as *s* or *h* in a few words (Marck 2000; Rutter 2001 argues that some of these actually reflect PPN *\*s* rather than *\*h*). In Rapa Nui, it is reflected as a glottal plosive in a few words (for examples see §2.5.2, cf. Davletshin 2015).

### 2.2.2 Vowels

The vowel inventory of Rapa Nui is given in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Vowel inventory

	front unrounded		central unrounded		back rounded	
	short	long	short	long	short	long
high	i	i:			u	u:
mid	e	e:			o	o:
low			a	a:		

In this grammar, vowel length is represented by a macron over the vowel, in accordance with standard Rapa Nui orthography.

The vowel system was inherited without change from PPN. All vowels are contrastive in word-initial, -medial and -final position. Table 2.4 gives minimal sets of two or more contrastive short vowels.

Vowel length is contrastive. Some examples of monosyllabic minimal pairs:

- (10) *ki* /ki/ ‘to’                      *kī* /ki:/ ‘to say’  
*ka* /ka/ ‘IMP’                      *kā* /ka:/ ‘to kindle’  
*'o* /ʔo/ ‘lest’                      *'ō* /ʔo:/ ‘really’  
*'i* /ʔi/ ‘at’                      *'ī* /ʔi:/ ‘full’

Notice that in all these pairs the short-vowel word is a prenuclear particle, while the long-vowel word is a lexical word or postnuclear particle. As a result, the two words will never occur in an identical context.

For bisyllabic words, most minimal pairs concern final vowels; in these cases, the length distinction also implies a difference in stress (§2.4.1): *ha'i* /haʔi/ ‘to embrace’ versus *ha'ī* /haʔi:/ ‘to wrap up’. Other examples include:

<sup>4</sup> In Hawaiian and Rapa Nui, *\*f* > *h* in all environments; in Mangarevan, Rapa and Rarotongan, *\*f* > ' in all environments; in Tahitian and Māori, *\*f* > *h* medially and before round vowels, though not without exceptions (see Harlow 1998).

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Table 2.4: Vowel contrasts

<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>
<i>a</i> 'towards'	<i>e</i> 'IPFV'	<i>i</i> 'at'	<i>o</i> 'POSS'	
<i>haka</i> 'CAUS'	<i>heka</i> 'soft'	<i>hika</i> 'make fire by friction'	<i>hono</i> 'patch'	<i>huka</i> 'stubborn'
<i>hara</i> 'sin'	<i>hare</i> 'house'	<i>hahari</i> 'to comb'	<i>haro</i> 'to pull'	<i>haru</i> 'to grab'
		<i>heruri</i> 'distressed'		<i>heruru</i> 'noise'
	<i>ho'e</i> 'one'	<i>ho'i</i> 'in fact'	<i>ho'o</i> 'buy/sell'	
<i>karāŋa</i> 'shouting'	<i>kareŋa</i> 'property'		<i>karōŋa</i> 'eyelids'	
<i>haha'u</i> 'to tie'				<i>hahu'u</i> 'fish sp.'
		<i>māhina</i> 'moon'		<i>māhuna</i> 'pimple'

- (11) *mata* /'mata/ 'eye'      *matā* /ma'ta:/ 'obsidian'  
*pua* /'pua/ 'flower'      *puā* /pu'a:/ 'to touch'  
*ruru* /'ruru/ 'bundle'      *rurū* /ru:ru:/ 'to tremble'  
*huhu* /'huhu/ 'to strip'      *huhū* /hu'hu:/ 'to move, sway in the wind'

There are a few pairs of words which only differ in vowel length in the antepenultimate (hence unstressed) syllable; these words are distinguished by vowel length only.

- (12) *momore* /mo'more/ 'harvest'      *mōmore* /mo:'more/ 'cut'  
*rurū* /ru:ru:/ 'tremble'      *rūrū* /ru:ru:/ 'to shake something'  
*vavā* /va'va:/ 'to resonate'      *vāvā* /va:va:/ 'to insult'  
(redup. of *vā*)      (< Tah. *vāvā*)

### 2.2.3 Phoneme frequencies

In the text corpus, totalling over 1.6 million segments, the token frequency of each segment is as given in Table 2.5.<sup>5</sup>

Table 2.5: Phoneme frequencies

consonants		vowels	
<i>h</i>	6.0%	<i>a</i>	17.9%
<i>k</i>	5.6%	<i>ā</i>	2.1%
<i>m</i>	3.5%	<i>e</i>	11.3%
<i>n</i>	3.2%	<i>ē</i>	0.5%
<i>ŋ</i>	1.6%	<i>i</i>	9.4%
<i>p</i>	2.0%	<i>ī</i>	0.5%
<i>r</i>	5.7%	<i>o</i>	8.2%
<i>t</i>	8.2%	<i>ō</i>	1.0%
<i>v</i>	1.0%	<i>u</i>	5.6%
'	6.2%	<i>ū</i>	0.5%

56.9% of all segments are vowels (52.3% short, 4.6% long), 43.1% are consonants.

The most common phonemes, in descending order of frequency, are *a e i t o ' h*. If corresponding short and long vowels are considered as instances of the same vowel (i.e. figures for *a* and *ā* are added up), the order is *a e i o t ' u h*. The least common phonemes, in ascending order of frequency, are *ū ē ī ō v ŋ*.

### 2.2.4 The glottal plosive

As indicated above, Rapa Nui is the only Eastern Polynesian language which preserved the PPN glottal plosive. The glottal was lost various times in the history of Polynesian; apart from Rapa Nui, it was preserved only in Tongan, Rennell-Bellona, East Uvean and East Futunan. Within Eastern Polynesian, the presence of the PPN glottal is one of the features distinguishing Rapa Nui from the Central-Eastern languages.

The glottal plosive was not recorded in early lexical sources: neither in word lists by Philippi (1873), Geiseler (1883), Thomson (1889), Cooke (1899), nor in the lexica by Roussel (1908; 1917), Churchill (1912) and Martínez (1913). Métraux, who stayed on the island in 1934–1935, explicitly mentions that “so far as I can trust my ear there is no trace of the glottal stop on Easter Island” (Métraux 1971: 32).

<sup>5</sup> Counts are based on written data, so elision (e.g. of the glottal plosive) is not taken into account. The corpus also contains 10,600 non-Rapa Nui characters, such as *s* and *l* (both around 2000 times), which occur in borrowings and proper names. These do not affect the overall percentages.

Alternatively, phoneme frequencies could be based on a list of lexemes. However, as the PLRN lexical database collates data from all lexical sources, contains a relatively high proportion of words occurring in one or two older sources (especially Roussel 1908) which were never part of the language.

Englert, who lived on the island from 1935 until 1968, did notice the significance of the glottal plosive: he lists minimal pairs, where the presence or absence of the “hiato” changes the meaning of the word (Englert 1978: 16). All of the glottals he noticed occur word-medially between non-identical vowels (e.g. *va'e* ‘foot’ versus *vae* ‘choose’).

The first linguist to fully recognise the glottal plosive as a phoneme in Rapa Nui was Ward (1961; 1964). Ward compared occurrences of the glottal plosive with cognates in other Polynesian languages that retain the PPN glottal, and concluded that the glottal in Rapa Nui corresponds to the original PPN glottal (apart from Tahitian borrowings, see below). An example is Rapa Nui *hō'ou* ‘new’; Tongan, East Futunan, East Uvean *fō'ou*, Rennell *ho'ou*, but Hawaiian and Tahitian *hou*. Around the same time, Bergmann (1963: 4) included the glottal in his phoneme inventory of Rapa Nui, though he suggested that it has disappeared in the modern language.

The adoption of the glottal as a full-fledged consonant phoneme was confirmed in later phonological analyses: Blixen (1972), Salas (1973), Weber & Weber (1982) and Guerra Eissmann et al. (1993).<sup>6</sup> Despite Métraux’ and Bergman’s assertions to the contrary, in current Rapa Nui the glottal stop is consistently present. Only a minority of speakers (especially those for whom Rapa Nui is not their first language) tend to elide it frequently.

While most instance of the glottal plosive in Rapa Nui correspond to the PPN glottal, a second source for the glottal plosive is Tahitian. Rapa Nui borrowed extensively from Tahitian (§1.4.1); this includes words containing glottals, like *ho'o* ‘buy/sell’, *'a'amu* ‘story’, *'āno'i* ‘to mix’ and *ha'ari* ‘coconut’. The fact that the glottal was already part of the phoneme system doubtlessly facilitated the adoption of these words without elision of the glottal (§2.5.3.2).

### 2.2.5 The glottal plosive in particles

As shown in §2.2.1 above, the glottal plosive is contrastive both word-initially and after vowels. Now all examples given there concern full words (§3.1), i.e. content words; full words in natural speech are usually preceded by a particle, e.g. an aspectual or a determiner. They hardly ever occur at the start of a prosodic phrase.

Words which do occur at the start of prosodic phrases are prenuclear particles, such as aspect markers and prepositions. In the standard Rapa Nui orthography, some of these are written with a glottal: *'e* ‘and’, *'a* ‘of’; others do not have a glottal: *e* ‘AG; IPFV’, *o* ‘of’.

The question is, whether there is a real phonetic distinction between the presence and the absence of a glottal in these particles. To answer this question, I analysed the pronunciation of eight particles – four with orthographic glottal, four without – in an oral text corpus, spoken by a number of speakers of different genders and age groups.<sup>7</sup> For each occurrence, I determined:

<sup>6</sup> According to Marck (2000: 24, 69), the Rapa Nui glottal was lost in the environment *a\_\_a*; however, this is based partly on sources with defective orthography, such as Fuentes (1960) (e.g. RN *\*haaki* ‘to inform’ < PNP *\*fa'aki*; the actual Rapa Nui form is *hā'aki*), partly on Tahitian loans (RN *tane* ‘male’ < Tahitian *tāne*, cf. PNP *\*ta'ane*). See also Davletshin (2015).

<sup>7</sup> The corpus consists of Bible passages used for the dubbing of a Biblical movie. These texts were rehearsed recitation, partly read from paper, which may favour a pronunciation in line with the orthography; however, the passages were practiced until pronounced smoothly and naturally, which should have mitigated the “orthography effect”.



- whether or not the particle is pronounced with a glottal;
- whether or not the particle occurs at the start of a prosodic phrase, indicated by a pause or an intonational break.

Table 2.6: Pronunciation of glottals in particles

	<i>a</i> 'toward'	<i>e</i> 'AG; IPFV'	<i>i</i> 'at'	<i>o</i> 'of'	total	
with [ʔ]:						
initial	43	189	138	70	440	30.1%
non-initial	3	21	5	13	42	2.9%
						33.0%
without [ʔ]:						
initial	1	17	15	0	33	2.3%
non-initial	245	188	321	191	945	64.7%
						67.0%
	<i>'a</i> 'of'	<i>'e</i> 'and'	<i>'i</i> 'at'	<i>'o</i> 'because of'	total	
with [ʔ]:						
initial	4	153	133	25	315	75.0%
non-initial	3	7	13	3	26	6.2%
						81.2%
without [ʔ]:						
initial	0	3	1	0	4	1.0%
non-initial	21	1	50	3	75	17.9%
						18.8%

This yields the statistics given in Table 2.6. This table shows that particles written with a glottal are indeed overwhelmingly pronounced with a glottal (81.2%), while particles written without glottal are predominantly pronounced without glottal (67.0%). However, this effect is largely due to the distribution of these particles. At the start of a prosodic phrase, most Rapa Nui speakers almost automatically pronounce initial vowels with a sharp onset, i.e. a non-phonemic glottal plosive. As Table 2.6 shows, phrase-initial particles are overwhelmingly pronounced with a glottal: 440+315 against 33+4 without glottal, i.e. 755 out of 792 (95.3%). On the other hand, non-phrase-initial particles tend to be pronounced without a glottal: 945+75 against 42+26 with glottal, i.e. 1020 out of 1088 (93.8%). The fact that this strongly correlates with the presence or absence of the

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written glottal, is because certain particles happen to occur much more frequently after boundaries than others. For example, the conjunction 'e 'and' is almost always preceded by a pause, while the proper article *a* is very often preceded by a preposition, hence non-initial. In other words, the glottal is not phonemic in these particles; it just tends to be pronounced phrase-initially and omitted otherwise.

The following example illustrates this. The first line represents the orthography, the second line is a broad phonetic transcription. | indicates a prosodic phrase break; \_ represents a vowel onset without glottal.

- (13) *Te nu'u e rerehu rō 'i te ri'ari'a. 'I rā hora he take'a i te*  
 [ te nuʔu | ʔe rerehu ro: \_i te riʔariʔa | ʔi ra: hora he takea \_i te  
 ART people IPFV faint EMPH at ART afraid at DIST time NTR see ACC ART  
*Poki o te Tanata ka topa mai 'i ruŋa i te ranji 'i ruŋa i*  
 poki \_o te tanata | ka topa mai | ʔi ruŋa \_i te ranji | ʔi ruŋa \_i  
 child of ART man CNTG descend hither at above at ART heaven at above at  
*a ia te pūai 'e te 'ana'ana o te 'Atua.*  
 \_a ia | te pu:ai ʔe te ʔanaʔana \_o te ʔatua ]  
 PROP 3SG ART power and ART glory of ART God

'The people will faint from fear. At that time they will see the Son of Man descending in heaven, on him the power and glory of God.' [R630-13.010]

As this fragment shows, the preposition 'i 'in' is pronounced with glottal after a pause (3x), but without a glottal within a prosodic phrase (line 1). The conjunction 'e 'and' is pronounced with glottal after a pause (line 3), but so is the imperfective marker *e* (line 1). The preposition *i* is never pronounced with glottal in this fragment, but then, it does not occur phrase-initially. The same is true for the proper article *a* and the possessive preposition *o*.

This example also shows that the orthography is accurate as far as glottals in content words are concerned: glottals are usually pronounced where they are written, both word-medially (*nu'u, ri'ari'a*) and word-initially (*'Atua*). The same is true for longer particles (which do not occur in this example), such as the postverbal markers 'ā 'CONT' and 'ai 'SUBS'; these are consistently pronounced with glottal.

We may conclude that the glottal is not contrastive in prenuclear particles. The glottal is a phonetic reality only to the extent that particles occur post-pausally.<sup>8</sup> This does not mean that the use of the glottal symbol in these particles is without justification: it helps the reader to distinguish possessive 'a from the proper article *a*, and the conjunction 'e from the many particles *e*. Yet one should keep in mind that the distinction is in a sense

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Clark (1976: 222): particles fail to follow the normal correspondences, which "is probably a result of their typically phrase-initial position". He points out that there is a universal tendency to insert a glottal after a pause, so "glottal stop in such position is of dubious value" (23). He gives several examples of initial particles which have an initial glottal stop in Tongan (a language which has preserved the PPN glottal), no glottal stop in Rennell (idem), but a glottal stop in Tahitian (which does not retain the PPN glottal).

For this reason, it is difficult to reconstruct the protoform of phrase-initial particles; there is some discussion whether the PPN possessive markers were *a* or 'a, and *o* or 'o (see Fischer 2000, Lichtenberk 200; Wilson 1982; Lynch 1997).

superficial. This is especially important in the case of the prepositions 'i and i, which are etymologically a single preposition (§4.7.2).

## 2.3 Phonotactics

### 2.3.1 Syllable structure

The syllable structure of Rapa Nui is (C)V(:). The syllable contains a single short or long vowel, optionally preceded by one consonant. A syllable cannot contain two or more vowels. This means that all sequences of non-identical vowels are disyllabic, even those often analysed as diphthongs in other Polynesian languages: words like *kai* 'to eat' and *mau* 'really' do not contain a diphthong, but two syllables.

In older descriptions of Rapa Nui, such as Englert (1978), Fuentes (1960) and Salas (1973), certain VV sequences are analysed as diphthongs; for example, Englert (1978: 16) mentions *ai*, *au* and *oi*.<sup>9</sup> This is understandable, as phonetically it is often impossible to distinguish two separate syllable nuclei in sequences like *ai* and *au*. Even so, there are several reasons to consider all VV sequences as disyllabic.<sup>10</sup>

1. Reduplication data. If *kai* 'to eat' would constitute a single syllable, it would be impossible to produce the reduplication *kakai* 'to eat (Pl)' (§2.6.1.1). In prosodic terms: if *kai* is a single syllable, the reduplication base *ka-* does not constitute a prosodic unit; rather, it consists of an onset and a partial nucleus. On the other hand, if *kai* is disyllabic, *kakai* can be analysed as copying (the segmental content of) the first syllable of the root.
2. Stress patterns. As discussed in §2.4.1 below, when the final syllable of a word is short, the penultimate syllable is stressed. This happens regardless of the occurrence of consecutive vowels: even when the antepenultimate + penultimate vowel would be likely candidates for diphthongisation, the penultimate vowel receives stress.<sup>11</sup> Some examples:

(14)	<i>rāua</i>	/ra:'ua/	'3PL'
	<i>maika</i>	/ma'ika/	'banana'
	<i>māuiui</i>	/,ma:ui'ui/	'sick'
	<i>haraoa</i>	/,hara'oa/	'bread'
	<i>i a ia</i>	/,ia'ia/	'3SG.ACC'

<sup>9</sup> In other Polynesian languages the diphthong inventory may be different. For example, in Tahitian, all VV sequences in which the first vowel is more open, are considered diphthongs (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 5). The same is true in Māori (Harlow 2007a: 69).

<sup>10</sup> The first three of these are also mentioned by Weber & Weber (1982).

<sup>11</sup> In this area, the difference with Tahitian is especially obvious. While cognates of the first four items occur in Tahitian as well (*rāua* and *maika* are shared cognates, *māuiui* and *haraoa* were borrowed from Tahitian), the pronunciation in Tahitian is markedly different because of diphthongisation and stress shift: [ra:'a ma'ʔa ma:'i'i fa'ra:'a].

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If, for example, *ai* in *maika* would be a diphthong, it would be impossible for *i* to receive stress; rather, the stress pattern would be [ˈmaika].

3. If some VV sequences are considered as bisyllabic, for reasons of symmetry it is satisfactory to treat all such sequences in the same way.<sup>12</sup>
4. Finally, metrical constraints on word structure suggest that VV sequences are bisyllabic, unlike long vowels. This is discussed in the next section.

### 2.3.2 Word structure

#### 2.3.2.1 Constraints on word structure

The phonological structure of words in Rapa Nui can be described using concepts from metrical theory (Kager 1995; Hayes 1995). Words and phrases are organised in metrical units; in ascending order: morae ( $\mu$ ), syllables ( $\sigma$ ), feet (F) and prosodic words. The following constraints apply:

1. Short vowels form a monomoraic (light) syllable; long vowels form a bimoraic (heavy) syllable.
2. Onset consonants are non-moraic, i.e. the presence or absence of a consonant does not affect the weight of the syllable.<sup>13</sup>
3. All morae are parsed into trochaic feet (i.e. a strong mora followed by a weak mora).
4. A foot cannot span a syllable boundary.<sup>14</sup>
5. All non-initial feet are bimoraic. Only the initial foot of the word can be degenerate, i.e. monomoraic.<sup>15</sup>

These constraints are inviolable and apply to all words, including reduplications, compounds and borrowings. This means that all words in the language conform to a single rule: a heavy syllable is never followed by an odd number of morae.<sup>16</sup> In other words, when heavy syllables are followed by light syllables, the latter always occur in pairs; patterns such as the following do not occur:

<sup>12</sup> Van den Berg (1989: 24) makes the same observation for Muna. Similarly, Rehg (2007: 127) points out that the wide range of diphthongs in Hawaiian (as opposed to e.g. English) suggests that they are VV sequences rather than occupying a single V slot (though in his analysis, they are not bisyllabic).

<sup>13</sup> Coda consonants, which occur in some borrowings, are non-moraic as well. Coda consonants can occur in any non-final syllable, including the penultimate: *torompo* ‘spinning top’, *aserka* ‘chard’, *ramienta* ‘tool’. If these consonants were moraic, the penultimate syllable would be heavy, while the final syllable is light. They would thus violate the \*...HL constraint formulated below.

<sup>14</sup> This condition was formulated as a universal constraint by Hayes (1995: 50).

<sup>15</sup> An alternative would be to state that the initial mora can be left unparsed. However, the fact that initial syllables sometimes receive secondary stress, suggests that they are in fact parsed into a degenerate foot. Cf. Kager’s principle of exhaustivity (Kager 1995: 370), which requires all syllables of a word to be parsed.

<sup>16</sup> In other Polynesian languages a similar tendency operates, though usually in a weaker form. For example, in Samoan, the penultimate vowel in trisyllabic words cannot be long (Hovdhaugen 1990: 102).

(15) \*HL \*LHLH \*HLLL \*HLLLH

Table 2.7 lists all occurring word patterns. Certain patterns are common, while others are rare or nonexistent. Foot boundaries are indicated by dots. Column 2 gives the number of morae, column 3 lists the frequency of each pattern.<sup>17</sup>

The table shows that words containing up to six morae are common. Longer words are rare; in fact, all 7–8 mora words are either reduplications or compounds (e.g. *tōuamāhari* < *tōua* ‘yolk’ + *māhari* ‘egg’).

<sup>17</sup> Counts are based on the PLRN lexical database (§1.6.1). All words in the database are included, including obsolete words (the length of which cannot be ascertained, though Englert’s lexicon often records length accurately), as well as words which may never have been genuine Rapa Nui words, but which occur in less reliable sources such as Roussel (1908). Homonyms are counted separately.

<sup>18</sup> Most of these have identical final and penultimate syllables, but for none of them there is clear evidence that they are reduplications.

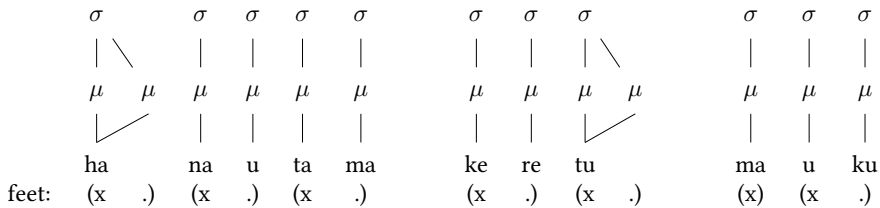
Table 2.7: Metrical word structures

pattern	μ	#	examples
L.	1	45	<i>te</i> ‘article’, <i>i</i> ‘PFV’, <i>ki</i> ‘to’
LL.	2	1237	<i>ai</i> ‘exist’, <i>'ana</i> ‘cave’, <i>e'a</i> ‘go out’, <i>haha</i> ‘mouth’, <i>kope</i> ‘person’, <i>nui</i> ‘big’, <i>paru</i> ‘paint’, <i>tau</i> ‘pretty’
H.	2	87	<i>ū</i> ‘milk’, <i>pō</i> ‘night’, <i>hū</i> ‘burn, roar’, <i>rō</i> ‘EMPH’, <i>hai</i> ‘INS’
L.LL.	3	1010	<i>'a'amu</i> ‘story’, <i>makenu</i> ‘move’, <i>mauku</i> ‘grass’, <i>hohopu</i> ‘bathe (PI)”; borrowings: <i>kamita</i> ‘shirt’, <i>rivuhō</i> ‘drawing’
L.H.	3	54	<i>kurī</i> ‘cat’, <i>maṅō</i> ‘shark’, <i>pahī</i> ‘ship’, <i>ra'ā</i> ‘sun’; borrowings: <i>kampō</i> ‘inland’, <i>panā</i> ‘empanada’
LL.LL.	4	1290	<i>hanupotu</i> ‘youngest child’, <i>huṅavai</i> ‘parent-in-law’, <i>manavai</i> ‘rock garden’, <i>takaure</i> ‘fly’, <i>teatea</i> ‘white’
LL.H.	4	70	<i>hatatū</i> ‘gizzard’, <i>keretū</i> ‘pumice’, <i>raupā</i> ‘leaf’; borrowings: <i>koropā</i> ‘crowbar’, <i>Kiritō</i> ‘Christ’
H.LL.	4	453	<i>'āriṅa</i> ‘face’, <i>kūmara</i> ‘sweet potato’, <i>hīhiṅa</i> ‘to fall (PI)”; borrowings: <i>hāmara</i> ‘hammer’, <i>kānato</i> ‘basket’
H.H.	4	69	<i>'āpī</i> ‘new’, <i>kōpū</i> ‘belly’, <i>hāhā</i> ‘to touch’; borrowings: <i>kāpē</i> ‘coffee’, <i>'ātā</i> ‘until’

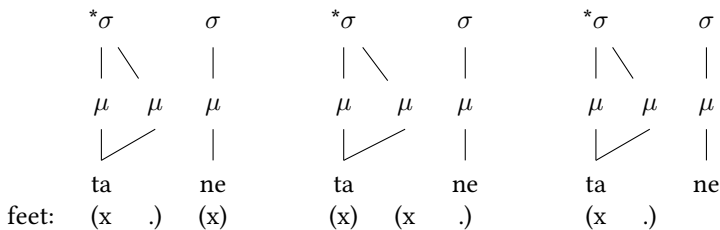
Table 2.8: Metrical word structures (cont.)

pattern	$\mu$	#	examples
L.L.L.L.	5	101	<i>hakanonoŋa</i> ‘fishing zone’, <i>oromatu'a</i> ‘priest’, <i>pipihoreko</i> ‘cairn, rock pile’; borrowings: <i>'etaretia</i> ‘church’, <i>sanaoria</i> ‘carrot’
L.L.L.H.	5	10	<i>pipirimā</i> ‘Gemini’, <i>mairepā</i> ‘northwest wind’; borrowing: <i>'epikipō</i> ‘bishop’
L.H.H.	5	3	<i>'anirā</i> ‘later today’
L.L.L.L.L.	6	35	<i>'aŋataiahi</i> ‘yesterday’, <i>pakapakakina</i> ‘to explode.RED’, <i>taure'are'a</i> ‘young person’
L.L.L.H.	6	5	<i>'au'auē</i> ‘to cry.RED’, <i>ma'u'auri</i> ‘prison’, <i>kerekeretū</i> ‘pumice’
L.L.H.L.L.	6	5	<i>manupātia</i> ‘wasp’, <i>ha'amā'ore</i> ‘shameless’
L.L.H.H.	6	4	<i>'aŋarīnā/'aŋanirā</i> ‘earlier today’
H.L.L.L.L.	6	130	<i>hānautama</i> ‘pregnant’, <i>pō'auahi</i> ‘hell’, <i>vānaŋanaŋa</i> ‘to talk.RED’, <i>vānavanaŋa</i> ‘to talk.RED’
H.L.L.H.	6	1	<i>tātaurō</i> ‘cross’
H.H.L.L.	6	16	<i>'āpārīma</i> ‘dance’, <i>mātāmu'a</i> ‘ancestors’, <i>tōtōamo</i> ‘trumpetfish’; borrowings: <i>'ōpītara</i> ‘hospital’, <i>pērīkura</i> ‘movie’
H.H.H.H.	6	12	<i>pātōtō</i> ‘to knock’, <i>tōtōā</i> ‘to hurt, harm’, <i>hā'ū'ū</i> ‘to help’ <sup>18</sup>
L.L.L.H.L.L.	7	1	<i>matamatāika</i> ‘hail’
L.L.H.L.L.L.L.	8	1	<i>ha'amāuruuru</i> ‘to thank’
H.L.L.H.L.L.	8	1	<i>tōuamāmari</i> ‘yellow’
H.H.H.L.L.	8	4	<i>māmārū'au</i> ‘grandmother’, <i>mōri'ārahu</i> ‘kerosene’

Below are examples of the metrical structure of *hānautama* ‘pregnant’, *keretū* ‘pumice’ and *mauku* ‘grass’. (Feet are indicated by round brackets; the strong mora within the foot is marked as x, the weak mora as a dot.)



The absence of certain structures follows straightforwardly from these constraints. For example, the Tahitian word *tāne* ‘man, male’ was borrowed into Rapa Nui, but with shortening of the first vowel: *tane*. The form *\*tāne* (with the non-attested pattern \*HL) would involve either a degenerate foot at the end of the word (violating constraint 4), a foot spanning a syllable boundary (violating constraint 3), or an unparsed syllable (violating constraint 2). These alternatives are illustrated below.<sup>19</sup>



We may conclude that the prosodic shape of words is determined by a set of non-violable metrical constraints. Once these constraints are established, a number of other issues can be addressed: minimal words, vowel sequences, and the frequency of metrical patterns. These are discussed in the following sections.

### 2.3.2.2 Minimal words

Content words minimally consist of one bimoraic foot: *pō* ‘night’, *kai* ‘to eat’, *hare* ‘house’, *oho* ‘to go’. Postnuclear particles are minimally bimoraic as well (in fact, most of these are bimoraic): *nō* ‘just’, *era* ‘distal’, *mai* ‘hither’. The same is true for particles occurring in isolation, such as *ina* ‘NEG’ and *i* ‘IMM’. Only prenuclear particles may be monomoraic: *te* ‘ART’, *e* ‘IPFV’, *ki* ‘to’.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Finney (1999: 171) notes that in most Polynesian languages, words can end in  $V_1V_1CV$ . In that case, speakers “tend to treat the antepenult and the penult as a foot, a single long syllable, even though that violates the normal [process of right-to-left foot formation]”. We may conclude that Rapa Nui differs from other Polynesian languages in that the constraints on foot formation impose absolute constraints on word formation.

<sup>20</sup> This means that prenuclear particles are not independent phonological words, which can be taken as evidence to analyse them as clitics. Another reason to consider them as clitics is the fact that they occupy a fixed (i.e. initial) position in the phrase, without being attached to a single category: a prenuclear particle precedes whatever comes next in the phrase. In the end, whether or not they are to be considered clitics may be a matter of terminological preference. (Cf. Payne 1997: 23: it is uncommon to use the term clitic for elements such as adpositions and tense/aspect markers.)

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### 2.3.2.3 Vowel sequences

In the previous section, several reasons were mentioned to analyse sequences of two non-identical vowels as disyllabic sequences rather than diphthongs. The conditions on metrical structure provide another argument for a disyllabic analysis. As pointed out above, (C)V:(C)V words such as \**tāne* do not occur in Rapa Nui, a fact which can be explained by metrical constraints ruling out \*HL patterns. On the other hand however, (C)V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub>(C)V words are common: *mauku* ‘grass’, *hau'a* ‘smell’, *maika* ‘banana’, *koia* ‘with’, *paihi* ‘torn’, *taote* ‘doctor’, et cetera. Now if *au*, *ai*, *oi* and *ao* would be monosyllabic (i.e. diphthongs), these words would have an HL pattern, and it would be unclear why these words are possible while *tāne* is not. On the other hand, if these sequences are disyllabic, these words have a LLL pattern just like *makenu* ‘to move’ and *poreko* ‘to be born’, a pattern which is metrically well-formed and which is in fact very common.<sup>21</sup>

### 2.3.2.4 Common and uncommon patterns

For words consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 morae, all possible patterns are attested. (Longer words are very rare overall.) Even so, some patterns are more common than others.

In general, light syllables are more common than heavy syllables. Patterns with an LL foot in a given position in the word are much more common than patterns with a H foot in the same position, e.g. L.LL (1010) versus L.H (54); LL.LL (1290) versus LL.H (70) or H.LL (453). The only exception is H.LL.LL (130), which is more common than LL.LL.LL (35).

H syllables are more common word-initially than word-finally. Not counting monosyllabic H words, there are 686 words with initial H, against 228 words with final H. Medial H is also relatively uncommon; it mainly occurs when the preceding or following syllable is also H. Of all 329 three- and four-foot words (the only ones in which medial H is possible), 164 have initial H, 47 have one or two medial H, while 35 have final H.

The patterns listed above, as well as etymological data, suggest that there is a tendency to avoid degenerate feet.<sup>22</sup> Lengthening an initial vowel turns a degenerate foot into a complete bimoraic one. If the reconstructed forms in Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011) are correct, the initial syllable was lengthened in words such as *hō'ou* ‘new’ (PPN \**fo'ou*), *ūnahi* ‘fish scale’ (PPN \**unafi*), *hōhonu* ‘deep’ (PEP \**fofonu*) and *pū'oko* ‘head’ (by metathesis from PEP \**upoko*). In longer words this tendency is even stronger: there are more H.LL.LL words in the lexicon (130) than L.LL.LL (101).<sup>23</sup> Certain reduplication patterns show a tendency to lengthen L.LL.LL to H.LL.LL (§2.6.1.2). On the other hand, the pressure toward whole feet is not sufficiently strong to prevent the occurrence of many hundreds of LLL words; in fact, this is the third most common pattern overall.

<sup>21</sup> Following a similar reasoning, Anderson & Otsuka (2006) conclude that long vowels in Tongan must be disyllabic, as they may span a foot boundary.

<sup>22</sup> Englert (1978: 17) already notices the tendency to lengthen antepenultimate vowels. Cf. Kager (1995: 399): languages employ various strategies to avoid degenerate feet, such as lengthening and reparing.

<sup>23</sup> In actual language use the difference is even more marked: many of the L.LL.LL words in the lexicon are borrowings, some of which only occur in older sources such as Roussel (1908) and which are no longer (or never were) in use.



Another issue related to metrical structure is stress assignment. This will be discussed in §2.4.1.

### 2.3.3 Cooccurrence restrictions

#### 2.3.3.1 Between vowels

As discussed above, all sequences of non-identical vowels are possible. This is illustrated in Table 2.9.

Table 2.9: Examples of VV sequences

V1 \ V2	a	e	i	o	u
a	( <i>hā</i> 'breathe')	<i>hae</i> 'savage'	<i>hai</i> 'INS'	<i>hao</i> 'to plant'	<i>hau</i> 'more'
e	<i>mea</i> 'gill'	( <i>hē</i> 'cQ')	<i>hei</i> 'headdress'	<i>heo</i> 'collarbone'	<i>heu</i> 'half-breed'
i	<i>hia</i> 'how many'	<i>hiero</i> 'radiance'	( <i>hī</i> 'to fish')	<i>hio</i> 'strong'	<i>hiu</i> 'moth larva'
o	<i>hoa</i> 'friend'	<i>hoe</i> 'paddle'	<i>hoi</i> 'horse'	( <i>hō</i> 'DUB')	<i>hou</i> 'to drill'
u	<i>hua</i> 'bear fruit'	<i>hue</i> 'vine'	<i>huī</i> 'lineage'	<i>uo</i> 'k.o. tattoo'	( <i>hū</i> 'to burn')

Not all VV sequences are equally common, however. The text corpus contains 90,700 disyllabic VV sequences; their relative frequencies are given in Table 2.10.

Table 2.10: Frequencies of VV sequences

V1 \ V2	a	e	i	o	u
a	1.1%	31.2%	1.8%	12.0%	
e	1.8%		6.8%	0.5%	0.4%
i	6.4%	0.8%		2.2%	0.7%
o	4.8%	4.4%	1.7%		6.0%
u	12.5%	0.9%	4.0%	0.04%	

As Table 2.10 shows, sequences of a high and a low vowel in either order (*ai*, *au*, *ia*, *ua*) are much more common than those containing a mid vowel or consisting of two high vowels. The former four sequences together account for 62.1% of the total, while

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the other fourteen sequences account for 37.9%. *uo* hardly occurs at all. *eo* and *eu* are rare, as well as *iu*, *ie*<sup>24</sup> and *ue*.

VVV sequences are common as well: *māua* ‘we (dual excl.)’, *pūai* ‘strong’, *tāea* ‘to throw a lasso’, *tōua* ‘egg yolk’, *tūai* ‘ancient’.

### 2.3.3.2 Between vowels and consonants

Any consonant can be followed by any vowel, with one exception: the syllable *vu* is extremely rare. Apart from the loanword *vuto* ‘sweet’ (< Sp. *dulce*), it only occurs in *vuhi* (and its reduplication *vuhivuhi*) ‘to whistle’, a word not occurring in the text corpus.<sup>25</sup>

*vo* is not very common either; it occurs in eight lexical entries, such as *vovo* ‘dear girl’ and *vo’u* ‘to shout’.

### 2.3.3.3 Between consonants

As discussed in §2.3.1 above, consonants are always separated by a vowel; contiguous consonants do not occur. (The only exceptions occur in loanwords, see §2.5.3.1 below.) Even so, there are a few co-occurrence restrictions between consonants in adjacent syllables.<sup>26</sup>

Firstly, the co-occurrence of a homorganic nasal + stop (in that order) within a root is very rare, though not completely excluded. The co-occurrence of homorganic stop + nasal is somewhat less rare, though by no means common. The data are given in Table 2.11.

Table 2.11: Nasal + plosive cooccurrence restrictions

<i>mVp-</i>	The only example is <i>māpē</i> ‘kidney’.
<i>pVm-</i>	Only in borrowings such as <i>pamu</i> ‘pump; to fumigate’ and in a few rare words such as <i>pōmiti</i> ‘thunderstruck’.
<i>nVt-</i>	Does not occur word-initially. Non-initially, the only example is <i>’onotau</i> ‘epoch’, as well as borrowings such as <i>kānato</i> ‘basket’ (< Sp. <i>canasto</i> )
<i>tVn-</i>	Is common: <i>tano</i> ‘correct’, <i>tono</i> ‘push’, <i>tunu</i> ‘cook’ etc.
<i>ŋVk-</i>	Does not occur.
<i>kVŋ-</i>	Word-initially, the only examples are <i>koŋokoŋo</i> ‘to grunt’ and <i>kuŋukuŋu</i> ‘hoarse’, both of which occur in one lexicographical source only. Non-initially, the only example is <i>kokoŋo</i> ‘mucus’. <sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Most of the occurrences of *ie* are due to Spanish influence. While *ie* is quite rare in Rapa Nui words (apart from some proper names), it is very common in Spanish and often occurs in loanwords: *fiesta*, *noviembre*, *tiene*...

<sup>25</sup> De Lacy (1997) reports similar restrictions in Māori, where *\*wu*, *\*wo*, *\*whu* and *\*who* do not occur. In Tuvaluan, *\*vu-* is unattested, while *\*vo-* is rare (Besnier 2000: 612).

<sup>26</sup> Similar restrictions operate in other Polynesian languages (see Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 24 on co-occurrence restrictions between labial and labiodental consonants; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 554 on a tendency towards consonant dissimilation in adjacent syllables).

<sup>27</sup> Non-initial *kVŋ-* is not uncommon in forms containing the nominaliser *-ŋa*, such as *pikoŋa* ‘hiding place’, but here the two consonants are separated by a morpheme break.

Secondly, Davletshin (2015) mentions a constraint against the occurrence of glottal stops in adjacent syllables of bimoraic words.<sup>28</sup> This is confirmed by my data: in the lexicon and the text corpus there are no words of the shape 'V'V.

## 2.4 Suprasegmentals

### 2.4.1 Stress

Metrical structure as described in §2.3.2 above allows a simple description of word stress: the final foot of the word is prominent. This results in the following pattern:

- When the final syllable of the word is long, it is stressed. Being a heavy syllable, it contains a whole foot.
- When the final syllable of the word is short, the penultimate syllable is stressed. The penultimate and the final syllable constitute the final foot; as the foot is trochaic (i.e. the first mora is strong), the penultimate receives stress.

The strong morae of the other feet receive secondary stress. This results in a rhythm of alternating strong and weak morae. Some examples:

(16)	<i>pō</i>	/ˈpoː/	‘night’
	<i>noho</i>	/ˈnoho/	‘to sit, stay’
	<i>maŋō</i>	/maˈŋoː/	‘shark’
	<i>mauku</i>	/maˈuku/	‘grass’
	<i>pāpaˈi</i>	/paˈpaʔi/	‘to write’
	<i>haŋupotu</i>	/,haŋuˈpotu/	‘youngest child’
	<i>keretū</i>	/,kereˈtuː/	‘pumice’
	<i>hānautama</i>	/,haːˈnauˈtama/	‘pregnant’

Not all non-final feet have the same level of stress. For example, when the initial foot is degenerate, either the initial or the second syllable may be slightly more prominent:

(17)	<i>oromatuˈa</i>	/,oromaˈtuʔa/	‘priest’
	<i>vanavanaŋa</i>	/,vanavaˈnaŋa/	‘to chat’
	<i>vanavanaŋa</i>	/vaˌnavaˈnaŋa/	‘to chat’

More study is needed to determine which factors determine levels of lower-order stress.

In connected speech, PHRASE STRESS is more conspicuous than word stress. Stress is assigned at the level of the prosodic phrase, according to the same rule as word stress: the final foot of the phrase is prominent. In other words, stress falls on the phrase-final syllable if it is long, and on the penultimate syllable otherwise. Prosodic phrase breaks

<sup>28</sup> This constraint does not operate in words having more than two morae: glottals in adjacent syllables occur in bisyllabic words with long vowels (‘iʔi ‘slightly spoiled (food)’, ‘uʔu ‘to groan’), and in trisyllabic words (‘aʔaru ‘to grab’, haʔiʔa ‘Malay apple’).

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usually coincide with breaks between syntactic constituents, but not all syntactic phrases constitute a separate prosodic phrase.

In the examples below, prosodic phrase breaks are represented by |.

- (18) *E ,ai rō 'ā | e ,tahi ,oroma'tu'a | te ,'ī,ŋoa ko ,Taha'ria.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM one priest ART name PROM Zechariah  
 [ʔe,airo:'ʔa: ʔe,tahi,oroma'tuʔa te,ʔi:ŋoako,taha'ria]  
 'There was a priest named Zechariah.' [R630-01.002]
- (19) *E ,ha'a,tura rō 'ana | ki tā,'ana 'roŋo | ,'e ki tā,'ana ,haka ,tere*  
 IPFV respect EMPH CONT to POSS.3SG.A message and to POSS.3SG.A CAUS run  
*'iŋa.*  
 NMLZ  
 [ʔe,haʔa,turaro:'ʔana kita:ʔana'roŋo ʔekita:ʔana,haka,tere'iŋa]  
 'They obeyed his word and his law.' [R630-01.002]
- (20) *'Matu | ki ,oho tā,tou ki Vē'rene | ki ,u'i i te ,me'e ,haka ,'ite*  
 come\_on HORT go 1PL.INCL to Bethlehem to look ACC ART thing CAUS know  
*mai 'ena.*  
 hither MED  
 [matu ki,ohota:toukive'rene ki,uʔite,meʔe,haka,ʔitemai'ena]  
 'Come, let's go to Bethlehem, to see the thing announced (to us).' [R630-02.008]
- (21) *,Ki a ,kō'rua, | ki te ,nu'u ,haka,roŋo 'mai, | ,'ī a ,au he ,kī 'atu...*  
 to PROP 2PL to ART people listen hither IMM PROP ISG NTR say away  
 [ki,ko:rua kite,nuʔu,haka,roŋo'mai ʔi:a,auhe,ki:atu]  
 'To you, to the people listening, I tell you...' [R630-04.063]

As these examples show, primary stress always falls on the final foot of the prosodic phrase, whether this is a lexeme (*oromatu'a* in (18)), a continuous marker (*'ā* in (18)), a nominaliser (*iŋa* in (19)), a postnuclear demonstrative (*ena* in (20)), or a directional (*mai* in (21)). All other feet potentially receive secondary stress. However, secondary stress is not always conspicuous, especially on or near long vowels, when two contiguous syllables both contain a strong mora. Not all secondary stresses are equally strong, though this has not been indicated in the examples above. A more refined analysis is needed to determine how different levels of non-primary stress are assigned. Two factors that seem to play a role are:

- semantic or pragmatic prominence. The nucleus of the phrase (often the only lexical word) tends to get relatively heavy secondary stress, especially the syllable that would be stressed according to the word stress rules; e.g. in *ha'atura* in (19) and *haka 'ite* in (20), the second foot receives more stress than the first. The deictic particle *'ī* in (21) is relatively prominent as well.

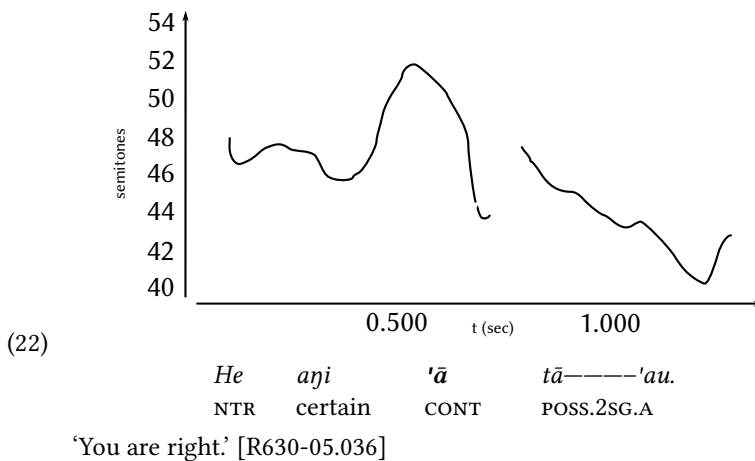
- linear distance. Feet immediately preceding the main phrase stress are not heavily stressed. This means that the stressed syllable of content words may not receive a high degree of stress if it is immediately followed by the phrase stress: in *hakarōŋo* in (21), the initial syllable receives more stress than the penultimate one, despite the word stress on the latter.

## 2.4.2 Intonation

This section describes a number of intonation patterns in declarative and interrogative clauses. Examples are given from basic sentences, i.e. monoclausal sentences with standard constituent order. A full treatment of intonation would require precise acoustic analysis and is outside the scope of this grammar.<sup>29</sup>

### 2.4.2.1 In declarative clauses

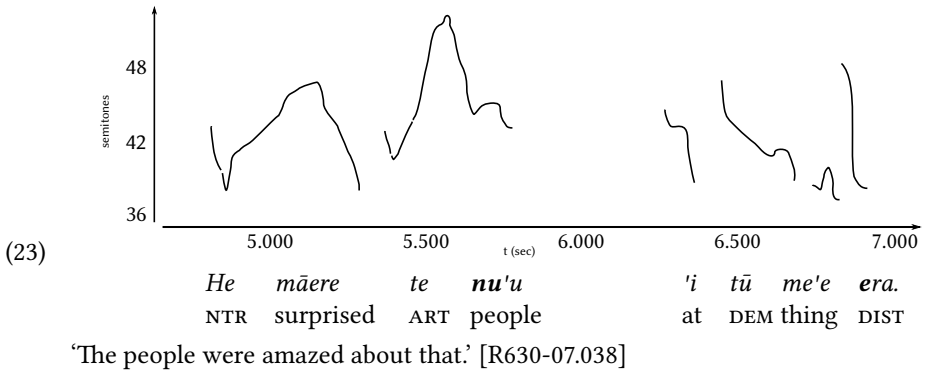
Intonation in declarative clauses is characterised by a peak on the stressed syllable of the predicate. Subsequently, the pitch may gradually drop:<sup>30</sup>



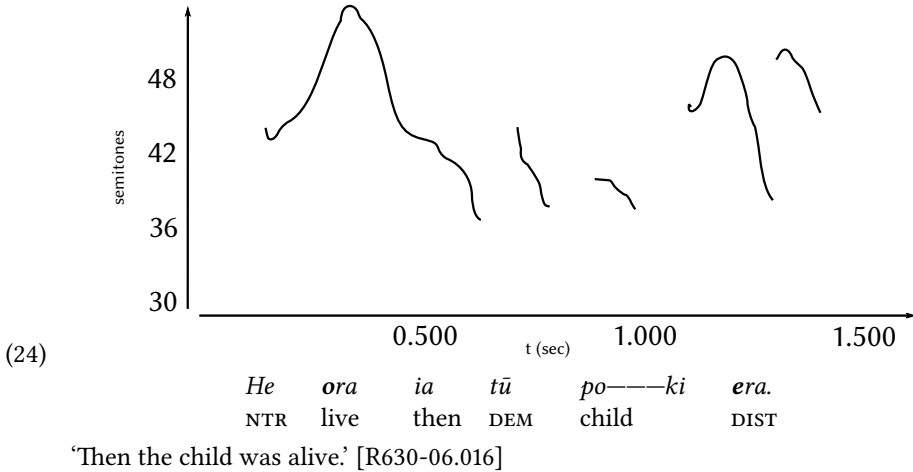
<sup>29</sup> Intonation in imperative clauses is not illustrated. Imperative clauses tend to show a high rise, followed by a gradual decline. This means that the intonation pattern is superficially identical to the intonation of declarative clauses. A more precise analysis could reveal subtle differences between declarative and imperative intonation, e.g. in the shape or timing of the rise.

<sup>30</sup> Intonation graphs were created using Speech Analyzer 3.1 (SIL International, 2012). In the examples, syllables bearing phrase stress are underlined.

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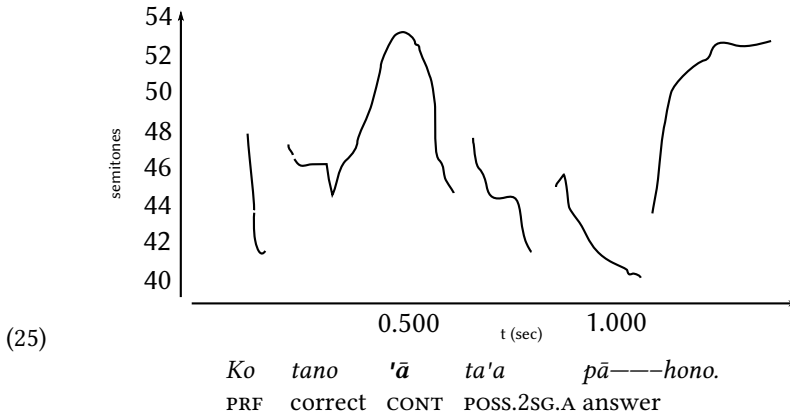


The final constituent may show a second peak, as on *poki era* in the next example:



Alternatively, the sentence may end in a high plateau. In the next example, there is a high rise on the second (stressed) syllable of *pāhono*; the pitch remains on this level throughout the final syllable.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> The example is from a younger male speaker. Data from a range of speakers could show if this pattern is limited to certain age groups.

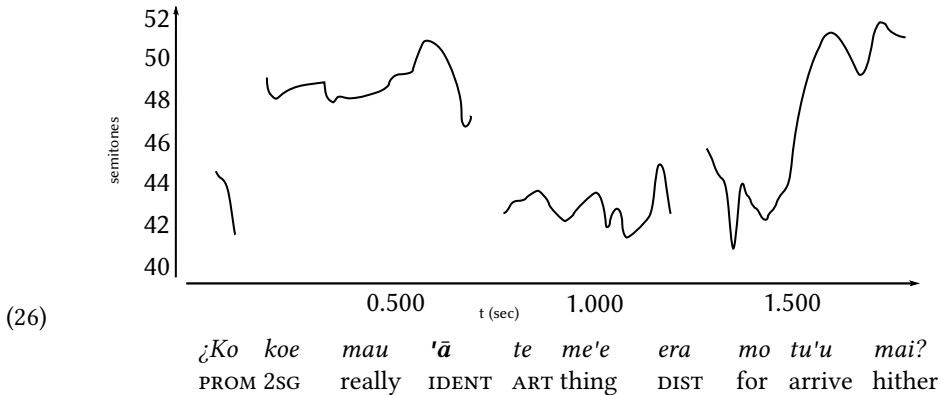


'Your answer is correct.' [R630-07.015]

#### 2.4.2.2 In questions

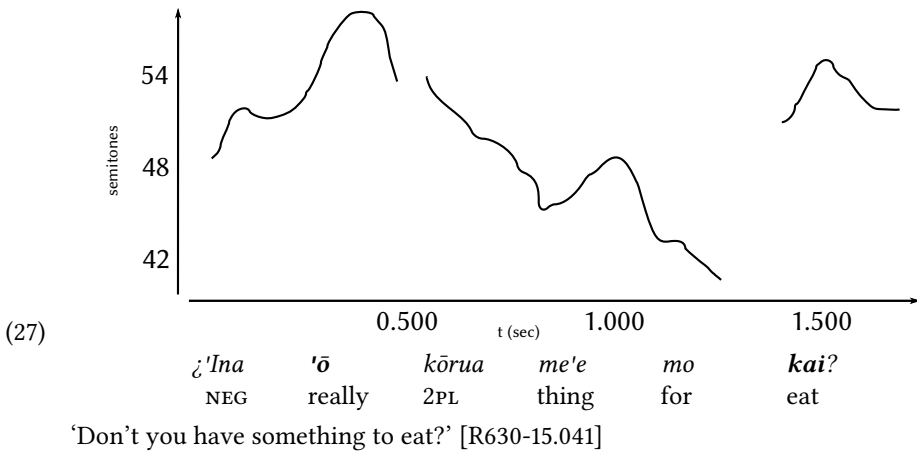
In polar questions (§10.3.1), there is usually a high rise on the stressed syllable of the first constituent; after that the pitch is low or falling, but on or just before the final stressed syllable the pitch quickly goes up. After a quick rise it tends to drop somewhat in post-stress syllables, but not all the way back to the previous low level.

Below are two examples. In both cases there is a rise on the first constituent. The last stressed syllable of the sentence also exhibits a sharp rise; in (26) this rise is higher than the first one, while in (27) it is somewhat less high.

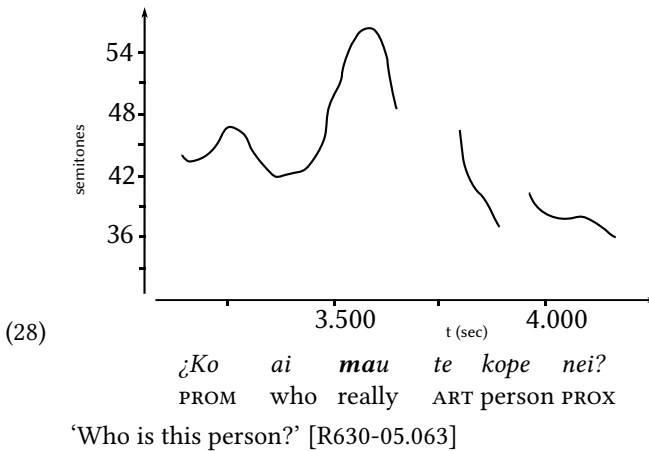


'Are you really the one who was to come?' [R630-05.019]

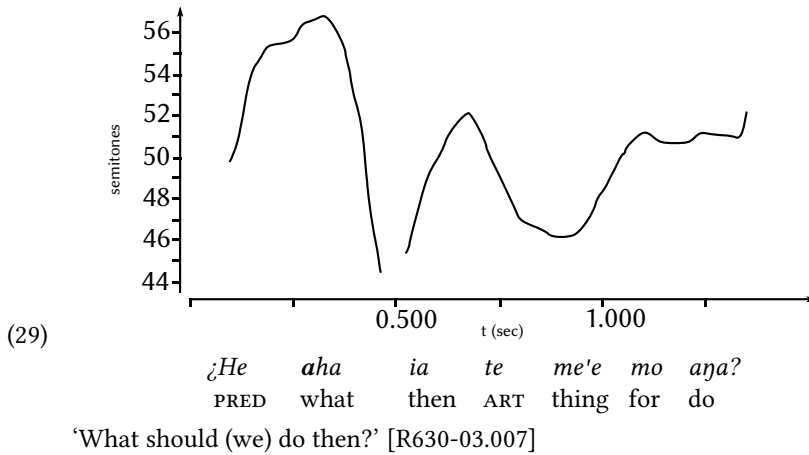
2 Phonology



Content questions (§10.3.2) are characterised by a high rise on the stressed syllable of the question constituent, followed by a sharp drop. There may be a moderate rise on the final stressed syllable, but the question may also end in a low pitch. Here are two examples. Both exhibit a high rise on the stressed syllable of the interrogative constituent; (28) has a falling pitch at the end of the question, while (29) has a rise to mid-range pitch.







## 2.5 Phonological processes

Rapa Nui is poor in morphology; as a consequence, morpho-phonological processes are uncommon. The only exception is found in the area of reduplication (§2.6.1). This section describes phonological processes which are not morphologically conditioned. §2.5.1 discusses three regular phonological processes: word-final devoicing, pre-stress lengthening and elision.

Other phonological processes are lexically determined and result in lexical items having a different form than expected on the basis of cognates, or having two or more alternate forms; these are discussed in §2.5.2. Finally, §2.5.3 deals with the (more or less regular) phonological adaptation of borrowings.

### 2.5.1 Regular processes

This section discusses three regular phonological processes, i.e. processes which are not limited to certain lexical items. All three are optional. Two processes, word-final vowel devoicing and pre-stress lengthening, take place in certain well-defined phonological contexts. For a third process, elision, no specific conditions can be formulated without extensive further analysis.

#### 2.5.1.1 Word-final vowel devoicing

Word-final short (hence unstressed) vowels are optionally devoiced after voiceless consonants. This happens especially at the end of an utterance, or at least the end of a prosodic phrase.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Vowel devoicing occurs in other Polynesian languages as well: Māori (Harlow 2007a: 76; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 556); Niufo'ou (Tsukamoto 1988: 23-25; De Lacy 2001), Tongan (Feldman 1978: 137). The conditions under which devoicing occurs in these languages, are different from those in Rapa Nui. In general, high vowels are affected more than low vowels.

## 2 Phonology

In a stretch of careful speech by different speakers (about 7,400 words), I counted 80 instances of word-final devoicing. 75 of these occur at the end of a prosodic phrase, 72 of which occur at the end of an utterance. All vowels undergo the process: *a* (19x), *e*, (15x), *i* (9x), *o* (12x) and *u* (25x). Devoicing occurs after all voiceless consonants: *p* (2x), *t* (24x), *k* (17x), ' (27x), *f* (1x, a foreign name), *h* (9x). It never occurs after voiced consonants or in non-final syllables.

Some examples: *tahataha* [taha'taha̰] 'edge', *taŋata* [ta'ŋata̰] 'person', *vi'e* [vi'ʔḛ] 'woman', '*ariki* [ʔa'rikḭ] 'king', *mō'oku* [mo:'ʔokṵ] 'for me', *oho* [o'ho̰] 'go'.

### 2.5.1.2 Pre-stress lengthening

Occasionally, a short vowel immediately preceding the main phrase stress is lengthened.<sup>33</sup> I have noticed this phenomenon in particular with the contiguity/imperative marker *ka*: *ka tanu* [ka:'tanu] 'bury'; *ka pure* [ka:'pure] 'pray', *ka tu'u* [ka:'tu'u] 'arrive'. The phenomenon occurs with other particles as well: the proper article *a* in *ki a ia* [kia:'ia] 'to him'; the negator *e ko* in *e ko pau* [eko:'pau] 'does not run out', the exhortative marker *e* in *e 'ite* [e:'ʔite] '(you must) know'.

A possible explanation for this lengthening is the preference for whole feet; this preference is noticeable on the word level (§2.3.2) and could be operative on the phrase level as well. This would explain why  $(ka)_F$   $(pure)_F$  – with a degenerate initial foot – is lengthened to  $(ka)_F$   $(pure)_F$ . However, this does not explain the lengthening of *a* in  $(ki a)_F$   $(ia)_F$  and *ko* in  $(e ko)_F$   $(pau)_F$ , which already have two complete feet.

### 2.5.1.3 Elision

It is not uncommon for phonemes or whole syllables to be elided. Guerra Eissmann et al. (1993: 45–47) give examples of elision of almost all consonants and vowels in a spoken speech corpus, such as *o Rapa Nui* [o'rapa:i] 'of Rapa Nui'; '*ina e tahi* [ina'tai] 'not one'; *me'e rivariva* [me:ri:'ri:a] 'a good thing'. They do not indicate if any conditions on elision can be formulated; answering this question would require careful analysis of a corpus of spoken texts by different speakers, including different speech styles. Such an analysis lies outside the scope of the present investigation.

## 2.5.2 Lexicalised sound changes

Even though there are regular sound correspondences between Rapa Nui and its protolanguages (§2.2.1–2.2.2), there is a considerable number of words for which Rapa Nui has an irregular reflex of the protoform, i.e. where sound changes have been at work. This includes numerous lexical items for which Rapa Nui has two or more alternate forms. These processes are productive: the same patterns can be observed in recent borrowings. Davletshin (2015), who illustrates these processes in detail, points out that they should be labeled “incomplete” rather than “sporadic” or “irregular”: they are not completely unpredictable, but follow certain patterns.

<sup>33</sup> In Nukeria, monosyllabic prenuclear particles are lengthened before a bimoraic root (Davletshin 2016).

Below is an overview of these sound changes. The etymology is given where known.

**Metathesis** Metathesis is very common in Rapa Nui (cf. Du Feu & Fischer 1993: 166), mostly between onset consonants of adjacent syllables, occasionally between vowels of adjacent syllables, and very occasionally between whole syllables. It is especially common between the antepenultimate and penultimate syllable of trisyllabic words, but may occur in any pair of adjacent syllables. The consonants affected are often similar, e.g. two plosives (*t/k*), or two glottal consonants (*ʔ/h*).

- (30) Consonants (a–f = irregular reflexes, g–k = alternates within Rapa Nui):
- a. *ha'i* ‘to embrace’ < PPN \**afi* ‘to hold or carry under the arm’
  - b. *ha'i'a* ‘Malay apple’ < Tah. *'ahi'a*
  - c. *kōtini* ‘sock, stocking’ < Eng. ‘stocking’; Thomson recorded *token* in 1889 (Thomson 1980: 157)
  - d. *ηaro'a* ‘perceive’ < PPN \**roηo* + *-na*
  - e. *tako'a* ‘also’ < PPN \**katoa*
  - f. *tike'a* ‘to see’ < PPN \**kite* + *-a*.
  - g. *'arīnā* / *'anīrā* ‘later today’
  - h. *'avahata* / *ahavata* / *ha'avata* ‘box’
  - i. *'avai* / *va'ai* ‘to give’
  - j. *rava* / *vara* ‘usually’
  - k. *rava'a* / *vara'a* ‘to obtain’ (< Tah. *roa'a*)
- (31) Vowels:
- a. *hariu* / *harui* ‘to turn’
  - b. *nokinoki* / *nikoniko* ‘to meander’
- (32) Whole syllables:
- a. *kia-kia* ‘seagull sp.’ < PPN \**aki-aki*
- (33) Sometimes the pattern is more intricate:
- a. *ta'oraha* < PNP \**tafola'a* shows metathesis between *'* and \**f* in non-adjacent syllables
  - b. *hōηa'a* ‘nest’ < PPN \**ofaηa* ( $\emptyset C_1 C_2 > C_1 C_2 \text{'}$ ); cf. PCE \**kōfaηa*

**Vowel changes** Vowel changes are common. Most of these occur either in Tahitian borrowings or as variants alongside the original form. Most of these involve a single degree of height (*a/e*, *a/o*, *e/i*, *o/u*), but other alternations occur as well.

## 2 Phonology

- (34) *a/e*:
- hatuke* / *hetuke* 'sea-urchin' (< PEP \**fatuke*)
  - māria* 'calm (sea)' < PPN \**mālie*; Thomson recorded *marie* in 1889 (Thomson 1980: 155)
  - taupe'a* 'porch' < Tah. *taupe'e*
- (35) *a/o*:
- 'auhau* / *'ouhou* 'to pay' (< Tah. *'auhau*)
  - kora'iti* / *koro'iti* 'slowly; softly'
  - rava'a* / *rova'a* 'to obtain' (< Tah. *roa'a*)
- (36) *e/i*:
- eŋo-eŋo* / *iŋo-iŋo* 'dirty'
  - pā'eŋa* / *pā'iŋa* 'side'
  - pē'iku* / *pī'iku* 'sugarcane fibers'
- (37) *o/u*:
- kāhui* / *kāhoi* 'bunch' (< PEP \**kāfui*)
  - ku* / *ko* 'PRF' (< PPN \**ku*)
  - tautoru* 'to help' < Tah. *tauturu*
- (38) *i/u*:
- miritoni* / *miritonu* 'seaweed sp.'
  - rīpoi* / *rīpou* 'well made'
  - pō'iri* / *pō'uri* 'to get dark' (see 4 below)
- (39) *a/i*:
- take'a* / *tike'a* 'to see' (< PPN \**kite* + *-a*)

**The liquid *r*** This consonant alternates with either a glottal or zero in a number of words.<sup>34</sup>

- (40) glottal/*r*: especially in final syllables.
- kio'e* 'rat' (< PNP \**kiole*)
  - tike'a* / *tikera* 'to see' (< PPN \**kite* + *-a*)
  - ŋoriŋori* / *ŋo'iŋo'i* 'tiny'
  - hatu'a* / *hatura* 'cinch, belt' (< PEP \**fātu'a*)

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<sup>34</sup> In Marquesan, *r > '*  is a regular – though not exceptionless – change (Clark 2000b).

- (41) Ø/r:
- a. *emu* ‘to drown’ < PPN \**lemo*
  - b. *’ōhiohio* / *’ōhirohiro* ‘whirlwind’ (cf. PPN \**siosio*)

As these examples show, in those cases where the etymology is known, the *r* is usually – but not always – secondary.

**Glottals** The glottal plosive is sometimes added, occasionally deleted.

- (42) Added glottals:
- a. *ka’ika’i* ‘sharp’ < PNP \**kai*<sup>35</sup>
  - b. *’ohi* ‘stem’ < PPN \**osi*
  - c. *pa’o* ‘to chop’ < PPN \**pao*
  - d. *ha’ata’ahinu* / *ha’atāhinu* ‘to administer the last rites’ (< Tah. *fa’atāhinu*)
  - e. *pō’iri* ‘darkness’ is probably a borrowing from Tah. *pōiri*, with an inserted glottal by analogy of the synonym *pō’uri* (< PPN \**pō’uli*).
  - f. *ta’utini* < Tah. *tauatini*, with glottal inserted possibly by analogy of *ta’u* ‘year’
- (43) In some words, a glottal plosive reflects PPN \**h*:
- a. *maŋeo* / *maŋe’o* ‘sour, bitter’ < PPN \**maŋeho*<sup>36</sup>
  - b. *’iŋoa* ‘name’ < PPN \**hiŋoa*
  - c. *’ai’ai* ‘who’ < PPN \**hai* (see Footnote 3 on p. 483)
  - d. *’aŋahuru* ‘ten’ < PPN \**haŋafulu*
- (44) Deleted glottals:
- a. benefactive prepositions *mo* (< PPN \**mo’o*) and *mā* (< PPN \**ma’a*); the glottal was retained in the pronominal forms *mō’oku*, *mā’ana* etc (§4.2.3).
- (45) Glottal elision is especially common in borrowings from Tahitian:
- a. *pē* ‘gone’ < Tah. *pe’e*
  - b. *hāpī* ‘to learn’ < Tah. *ha’api’i*
  - c. *ha’amaitai* ‘to bless’ < Tah. *ha’amaita’i*

**The consonant *h*** In a few cases, *h* alternates with zero:

- (46) a. *aŋa* ‘to make, do, work’ < PPN \**saŋa* (the regular reflex would be \**haŋa*)  
 b. *ia* / *hia* ‘yet’

<sup>35</sup> This word does not have a glottal in other glottal-preserving languages. The same is true for PPN \**osi* and \**pao* below.

<sup>36</sup> PPN \**h* was lost in most languages. In the case of \**maŋeho* it was not preserved in any other EP language, so the PEP form may have been \**maŋeo*. Interestingly, the Hawaiian reflex is *mane’o*, with a glottal as in Rapa Nui.

## 2 Phonology

**Nasal consonants** Some words exhibit shifts between different nasal consonants, mostly between *n* and *ŋ*:<sup>37</sup>

- (47) a. 'aŋa- 'recent past' < PPN \*'ana- (§3.6.4)  
b. tiŋa'i 'to kill' < PNP \*tina'i  
c. tumu / tuŋu 'cough' (< PEP \*tuŋu)  
d. norinori / ŋorinori 'tiny'  
e. nako 'fat, marrow' < PPN \*ŋako  
f. kona 'place' < PPN \*koŋa 'fragment, part, place'<sup>38</sup>

In the last two examples, *ŋ* dissimilated to *n* in the vicinity of *k*.

**Monophthongisation** A number of particles exhibit monophthongisation of a VV cluster, resulting in a single short or long vowel:

- (48) a. ku 'PRF' < PPN \*kua  
b. nō 'just' < PPN \*noa  
c. rō 'EMPH' < PPN \*roa  
d. hē 'CQ' < PPN \*hea (see Footnote 7 on p. 487)  
e. tū 'demonstrative' < older Rapa Nui *tou* < *tau* (§4.6.2.1)  
f. ki 'purpose marker' < PPN \*kia (§11.5.3)  
g. Another possible example is 'o 'lest' <? PPN \*'aua 'neg. imperative' (see Footnote 25 on p. 554).

The opposite process occurs in *toa* 'sugarcane' < PPN \*tō, and *roe* 'ant' < PPN \*rō (though cf. Pa'umotu *rōe*).

**Elision** Some words with identical vowels in the penultimate and final syllables have a reduced variant in which the final consonant is elided:

- (49) a. kūmara / kūmā 'sweet potato'  
b. rova'a / rovā 'to obtain'  
c. pūtītī / putī 'blistered'  
d. 'ana / 'ā 'continuity marker'

<sup>37</sup> Blixen (1972: 10) notices a few cases of *n* > *ŋ* after *i*, though none of them are certain, e.g. *mahiŋo* 'people with common bond' ~ Tongan *mahino* 'distinguished'.

<sup>38</sup> Notice that *kona*, with *n* rather than *ŋ*, is also found in Mangarevan ('bed; dwelling'); cf. also PNP \**kona* 'nook, corner'.

### 2.5.3 The phonology of borrowings

As discussed in §1.4, Rapa Nui has incorporated numerous borrowings, especially from Tahitian and Spanish. It is well known that borrowings are often adapted to the phonological structure of the recipient language, both in phoneme inventory and in phonotactics (Tent & Geraghty 2004; Matras & Sakel 2007). The degree of adaptation may vary within a language,<sup>39</sup> depending for example on:

- the speech style and situation (formal or informal, oral or written);
- the speaker (younger or older, more or less educated);
- the status of the borrowing (spontaneous versus codified/integrated loanwords);
- language attitudes (purism).<sup>40</sup>

This also happens in Rapa Nui, as illustrated below. Borrowings from Spanish and from Tahitian will be discussed separately. Rapa Nui has also incorporated some words from other European languages (English, French); these follow the same general principles as borrowings from Spanish.

#### 2.5.3.1 Borrowings from Spanish

This section deals with codified borrowings, loanwords which are commonly used and have become part of the language. Codified borrowings should be distinguished from spontaneous borrowings, such as the following:

- (50) *Cincuenta matahiti o te hāipoipo, pa'i.*  
 cincuenta year of ART marry in\_fact  
 'The wedding was fifty years ago, in fact.' [R415.498]

Spontaneous borrowings are instances of code switching, even though they involve just a single word (cf. Fischer 2007). They are inserted without phonological adjustments. Codified borrowings, on the other hand, tend to be adapted to Rapa Nui phonology to a greater or lesser degree. This adaptation does not follow hard and fast rules; the same word may be adjusted in various degrees and various ways. For example, *olvida* ('forgets') may be pronounced as *orvida*, *orvira*, *orovida* or *orovira* (Makihara 2001b: 195). This means that the adjustments described below may or may not apply in individual cases, depending on the factors mentioned above.

<sup>39</sup> See Sakel (2007: 17); Mosel (2004) on Samoan; Fischer (2007) and Makihara (2001b) on Rapa Nui.

<sup>40</sup> Puristic attitudes are widespread in Polynesian languages, especially where languages are perceived as endangered. This may lead to the rejection of borrowings (see Harlow 2004: 154 on Māori), or increased adaptation of borrowings to the recipient language phonology. In Tahitian, there is a tendency to remove formerly accepted non-Tahitian consonants from European borrowings; in Rapa, Tahitian borrowings are consciously adjusted to the Rapa phonological system (Kieviet & Kieviet 2006; Walworth 2015b).

## 2 Phonology

**2.5.3.1.1 Phoneme level** On the phoneme level, no adjustments are needed in vowel quality, as both Rapa Nui and Spanish have a five-vowel system.

In the area of consonants, on the other hand, the two languages are considerably different. Many Spanish consonants do not occur in Rapa Nui; these tend to be adjusted to Rapa Nui phonology.

**Voiceless plosives and nasals** These consonants do not need adjustment.

**Voiced plosives** The treatment of voiced plosives can be explained from their pronunciation in (Chilean) Spanish. Word-initially and after consonants, these are pronounced as plosives in Spanish. After vowels, they are pronounced as voiced fricatives; in Chilean Spanish, these tend to be very weak: they often become approximants or almost disappear. In connected speech, word-initial voiced plosives after a vowel are pronounced as fricatives as well.

In Rapa Nui, Spanish *g* is consistently adjusted to *k*; *d* is usually either adjusted to *r* or elided (the latter only after vowels); *b* is either adjusted to *v* (word-initially) or elided (word-initially before *u*; after vowels).

- (51) *g* > *k*      *karapone* ‘barn’ < Sp. *galpón*; *rēkaro* ‘present, gift’ < Sp. *regalo*  
*d* > *r*      *rivuhō* ‘drawing’ < Sp. *dibujo*; *‘īrea* ‘idea’ < Sp. *idea*  
*d* > Ø      *kā* ‘each’ < Sp. *cada*; *revaura* ‘yeast’ < Sp. *levadura*;  
                  *noverā* ‘news’ < Sp. *novedad*  
*b* > *v*      *vata* ‘dress’ < Sp. *bata*; *veteraka* ‘beetroot’ < Sp. *betarraga*  
*b* > Ø      *ueno* ‘OK’ < Sp. *bueno*; *suerekao* ‘sub-delegate’ < Sp. *subdelegado*

**Fricatives** The fricative *s* (also spelled *c* before *i/e* and *z* before *a/o/u*) is either maintained or becomes *t*; *j* (= velar fricative [x]) becomes *k* or *h*. *f* is maintained or changed to *p*.

- (52) *s* > *s*      *resera* ‘foolishness’ < Sp. *lesera*; *siera* ‘sawfish’ < Sp. *sierra*  
*s* > *t*      *tapatia* ‘sandal’ < Sp. *zapatilla*; *kamita* ‘shirt’ < Sp. *camisa*  
*j* > *h*      *rivuhō* ‘drawing’ < Sp. *dibujo*; *hākima* ‘muzzle’ < Sp. *jaquima*  
*j* > *k*      *Kāpone* ‘Japan’ < Sp. *Japón*; *karo* ‘jug’ < Sp. *jarro*  
*f* > *f*      *asufre* ‘sulphur’ < Sp. *azufre*  
*f* > *p*      *kāpē* ‘coffee’ < Sp. *café*

**Affricates** The affricate *ch* ([tʃ]) becomes a plosive *t* or a fricative *s*:

- (53) *ch* > *t*      *tarakī* ‘beef jerky’ < Sp. *charqui*; *Tire* ‘Chile’ < Sp. *Chile*  
*ch* > *s*      *supeta* ‘pacifier’ < Sp. *chupeta*

**Liquids** Spanish *rr* (= trill [r]) and *r* (= flap [r]) both become *r*, which is a flap in Rapa Nui. *l* is likewise adjusted to *r*:



- (54) *rr* > *r*      *karetia* ‘wheelbarrow’ < Sp. *carretilla*; *karo* ‘jug’ < Sp. *jarro*  
*l* > *r*      *rēkaro* ‘present, gift’ < Sp. *regalo*; *Tire* ‘Chile’ < Sp. *Chile*

**Other** Spanish *ll*, which is a voiced palatal approximant [j] or fricative [ʝ] in Chilean Spanish, becomes *i*: *kaio* < *callo* ‘callus’, *kameio* < Sp. *camello* ‘camel’. After *i* it is elided: *tapatia* < Sp. *zapatilla* ‘slipper’.

**2.5.3.1.2 Phonotactics** Borrowings are also adjusted to the phonotactics of Rapa Nui; this affects the syllable structure and stress pattern.

**Final consonants** Final consonants are not allowed. This is resolved by adding a final vowel, which is either *e* or identical to the previous vowel: *'avione* ‘airplane’ < Sp. *avión*; *kōrore* ‘colour’ < Sp. *color*; *tampuru* ‘drum’ < Sp. *tambor*. Alternatively, the final consonant is elided; this happens especially with consonants such as *d* and *s/z*, which have a weak pronunciation postvocally in Chilean Spanish: *noverā* ‘news’ < Sp. *novedad*; *kapatā* ‘foreman’ < Sp. *capataz*.

**Consonant clusters** Consonant clusters are disfavoured. Word-initial consonant clusters are not allowed, with the exception of *pr-*. Some clusters are allowed word-medially, especially homorganic nasal + plosive: *kampō* ‘countryside’ < Sp. *campo*; *atrasao* ‘delayed’ < Sp. *atrasado*; *rentara* ‘apron’ < Sp. *delantal*.

Clusters can be resolved by vowel epenthesis: *'aramā* ‘army’ < Sp. *armada*; *karesone* ‘underwear’ < Sp. *calzón*; *kurua* ‘crane’ < Sp. *grúa*, *parata* ‘silver’ < Sp. *plata*. Another strategy is consonant elision; this is especially common with nasals or continuants preceding another consonant: *'ātā* ‘until’ < Sp. *hasta*; *rito* ‘ready’ < Sp. *listo*; *matakia* ‘butter’ < Sp. *mantequilla*; *tēnero* ‘calf’ < Sp. *ternero*.

**Word shortening** Long words are somewhat disfavoured; some words are shortened by elision of an unstressed syllable: *apenti* ‘appendix’ < Sp. *apéndice*; *tafate* ‘dish’ < Sp. *azafate*; *rentara* ‘apron’ < Sp. *delantal*; *pīnere* ‘longline fishing’ < Sp. *espinel*.

**Vowel lengthening** Sometimes, vowels are lengthened. This may serve to keep the stress in the same position: *kāpē* (not *\*kape*) ‘coffee’ < Sp. *café*; *nove'rā* ‘news’ < Sp. *novédad*; *pā'rē* ‘wall’ < Sp. *páred*. However, there are also cases where no adjustments are made to prevent stress shift: *pēri'kura* ‘movie’ < Sp. *película*.

In other cases, lengthening may serve to avoid degenerate feet, conforming the word to a preferential metrical pattern (§2.3.2). For example, the antepenultimate vowel is lengthened in *mūseo* ‘museum’ < Sp. *museo*.

In yet other words, the reasons for lengthening are unclear. In four-syllable words, there is a tendency to lengthen the first two vowels, creating a HHLL pattern: *'ōpītara* ‘hospital’ < Sp. *hospital*; *'āpōtoro* ‘apostle’ < Sp. *apóstol*. This happens even though LLLL is a common pattern in the language (§2.3.2). Lengthening may even shift the stress with respect to the Spanish original: *kara'pā* ‘tent’ < Sp. *carpa*; *Kiri'tō* ‘Christ’ < Sp. *Christo*.

## 2.5.3.2 Borrowings from Tahitian

Most borrowings from Tahitian do not need any phonological adjustment: all Tahitian phonemes are also part of the Rapa Nui phoneme inventory, with the exception of *f* (see §2.2.1). In fact, borrowings from Tahitian are often not perceived as borrowings at all.

In some words, *f* is retained (*fata* ‘altar’ < Tah. *fata*), but more commonly, it becomes *h*: *haraoa* ‘bread’ < Tah. *faraoa*; *hauha'a* ‘value’ < Tah. *faufa'a*.

Some long vowels are shortened: *hoho'a* < Tah. *hōho'a* ‘image’. Shortening may serve to avoid an illicit metrical pattern: *tane* < Tah. *tāne* ‘male’ (§2.3.2).

Glottals are usually preserved, but in a number of words, they are elided: *hāpī* ‘to learn’ < Tah. *ha'api'i*; *ha'amaitai* < Tah. *ha'amaita'i* ‘to bless’.

Occasionally, vowels are modified: *ha'amuri* ‘to worship’ < Tah. *ha'amori*; *mana'u* ‘to think’ < Tah. *mana'o*; *mareti* ‘plate’ < Tah. *merēti* (§2.5.2).

Even when the phonemic content of Tahitian borrowings is exactly retained, borrowing may involve phonotactic shifts, especially because Rapa Nui differs from Tahitian in diphthongisation and stress placement (see Footnote 11 on p. 37): *māuiui* [ma:ui'ui] ‘sick’ < Tah. *māuiui* [ma:ʷiʷi]; *pāpa'i* [pa:'paʔi] ‘to write’ < Tah. *pāpa'i* [pa:pʔaʷi]; *haraoa* [hara'oa] ‘bread’ < Tah. *faraoa* [fa'ra(:)°a] (< Eng. ‘flour’).

## 2.6 Reduplication

Reduplication is a process whereby all or part of the root is copied and prefixed or suffixed to the root. The copied part of the root is called the base; the copy is called the reduplicant. In the following example, the root is placed between brackets; the base is underlined, while the reduplicant is in bold:

- (55) *taŋi* > **ta**[taŋi]  
*taŋi* ‘to cry’     *tataŋi* ‘to cry (plural)’

In Rapa Nui orthography the reduplicant and the root are separated by a hyphen, a practice not adopted in this grammar (§1.4.4).

Reduplication is very common in Rapa Nui, just as it is in Polynesian languages in general. It occurs with many verbs (including adjectives) and is productive, to the extent that it is even applied to borrowings.<sup>41</sup> Nouns are generally not reduplicated, though a nominal root may be reduplicated to form a denominal verb, while a few verbal roots are reduplicated to form a deverbal noun (§2.6.2.2 below).

The patterns of reduplication will be discussed in §2.6.1, while §2.6.2 deals with the functions of reduplication. §2.6.3 briefly discusses reduplications for which the base form does not exist independently.

<sup>41</sup> Bob Weber (p.c.) once heard someone commenting at the telephone exchange that the line was engaged all the time: *ko okuokupao 'ā* (< Sp. *ocupado* ‘occupied, engaged’). Makihara (2001b: 198) gives an example of *kamikamiare* (*kamiare* ‘to change’ < Sp. *cambiar*).

### 2.6.1 Patterns of reduplication

Although there is a wide variety of reduplication patterns, all of these can be reduced to two types:

1. Monomoraic reduplication: the initial mora is prefixed to the root.
2. Bimoraic reduplication: the initial two morae are prefixed to the root, or the final two morae are suffixed to the root. With bimoraic roots, this results in complete reduplication; with longer roots, it results in partial reduplication.<sup>42</sup>

These two patterns will be referred to as type 1 and 2, respectively. They will be discussed in turn in the following subsections. They are analysed using concepts from prosodic morphology (McCarthy & Prince 1995; 1996; Inkelas & Zec 1995), which allows segmental content and prosodic structure to be subject to distinct processes and/or constraints. This allows reduplication to be described in terms of prosodic structure (i.e. feet, syllables and morae), even though the segmental content affected does not necessarily coincide with prosodic constituents, and may vary in size and shape.

#### 2.6.1.1 The morphology of type 1 reduplication

Type 1 reduplication occurs with a good number of bisyllabic verbs, as well as a few trisyllabic verbs and – to my knowledge – one quadrusyllabic verb.<sup>43</sup>

Table 2.12 illustrates the different patterns in terms of light (L) and heavy (H) syllables. Each pattern will be discussed below.

As Table 2.12 shows, for most bisyllabic words the reduplicant is a short syllable, i.e. it is an exact copy of the first syllable of the root.<sup>45</sup> For some verbs, however, the vowel of the reduplicant is lengthened. The choice between the two patterns is lexically determined: there is no difference in function between both patterns, nor is there a phonological motivation for the choice.

Both patterns can be accounted for by stating that type 1 reduplication adds one mora to the root. This mora must be integrated to the prosodic structure, which means that an additional foot is added to the word. This is illustrated in the following structure:<sup>46</sup>

<sup>42</sup> This means that there is no principled distinction between full and partial reduplication; cf. Blust (2001: 39). (Davletshin 2015 does take a full/partial distinction as primary.)

<sup>43</sup> Possibly type 1 reduplication also occurs with a few monosyllabic verbs: *kikī* ‘to say repeatedly’ can be analysed as reduplication of the initial mora + secondary lengthening. However, the function of this form (iterative, not plural) suggests that this is a case of type 2 reduplication. The same is true for other reduplicated monosyllabic roots.

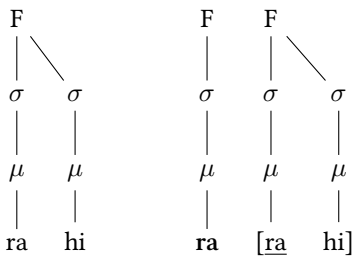
<sup>44</sup> When the root is vowel-initial, the reduplication contains a bisyllabic VV-sequence, which is not merged to a single long vowel.

<sup>45</sup> As discussed in sec. §2.3.2, the first syllable of bisyllabic words is always short.

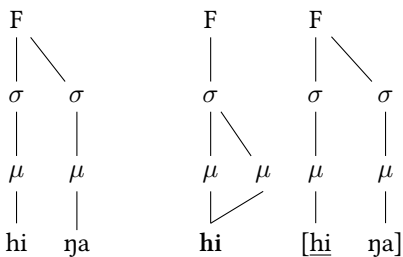
<sup>46</sup> For sake of conciseness, the PrWd level is not included in the structure trees in this section.

Table 2.12: Patterns of type 1 reduplication

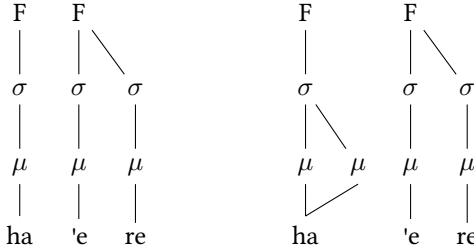
(a)	LL > LLL	<i>'ara</i> 'to wake up' <i>eke</i> 'to mount' <i>ha'i</i> 'to embrace' <i>rahi</i> 'much' <i>rehu</i> 'to forget' <i>туру</i> 'to go down'	<i>'a'ara</i> 'to wake up (PL)' <i>eeke</i> 'to mount (PL)' <sup>44</sup> <i>haha'i</i> 'to embrace (PL)' <i>rarahi</i> 'important' <i>rerehu</i> 'to faint' <i>tuturu</i> 'to go down (PL)'
(b)	LL > HLL	<i>mate</i> 'to die' <i>piko</i> 'to hide' <i>tere</i> 'to run'	<i>māmate</i> 'to die (PL)' <i>pīpiko</i> 'to hide (PL)' <i>tētere</i> 'to run (PL)'
(c)	LLL > HLL	<i>ha'uru</i> 'to sleep' <i>ha'ere</i> 'to walk' <i>tahuti</i> 'to run'	<i>hā'uru</i> 'to sleep (PL)' <i>hā'ere</i> 'to walk (PL)' <i>tāhuti</i> 'to run (PL)'
(d)	LLLL > LLLLL	<i>papa'aha'a</i> 'heavy'	<i>papapa'aha'a</i> 'heavy (PL)'



The initial foot only has one mora, i.e. it is degenerate. Word-initial degenerate feet are allowed in Rapa Nui, but there is pressure towards a pattern of whole feet (§2.3.2). For some words, this leads to the addition of a second mora to the initial foot, which is filled by spreading the first vowel:



For trisyllabic roots, a mora is added to the existing degenerate foot; no additional foot is needed. Moreover, no segmental content needs to be added, as the additional mora can be filled by spreading the initial vowel of the root:<sup>47</sup>



We may conclude that, even though the surface result of reduplication is quite different for trisyllabic roots than for bisyllabic roots, both can be analysed as involving the same process: addition of a single mora to the root. Another indication that both groups of words involve the same type of reduplication, is that in both cases the most common function of reduplication is plurality: *hā'ere* is the plural of *ha'ere*, just like *tuturu* is the plural of *туру*. This will be discussed in more detail in §2.6.2.1 below.

The only example of a quadrusyllabic word shows the same mechanism at work: a mora is added, resulting in an additional degenerate foot, which is filled with a copy of the initial syllable of the root: *paŋaha'a* > *papaŋaha'a*.

### 2.6.1.2 The morphology of type 2 reduplication

Type 2 reduplication has the following features:

1. Two morae at the edge of the root are copied: either the initial two morae are reduplicated as a prefix, or the final two morae are reduplicated as a suffix.
2. With trisyllabic LLL- and HLL-roots, suffixing is far more common; with quadrusyllabic roots and trisyllabic LLH roots, only prefixing occurs.
3. If the first vowel of the root is short, it is lengthened when the reduplicant is suffixed, as in (d) below.
4. If the first vowel of the root is long, it is shortened when the reduplicant is prefixed, as in (e) below. In this case, the reduplication base consists of the first two short syllables, rather than the initial long syllable.

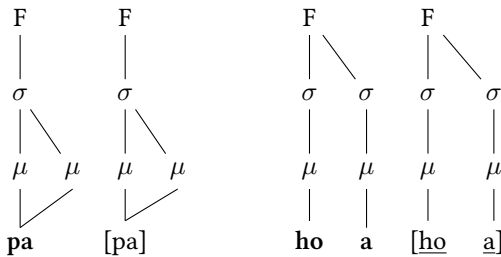
The patterns of type 2 reduplication are listed in Table 2.13. These patterns are united by a single feature: the addition of a foot to the word, which is filled in some way by copying two morae from the root. The different patterns are discussed in turn below.

<sup>47</sup> With bisyllabic roots, spreading of the vowel (*rahi* > *\*rāhi*) is not possible, as the resulting long vowel would cross a foot boundary, creating an impossible prosodic pattern (§2.3.2).

Table 2.13: Patterns of type 2 reduplication

(a)	H > HH	<i>pā</i> 'to fold' <i>kī</i> 'to say'	<i>pāpā</i> 'to fold repeatedly' <i>kīkī</i> 'to say repeatedly'
(b)	LL > LLLL	<i>hoa</i> 'to throw' <i>riva</i> 'good'	<i>hoahoa</i> 'to throw various things' <i>rivariva</i> 'good'
(c)	LLL, prefixing > LLLLL	<i>ha'ere</i> 'to walk' <i>mana'u</i> 'think'	<i>ha'eha'ere</i> 'to stroll' <i>manamana'u</i> 'to think repeatedly'
(d)	LLL, suffixing > HLLLL	<i>ha'ere</i> 'to walk' <i>tīŋa'i</i> 'to kill'	<i>hā'ere'ere</i> 'to stroll' <i>tīŋa'iŋa'i</i> 'to kill several people'
(e)	HLL, prefixing > LLLLL	<i>mā'ea</i> 'stone' <i>vānaŋa</i> 'to talk'	<i>ma'ema'ea</i> 'stony, rocky' <i>vanavanana</i> 'to chat'
(f)	HLL, suffixing > HLLLL	<i>vānaŋa</i> 'to talk' <i>pāhono</i> 'answer'	<i>vānaŋanaŋa</i> 'to chat' <i>pāhono</i> 'argumentative'
(g)	LLH, prefixing > LLLLLH	<i>'auē</i> 'to cry out'	<i>'au'auē</i> 'to cry repeatedly'
(h)	LLLL, prefixing > LLLLLL	<i>tokerau</i> 'wind'	<i>toketokerau</i> 'windy'

**Bimoraic words (patterns a–b)** For bimoraic words (whether mono- or bisyllabic), prefixing and suffixing yield the same result. In both cases the whole root is copied, resulting in a two-foot word. Below are examples of reduplications of H and LL words (here prefixing is assumed, cf. Footnote 50 on p. 66):



**Trisyllabic words (patterns c–f)** For trisyllabic LLL and HLL words, the pattern is more intricate. The relevant data are repeated in Table 2.14.<sup>48</sup> As this table shows, regardless the length of the root vowels, in prefixing forms all vowels are short, while in suffixing forms the first vowel is long. These data can be accounted for by the following constraints:

<sup>48</sup> The same patterns of lengthening and shortening also occur in Māori; Meyerhoff & Reynolds (1996: 148) give examples of patterns d–f.

Table 2.14: Type 2 reduplication of trisyllabic roots

root		prefixing		suffixing
L L L	(c)	L L L L L	(d)	H L L L L
<i>hā'ere</i>		<i>hā'ehā'ere</i>		<i>hā'ere'ere</i>
H L L	(e)	L L L L L	(f)	H L L L L
<i>vānaŋa</i>		<i>vanavanāŋa</i>		<i>vānaŋanaŋa</i>

*Non-violable:*

1. The reduplicated word contains three feet, i.e. one foot more than the base.
2. The reduplicant consists of either the first two syllables of the root, which are prefixed, or the final two syllables of the root, which are suffixed.
3. Only the first vowel of the root may be long, and only if it is word-initial.

*Violable:*

4. All feet are complete.

Constraint 4 is a general soft constraint in Rapa Nui (§2.3.2) which can be fulfilled – if possible – by vowel lengthening. But in type-two reduplications, the data show that the possibilities of lengthening are limited (constraint 3): only the first vowel of the root may be lengthened (*hā'ere'ere*), not the first vowel of the reduplicant (*\*hā'ehā'ere*). Moreover, the first root vowel is lengthened only word-initially, not when it is preceded by the reduplicant (*\*hā'ehā'ere*).<sup>49</sup> When vowel lengthening is not possible, the initial foot is

<sup>49</sup> An alternative option to account for *hā'ehā'ere* would be, to assume that the boundary of the root coincides with a foot boundary, so that the initial foot is complete, while the second foot is degenerate:

- (i) (ha'e)<sub>F</sub> [ (ha)<sub>F</sub> ('ere)<sub>F</sub> ]

But this would mean assuming an otherwise unattested pattern containing a non-initial degenerate foot. Moreover, it would raise the question why the root-initial vowel of *vanavanāŋa* (based on the foot *vānaŋa*) is short, rather than long; one would expect:

- (ii) \*(vana)<sub>F</sub> [ (vā)<sub>F</sub> (naŋa)<sub>F</sub> ]

Another reason not to adopt this analysis, is that some speakers put secondary stress on the second vowel: [ha,ʔeha'ʔere]. This suggests a foot structure where the second syllable is prominent, i.e. foot-initial:

- (iii) (ha)<sub>F</sub> ('eha)<sub>F</sub> ('ere)<sub>F</sub>

Pattern (i) is proposed for derivations like *haapai* > *hapahapai* in Māori by Meyerhoff & Reynolds (1996: 161); in their analysis, *\*hapahaapai* would violate a correspondence constraint which requires that every element in the reduplicant has a correspondent in the base. Notice that Māori is metrically different from Rapa Nui: degenerate feet are disallowed, and main stress falls on the leftmost foot.

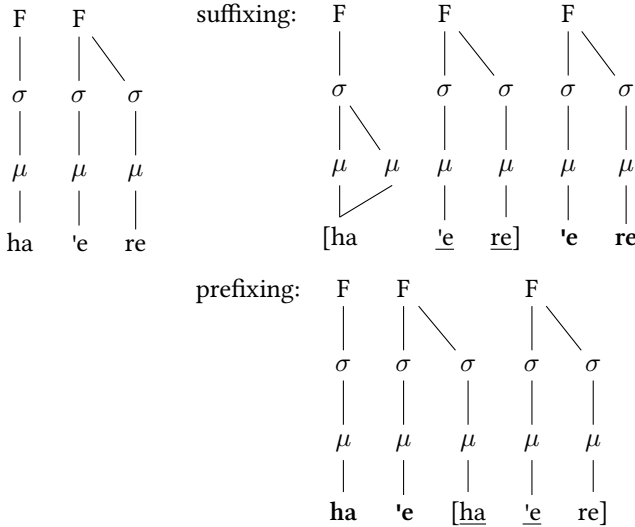
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degenerate, in accordance with the following non-violable constraint in the language (§2.3.2):

5. All non-initial feet are complete; the initial foot may be degenerate.

Though constraint 3 may seem to be somewhat arbitrary, it corresponds to a general tendency in Rapa Nui: the statistics in §2.3.2 show that long vowels are much more common word-initially than in other positions; moreover, they are very rare when surrounded by short vowels. (*\*ha'ehā'ere* would correspond in prosodic structure to *manupātia* ‘wasp’, one of the few LLHLL words.)<sup>50</sup>

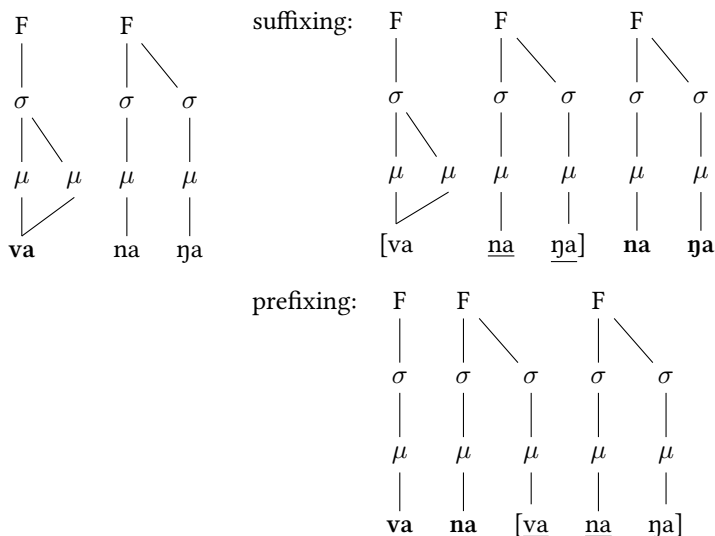
The constraints under discussion result in the following structures for LLL words:



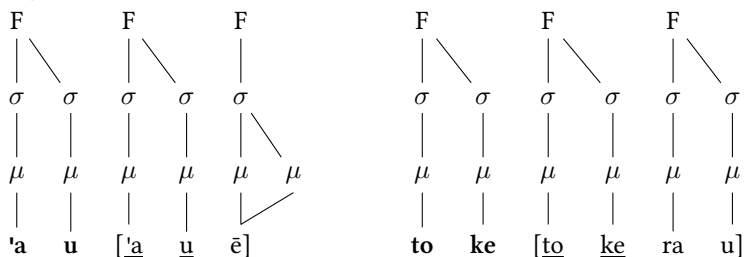
For HLL words the situation is identical, except that the root consists of two complete feet. Interestingly, the length of the initial vowel is not carried over into the reduplication. This is somewhat surprising, as in other cases long vowels remain long under type 2 reduplication (see (a) above and (g) below).

<sup>50</sup> These constraints may explain why suffixing is much more common with these words than prefixing, even though in other cases where prefixing and suffixing can be distinguished (type 1 reduplication; type 2 for quadrumoraic words) only prefixing occurs: suffixing allows the initial vowel to be lengthened (constraint 3), so the word consists of three whole feet (satisfying constraint 4); on the other hand, prefixing results in a degenerate foot. In general, prefixing reduplication is much more common in Polynesian, and in Austronesian in general (Finney 1999).





**Quadrumoraic words (patterns g–h)** Finally, the reduplication of quadrumoraic words (LLH words like *'auē* 'cry', LLL words like *tokerau* 'wind') is illustrated below. In both cases, a complete foot is added, which is filled segmentally by copying the first two syllables of the root:



Occasionally, type 1 and type 2 reduplication are applied in sequence: the result of type 1 reduplication serves as the base of type 2 reduplication. This is only attested with a few LL roots; the process can be described as follows:

$$(56) \quad \mu_1 \mu_2 > \mu_1 [\mu_1 \mu_2] > \mu_1 \mu_1 [\mu_1 \mu_1 \mu_2]$$

The result is a form in which the initial syllable of the root is repeated four times. A few examples:

- (57) *'uri* 'black' > *'u'u'u'uri* 'black (many things)'  
*tea* 'white' > *tetetetea* 'white (many things)'  
*kikiu*<sup>51</sup> 'to shriek, squeak' > *kikikikiu* 'to shriek again and again'

## 2.6.2 Functions of reduplication

The basic function of type 1 reduplication of a verb is expressing plurality of its S/A argument; the basic sense of type 2 reduplication is repetition or intensity.<sup>52</sup> However, in both cases exceptions and lexicalised meanings are not uncommon. Both types are discussed in turn below.

### 2.6.2.1 Type 1: plurality

The sense of type 1 reduplication is lexically determined. For most verbs, it indicates a plural (i.e. more than one) S/A argument. Some examples:

- (58) *He totopa o mātou ki raro.*  
 NTR PL:descend of 1PL.EXCL to below  
 ‘We went down.’ [R157.040]
- (59) *Te aŋa o koā Eugenio he pīpiko nō 'i roto i te rāua hare.*  
 ART do of COLL Eugenio PRED PL:hide just at inside at ART 3PL house  
 ‘Eugenio and his friend used to hide inside their house.’ [R231.279]
- (60) *Ka nonoho kōrua ka uunu 'i ra'e i te kōrua ū.*  
 IMP PL:sit 2PL IMP PL:drink at first ACC ART 2PL milk  
 ‘Sit down (pl.) and first drink your milk.’ [R334.117]

Most verbs do not have a plural form at all.<sup>53</sup> For those verbs that do have a plural form, its use is not obligatory – in other words, the base form is not limited to singular argument. In (61) the basic form *tu'u* is used, even though a plural form *tutu'u* exists.

- (61) *He tu'u mai tou ŋā uka era.*  
 NTR arrive hither DEM PL girl DIST  
 ‘Those girls arrived.’ [Blx-3.053]

Some type 1 reduplications have a different sense; this is lexically determined, hence unpredictable.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (62) <i>hati</i> ‘to break (intr.)’ | <i>hahati</i> ‘to break (tr.)’             |
| <i>more</i> ‘to be cut, wounded’    | <i>momore</i> ‘to harvest, pick; to break’ |
| <i>puhi</i> ‘to blow’               | <i>pupuhi</i> ‘to shoot (with a weapon)’   |
| <i>rehu</i> ‘to be forgotten’       | <i>rerehu</i> ‘to faint’                   |
| <i>rahi</i> ‘much’                  | <i>rarahi</i> ‘important’                  |

As this list shows, for a few of these verbs the base form is intransitive, while the reduplicated form is transitive. Here is a pair of examples:

<sup>52</sup> The same is true in Polynesian languages in general, see Finney (1999).

<sup>53</sup> The lexical database includes 56 plural forms with type 1 reduplication, on a total of over 3500 verbs and adjectives.

- (63) *He more 'ino Rau Nui 'i te mā'ea.*  
 NTR cut bad Rau Nui at ART stone  
 'Rau Nui was badly wounded by the stone.' [Fel-64.081]
- (64) *Ki oti he oho he momore i te tarake.*  
 when finish NTR go NTR RED:cut ACC ART corn  
 'After that, he goes and picks corn.' [R156.013]

### 2.6.2.2 Type 2: iterativity and intensity

Like type 1 reduplication, type 2 mainly affects verbs, though unlike type 1, there are some examples where a noun is involved; the latter mostly concerns cases of denominal verbs (see below). However, only for verbs is reduplication productive. Its function depends largely on the nature of the verb.<sup>54</sup>

**2.6.2.2.1 Repetition** Type 2 reduplication often adds an element of repetition to the event expressed by the verb:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| (65) <i>rei</i> 'to step'           | <i>reirei</i> 'to step repeatedly, to trample;<br>to sew with a sewing machine' |
| <i>tumu</i> 'to cough'              | <i>tumutumu</i> 'to cough repeatedly'   |
| <i>rapu</i> 'to gesture'            | <i>rapurapu</i> 'to make repeated gestures'                                     |
| <i>ηae'i</i> 'to move'              | <i>ηāe'ie'i</i> 'to move back and forth'  |
| <i>e'a</i> 'to go out, make a trip' | <i>e'ae'a</i> 'to make various trips'   |

For some verbs, reduplication indicates repetition of the parts or stages making up the event, rather than the event as a whole.<sup>55</sup>

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| (66) <i>hore</i> 'to cut' | <i>horehore</i> 'to cut with various movements'   |
| <i>kokoti</i> 'to cut'    | <i>kotikoti</i> 'to cut repeatedly; cut with scissors'                                  |
| <i>pa'o</i> 'to chop'     | <i>pa'o-pa'o</i> 'to make various chopping<br>movements, to chip away (e.g. at a tree)' |

**2.6.2.2.2 Distributive** Repetition of the event may imply a distributive reading, involving different participants: the event happens repeatedly, each time affecting a different Patient or Recipient, or performed by a different Agent.

<sup>54</sup> Johnston (1978), after a detailed lexical study, concludes that reduplication in Rapa Nui indicates 1) repetition; 2) quantification (of the subject); 3) duration; 4) the degree of vigour in which the action is carried out. I have not found any case where (3) is the sole factor involved; whenever reduplication may be taken as indicating duration, this is usually by virtue of iterativity. "quantification" may involve either the subject (usually with type 1, but occasionally with type 2) or the object; see below in this section.

<sup>55</sup> Haji-Abdolhosseini, Massam & Oda (2002), describing reduplication in Niuean, use the term *phase repetition*.

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- |      |                            |   |
|------|----------------------------|---|
| (67) | <i>hono</i> ‘to patch’     | <i>honohono</i> ‘to put various patches’  |
|      | <i>na'a</i> ‘to hide’      | <i>na'ana'a</i> ‘to hide several things’  |
|      | <i>ohu</i> ‘to shout’      | <i>ohuohu</i> ‘to shout (various people)’                                       |
|      | <i>poreko</i> ‘to be born’ | <i>pōrekoreko</i> ‘to be born (different children,<br>at different times)’      |
|      | <i>vahi</i> ‘to divide’    | <i>vahivahi</i> ‘to divide in various parts;<br>to divide among various people’ |

With plural Agents, the sense of the verb may seem to be similar to a type 1 reduplication. However, the type 2 reduplication still refers to a series of separate events: each Agent performs the action individually (possibly at different times), not as a group. In the following example, *tu'utu'u* expresses multiple events of arriving, i.e. different ships arriving at different occasions. The plural *tutu'u* (type 1) would imply that different ships arrived in a single event.

- (68) *Mai te tanjata nei i ha'amata ai i tu'utu'u mai ai te pahī*  
 from ART man PROX PFV begin PVP PFV arrive:RED hither PVP ART ship  
*papa'ā.*  
 foreign  
 ‘Starting with this man (=the explorer Jacob Roggeveen), foreign ships started to arrive (on Rapa Nui).’ [R111.014]

The choice between mere repetition and a distributive reading results to some degree from the semantics of the verb. Transitive verbs are more likely to have a distributive sense: repetition of a transitive event will often affect different objects. However, the precise meaning of the reduplication is not lexically specified, but may vary depending on the context. The two examples below show different uses of type-2 reduplication of *u'i* ‘to look’. While in (69) *u'iu'i* has an iterative sense, in (70) it is distributive (and effectively reciprocal).

- (69) *Pē rā 'ā e u'iu'i era a tu'a koi'ite e tute rō mai e*  
 like DIST IDENT IPFV look:RED DIST by back perhaps IPFV chase EMPH hither AG  
*tū 'amahiŋo era ko Mako'i.*  
 DEM evil\_person DIST PROM Mako'i  
 ‘Like that he kept looking behind him, to see if he was followed by that wicked Mako'i.’ [R214.038]
- (70) *He u'iu'i ia te 'āriŋa a totoru.*  
 NTR look:RED then ART face PROP RED:three  
 ‘The three looked at each other.’ [R313.005]

2.6.2.2.3 **Intensity** With many adjectives, reduplication signifies increased intensity:

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| (71) | <i>piro</i> ‘rotten’  | <i>piropiro</i> ‘completely rotten’           |
|      | <i>'ehu</i> ‘blurry’  | <i>'ehu'ehu</i> ‘very blurry, barely visible’ |
|      | <i>tea</i> ‘light in colour’ ( <i>moana tea</i> = light blue) | <i>teatea</i> ‘white’                         |
|      | <i>'uri</i> ‘dark in colour’ ( <i>meamea 'uri</i> = dark red) | <i>'uri'uri</i> ‘black’                       |

However, reduplication of an adjective does not always imply intensity: *rivariva* ‘good’, not ‘very good’. See §2.6.2.2.5 below.

2.6.2.2.4 **Lexicalised meanings** For some verbs, the sense of the reduplicated form is lexicalised and unpredictable, even though it is obviously related to the meaning of the root.

- |      |                               |                                       |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (72) | <i>'omo</i> ‘to smoke’        | <i>'omo'omo</i> ‘to suck’             |
|      | <i>mana'u</i> ‘to think’      | <i>māna'una'u</i> ‘to be worried’     |
|      | <i>taka</i> ‘to roll up’      | <i>takataka</i> ‘round’               |
|      | <i>poto</i> ‘short (in size)’ | <i>potopoto</i> ‘short (in distance)’ |
|      | <i>roa</i> ‘distant’          | <i>roaroa</i> ‘tall’                  |
|      | <i>haŋu</i> ‘to breathe’      | <i>haŋuhaŋu</i> ‘to pant’             |

In some cases the meaning of the reduplication, even though lexicalised, is clearly derived from an iterative sense. In the case of *māna'una'u* the specialised sense ‘to be worried’ developed from the iterative sense ‘to think much’. (In fact, *mana'u rahi* ‘think much’ is used with a similar sense.)

2.6.2.2.5 **Reduplication as basic form** For certain words, the reduplicated form is more common than the root. In these cases, the simple form is often limited in use. This is especially common with adjectives (§3.5.1.2): *nuinui* ‘big’ is much more common than *nui* ‘big’, which is used in limited contexts. For other words, the simple form is not in use at all; these are discussed in §2.6.3 below.

2.6.2.2.6 **Conversion** A number of reduplications are denominal verbs or adjectives:

- |      |                             |   |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| (73) | <i>māmari</i> ‘egg; biceps’ | <i>māmamamari</i> ‘to build muscles’                |
|      | <i>ŋutu</i> ‘mouth’         | <i>ŋutuŋutu</i> ‘to talk excessively, be talkative’ |
|      | <i>pia</i> ‘starch’         | <i>piapia</i> ‘starchy’                             |
|      | <i>tore</i> ‘stripe’        | <i>toretore</i> ‘striped’                           |
|      | <i>vai</i> ‘water’          | <i>vaivai</i> ‘moist, wet’                          |

A few reduplications are deverbal nouns:

- |      |                        |  |
|------|------------------------|--|
| (74) | <i>poko</i> ‘hollow’   | <i>pokopoko</i> ‘hollow place, basin’        |
|      | <i>toke</i> ‘to steal’ | <i>toketoke</i> ‘to steal frequently; thief’ |

## 2 Phonology

2.6.2.2.7 **Attenuative** Finally, reduplication may have an attenuative function, implying a certain weakening. Iterativity may mean that the event – or a phase of the event – takes place repeatedly, but each time to a small extent:

- (75) *mate* ‘to die, be extinguished’    *matemate* ‘to flicker’  
      ‘*ua* ‘to rain’                            ‘*ua’ua* ‘to drizzle’  
      *taŋi* ‘to cry’                            *taŋitaŋi* ‘to cry intermittently’  
      *tere* ‘to run, travel’                *teretere* ‘to tack (in sailing)’  
      *hiŋa* ‘to fall’                            *hiŋahiŋa* ‘to totter, stagger (to fall  
  a little again and again)’  
      *vānaŋa* ‘to talk’                        *vānaŋanaŋa* / *vanavananaŋa* ‘to chatter,  
  do small talk’

With adjectives, the reduplication may indicate a weaker, ‘more or less’ sense. I have found this sense only with one adjective; it is probably not accidental that in this case, an intensified sense (‘very cooked’) does not fit in well with the semantics of the word.

- (76) *mata* ‘ripe; cooked’                *matamata* ‘half-ripe; half-cooked’

### 2.6.3 Reduplications without base form

There are a number of type 2 reduplications for which the base does not occur on its own. Most of these are either nouns or adjectives with a bisyllabic base: *hiohio* ‘strong’, *kutakuta* ‘foam’, *rairai* ‘thin, flat’, *naonao* ‘mosquito’, *rohirohi* ‘tired’, *tokotoko* ‘walking stick’. Examples with a trisyllabic base are *māuruuru* ‘to thank; thank you’ and *māuiui* ‘sick’. Sometimes there is evidence that the simple form did exist in Rapa Nui: *paka* ‘dry’ is found in older texts, but in modern Rapa Nui only *pakapaka* is used. Other forms (e.g. *naonao* and *māuruuru*) were borrowed as a whole from Tahitian.

Some of these reduplication-only forms have a plural of type 1, based on the root: *kaokao* ‘narrow’, *kakao* ‘narrow (Pl)’, *ka’ika’i* ‘sharp’, *kaka’i* ‘sharp (Pl)’.<sup>56</sup>

There are also verbs which have the shape of a type 1 reduplication ( $\sigma_1 \sigma_1 \sigma_2$ ), but for which the non-reduplicated form does not occur: *’a’aru* ‘to grab’, *totoi* ‘to drag’, *nēne’i* ‘to defecate’, *nono’i* ‘to ask, beg’. For some of these, it is clear that the base form was known in the past: *ne’i* ‘defecate’ occurs in Englert’s dictionary, *toi* is found once in an older text, but neither is used nowadays. For other verbs such as *’a’aru*, the base form is not attested at all. Even so, they are treated as reduplications in the accepted orthography (i.e. they are written with a hyphen), because a type 2 reduplication of the same base does exist with a typical type 2 sense such as iterativity. For example, while there is no simple form \**’aru*, there is a type 2 reduplication *’aru’aru* ‘to grab several things’; hence, *’a’aru* is considered a type 1 reduplication and written with a hyphen (*’a-’aru*).

In fact, most words with identical first and second syllables can be considered reduplications for one of the reasons above. Exceptions are e.g. *’a’amu* ‘story’ (neither \**’amu* nor

<sup>56</sup> Interestingly, this leads to a situation where the plural is shorter than the corresponding singular (cf. Blust 2001: 40).

\*'amu'amu is attested), *rarama* 'inspect' (there are no related lexemes \**rama* or \**rama-rama*), and *tātara* 'to make a speech' (there are no related lexemes \**tara* or \**taratara* in Rapa Nui, though PPN \**tala* 'to talk; story' has reflexes in many other languages).

## 2.7 Conclusions

The preceding sections have given an overview of Rapa Nui phonology. The phoneme inventory of Rapa Nui is small (10 consonants, 5 short and 5 long vowels) and closely reflects the phoneme inventory of Rapa Nui's protolanguages. The glottal plosive is contrastive in lexical words, both word-initially and word-medially, but acoustic analysis shows that it is not contrastive phrase-initially. This means that it is not contrastive in certain prenuclear particles; the latter tend to have a glottal only when they occur at the start of a prosodic phrase.

The syllable structure of Rapa Nui is (C)V(:). There are no (C)V<sub>1</sub>V<sub>2</sub> syllables: sequences of non-identical vowels are analysed as disyllabic. One argument for this is stress assignment: the second vowel of a VV sequence may be stressed, which shows that it does not form a syllable with the preceding vowel. Another argument is word structure. Rapa Nui has a strict constraint on the metrical structure of words: long (i.e. heavy) syllables cannot be followed by an odd number of morae; in other words, the penultimate syllable cannot be long when the final syllable is short. This means that a word like *mauku* 'grass' must be trisyllabic, as a long penultimate syllable *mau-* would be metrically impossible.

Stress – both on word and phrase level – falls on the penultimate mora; in connected speech, stress is assigned on the phrase level. Interestingly, all postnuclear elements are (minimally) bimoraic, which avoids a possible conflict between word and phrase stress.

Two phonological processes which are regular but optional, are word-final vowel devoicing and pre-stress lengthening. The former is especially common.

A wide range of sporadic sound changes can be detected in the lexicon, resulting either in variants within Rapa Nui, or irregular reflexes of protoforms. Metathesis is rampant; other sound changes especially affect vowels, glottals and the liquid /r/.

Borrowings – especially from Spanish – tend to be adjusted to the phonology of Rapa Nui, but in various ways and to varying degrees. Some non-native phonological features are more liable to be accepted (hence not adjusted) than others, especially certain word-medial consonant clusters and the fricative /s/.

Finally, this chapter deals with reduplication. Two basic types can be distinguished: monomoraic (expressing plurality) and bimoraic (expressing repetition or intensity). Reduplication may be full or partial, but there is no principled distinction between the two: whether all or part of the root is reduplicated, simply depends on the size of the root.

Depending on the prosodic shape of the root, various processes of lengthening and shortening take place; these can be explained by metrical constraints, most of which correspond to general phonological tendencies in the language.

## *2 Phonology*

Further research could throw more light on the following areas:

- the pronunciation of vowels (formant frequencies);
- the phonetic correlates of stress (loudness, pitch);
- levels of stress (especially on phrase level);
- intonation patterns.



# 3 Nouns and verbs

## 3.1 Introduction: word classes in Rapa Nui

This chapter and the next deal with the description of word classes. In this area, the most basic distinction in Rapa Nui – as in other Polynesian languages – is that between full words and particles.<sup>1</sup> FULL WORDS occur in the nucleus of a phrase and mostly form large, open classes (though certain types of full words, such as locationals, are closed classes). PARTICLES are a closed class: they can be exhaustively listed. They occur in fixed positions before or after the nucleus, and most of them are highly frequent.

In Rapa Nui, full words and postnuclear particles have a minimal length of two morae; prenuclear particles may be one mora.

PRO-FORMS have an intermediate status between full words and particles. Like full words, they occur in the nucleus of a phrase and can be preceded and followed by particles. Unlike full words, they do not have a lexical meaning, and like particles, they form a closed class. Pro-forms include personal, possessive and benefactive pronouns, as well as interrogative words.

Two other intermediate categories are the negator *'ina* and the numerals. Both of these form a closed class, yet they function as phrase nuclei, as they can be followed by postnuclear particles, while numerals are also preceded by a particle.

Full words can be divided into word classes (parts of speech) on the basis of grammatical and semantic criteria. Some word classes can be defined by a single unambiguous criterion. These include the following:

- LOCATIONALS (§3.6), a subclass of nouns, are immediately preceded by prepositions and do not take articles.
- PROPER NOUNS (§3.3.2) are preceded by the proper article *a*.
- CARDINAL NUMERALS (§4.3.1) are preceded by one of the numeral particles *e*, *ka* and *hoko*.<sup>2</sup>

For verbs and common nouns the situation is much less clear. In §3.2, the distinction between nouns and verbs is discussed, and various aspects of their interaction are explored.

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<sup>1</sup> Buse (1965) uses these same terms for Rarotongan. Biggs (1961) uses the terms “bases” and “minor morphemes” for Māori; in Biggs (1973) the latter term has been replaced by “particles”. Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992: 71) distinguish full words, particles, proforms and interjections in Samoan.

<sup>2</sup> By contrast, quantifiers (§4.4) cannot be grouped together as a word class on the basis of distributional criteria, as different quantifiers show a different distribution.

The remainder of this chapter discusses other issues concerning nouns (§3.3) and verbs (§3.4).<sup>3</sup> §3.5 discusses adjectives, a subclass of verbs, while §3.6 discusses locationals, a subclass of nouns. Other – minor – word classes will be discussed in Chapter 4.

## 3.2 Nouns and verbs

There are three types of nouns in Rapa Nui: common nouns, proper nouns and locationals. Proper nouns and locationals are easily distinguished from other types of nouns and from other word classes, as indicated above. For common nouns, the distinction with other parts of speech – especially verbs – is less obvious. This section deals with the noun/verb distinction in Rapa Nui; in this discussion, *noun* should be read as a shorthand for *common noun*. §3.2.1 deals with the question whether there is a distinction between nouns and verbs in the lexicon of Rapa Nui; the existence of this distinction has been denied for some Polynesian languages. As I will show in §3.2.1.1, there are various types of evidence suggesting that Rapa Nui does have a distinction between lexical nouns and verbs. A given word may seem to be both noun and verb, but in most cases the two are either lexically distinguished (often with unpredictable relationships between nominal and verbal meanings), or the word is primarily a verb which may enter in nominalised constructions. In §3.2.1.2 I propose an analysis in terms of prototypes; this analysis captures the fact that there is a tendency to congruence of form and function: verbal meaning tends to go together with verbal syntax, nominal meaning with nominal syntax. At the same time, various non-prototypical types also occur: words and constructions having features of both nouns and verbs. The latter are discussed in the next subsections (§3.2.2–3.2.4). Finally, §3.2.5 brings together evidence for a general tendency in Rapa Nui to maximise the nominal domain.

### 3.2.1 The noun/verb distinction

Polynesian languages are known to be very flexible in use of nouns and verbs: many words seem to be used both as nouns and verbs. This is also true for Rapa Nui. In (1) below, *poki* ‘child’ occurs in a noun phrase (preceded by the article *te*) which is subject of the clause; in (2), it occurs in a verb phrase (preceded by the imperfective marker *e*) which is the clause predicate:

- (1) *He pōrekoreko te nā poki 'i Tāhai.*  
 NTR born:RED ART PL child at Tahai  
 ‘Children were born in Tahai.’ [Ley-4-08.10]
- (2) *Mai te hora era ō'oku e poki nō 'ana...*  
 from ART time DIST POSS.3SG.O IPFV child just CONT  
 ‘From the time when I was a child...’ [R539-1.614]

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<sup>3</sup> See also Chapters 5 and 7 on noun and verb phrases, respectively.

Likewise, in the following examples, *'a'amu* is first used as a noun ‘story’ (in a noun phrase functioning as clause subject), then as a verb ‘to tell’ (in a verb phrase functioning as clause predicate):

- (3) *∫He parauti'a te 'a'amu nei?*  
 PRED truth ART story PROX  
 ‘Is this story true?’ [R616.608]
- (4) *He 'a'amu ia e mātou i te 'ati ta'ato'a nei o tātou o Rapa Nui.*  
 NTR tell then AG 1PL.EXCL ACC ART problem all PROX of 1PL.INCL of Rapa Nui.  
 Nui  
 ‘We told about all the problems we have on Rapa Nui.’ [R649.238]

Like all Polynesian languages, Rapa Nui has hundreds of words which, like *'a'amu*, are defined both as a noun and a verb (These will be discussed in more detail in §3.2.2). Moreover, there is no inflectional morphology in the language which would facilitate distinguishing nouns from verbs. It is therefore not surprising that the existence of a lexical noun/verb distinction in Polynesian languages has been denied.<sup>4</sup> In such an approach, the terms *noun* and *verb* are used in a purely syntactic sense: whatever occurs in the nucleus of a noun phrase is a noun, whatever occurs in the nucleus of a verb phrase is a verb. Such a distinction is workable as there is a strict distinction between nominal and verbal phrases,<sup>5</sup> a distinction which also applies in Rapa Nui.

Nevertheless, I will argue that there are good reasons to maintain a lexical distinction between noun and verbs. That is, words are defined as noun or verb in the lexicon. This does not mean that all occurrences of these words are completely and unambiguously nominal and/or verbal. Lexical verbs very commonly enter into constructions which have certain nominal features; less frequently, lexical nouns are used in constructions with certain verbal features (as in (2) above). Moreover, many words are specified as both noun and verb in the lexicon, as *'a'amu* in (3–4) above.

§3.2.1.1 lists reasons to maintain a lexical distinction between nouns and verbs. In addition, several reasons are given why a syntactic approach to the noun/verb distinction is unsatisfactory. §3.2.1.2 proposes a definition of nouns and verbs in terms of prototypes. This approach maintains a lexical distinction between noun and verbs, while at the same time recognising that the two cannot always be unambiguously distinguished.

<sup>4</sup> See e.g. Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992) for Samoan, Lazard & Peltzer (1991; 2000) for Tahitian, and Elbert & Pukui (1979) for Hawaiian. A similar approach recognises a large class of “generals” (Biggs 1961) or “universals” (Biggs 1973), besides smaller classes of (pure) nouns and verbs. See e.g. Buse (1963b; 1965) for Rarotongan, Tchekhoff (1979) for Tongan and Biggs (1961; 1973) for Māori. See Vonen (2000) for an overview of the different approaches.

<sup>5</sup> In some languages the distinction is not as strict. Moysse-Faurie (2005: 168) points out that in East Futunan, aspect markers and articles may co-occur.

## 3.2.1.1 Reasons to maintain a lexical noun/verb distinction

Firstly: despite the flexibility in the use of nouns and verbs, the large majority of noun phrases have a nucleus denoting an entity, while an overwhelming majority of verb phrases have a nucleus denoting an event. While all action words can be used in nominal phrases, many entity words are never used in verb phrases, or only in very specific, uncommon contexts. For example, the word *oho* ‘go’ is very often preceded by the imperfective marker *e*, but the word *taŋata* ‘man’ is never preceded by this particle in the text corpus. Other words, like ‘*a’amu* in (3–4) above, are commonly used both as noun and as verb, but with a different sense. Somehow generalisations like these should be accounted for in the grammar. To assume one large class of words, which can be indiscriminately slotted into noun or verb phrases, does not do justice to actual usage.

A second reason not to abandon the notion of nouns and verbs in the lexicon, is that the semantic relationship between nouns and verbs is not always predictable. In other words, it is not always possible to derive the nominal and verbal meanings of a word from an underlying acategorical sense. This will be illustrated in §3.2.2. This could be accounted for by analysing nouns and verbs of the same form as homophones (i.e. separate lexical items), but in that case the relationship between corresponding nouns and verbs is lost: under a homophone analysis, a lexical item used in a noun phrase is unrelated to an identical-sounding item with a related meaning in a verb phrase. This is unsatisfactory from a semantic point of view, for even though the relation between nominal and verbal senses may be unpredictable, the senses are always clearly related.

A third argument that the apparent freedom of use does not imply the absence of lexical categories, comes from a rare phenomenon: very occasionally, words from other (minor) word classes are used as a noun or a verb. For example, a pronoun may occur in the nucleus of a verb phrase as in (5); demonstrative particles may be the nucleus of a verb phrase, as in (6):<sup>6</sup>

- (5) *;Ko 'ite 'ā kōrua he aha i mātou ai?*  
 PRF know CONT 2PL PRED what PFV 1PL.EXCL PVP  
 ‘Do you know what we did?’ [Notes N. Weber]

- (6) *–;Ku oti 'ā? –;Ko era 'ā ta'a me'e.*  
 PRF finish CONT PRF DIST CONT POSS.2SG.A thing  
 ‘–Is it finished? –I’m done (lit. something like ‘there is your thing’).’ [R230.105]

These words belong to well-defined categories (pronouns, demonstratives), so it is clear that they are not acategorical; yet they occur in a noun phrase or verb phrase. This suggests that the absence of a strict boundary between word classes can be explained by freedom of cross-categorical use rather than the absence of lexical categories: the possibility of cross-categorical use is present in the grammar anyway.

We may conclude that the distinction between lexical nouns and verb should be maintained.

<sup>6</sup> Postverbal *era 'ā* indicates a finished action (sometimes equivalent to a perfect or pluperfect).

In addition, there are a number of reasons why the syntactic approach to nouns and verbs common in Polynesian linguistics is unsatisfactory. In this approach, nounhood and verbhood depends wholly on syntactic criteria: a word is a noun when it is the nucleus of a noun phrase, and a verb when it is the nucleus of a verb phrase. This can be further reduced to a single criterion: a word is a noun when preceded by a determiner, and a verb when preceded by an aspect marker.<sup>7</sup> There are syntactic, semantic and pragmatic problems with this assumption.

Syntactic: the presence of a determiner does not necessarily mean that the phrase is entirely nominal. The nucleus of such a phrase may control verbal arguments:<sup>8</sup> in (7) below, the subject of *vānaŋa* has the agent marker *e*; in (8), *runurunu* is followed by a direct object marked with the accusative marker *i*.

- (7) *I oti era te vānaŋa e te vi'e...*  
 PFV finish DIST ART speak AG ART woman  
 'When the woman had finished speaking...' [Egt-01.095]
- (8) *He turu mai ia ki te hare hāpī koia ko te runurunu mai*  
 NTR go\_down hither then to ART house learn COM PROM ART gather:RED hither  
*i te rāua tūava.*  
 ACC ART 3PL guava  
 'They went down to school, while picking (lit. with the picking) guavas.'  
 [R211.012]

The phrase may also contain other VP elements like directionals, such as *mai* in (8). These elements do not appear in ordinary noun phrases, i.e. phrases headed by entity words like *taŋata* 'man' or *hare* 'house'. In conclusion, a phrase introduced by a determiner may still have certain VP characteristics.

Semantic: despite the presence of a determiner, the nucleus may have a verbal sense, referring to an event rather than an entity. Even though it is preceded by a determiner, the verb may therefore have a different meaning from a real noun with the same form.<sup>9</sup> This can be illustrated with the word *vānaŋa*, which may denote an action 'to talk', or an entity 'word, spoken utterance'. In (9) *vānaŋa* denotes an event and occurs in a verb phrase (preceded by the aspect marker *e*); in (10) it denotes an entity and occurs in a noun phrase (preceded by the article *te*):

- (9) *E vānaŋa rō mai 'ā paurō te mahana ki a au.*  
 IPFV speak EMPH hither CONT every ART day to PROP 1SG  
 'Every day he speaks to me.' [R655.018]

<sup>7</sup> For examples of this approach, see Biggs (1973: 19); Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992: 76); Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 21).

<sup>8</sup> Waite (1994), working in a generative framework, captures this insight by proposing that D (=determiner) in Māori can take not only NP complements, but VP and AdjP as well. This means that a verb may occur in a nominal context (DP) while retaining its verbal character.

<sup>9</sup> The same point is made by Besnier (2000: 511) for Tuvaluan.

### 3 Nouns and verbs

- (10) *Ka tai'o pūai te ŋā vānaŋa nei: raŋi, rano, rapu.*  
IMP read strong ART PL word PROX *raŋi rano rapu*  
'Read the following words aloud: *raŋi, rano, rapu.*' [R616.147]

Clearly, in (9) *vānaŋa* is a verb, while in (10) it is a noun. So far, so good. In (7) above however, *vānaŋa* denotes an event, even though it is preceded by a determiner. It serves as the complement of *oti*, a verb which commonly takes a nominalised event word as complement. Thus, *te vānaŋa* in (7) is not nominal in the same way as *te ŋā vānaŋa nei* in (10). Notice that this semantic difference correlates with certain syntactic differences: in (10), *vānaŋa* is preceded by the plural marker *ŋā*, a noun phrase element; in (7) it is followed by a subject marked with the agentive *e*, something to be expected of a verb.

Pragmatic: in some constructions, a nominal phrase is syntactically not a clause predicate, yet it expresses an event and functions as a predicate pragmatically. This happens in the nominalised actor-emphatic construction, in which the actor is expressed as a possessive, while the event is expressed in a noun phrase (§8.6.3). Syntactically these constructions are nominal clauses with the nominalised verb as subject; pragmatically, however, they express an event with the verb as nucleus. One example:

- (11) *'Ā'ana te haka tere i te henua.*  
POSS.3SG.A ART CAUS run ACC ART land  
'He (was the one who) governed the country.' [R370.005]

Constructions such as (11) are only found with event words, not with entity words. If the underlined phrases were regarded as noun phrases because of the presence of the article, they would be undistinguishable from "normal" noun phrases, which never enter into this construction.

We may conclude that it would be unsatisfactory to consider a word as noun whenever it is preceded by a determiner. Event words preceded by determiners may have either a nominal sense and nominal function, or a verbal sense and verbal function (possibly with verbal syntactic trappings). This suggests that we should make a distinction between LEXICAL NOMINALISATION, which turns a verb into a true noun, and SYNTACTIC NOMINALISATION, in which a verb is used as nucleus of a noun phrase, while retaining its verbal meaning and other verbal characteristics, such as the possibility to take verbal arguments. The examples above show that both occur in Rapa Nui: (10) is an example of lexical nominalisation, while (7) is an example of syntactic nominalisation. These processes will be discussed in sections §3.2.2 and §3.2.3, respectively.

#### 3.2.1.2 Prototypicality

As discussed in the previous section, it would be unsatisfactory to deny a basic distinction between nouns and verbs: most instances are either nominal or verbal both syntactically and semantically; the semantic relation between nominal and verbal uses of a word is often predictable, hence lexical; and the fact that words from minor (and well-defined) word classes can be used cross-categorially suggests that the freedom of use of nouns and verbs can also be accounted for as crosscategorical use, rather than by an absence of

categories. Moreover, an alternative approach, which defines nounhood in terms of the occurrence of a noun phrase (minimally defined by a determiner) does not do justice to the often very verbal nature of noun phrases: a phrase which seems to be a noun phrase because of the presence of a determiner, may yet have a strongly verbal character. It may contain certain VP elements, while certain NP elements are excluded; it may function as a predicate; it may denote an event rather than an entity.

The nominal and a verbal domain are not divided by a sharp boundary in Rapa Nui. Rather, “verbness” and “nounness” can be conceived of as a continuum, defined in terms of prototypes: at one end there are constructions which are entirely nominal (prototypical nouns), at the other end there are constructions which are entirely verbal (prototypical verbs). In between is a range of constructions which share characteristics of both.<sup>10</sup>

As the discussion above has made clear, prototypical nouns and verbs cannot be defined solely on the basis of lexical meaning, nor solely on the basis of syntactic properties. Rather, a prototypical form combines syntactic, semantic and pragmatic characteristics. I suggest the following definitions:

A PROTOTYPICAL VERB is a word which

- denotes an event or action;
- functions as the predicate of the clause;
- occurs as head of a verb phrase. A prototypical verb phrase has an aspect or mood marker and may contain various other elements, expressing for example aspectual nuances, degree and direction;
- governs canonical arguments such as subject and/or direct object.

A PROTOTYPICAL NOUN is a word which

- denotes a concrete entity;
- is used as a referring expression;
- occurs in a noun phrase. A prototypical noun phrase contains a determiner and may contain various other elements with quantifying, deictic and anaphoric functions;
- may take a possessor to express various relations with a dependent noun.

<sup>10</sup> See Payne (1997: 34–38) for discussion of prototypicality in word classes. Croft (2000) defines word classes as unmarked combinations of a pragmatic function and a lexical semantic class:

<i>word class</i>	<i>pragmatic function</i>		<i>semantic class</i>
noun	reference	to an	object
adjective	modification	by a	property
verb	predication	of an	action

Other combinations are possible: an object word may be used in predication (predicate nominals), action words may be used as modifier (e.g. participles), et cetera. Croft reserves the terms *noun* and *verb* for the unmarked combinations, i.e. prototypical nouns and verbs.

### 3 Nouns and verbs

This approach enables us to account for flexibility in use, while at the same time maintaining the basic noun-verb distinction: *taŋata* ‘man’ can be defined as a noun, even though it occasionally occurs in a verb phrase; the latter is simply a case of non-prototypical use.<sup>11</sup>

Between prototypical nouns and prototypical verbs lies a whole range of non-prototypical constructions, as illustrated above. Any attempt to divide this area up by drawing a line separating the “noun area” from the “verb area” is arbitrary. However, for practical reasons I will use the term *verb* for any word which is lexically (i.e. semantically) a verb, and *noun* for any word which is lexically a noun. Thus, in the examples above, the underlined lexical item in (1–3) and (10) is called a noun, while the underlined word in (9) and (11) is called a verb. *Vānaŋa* is a verb when it denotes the action ‘to talk’, whether it occurs in a prototypical VP or in a phrase that also has nominal properties. When *vānaŋa* denotes an entity ‘word, utterance’, it is a noun. As these two senses are obviously related, the relation between the two can be defined as polysemy (one lexical item having two related but not identical senses) rather than homophony (two unrelated lexical items which happen to share the same phonological form).

For many words, the semantic criterion is sufficient to classify them as either nouns or verbs: they primarily designate either an entity or an event. However, with non-concrete words this criterion does not work as well; it is not always obvious whether a notion should be classified as an event or an entity. Take for example natural phenomena: without a syntactic context, should ‘rain’ be classified as an event (‘it rains’) or an entity (‘the rain falls’)? Is ‘flood’ a thing or an event? The same is true for abstract nouns (*haŋa* ‘to love; love’; *mana’u* ‘to think; thought’). Such words are hard or impossible to assign to a word class apart from syntax; they are by nature not prototypical nouns or verbs. For these words, therefore, syntactic criteria are needed to assign them to a word class. One possible criterion is the presence of a determiner, but as discussed above, this is not a very strong clue; the determiner is a very weak criterion for nounhood. There are other syntactic criteria, however:

- Verbs may be modified by VP elements (see Chapter 7 and §3.2.3.3): apart from aspect/mood markers, there may be degree modifiers, the constituent negator *ta’e*, directionals.
- Verbs may take arguments which are marked as subject, object or oblique.
- Nouns may be modified by NP elements (see Chapter 5): quantifiers, numerals and a plural marker.
- Nouns may take a possessor.

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<sup>11</sup> Besnier (2000: 257) takes a similar approach for Tuvaluan: each word in the language has one basic word-class membership; use of the same word in other word classes is marked (e.g. nominals may be used as a verb, but this use is less frequent than their use as a noun and may be subject to structural restrictions). Moyse-Faurie (2005: 184) likewise argues for an approach starting from the prototypical sense and function of a lexeme (as opposed to an approach based on a syntactic dichotomy between noun phrase and verb phrase).



These criteria tend to converge into the same direction; for concrete words, this is usually the same direction as suggested by the semantics of the word: an entity word is usually modified by NP elements and may take a possessor; an event word is usually modified by VP elements and may take canonical arguments. In other words, nouns and verbs tend to show prototypical behaviour.<sup>12</sup> The same syntactic criteria can now be used to assign abstract words (for which the semantics do not provide a strong clue) to a word class. For an example of how syntax can help to categorise an abstract word, see the discussion on (14) in §3.2.2.1 below.

In two cases, there are morphological clues for noun- or verbhood.

1. The causative prefix *haka* (§8.12) turns a root into a verb. There are a few cases where *haka* + root is lexicalised as something else than a verb (e.g. *haka'ou* 'again', *hakanonoŋa* 'fishing zone'), but the vast majority of *haka* forms are verbs. However, like all verbs, they may take on certain nominal roles and function as a noun phrase head: see e.g. (29) below.
2. The nominalising suffix, usually *haŋa* or *iŋa* (§3.2.3), turns a root into a noun. As discussed in §3.2.3.1, the resulting forms have a more nominal sense than non-suffixed verb forms, and are used in nominal contexts.

In the following sections, the area between prototypical nouns and prototypical verbs is further explored. §3.2.2 discusses lexical noun/verb pairs; §3.2.3 discusses syntactic nominalisation; §3.2.4 briefly discusses the use of nouns in verbal contexts.

### 3.2.2 Lexical noun/verb correspondences

Many words in Rapa Nui are used both as nouns and as verbs, without any difference in form but with a difference in meaning. As discussed in the previous section, these are best considered as cases of polysemy, a single lexical item having both a nominal and a verbal sense.

First a note on terminology. Common terms like *nominalisation* and *deverbal noun* indicate that a noun is derived from a verb. While this is often the case, for other words the verb is derived from the noun, or the direction of derivation is undetermined. As the verb and the noun are identical in form, there are no morphological clues for the direction of derivation. For this reason the neutral term *noun/verb correspondences* is used here.

<sup>12</sup> Croft (2000: 96) points out that the meaning of words tends to shift towards the unmarked sense associated with their syntactic use: action words used in referring expressions tend to denote an object typically associated with the activity (e.g. 'learn+NOM' > 'school'); object words used as a predicate tend to denote an action typically associated with the object (e.g. 'baggage+V' > 'to pack').

### 3 Nouns and verbs

§3.2.2.1 explores the semantic relationships between these homophonous noun/verb pairs.<sup>13</sup> §3.2.2.2 discusses the – much rarer – derivations involving a nominalising suffix.<sup>14</sup>

#### 3.2.2.1 Homophonous noun/verb pairs

**3.2.2.1.1 Concrete entities** In many cases, the noun denotes a concrete entity (an object or person), while the verb denotes an activity in which this entity plays a certain role. Different semantic relationships can be discerned:

**Instrument** The noun indicates a physical object, while the verb denotes an action performed with that object as instrument: ‘to use N, to do something with N’. Examples: *hiahia* ‘saw;<sup>15</sup> to saw’; *hoe* ‘paddle; to paddle’; *harihari* ‘comb; to comb hair’.

Sometimes the verb is more specific in sense than the noun: *rama<sub>N</sub>* ‘torch’, *rama<sub>V</sub>* ‘to fish with a torch’ (a fishing technique done at night). In other cases the noun is more specific: *raŋo<sub>V</sub>* ‘to support’, *raŋo<sub>N</sub>* ‘stretcher, handbarrow’; *haŋuhaŋu<sub>V</sub>* ‘to pant, breathe heavily’, *haŋuhaŋu<sub>N</sub>* ‘bellows; forge’.

**Product** The noun denotes the product or result of the action, often a concrete object. Examples: *hoho’a* ‘to take a picture; a picture’; *taka* ‘to roll up; a roll, spool’; *tūtia* ‘to sacrifice; offering’; *tarakī* ‘to dry meat; dried meat’. One of the senses may be more specialised: *pū<sub>N</sub>* ‘hole’; *pū<sub>V</sub>* has the underlying basic sense ‘to make a hole, pierce, perforate’ but is only used in several specific senses: ‘to hit with a bullet, to hook a fish, to dig out tubers’. *Para<sub>V</sub>* has a wide range of senses: ‘to decay, ripen, rot, rust’, while *para<sub>N</sub>* only means ‘rust’.

**Utterance** Similar to the preceding cases are verbs of speaking, where the corresponding noun expresses the utterance produced by the action of speaking: *vānaja* ‘to speak; word, utterance’; *a’amu* ‘to tell; story’; *reoreo* ‘to lie; a lie’. This category also includes *mana’u* ‘to think; thought’. It seems that all words in this semantic domain can be both verb and noun; however, the semantic relationship may be idiosyncratic: *pure<sub>V</sub>* ‘to pray’, *pure<sub>N</sub>* ‘prayer’ but also ‘mass’. Notice that the nominal sense of these words is

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<sup>13</sup> To obtain the data for this section, I listed all words in my lexical database that have both a nominal and a verbal definition. As this database incorporates data from all previous dictionaries and word lists of Rapa Nui, it includes many doubtful definitions, translational equivalents for which it is not clear that the word is actually used in that particular sense. Besides, the lexical resources include many words not attested in the text corpus, either because they are obsolete or because the corpus is limited in size. This leaves just over 200 words that are attested in the corpus in both verbal and nominal senses; it is from these words that the data in this section are taken.

<sup>14</sup> Apart from the nominalising suffix and the causative prefix, there are no productive derivative affixes in Rapa Nui. The lexicon does show traces of derivative suffixes, but in all cases the word was certainly or probably borrowed or inherited as a whole. For example, *tāmiti* ‘to salt, cure’ is obviously related to *miti* ‘salt’, but *tāmiti* was probably borrowed from Tahitian, where *tā-* frequently occurs as a (non-productive) factive prefix.

<sup>15</sup> English definitions not preceded by ‘to’ are nouns.

not just ‘the act of performing X’: one can expose a lie or print a story, without being involved in the act of lying or storytelling itself.

**Patient** Other cases in which the noun is the Patient of the corresponding verb are those in which the noun is an entity undergoing the action or affected by the action: *kai* ‘to eat; food’; *‘akaveŋa* ‘to carry on the back; basket carried on the back’.

**Agent** For a number of words, the noun denotes the Agent of the corresponding action. In some cases the noun denotes a profession: *ha’avā* ‘to judge; a judge’; *tāvini* ‘to serve; servant’. For other words the Agent may be anyone who performs the action, whether incidentally or regularly: *mata’ite* ‘to testify; eyewitness’; *reoreo* ‘to lie; liar’.

**Location** Words indicating the place where the action happens, are rare. One example is *haka iri* ‘to ascend; slope’. *Hāpī* ‘to learn’ may be used in the sense ‘school’ (*turu ki te hāpī* ‘go down to school’), but more commonly this sense is expressed by *hare hāpī* ‘house + learn’.

**3.2.2.1.2 Abstract words** For abstract words, it is harder to distinguish distinct nominal and verbal senses. Noun and verb often refer to the same ‘thing’, but with an aspectual difference: while the verb expresses an event taking place in time, the noun denotes the same event as a bounded whole. This suggests that the distinction is syntactic rather than lexical.

**Natural phenomena** Many natural phenomena (e.g. meteorological conditions) can be expressed as either noun or verb. The following pair of examples illustrate this for *a’a* ‘flood’: in (12) it is a verb with the flooded object as subject, in (13) it is a noun in idiomatic collocation with the verb *rere* ‘fly’.

(12) *Ku a’a ‘ā te hare ‘i te vai.*  
PRF flood CONT ART house at ART water  
‘The house was flooded with water.’ [Egt]

(13) *He rere te a’a.*  
NTR fly ART flood  
‘The flood came up.’ [Mtx-7-17.012]

Other words in this category only occur as nouns: *‘ua* ‘rain’<sup>16</sup> (with *hoa* ‘throw’: *He hoa te ‘ua*, ‘It rained’, lit. ‘The rain threw’); *tokerau* ‘wind’ (often with *puhi* ‘blow’ or *hū* ‘roar’).

<sup>16</sup> Only rarely is *‘ua* used as a verb, without a subject: *e ‘ua rō ‘ā* ‘it was raining’ (R475.003).

**Human experiences** There is a large category of words for the expression of human experiences: feelings and propensities (*mataku* ‘to be afraid; fear’; *nounou* ‘to be greedy; greed’); physical experiences (*mamae* ‘pain; to suffer pain’; *mare* ‘asthma; to have asthma’).

**Other abstract words** There are many other abstract words. Some of these express telic events, events with a natural endpoint; in that case the noun expresses a bounded entity, the event conceived as an object: *hāipoipo* ‘to marry; wedding ceremony, wedding party’; *‘ā’ati* ‘to compete; competition’; *tau’a* ‘to fight; battle’. For other words the semantic distinction between the nominal and the verbal sense is less clear: *hāpī* ‘to learn, to teach; schooling, lesson, education’; *ha’amata* ‘to begin; beginning’; *ha’uru* ‘to sleep; sleep’; *mate* ‘to die; death’.

It is questionable whether abstract nouns are lexically distinct from the corresponding verbs. In a few cases, the noun has developed more specific senses: *makenu<sub>V</sub>* ‘to move about’, *makenu<sub>N</sub>* ‘action, movement; development; party/feast’; *rē<sub>V</sub>* ‘to win’; *rē<sub>N</sub>* ‘victory; goal (in soccer)’. Further lexical research could show if other abstract words show subtle meaning differences between noun and verb.

As suggested in §3.2.1.2, syntactic criteria could also help to determine the existence of lexical nouns and verbs. The consistent absence of verb phrase particles could indicate that the nucleus is a lexical noun, not a nominalised verb. Another syntactic criterion is the syntactic context in which the noun phrase appears. As discussed in §3.2.3.1 below, in certain constructions nominalised verbs occur in noun phrases without a suffix, while in other nominal positions they tend to have a nominalising suffix. If a word occurs in one of the latter contexts *without* a nominalising suffix, this suggests that it is a lexical noun. In the following example, *mana’u* ‘think’ and *horo’a* ‘perceive’ both occur in the direct object position, a position in which verbs usually take a nominalising suffix. *Horo’a* does indeed have the suffix *ija*; *mana’u* however does not, which suggests that it is a lexical noun.

- (14) *A au e haka 'ite atu ena i tō'oku mana'u, i tō'oku*  
 PROP 1SG IPFV CAUS know away MED ACC POSS.1SG.O think ACC POSS.1SG.O  
*horo'a ija.*  
 perceive NMLZ  
 ‘I will make known what I think, what I feel.’ [R443.013–015]

In many other situations it is hard to classify the abstract word as a noun or a verb, and for these words the existence of a lexical noun/verb distinction could be called into question. For many concrete words, on the other hand, there is a clear lexical noun/verb distinction. As indicated above, the noun often denotes a participant in the event rather than the event itself. Moreover, either the verb or the noun may have idiosyncratic senses.

Another indication that nominal and verbal senses are lexically determined is the fact that many noun/verb pairs which could be expected to exist, do not occur.<sup>17</sup> A few examples:

<sup>17</sup> Clark (1983a) presents similar observations for Māori.

- Some words express both an action and the agent of that action (1e above). Others, however, can only express the action itself: *hāpī* ‘teach’, not ‘teacher’; *aŋa* ‘to do, make’, not ‘builder’. *Kori* means both ‘to steal’ and ‘thief’, but *toke* means ‘to steal’, not ‘thief’.
- Some words express both an action and an object brought about or affected by the action (1b–1d); others do not. *Kai* ‘to eat; food’ is both a noun and a verb, but *unu* ‘to drink’ is only a verb: one may *kai i te kai* ‘to eat food’, but one cannot \**unu i te unu* ‘to drink a drink’. *Tarakī* ‘to dry meat; dried meat’ is both a noun and a verb, but other verbs of food preparation (like *tunu* ‘to cook’, *tunuahi* ‘to roast’) cannot be used in a nominal sense to refer to the cooked food.
- Many objects have an action typically associated with them, which can be expressed by the corresponding verb: *rama* ‘torch; to fish with a torch’; *hoho’a* ‘picture; take a picture’. Other objects also have an action typically associated with them, yet do not express that action with the same word: *kahu* ‘clothes’, not ‘to be/get dressed’; *hoi* ‘horse’, not ‘to ride a horse’; *vaka* ‘canoe’, not ‘to travel by canoe’; *mata* ‘eye’, not ‘to look’.

This confirms that noun/verb correspondences are – at least for certain words – defined in the lexicon.

### 3.2.2.2 Lexical nominalisation involving a suffix

While hundreds of words in the Rapa Nui lexicon show zero derivation, cases of lexical nominalisation involving a nominalising suffix are much less numerous. As discussed in §3.2.3.2 below, there are various nominalising suffixes, without a sharp distinction in meaning and use: *-ŋa*, *haŋa*, *iŋa*, *aŋa*, *eŋa*, *oŋa*. In the standard Rapa Nui orthography (§1.4.4), all of these are written as separate words, with the exception of *-ŋa*. All these forms can be used in lexical nominalisation as well as syntactic nominalisation, often with the same verb. An extreme example is the verb *noho* ‘to sit, stay’, which occurs with all suffixes: *nohoŋa*, *noho haŋa*, *noho iŋa*, *noho aŋa*, *noho eŋa*, *noho oŋa*; all of these may have the lexicalised sense ‘epoch, period’.

As discussed in the previous section, lexical noun/verb pairs without suffix may have various meaning correspondences. In the same way, suffixed nominalisations may be related to the root verb in various ways. Some indicate an object associated with the event or action: *moe* ‘to lie’, *moeŋa* ‘mat’; *hatu* ‘to weave leaves’, *hatuŋa* ‘woven roofing’; *toe* ‘to remain’, *toeŋa* ‘leftovers’.

Others refer to a place where the action is performed: *puhi* ‘to fish for lobsters and eels at night’, *puhiŋa* ‘a place where lobsters and eels are caught at night’; *piko* ‘to hide’, *pikoŋa* or *piko haŋa* (both obsolete) ‘hiding place’.

Other derivations yet have a more abstract sense. *Noho* + NMLZ is mentioned above. Another example is *haka tere iŋa* ‘system, culture, religion’, from *haka tere* ‘to lead, rule, govern’.

All these examples concern lexical nominalisation. The use of the nominalising suffix in syntactic nominalisation will be discussed in §3.2.3 below.

### 3.2.2.3 Cross-categorical use of borrowings

The Rapa Nui lexicon has incorporated a large number of Spanish borrowings (§1.4.2). These are used cross-categorially with great freedom. For many Spanish noun/verb pairs, Rapa Nui has borrowed one form, usually either the noun or the verb in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sg. present, and this form is used as both noun and verb. Below are two examples from the text corpus.<sup>18</sup> In (15), *rivuhō*, originally a noun (Sp. *dibujo* ‘drawing’), is used as a verb; in (16), the verb *agradece* (Sp. *agradece* ‘gives thanks’) is used as a noun.

- (15) *Ku rivuhō atu 'ā i tū 'avione era.*  
 PRF drawing away CONT ACC DEM airplane DIST  
 ‘They drew that airplane.’ [R379.057]
- (16) *Me'e huru kē tō'ona agradece ki te hau nei he rapa nui.*  
 thing manner different POSS.3SG.O thank to ART race DIST PRED Rapa Nui  
 ‘Her gratitude for this race, the Rapa Nui, is exceptional.’ (Makihara 2001b: 204)

§3.2.2.1 showed that there are lexical restrictions and idiosyncrasies in the cross-categorical use of Rapa Nui words. Further research could show whether similar restrictions apply in the use of borrowings.

## 3.2.3 Syntactic nominalisation

Syntactic nominalisation refers to constructions in which a lexical verb enters into a construction which has “some of the formal trappings of a noun phrase” (Clark 1981: 65). As discussed in §3.2.1.1, no change in meaning is involved; the verb retains its verbal sense, while the phrase may retain VP characteristics. In Rapa Nui, the minimal criterion for nominalisation is that the verb is preceded by a determiner (see the inventory of determiners in §5.3.1). This is usually the article *te*, occasionally a demonstrative determiner, but it may also be the nominal predicate marker *he*: see the discussion of (23) below.<sup>19</sup>

Just like lexical nominalisation, syntactic nominalisation occurs both with and without a nominalising suffix. In the first case, the suffix is usually *iŋa* or *haŋa*, occasionally *eŋa*, *aŋa* or *oŋa*; the form of the suffix is discussed in §3.2.3.2. In the second case (zero nominalisation), the nominalised form is identical to the verb itself.

In §3.2.3.1 the use of both types of nominalisations is discussed. In §3.2.3.3, the nominalised phrase is examined in further detail, showing that this phrase retains certain verbal characteristics.

<sup>18</sup> See also Makihara (2001b), who gives many examples from a corpus of spoken texts.

<sup>19</sup> Pace Moyses-Faurie (2011: 136): “In Polynesian languages, only the specific article may nominalise a verb phrase”.

## 3.2.3.1 Uses of zero and suffixed nominalisation

The choice between zero and suffixed nominalisation depends to a large extent on the syntactic context. Generally speaking, zero nominalisations are used in more verbal contexts, while suffixed forms are used in more nominal contexts. However, there is no clear watershed between the two sets of contexts: in certain environments either one can be used. The difference between the two can be formulated as follows: zero nominalisation presents the event as an *EVENT*, i.e. as something which has a temporal duration, and which may be progressive or habitual. Suffixed nominalisation noun presents the event as an *OBJECT*, i.e. as a bounded entity, seen as a whole.<sup>20</sup> Often it refers to one particular occasion when the event took place, or to a set of such occasions. By contrast, zero forms may refer to potential occurrences. Broadly speaking, suffixed nominalisation are *realis*, while zero nominalisations may be *irrealis*.<sup>21</sup>

The event/object distinction goes a long way towards explaining the distribution of both items. The different syntactic contexts will be listed and illustrated below, but here are some general observations. Zero nominalisations are commonly used as main clause predicate, a typical verbal context. Aspectual verbs like *ha'amata* 'begin' refer to the temporal structure of an event, so it is not surprising that they take a zero nominalisation as complement. By contrast, in typical nominal positions (subject, possessor...) suffixed forms are more common.

When the event is negated (an *irrealis* context), zero nominalisations are common, while suffixed forms are extremely rare.

- (17) *'I te ta'e hakarongo, he naro rō atu 'ai.*  
 at ART not listen NTR lost EMPH away SUBS  
 'Because (the sheep) did not listen, it got lost.' [R490.005]

When the event is modified by a numeral (i.e. is countable), a verbal noun is used:

- (18) *He take'a mai ka teka e rua haka teka ija 'i muri o te motu.*  
 NTR see hither CNTG revolve NUM two CAUS revolve NMLZ at near of ART  
 islet  
 'I saw (the bird) making two rounds near the islet.' [R338.014]

Not all distributional facts are easily explained, though. Certain constructions take a suffixed nominalisation, even though they denote an event with temporal duration (e.g. the *ko te V* construction in (24–25) below). On the other hand, a reason clause may refer to one particular instance, yet contain a zero nominalisation (see (29)).

<sup>20</sup> Clark (1981: 79) makes a similar distinction, when he suggests "the hypothesis that unsuffixed nominalizations denote activities or processes [...] whereas suffixed nominalizations denote events, which can be enumerated and located in time".

<sup>21</sup> *Realis*, as defined by Payne (1997: 244), asserts that an event has actually happened; the *irrealis* mode does not assert that the event actually happened, nor that it did not happen (§11.5.2).

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We may conclude that the choice between the two forms is partly based on semantics, partly conventionalised (certain constructions always or usually take one form), and partly free.

Regardless the syntactic position of the phrase, suffixed forms are used when the word refers to the place, time<sup>22</sup> or manner of the event, as the following examples show:

- (19) *Tō'ona noho haŋa 'i Ahu te Peu.*  
POSS.3SG.O stay NMLZ at Ahu te Peu  
'He lived (lit. his living) in Ahu te Peu.' [R233.002]
- (20) *Kai ŋaro i a au mai tō'oku 'iti'iti iŋa 'ā ki te hora nei.*  
NEG.PFV forgotten at PROP 1SG from POSS.1SG.O small:RED NMLZ IDENT to ART time  
PROX  
'I have not forgotten it from my childhood (lit. smallness) until now.' [R416.936]
- (21) *Pē nei te aŋa haŋa o te rā'au nei.*  
like PROX ART make NMLZ of ART medicine PROX  
'This is how you make (lit. the making of) this medicine.' [R313.159]

In the remainder of this section, the different contexts in which the two nominalisations are used, are listed and illustrated.

**3.2.3.1.1 Nominalised main clauses** A number of constructions involve a main clause which is nominalised, even though they express an event. In most of these, zero nominalisation is used.

**The actor-emphatic** The actor-emphatic is a very common construction, in which an Agent is preposed as a possessive pronoun or phrase (§8.6.3). In one actor-emphatic construction (there are three in Rapa Nui), the verb is nominalised (i.e. preceded by the article).

- (22) *'Ā'ana te kai i te me'e ririva ta'ato'a.*  
POSS.3SG.A ART eat ACC ART thing good:RED all  
'He (was the one who) ate all the best things.' [R532-01.011]

**Ko S te V** Much less common is the *ko S te V* construction: a topicalised subject marked by *ko*, followed by a zero nominalisation (see (94–95) on p. 410).

<sup>22</sup> The temporal sense is found with “stage words” (see Broschart 1997: 148): certain adjectives like *'iti'iti* ‘small’, and the noun *poki* ‘child’: *poki iŋa* ‘childhood’. In the corpus, *poki* is the only noun taking the nominaliser.



**He V te aŋa** Another common construction is *he V te aŋa* (lit. ‘the doing was V-ing’), which indicates an habitual action, event or attitude. This construction involves two nominalised verbs: *aŋa* ‘to do’ is nominalised and serves as the subject of the clause; the other verb serves as nominal predicate. An example:

- (23) *I rā noho iŋa he tu'u nō mai te aŋa o te nu'u pa'ari ki*  
 at DIST stay NMLZ PRED arrive just hither ART do of ART people adult to  
*tō'oku koro u'i.*  
 POSS.1SG.O Dad look  
 ‘At that time the old people always came to see my father (lit. just arriving was the doing of the old people).’ [R649.101]

As *he* can precede both verbs (the aspect marker *he*) and nouns (the predicate marker *he*), it may not be immediately obvious that *he tu'u* is nominalised. However, the further contents of the clause show that this is the case: the subject of the clause is *te aŋa*, which is not an argument of *tu'u*. Conversely, the Agent of *tu'u* is not expressed as subject of the clause, but as a genitive phrase after *aŋa*. (Another indication that the verb in this construction is nominalised is, that its object may be incorporated; see (128) on p. 262.)

**Ko te V** The construction *ko te* + verb signifies that an action or situation is ongoing or persisting. In most cases a suffixed nominalisation is used, followed by the identity particle *'ana/'ā*, as in (24). Sometimes the identity particle is left out, in which case a zero nominalisation may be used, as in (25).

- (24) *Ko te ai iŋa 'ana te kona mai ira e punua ena te naonao.*  
 PROM ART exist NMLZ CONT ART place from ANA IPFV hatch MED ART mosquito  
 ‘There are still places from where the mosquito breeds.’ [R535.054]
- (25) *Ko te kimi ko te ohu a nua.*  
 PROM ART search PROM ART shout PROP Mum  
 ‘Mum kept searching and shouting.’ [R236.082]

**Other main clauses** Occasionally zero-nominalised verbs occur in main clauses in other cases. This happens especially with verbs like *haya* ‘want’ and *kī* ‘say’ (cf. §9.2.6).<sup>23</sup> Notice that their S/A argument<sup>24</sup> is expressed as a possessive.

- (26) *Te haya era o Malo mo ai ko Hepu mo rē.*  
 ART want DIST of Malo for exist PROM Hepu for win  
 ‘Malo wants (lit. ‘Malo’s wish’) Hepu to win.’ [R408.064]

<sup>23</sup> Interestingly, in Māori there is also a tendency to express ‘wish’-type predicates nominally, followed by a purpose clause (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 459).

<sup>24</sup> Following Comrie (1978), the following terms are used in this grammar to refer to verb arguments without specifying a semantic role: S = the single argument of an intransitive verb; A = the most agentive argument of a transitive verb (typically an Agent or Experiencer); O = the least agentive argument of a transitive verb (typically a Patient or Theme).

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- (27) *Tā'ana kī: ta'e tātou hokotahi nō.*  
POSS.3SG.A say CONNEG 1PL.INCL alone just  
'What she said, was: we are not alone.' [R649.191]

**Reason clause** Finally, a construction with nominalised verb is sometimes used to express reasons (see (259–260) on p. 568).

**3.2.3.1.2 Subordinate clauses** In subordinate clauses, either suffixed or zero nominalisations are used, depending on the type of clause:

**'O + nominalised verb** In causal clauses, after the preposition 'o, nominalised verbs are common (§4.7.3):

- (28) *Ko koa rivariva 'ana te ŋā poki 'o te turu haka'ou o*  
PRF happy good:RED CONT ART PL child because\_of ART go\_down again of  
*rāua ki te hāpī.*  
3PL to ART learn  
'The children are really happy because they go back to school.' [R334.128]

**'I + nominalised verb** The preposition 'i followed by a verb has various usages. It may indicate a reason, in which case it is followed by either a zero or a suffixed nominalisation; the latter is more common.

- (29) *Ku mate atu 'ā a au 'i te kata 'i tū haka paka era i*  
PRF die away CONT PROP 1SG at ART laugh at DEM CAUS conspicuous DIST ACC  
*a ia.*  
PROP 3SG  
'I laughed my head off (lit. died with laughing) because of his boasting.'  
[R230.172]

- (30) *Ko ha'umani 'ana 'i te kai iŋa nō i te moa.*  
PRF fed\_up CONT at ART eat NMLZ just ACC ART chicken  
'He was fed up with eating only chicken.' [R617.202]

'I is also used in a temporal sense; in that case the clause usually has a suffixed nominalisation:

- (31) *I te tu'u iŋa haka'ou mai era mai Hiva...*  
at ART arrive NMLZ again hither DIST from mainland  
'When he returned (lit. in the returning) again from the mainland...'  
[R487.021]

**Temporal clauses** In temporal clauses introduced by *ki* or '*ātā ki* 'until', suffixed forms are used:

- (32) *E tiaki rō atu ki tu'u topa hāga atu.*  
 IPFV wait EMPH away to POSS.2SG.O descend NMLZ away  
 'I will wait until you come down.' [R230.047]

However, *ante ki* 'before' is followed by a zero nominalisation – possibly because its sense is more irrealis than '*ātā ki*.

- (33) *ante ki te uru ki roto*  
 before to ART enter to inside  
 'before she went inside' [R181.005]

**Circumstantial clauses** Occasionally in circumstantial clauses, after *koia ko*, a zero nominalisation is used; more commonly, however, *koia ko* is followed by a verb (§8.10.4.2).

**Purpose clauses** Purpose clauses, introduced by *mo* 'in order to', usually have a (non-nominalised) verb (§11.5.1). Interestingly, occasionally they have a suffixed nominalisation directly following *mo*. This is the only construction in which a suffixed form is not preceded by a determiner:

- (34) *'Ina he mā'eha mo u'i ija i te kai.*  
 NEG PRED light for see NMLZ ACC ART food  
 'There was no light to see the food.' [R352.070]

**3.2.3.1.3 Nominal roles** In nominal positions in general, suffixed forms are much more common than zero nominalisations.

**Subject** Suffixed nominalisations may be the subject of verbal or nominal clauses:

- (35) *He riva nō te hī ija ki te nu'u o mu'a 'ana i te siera.*  
 PRED good just ART to\_fish NMLZ for ART people of before IDENT ACC ART sawfish  
 'For the people of the past, fishing for sawfish was something nice.' [R364.019]
- (36) *I ha'amata ai te noho ija 'i ira mai te matahiti toru 'ahuru mā*  
 PFV begin PVP ART stay NMLZ at ANA from ART year three ten plus  
*pae.*  
 five  
 'His living there started in the year '35.' [R539-1.492]

For more examples, see (19) and (21) above.

### 3 Nouns and verbs

However, the subject may also be a zero nominalisation. This tends to happen when the verb refers to a potential or general situation, rather than an event which happens at a specific time:

- (37) 'O           ira te **oho** tai e   oho hai mahana rivariva.  
 because\_of ANA ART go sea IPFV go INS day good:RED  
 'Therefore, going to sea is done on beautiful days.' [R354.016]

Notice however, that (35) does not refer to a specific instance either, yet it involves a suffixed form.

These examples suggest that there is a certain freedom in the use of both forms.

**Direct object** In direct object position, zero nominalisations are common with two classes of verbs: aspectual verbs and certain cognitive verbs.

ASPECTUAL VERBS include *oti* 'to finish', *ha'amata* 'to begin' and *hōrou* 'to hurry, do in a haste', as well as a few less common verbs like *haka mao* 'to terminate'. They may take a nominalised verb as complement, which may or may not be introduced by the object marker *i* (§11.3.2).

- (38) I   oti   era i te **hakarō**jo e Kāiŋa...  
 PFV finish DIST ACC ART listen AG Kainga  
 'When Kainga had finished listening...' [R304.011]
- (39) He ha'amata rō 'ai te me'e ta'ato'a te **aŋa**.  
 NTR begin EMPH SUBS ART thing all ART do  
 'All the things began to be done.' [R378.022]

Aspectual verbs are not always constructed with a nominalised verb, however. For more details, see §11.3.2.

COGNITIVE VERBS include, among others, *'ite* 'to know', *hāpī* 'to learn' and *māhani* 'to be or get used to'. These often take a zero nominalisation when the content of knowledge is a skill, a 'how to':

- (40) ʔKai 'ite 'ō koe i te **tatau** i te ū?  
 NEG.PFV know really 2SG ACC ART squeeze ACC ART milk  
 'Don't you know how to milk cows?' [R245.184]
- (41) Ki oti he hāpī mai i te **pāpa**'i i te mākini.  
 when finish NTR learn hither ACC ART write at ART machine  
 'After that, we learned typing.' [R206.008]

However, a suffixed form may also be used, possibly indicating the manner of performing an activity:

- (42) *Mo hāpī rivariva ō'ou i te pāpa'i haŋa o te ŋā me'e nei...*  
 for learn good:RED POSS.2SG.O ACC ART write NMLZ of ART PL thing PROX  
 'In order for you to learn well the (way of) writing these things...' [R617.003]

With complements of other verbs, for example verbs of perception and speech, suffixed forms are much more common:

- (43) *E ŋaro'a nō 'ā e au te hetu iŋa o tu'u māhatu.*  
 IPFV perceive just CONT AG 1SG ART strike NMLZ of POSS.2SG.O heart  
 'I hear the beating of your heart.' [R505.015]
- (44) *He vānaŋa tahi i te mate eŋa era o tū poki era.*  
 NTR speak all ACC ART die NMLZ DIST of DEM child DIST  
 'He told all about the death of that child.' [R102.105]

**Possessives** When a verb is used as a possessive, suffixed nominalisations are often used:

- (45) *E ai rō 'ana e rua huru o te u'i iŋa o te taŋata.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM two manner of ART look NMLZ of ART man  
 'There are two ways in which people see it (lit. two ways of seeing).' [R648.218]

Zero nominalisations also occur in this position, especially after temporal nouns:

- (46) *Ka rua matahiti o te poreko o Puakiva...*  
 CNTG two year of ART born of Puakiva  
 'Two years after Puakiva's birth...' [R229.007]

One might expect a suffixed form here, as the birth is a one-time event which has happened; yet zero forms are more common when modifying a temporal noun.

**After prepositions** Suffixed nominalisations are found after most prepositions: *mai* 'from', *hai* 'with', *pē* 'like', *ki* 'to' (often temporal 'until', see above), and after locationals. Two examples:

- (47) *Mai tai nei, mai te hopu iŋa mātou ko kuā Tonere.*  
 from sea PROX from ART bathe NMLZ 1PL.EXCL PROM COLL Tonere  
 'We are coming from the shore, from swimming with Tonere.' [R245.084]
- (48) *He hati te va'e pa he hati iŋa era 'ā o tō'oku va'e.*  
 NTR break ART foot like PRED break NMLZ DIST IDENT of POSS.1SG.O foot  
 'He broke his leg, like I broke my leg (lit. like the breaking of my leg).' [R492.021]

### 3 Nouns and verbs

**Nominal predicates** With the nominal predicate marker *he*, suffixed nominalisations are used (except in the construction *he V te aŋa*, see §3.2.3.1.1 above, ex. (23)). This happens for example in titles as in (49), in existential clauses, and in classifying clauses as in (50).

- (49) *He tu'u iŋa mai o Hotu Matu'a*  
 PRED arrive NMLZ hither of Hotu Matu'a  
 'The arrival of Hotu Matu'a' (title of a story) [R369.000]
- (50) *Te me'e nehenehe o te aŋa nei... he aŋa iŋa o te hi'o.*  
 ART thing beautiful of ART work PROX PRED make NMLZ of ART glass  
 'The beautiful thing of this work was the making of the glass.' [R360.038]

#### 3.2.3.2 The form of the nominalising suffix

As indicated above, there are various forms of the nominalising suffix: *haŋa*, *iŋa*, *eŋa*, *oŋa*, *-ŋa*.<sup>25</sup> In older texts, both *haŋa* (86x) and *-ŋa* (132x) are common, while *iŋa* (9x) and *aŋa* (3x) occur sporadically. In newer texts, *haŋa* still occurs (255x), but *iŋa* is now the predominant form (914x). *-ŋa* has become very rare (12x), but other forms have developed: besides *aŋa* (9x), *eŋa* (25x) and *oŋa* (14x) are found. The latter two are the result of vowel assimilation: *oŋa* occurs after *noho* 'to stay' and *oho* 'to go', while *eŋa* occurs after various verbs ending in *-e* and *-o*; in the first case *eŋa* is the result of total assimilation, in the second case it results from vowel height assimilation: *noho iŋa* > *noho eŋa*.

The predominant forms, then, are *haŋa* and *-ŋa*<sup>26</sup> in older Rapa Nui, and *haŋa* and *iŋa* in modern Rapa Nui. The question is, if there is a distinction between the two forms in each stage.

In older Rapa Nui, *haŋa* has a wide range of uses, corresponding to the uses of suffixed nominalisations described in the previous section. *-ŋa* often has a more nominal and sometimes lexicalised sense: *ohoŋa* 'go NMLZ = trip'; *nohoŋa* 'stay NMLZ = epoch'. The *-ŋa* form may refer to an object related to the event: *toeŋa* 'remain NMLZ = leftovers'; *hatuŋa* 'weave NMLZ = roofing'; *moeŋa* 'lie NMLZ = mat'.

<sup>25</sup> The forms *-(C)aŋa* and *-ŋa* occur throughout the Polynesian languages. Originally, the initial consonant in *-Caŋa* was lexically determined; this is still the case in languages like Māori (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 512) and Samoan (Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 194). In other languages, the paradigm was simplified, as in Tahitian, where only *-ra'a* (< \**raŋa*) was retained. In Rapa Nui the situation is more complicated, as this section shows.

<sup>26</sup> One could ask whether forms like *nohoŋa* in older texts actually contain a long vowel (*nohōŋa*) or even a disyllabic double vowel (*noho oŋa*). The former is theoretically possible: long vowels are poorly represented in older texts, and in other languages (e.g. Samoan), the vowel before *-ŋa* may be lengthened as well. Notice, however, that Rapa Nui has an absolute constraint against long vowels in penultimate syllables (§2.3.2). Concerning the possibility of *noho oŋa* underlying *nohoŋa*, there is no positive evidence for this; on the contrary, the occurrence of \**-ŋa* in many other Polynesian languages and the rarity of *Vŋa* in older Rapa Nui texts suggest that *-ŋa* is an original form while *-Vŋa* is a recent development, even though the occurrence of *-iŋa/-aŋa* in some languages could be taken as evidence to the contrary. A possible scenario is, that a form like *u'iŋa* 'look NMLZ' developed into *u'i iŋa*; the form *iŋa* was then generalised to verbs not ending in *i*, supplanting *-ŋa*.

However, the distinction between *haŋa* and *-ŋa* is by no means clear-cut. On the one hand, *haŋa* forms are used with nominal senses, especially in the sense of place, manner and time (see (19–21) above): *noho haŋa* means ‘epoch’, just like *nohoŋa*; ‘*iti’iti haŋa* ‘small NMLZ = infancy’; *piko haŋa* ‘hide NMLZ = hiding place’. On the other hand, *-ŋa* forms may be used with a verbal sense, just like *haŋa* forms:

- (51) *Ki roaroa te mimiroŋa, he vīviri te henua.*  
 when long:RED ART spin:NMLZ NTR roll ART land  
 ‘When he has turned around for a while (lit. ‘when the spinning is long’), he will get dizzy (lit. the land rolls).’ [Ley-8-52.013]

In modern Rapa Nui, the distinction between different nominalisers is even harder to pinpoint. *Haŋa* (255x) is less common than *iŋa* (914x), but occurs in a wide variety of texts, in a wide variety of uses, and with no less than 82 different verbs. To give two examples:

- Both *topa iŋa o te ra’ā* and *topa haŋa o te ra’ā* (‘descend nmlz of the sun’) are used in the sense ‘sunset’ or ‘the place where the sun sets, the west’.
- Both *noho iŋa* and *noho haŋa* occur in the sense ‘epoch, period’.

More generally, both suffixes occur in nominalisations used as subject, object, genitive, after prepositions, and in time clauses introduced by ‘*i*. The only construction in which *haŋa* never occurs, is the predicate construction *ko te V* (see (24–25) above). Speaker preference may play a role: it is telling that the Bible translation consistently uses *iŋa*, almost never *haŋa*. Apart from this, I have not been able to find a distinction between the two.

### 3.2.3.3 The nominalised phrase

In §3.2.1.1 it was pointed out that verbs preceded by a determiner may still be accompanied by certain verb phrase elements, as well as certain noun phrase elements. The noun phrase is discussed in detail in Chapter 5, the verb phrase in Chapter 7. This section is limited to a brief listing of elements occurring with nominalised verbs, which shows the hybrid character of nominalised verb phrases.

**Verb phrase elements** Some verb phrase elements never occur with nominalised verbs: aspectual and modal markers, the intensifier *rō*, and the VP-final particle *ai* or ‘*ai*. However, other elements do occur:

Nominalised verbs may be followed by an ADVERB (§4.5.1) like *haka’ou* ‘again’ or *tako’a* ‘also’. Notice that *haka’ou* and *tako’a* may also occur in the noun phrase (§5.8.1). With suffixed nominalisations, *haka’ou* and *tako’a* occur after the nominalising suffix.

The adverbs *tahi* ‘all’ and *kora’iti* ‘slowly’ – which do not occur in the noun phrase – both occur once in the corpus with a nominaliser; interestingly, they precede the suffix:

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- (52) *Ko te turu kora'iti iġa 'ā te vai.*  
PROM ART go\_down slowly NMLZ IDENT ART water  
'The water went slowly down.' [Gen. 8:5]

Both suffixed and zero nominalisations may be followed by a DIRECTIONAL *mai* or *atu* (§7.5):

- (53) *Ko rivariva 'ana tō'ona rere iġa mai.*  
PRF good:RED CONT POSS.3SG.O jump NMLZ hither  
'His jump(ing) was good.' [R408.022]

Zero nominalisations may take the CONSTITUENT NEGATOR *ta'e* (§10.5.6):<sup>27</sup>

- (54) *'I te ta'e hakarōŋo, he ŋaro rō atu 'ai.*  
at ART CONNEG listen NTR lost EMPH away SUBS  
'Because (the sheep) did not listen, it got lost.' [R490.005]

*Ta'e* hardly ever goes together with a suffixed nominalisation, possibly because the realis character of the verbal noun precludes its use with a negation.

The LIMITATIVE PARTICLE *nō* 'just, still' (§7.4.1) occurs with zero and suffixed nominalised verbs (see (30) above).

**Noun & verb phrase elements** Certain particles occur in both noun phrase and verb phrase:

The DEMONSTRATIVE particles *nei*, *ena* and *era*. In the verb phrase, they co-occur with certain aspectual markers (§7.6); in the noun phrase, they co-occur with any determiner (§4.6.3). They do not occur with zero nominalisations, but they do occur with suffixed nominalisations, for example in (48), here repeated:

- (55) *He hati te va'e pa he hati iġa era 'ā o tō'oku va'e.*  
NTR break ART foot like PRED break NMLZ DIST IDENT of POSS.1SG.O foot  
'He broke his leg, like I broke my leg (lit. like the breaking of my leg).' [R492.021]

The marker *'ā/ana* occurs in the verb phrase as a continuous marker, co-occurring with certain aspectual markers (§7.2.5.5); in the noun phrase it serves as an identity marker (§5.9). It occurs with verbal nouns, as illustrated in (48) above. In this context, where a comparison is involved, *'ā* is clearly an identity marker.

**Noun phrase elements** Nominalised verbs may also be accompanied by noun phrase particles. They may be preceded by any kind of determiner: the article *te*, demonstratives like *tū* as in (29) above, possessive pronouns as in (27), and the predicate marker *he* as in (55). Suffixed nominalisations tend to denote single instances of an event, so they may

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<sup>27</sup> *ta'e* does not occur within the noun phrase; when it modifies a noun, it occurs before the predicate marker *he*.



be countable: they can be modified by a numeral (see (18)), or by quantifiers like *ta'ato'a* 'all'. The corpus does not contain examples of the plural marker *ŋā* with verbal nouns, but this may be accidental.

In conclusion, both zero and suffixed nominalisations retain a partly verbal character in their phrase. The latter are more nominal than the former, as they allow quantifying elements but do not allow negation.

### 3.2.4 Nouns used as VP nucleus

Any noun (i.e. entity word) can be used as the nucleus of a verb phrase. Usually, the noun is used in a predicative sense: a verb phrase headed by noun N signifies that the subject is or becomes N; it possesses or acquires property N. These constructions are somewhat similar to nominal predicates marked with *he* (§9.2.1), yet they are different: the noun may be preceded by any preverbal marker, e.g. an aspectual as in (56) or a negator as in (57), and it may be followed by verb phrase particles such as *rō 'ā* in (56). Also, the clause may express a process ('become'), while nominal predicates only express a state ('be').

(56) *'Ai te nunui o te pa'ahia e toto rō 'ā e viri era.*  
 there ART PL:big of ART sweat IPFV blood EMPH CONT IPFV roll DIST  
 'Big drops of sweat became blood and fell down.' [Luke 22:44]

(57) *Kai oromatu'a hia i oho rō mai era ki nei.*  
 NEG.PFV priest yet PFV go EMPH hither DIST TO PROX  
 'When he had not yet become a priest, he came here.' [R423.004]

Very occasionally, the noun does not indicate 'be/become N', but a typical action associated with N:

(58) *...i e'a mai ai e tahi rū'au e tokotoko rō 'ana.*  
 PFV go\_out hither PVP NUM one old\_woman IPFV cane EMPH CONT  
 '...an old woman appeared leaning on a cane.' [R437.079]

Nouns in a verb phrase are in fact rare in texts, with the exception of temporal nouns. The latter are commonly used as verbs, usually expressing that a period of time passes.

(59) *Ko tāpati 'ā i tu'u iho atu ai.*  
 PRF week CONT PFV arrive just\_then away PVP  
 'When a week had passed, he arrived.' [R416.515]

### 3.2.5 Nominal drift

In §3.2.3.1.1 above (examples (22–27)), a number of constructions are listed in which a verb is nominalised, even though they are main clauses expressing an event: the actor-emphatic construction, *ko te* + verb, et cetera. §3.2.3.1.1 (28–34) lists a number of nominalised subordinate constructions, e.g. *'o te* + verb to indicate cause or reason. (As shown in §11.6.4, various other nominal constructions are used as well to express reason.)

### 3 Nouns and verbs

These examples illustrate a tendency in Rapa Nui to maximise the nominal domain. This tendency reveals itself in a number of other areas as well:

**Complements** Motion verbs may be followed by a nominal Goal complement as in (60), even though the goal is semantically an event (§11.6.3). As the example shows, the event may be expressed by a verb following the nominal complement. Likewise, perception verbs may be followed by a nominal object + a verbal clause, as in (61) (§11.3.1.2).

(60) *He iri ararua ki te rāua hoi 'a'aru mai.*  
NTR ascend the\_two to ART 3PL horse grab hither  
'Both of them went to grab their horse.' [R170.002]

(61) *He take'a i a Hoto Vari ka pū mai.*  
NTR see ACC PROP Hoto Vari CNTG approach hither  
'He saw Hoto Vari approaching.' [R304.004]

**Compounding** In a peculiar case of compounding, an event is expressed by a verb attached as modifier to one of its arguments; the argument is syntactically the head of the construction (§5.7.2.3):

(62) *I tō'ona mahana he ai mai te aŋa he 'āua titi, 'o he*  
at POSS.3SG.O day NTR exist hither ART work PRED enclosure build or PRED  
*rau kato.*  
leaf pick  
'On certain days there were jobs like making fences or picking leaves.' [R380.084]

**Arguments as possessives** In a number of constructions, verbal arguments – especially S and A – may be expressed as possessives, even when the verb is not nominalised. This is the default way to express the S/A argument in clauses introduced by *mo* as in (63) (§11.5.1.2); it commonly happens in relative clauses as in (64) (§11.4.4); and under certain conditions it happens in main clauses as in (65) (§8.6.4.1).

(63) *Mo haŋa ō'ou mo 'ite a hē a au e ŋaro nei...*  
if want POSS.2SG.O for know by CQ PROP 1SG IPFV disappear PROX  
'If you want to know where I disappear (then come with me).' [R212.010]

(64) *¿He aha te kōrua me'e [i aŋa 'i 'Apina]?*  
NTR what ART 2PL thing PFV do at Apina  
'What did you do (lit. what [is] your thing did) in Apina?' [R301.197]

(65) *He kī o tū rū'au era...*  
NTR say of DEM old\_woman DIST  
'The old woman said...' [R313.171]

## 3.3 Nouns

### 3.3.1 Classification of nouns

Apart from locationals (§3.6), there are two main types of nouns in Rapa Nui: COMMON NOUNS and PROPER NOUNS. Common nouns, such as *hare* ‘house’ or *poki* ‘child’, designate a class of entities characterised by certain properties; they can be used as nominal predicates, and it is only within a referential noun phrase that they acquire reference to one or more entities. Proper nouns, such as *Tiare* ‘Tiare’ and *koro* ‘Dad’, are inherently referential; they are not used as predicates and have unique reference in a given context.

These classes impose different constraints on the noun phrase of which they are the head. The most important differences are:

1. Common nouns are in most contexts obligatorily preceded by a determiner, proper nouns are not.
2. Common nouns may be modified by various elements which are incompatible with proper nouns: quantifiers, adjectives, plural markers and relative clauses. (See the structure of common NPs in §5.1 and the structure of proper NPs in §5.13.1.)
3. Proper nouns are in many contexts preceded by the proper article *a* (§5.13.2.1).
4. Though both common and proper noun phrases may be preceded by the particle *ko*, proper nouns have *ko* in a wider range of contexts (§4.7.12).

Prototypical common nouns denote classes of concrete, bounded entities, for example persons (*taŋata*) and objects (*hare* ‘house’, *toki* ‘adze’). Prototypical proper nouns are names of persons. The precise extent of each category can be deduced from the syntactic behaviour of nouns, with (1) and (3) above as main criteria: nouns preceded by the proper article *a* are proper nouns; nouns preceded by determiners like the article *te* are common nouns. This will be explored in the next section.

Both common and proper nouns function as head of a noun phrase. The structure of the common noun phrase is discussed in §5.1; the structure of the proper noun phrase is briefly discussed in §5.13.

Within the class of common nouns, we may distinguish countable and non-countable nouns. Non-countable nouns include mass nouns like *toto* ‘blood’ and *‘ō’one* ‘earth, soil’, and abstract nouns like *haŋa* ‘love’ and *mamae* ‘pain’. There is no morphological or syntactic difference between countable and non-countable nouns in Rapa Nui, except that the latter cannot be combined with noun phrase elements related to quantification: plural markers, numerals and universal quantifiers.

A third group of nouns is the class of LOCATIONALS, which are preceded neither by determiners nor by the proper article. This class contains a small group of locational terms like *mu’a* ‘front’, as well as deictic terms like *nei* ‘here, nearby’. Locationals are discussed in §3.6.

Geographical names mostly pattern with locationals, but in some situations they behave like proper nouns (§3.3.2).

### 3 Nouns and verbs

The properties of the different types of nouns are summarised in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Types of nouns

	open class	determiners	proper article	adjectives	quantif. elements	other modif.
common nouns:						
count nouns	x	x		x	x	x
mass nouns	x	x		x		x
proper nouns	x		x			x
locationals						x

#### 3.3.2 Proper nouns

The class of proper nouns contains those items which are – in the appropriate contexts – preceded by the proper article *a*. This includes the following categories:

##### 3.3.2.1 Proper names of persons Some examples:

(66) *He oho a Hotu ki te hare.*  
 NTR go PROP Hotu to ART house  
 ‘Hotu went home.’ [R273.003]

(67) *He u'i i a Vaha.*  
 NTR look ACC PROP Vaha  
 ‘He saw Vaha.’ [Mtx-3-01.144]

Geographical names do not take the proper article, whether they designate countries or islands, towns, mountains or any other geographical entity. Nor do they take the common noun article *te*:

(68) *He hoki rāua ki Rapa Nui.*  
 NTR return 3PL to Rapa Nui  
 ‘They returned to Rapa Nui.’ [Notes]

(69) *Tē kona noho 'i tu'a, 'i Pōike 'i roto i te 'ana.*  
 ART place stay at back at Poike at inside at ART cave  
 ‘They lived back in Poike in a cave.’ [Ley-5-26b.003]

This characteristic distinguishes geographical names from both common and proper nouns, and includes them with locationals (§3.6). There are some exceptions though.

Firstly, *Tire* ‘Chile’ is the only geographical name which always takes the personal name in the appropriate contexts.

- (70) *Ararua nō pā'eŋa e tu'u mai era, mai Tahiti 'e mai i a Tire.*  
 the\_two just side IPFV arrive hither DIST from Tahiti and from at PROP Chile  
 ‘Both sides arrived, from Tahiti and from Chile.’ [R539-2.221]

Secondly, other geographical names may take the proper article when topicalised (personal names and pronouns would also *a* this context):

- (71) *A Rapa Nui he henua 'iti'iti e tahi...*  
 PROP Rapa Nui PRED land small:RED NUM one  
 ‘Rapa Nui is a small island...’ [R351.001]

Finally, the proper article is used before geographical names used metonymically for their inhabitants. In this case, the presence of *a* shows that the geographical name has been transformed into a personal name:

- (72) *He aŋa a Rapa Nui i to rāua riu tuai.*  
 NTR make PROP Rapa Nui ACC ART:of 3PL song ancient  
 ‘(The people of) Rapa Nui made their old songs.’ [R620.013]

### 3.3.2.2 Personal pronouns

- (73) *He turu a ia ki tai.*  
 NTR go\_down PROP 3SG to sea  
 ‘He went down to the sea.’ [Notes]
- (74) *I rā hare a mātou e noho ena.*  
 at DIST house PROP 1PL.EXCL IPFV stay MED  
 ‘In that house we lived.’ [R416.961]

**3.3.2.3 Kinship terms** The proper article is common with certain kinship terms, especially *koro* ‘father, older man’ and *nua* ‘mother, older woman’. These words are used in the same way as ‘Dad’ and ‘Mum’ in English: like personal names, they have a unique referent in the context, and therefore do not need a determiner.

- (75) *He kī a koro ki a nua...*  
 NTR say PROP Dad to PROP Mum  
 ‘Dad said to Mum...’ [R333.303]

By contrast, *matu'a* ‘parent’ is a common noun. It does not have a unique referent; in order to refer to a particular parent, its reference must be defined, e.g. by a possessive pronoun:

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- (76) *He kī ia a Tiare ki tō'ona matu'a vahine era...*  
 NTR say then PROP Tiare to POSS.3SG.O parent female DIST  
 'Then Tiare said to her mother...' [R481.137]

**3.3.2.4 General terms referring to people** The word *māhaki* 'friend' (which has a certain compassionate connotation: 'poor one') usually takes the proper article:

- (77) *Ka turu kōrua, ka u'i i a māhaki.*  
 IMP go\_down 2PL IMP look ACC PROP companion  
 'Go down to have a look at (our) friend.' [Ley-2-05.011]

The same applies to a few similar, but less common words: *vērā* 'that poor one', '*e'ete* 'so-and-so', *taureka* 'that guy'.

**3.3.2.5 The collective marker** The collective marker *kuā/koā* (§5.2) is usually followed by a proper name or another word from the categories mentioned above, but even when followed by a common noun, it may be preceded by the proper article. In the following example, *korohu'a* is preceded by the plural marker *ḡā*, something which only happens with common nouns. Even so, *kuā* is preceded by the proper article.

- (78) '*O ira a koā ḡā korohu'a e ma'u hio-hio era i te*  
 because\_of ANA PROP COLL PL old\_man IPFV carry strong:RED DIST ACC ART  
*haha'u iḡa o te pātia.*  
 tie NMLZ of ART harpoon  
 'Therefore the old people tied the cable of their harpoons well.' [R360.020]

**3.3.2.6 Names of months** Names of months always take the proper article, regardless which names are used: the old Rapa Nui names as in (79), the modern English-based names as in (80), or Spanish names as in (81):

- (79) *E tiaki 'ātā ki a Hora Nui.*  
 EXH wait until to PROP September  
 'You must wait until September.' [R647.238]
- (80) *I a Noema o nei matahiti 'ā i hoki haka'ou ai ki nei*  
 at PROP November of PROX year IDENT PFV return again PVP to PROX  
*henua.*  
 land  
 'In November of this same year he returned again to this island.' [R343.016]
- (81) *Ki oti te Tāpati nei he piri tātou 'i a marzo.*  
 when finish ART Tapati PROX NTR join 1PL.INCL at PROP March  
 'When the Tapati (= festival week) is finished we are close to March.' [R625.131]

3.3.2.7 *Hora* ‘summer’

- (82) *¿Pē hē a kōrua i noho ai 'i a hora?*  
 like CQ PROP 2PL PFV stay PVP at PROP summer  
 ‘How were you during summer?’ [R334.051]

NB *Hora* ‘time’, a different lexeme, is a common noun. *Toŋa* ‘winter’ is also a common noun.

**3.3.2.8 Definite numerals** Definite numerals like *a totoru* ‘the three’ are always preceded by the proper article (§4.3.4). Unlike all other elements that take the proper article, they cannot occur after prepositions.

The use of the proper article *a* is limited to certain syntactic contexts. This is discussed in §5.13.2.1.

## 3.4 Verbs

## 3.4.1 Classification of verbs

As discussed in §3.2.1.2, a prototypical verb is a word which denotes an event, functions as clause predicate and is the head of a verb phrase. Verb phrases will be discussed in Chapter 7, verbal clauses in Chapter 8. This section will be limited to a brief discussion of verb types.

Verbs may have zero, one, two or three arguments. Zero-argument verbs are, for example, words indicating a moment in time or the passage of time.<sup>28</sup> *‘Ōtea* ‘to dawn’ in (83) and *ahiahi* ‘to be evening’ in (84) do not have a subject or any other argument, whether overt or implied. The bracketed clause consists of a predicate only.

- (83) [*I 'ōtea era*] *he turu he oho a Kava...*  
 PFV dawn DIST NTR go\_down NTR go PROP Kava  
 ‘When it dawned, Kava went down...’ [R229.198]

- (84) [*He ahiahi*], *he ma'oa te 'umu.*  
 NTR afternoon NTR open ART earth\_oven  
 ‘(When) it was late afternoon, they opened the earth oven.’ [Mtx-7-15.030]

One-argument verbs include:

1. active intransitive verbs, i.e. verbs involving an Agent, such as *oho* ‘go’, *hopu* ‘to bathe, swim’, *piko* ‘to hide oneself’;

<sup>28</sup> On zero-argument verbs, see Dryer (2007a: 267). Crosslinguistically, zero-argument verbs typically involve weather conditions (‘It rains’). In Rapa Nui however, weather terms are not zero-argument verbs: as discussed in §3.2.2.1.2, weather conditions are expressed by subject–predicate collocations, i.e. one-argument predicates.

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2. patientive verbs, i.e. verbs involving a Patient undergoing a process, such as *mate* ‘to die’, *hiŋa* ‘to fall’, *rehu* ‘to be forgotten’;
3. adjectives, i.e. words expressing a property, such as *nuinui* ‘(be) big’, *teatea* ‘(be) white’.

Two-argument verbs in Polynesian languages are often divided into two groups: canonical transitives and middle verbs.<sup>29</sup> The former involve an Agent which acts voluntarily and deliberately, and a Patient affected by the action. Examples are *kai* ‘to eat’ and *tiŋa’i* ‘to kill, hit’. With middle verbs, the object is not affected by the action, and the action may be spontaneous rather than voluntary. This category includes verbs of cognition, affection and perception: ‘to know’, ‘to love’, ‘to see’. As discussed in §8.6.4.2, in Rapa Nui the difference has consequences for the marking of the object.

Many verbs may be either transitive or intransitive, depending on whether an object is expressed or implied.<sup>30</sup> For example, the verb *kai* ‘to eat’ is transitive when a certain (type of) food is mentioned or implied in the context: in (85) below it is transitive; in (86) it is transitive as well, even though the object is implicit (it has been mentioned just before); in (87) it is intransitive.<sup>31</sup>

(85) *Kai haŋa a Puakiva mo kai i tū kai era.*  
 NEG.PFV want PROP Puakiva for eat ACC DEM food DIST  
 ‘Puakiva did not want to eat that food.’ [R229.145]

(86) *Mo kai ō’ou he mate koe.*  
 if eat POSS.2SG.O NTR die 2SG  
 ‘If you eat (the poison), you will die.’ [R310.063]

(87) *¿Ko kai ’ā koe?*  
 PRF eat CONT 2SG  
 ‘Have you eaten?’ [R245.058]

Three-argument verbs involve an Agent, a Patient, and a participant to which the action is directed in some way; depending on the verb, this may be a Goal, Addressee,

<sup>29</sup> See e.g. Chung (1978), Hooper (1984b), Harlow (2007a). Bauer (1983) uses the term *experience verbs*. In Chung’s description, the difference concerns the affectedness of the patient; Pawley (1973) and Elbert & Pukui (1979) focus on the difference between deliberate and spontaneous actions. Both classifications yield the same sets of verbs. Syntactic differences between canonical transitives and middle verbs are language-specific: (a) in ergative languages, they take different transitive constructions (§8.2.1); (b) when nominalised, they may take different possessive markers (e.g. in Hawaiian, Elbert & Pukui 1979: 48); (c) middle verbs may take the ACC marker *ki* rather than *i*. The latter is true in Rapa Nui and Māori (Bauer 1983; Bauer 1997: 267). In Hawaiian and Tahitian, the development *k > glottal* neutralises the difference between *ki* and *i*, as initial glottals in particles are usually not contrastive.

<sup>30</sup> In this grammar, any clause in which a Patient/Theme argument is either expressed or implied, is considered transitive. See also Footnote 1 on p. 375 on transitivity.

<sup>31</sup> Whether a verb is transitive or intransitive may have syntactic repercussions, even when no object is expressed. See the discussion on causativisation of transitive verbs in §8.12.3, esp. examples (244) and (245).



Recipient or Beneficiary. Examples are *va'ai* ‘to give’, *tuha'a* ‘to distribute’, *hāpī* ‘to teach’, *a'amu* ‘to tell’. Usually the Patient is expressed as direct object, while the other argument is marked with either *ki* or *mo*. This is discussed in §8.8.2; one example:

- (88) *He va'ai a nua i te kai ki a koro.*  
 NTR give PROP Mum ACC ART food to PROP Dad  
 ‘Mum gave the food to Dad.’ [R236.078]

There is one exception to this pattern: the verb *hāpī* ‘teach’ may take two direct objects; the first of these expresses the person taught, the second the content of teaching:

- (89) *He hāpī i te taŋata i te pure.*  
 NTR teach ACC ART person ACC ART pray  
 ‘He taught people to pray.’ [R231.304]

Three-argument verbs also include causativisations of transitive verbs, such as *haka take'a* ‘CAUS see = to show’, *haka aŋa* ‘cause to make’, *haka 'amo* ‘make (someone) carry’; these are discussed in §8.12.3. One example:

- (90) *He haka tike'a e Te Pitu ki a Uka Oho Heru i te 'ō'one meamea.*  
 NTR CAUS see AG Te Pitu to PROP Uka Oho Heru ACC ART soil red:RED  
 ‘Te Pitu showed (=made see) Uka Oho Heru the red soil.’ [Fel-1978.070]

### 3.4.2 Active, stative, intransitive

Transitive and active intransitive verbs together form the class of ACTIVE VERBS. These are characterised by

1. the possibility for the subject to have the agent marker *e* (§8.3.2);
2. the possibility to occur in the actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3).

The remaining verbs form the class of STATIVE VERBS. This class is well-established in Polynesian linguistics.<sup>32</sup> Criteria for this class vary per language. In Rapa Nui, statives are characterised only by the two criteria above: they do not occur in the actor-emphatic and their subject cannot be marked with *e*. In other languages, criteria may include the impossibility of passivisation and the impossibility to be used in the imperative.<sup>33</sup>

Regarding the latter criterion, the incompatibility of stative verbs with the imperative is probably semantically/pragmatically motivated: there are simply few contexts in which it is appropriate to use a property word in a command. In Rapa Nui, the word *koa* ‘happy’ – which is otherwise a typical adjective (§3.5.1.4) – does occur in the imperative:

<sup>32</sup> The term was introduced by Buse (1965) and adopted e.g. by Hohepa (1969a), Biggs (1973), Elbert & Pukui (1979), Chung (1978), Seiter (1980), Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992).

<sup>33</sup> See Biggs (1973; 1974) on statives in Māori. Within this class, Biggs distinguishes between stative adjectives and stative verbs (discussed as “neuter verbs” in Hooper 1984b); the latter are a small class of verbs with inherently passive meaning, distinguished by the impossibility to enter into a nominal construction. In Rapa Nui, no such distinction can be made.

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- (91) *Ka koa mai 'āpī 'e mai nehenehe a koe.*  
IMP happy while new and while beautiful PROP 2SG  
'Be happy as long as you are young and beautiful.' [R453.018]

Stative verbs in Rapa Nui are also characterised by the use of the perfect aspect *ko V 'ā* to express a present situation; however, this use also occurs with certain categories of active verbs (§7.2.7.2).

INTRANSITIVE VERBS are united by two features:

1. they have a single argument;
2. apart from this argument, an (extra) Agent may be expressed, marked with *i*:

- (92) *He mate koe i a au.*  
NTR die 2SG at PROP 1SG  
'You will die by me = I will kill you.' [Mtx-3-01.147]

As discussed in §8.6.4.7, this mainly happens with non-agentive verbs (categories 2 and 3 in the previous section), but given the right context, it may also occur with agentive intransitives (category 1).

ADJECTIVES can be considered as a subclass of stative verbs and will be discussed in §3.5. Even though there are no clear-cut criteria to distinguish adjectives from other verbs (especially from patientives), in §3.5.1 it will be shown that there are sufficient grounds to recognise adjectives as a separate subcategory.

Table 3.2 lists the different types of verbs with their features.

## 3.5 Adjectives

Adjectives are words denoting properties. As Bhat (1994) points out, adjectives differ from nouns in that they refer to a single property, while nouns refer to a cluster of properties. Adjectives differ from verbs in that they denote a time-stable property, while verbs denote a transient event.

§3.5.1 discusses the question whether adjectives form a separate part of speech in Rapa Nui and how they can be distinguished from other words, especially verbs.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup> According to Croft (2000), adjectives are intermediate between verb and noun. A prototypical adjective describes a property and acts as a modifier; properties are intermediate between objects and actions (one could think of a scale of time-stability here), while modification is intermediate between reference and predication. Therefore, in a language like Rapa Nui, where there is so much interaction between noun and verb, it is only to be expected that adjectives are even harder to distinguish.

According to Dixon, it is probable that every language has a class of adjectives (Dixon 2004; Dixon 2010a: 53; Dixon 2010b: 62, 104; different from Dixon 1982), though the criteria to distinguish adjectives from either nouns or verbs may be subtle and not obvious at first sight. Dixon (2004), Dixon (2010b: 70–73) suggests criteria to distinguish adjectives from verbs and nouns. Note however, that out of thirteen language descriptions in Aikhenvald & Dixon (2004), five authors consider adjectives as members of the verb class, even though there are differences between adjectives and (other) verbs (e.g. Hajek 2004; Hyslop 2004).

Table 3.2: Types of verbs

class	examples	val.	S/A	<i>i</i> -mkd ACC	other arg.	actor- emph.	<i>e</i> -mkd. Agent	<i>i</i> -mkd. Agent
zero-arg.	<i>ahiahi</i> 'evening', <i>'ōtea</i> 'dawn'	0						
patientives	<i>mate</i> 'die', <i>rehu</i> 'be forgotten'	1	×					×
adjectives	<i>nuinui</i> 'big', <i>teatea</i> 'white'	1	×					×
active intransitives	<i>oho</i> 'go', <i>hopu</i> 'bathe'	1	×			×	×	×
canonical transitives	<i>kai</i> 'eat', <i>tiŋa'i</i> 'kill'	2	×	×		×	×	
middle verbs	<i>haya</i> 'love', <i>tiaki</i> 'wait'	2	×		×	×	×	
three-arg. verbs	<i>va'ai</i> 'give', <i>'a'amu</i> 'tell'	3	×	×	×	×	×	

§3.5.2 discusses degrees of comparison, a grammatical category largely confined to adjectives.

### 3.5.1 Does Rapa Nui have adjectives?

#### 3.5.1.1 Adjectives as a prototypical category

In Polynesian languages – and in Oceanic languages in general – property words such as 'big' and 'good' tend to behave like verbs; for example, they are often preceded by an aspect marker and function as predicate of the clause. Many grammars therefore deny that adjectives are a separate word class; rather, they are considered as verbs. On the other hand, property words are sufficiently different from action words to be classified as a separate subclass of verbs. As discussed in §3.4.2 above, in Rapa Nui – as in other Polynesian languages – a class of stative verbs can be distinguished; this class includes typical adjectives such as size and colour terms, but also non-active verbs like 'die' and 'be forgotten'.

The question is, whether it is possible in Rapa Nui to distinguish a subcategory of adjectives within the stative verbs. Englert (1978: 28) remarks: "Es dudoso si en el idioma rapanui existe el adjetivo propiamente así llamado. Tal vez hay solamente adjetivos verbales o participios." (It is dubious if the adjective properly so called exists in the Rapanui language. Perhaps there are only verbal adjectives or participles.) Property words in

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Rapa Nui behave like verbs in most respects. On the other hand, there are also significant differences, as will be shown in the following sections. These differences are sufficiently far-reaching to recognise adjectives as a separate subclass within the category of verbs. At the same time, it is impossible to draw a sharp line between adjectives and other verbs; I have not found a single criterion which sharply and clearly defines a category of adjectives. The boundary between adjectives and verbs is fluid in two ways. First, it is not possible to give an exact list of adjectives; some words are more adjectival than others.<sup>35</sup> Second, some contexts are more adjectival than others, so that a given word may show more adjectival or more verbal behaviour, depending on the context. The adjectival category can therefore best be defined in terms of a PROTOTYPE (cf. the same approach for nouns and verbs in §3.2.1.2), which unites certain semantic, pragmatic and syntactic properties. A prototypical adjective

- denotes a property such as dimension, colour or value;
- modifies a referent, by specifying a property of that referent;
- occurs in a noun phrase, directly following the head noun, without a preceding aspect marker.

This raises the question whether less prototypical cases are also labelled as adjectives, and if so, how far the use of this label is extended. For practical reasons, in this grammar the term *adjective* is used for property words modifying a noun, and in a looser sense also for property words in other syntactic positions.

In the following sections, I will discuss adjectival characteristics and show to what extent these may serve to distinguish adjectives from other words.

#### 3.5.1.2 Morphology of adjectives

Two things can be said about the morphology of adjectives.

Firstly, some adjectives are full reduplications. This is true for

1. a number of very common “basic” adjectives: *nui* ‘big’, *‘iti’iti* ‘small’, *rivariva* ‘good’ and *rakerake* ‘bad’;
2. a number of colour terms: *teatea* ‘white’, *meamea* ‘red’, *ritorito* ‘clear, transparent, white’, *‘uri’uri* ‘black, dark’.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Hohepa (1969a: 8) lists adjectives in Māori (as distinguished from stative verbs) on the basis of a number of syntactic and morphological criteria. However, as Harlow (2007a: 106) points out, other attempts to list Māori adjectives exhaustively have resulted in somewhat different lists.

<sup>36</sup> Reduplications as basic colour terms are common in Oceanic languages, even though (a) the use of reduplications as basic lexemes is unusual in Austronesian; (b) it is typologically unusual to have morphologically complex words as basic colour terms (Blust 2001; Blust 2013: 304. Blust (2001: 42) suggests that reduplications originally had an intensive sense, which lost its intensity over time through frequent use.

For most of these, the simple form also exists, but with a marked sense and limited use. For example, even though both *'iti* and *'iti'iti* are used adnominally and adverbially, *'iti* is more common as an adverb, while *'iti'iti* is predominantly adnominal. While *rivariva* means ‘good’, adnominal *riva* means either ‘good’ or ‘pretty’. The reduplicated forms may have had an intensifying sense originally, but nowadays they are the default forms in most contexts. In some case the sources exhibit a shift over time: while *rake* ‘bad’ occurs in old texts, in modern Rapa Nui only *rakerake* is found.

Secondly: Just like some verbs, a number of adjectives have a separate plural form, which is partially reduplicated. For example: *roaroa* ‘long’, *roroa* ‘long (Pl)’, *rivariva* ‘good’, *ririva* ‘good (Pl)’. The plural forms may be used when the denoted entity is plural, but their use is optional.

*'Iti'iti* ‘small’ has a suppletive plural *rikiriki*; the use of this form is obligatory when the adjective modifies a plural noun or is a predicate with a plural subject.

### 3.5.1.3 Syntactic function: adnominal and other uses

The prototypical syntactic function of adjectives, which distinguishes it from nouns and verbs, is adnominal: adjectives typically modify a head noun (Croft 2000). Now this fact alone is not sufficient to distinguish adjectives from nouns and verbs, as the latter are used adnominally as well (§5.7.1). Moreover, no adjective is used *exclusively* as a noun modifier: the same words also serve as predicates, NP heads and/or adverbs, and many also serve as a base for causativisation. The following examples of *rivariva* ‘good’ illustrate this:

- (93) *He hāḥai hai kai rivariva.* (adnominal)  
 NTR feed INS food good:RED  
 ‘She fed (him) with good food.’ [Mtx-7-26.030]
- (94) *Ko rivariva 'ā 'i te hora nei.* (predicate)  
 PRF good:RED CONT at ART time PROX  
 ‘She is well now.’ [R103.234]
- (95) *Ku tike'a 'ana te rivariva o tū rere era.* (noun)  
 PRF see CONT ART good:RED of DEM jump DIST  
 ‘He saw how well he had jumped (lit. the good of the jump).’ [R408.025]
- (96) *Ko 'ite rivariva 'ā koe 'ina ō'oku matu'a.* (adverb)  
 PRF know good:RED CONT 2SG NEG POSS.1SG.O parent  
 ‘You know well that I don’t have parents.’ [R214.013]
- (97) *He haka rivariva i tā'ana me'e hī.* (causative)  
 NTR CAUS good:RED ACC POSS.3SG.A thing to\_fish  
 ‘He prepared his fishing gear.’ [R237.111]

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Even though adnominal use as such cannot serve as an absolute criterion, the *frequency* of adnominal use may be used as a diagnostic. Words denoting events and objects (i.e. verbs and nouns) are used adnominally only occasionally, while for property words adnominal use is quite common.

The frequency of adnominal use differs considerably between different adjectives: some are mainly used adnominally, others are mainly used in other functions.<sup>37</sup> For example, *nui* 'big' is adnominal in 58.3% of all occurrences in the text corpus,<sup>38</sup> while *rivariva* 'good, well' is adnominal in only 24.6% of all occurrences.<sup>39</sup> Even so, for both of these, adnominal use is considerably more common than for the noun *taŋata* 'man', which is adnominal in 2.3% of all occurrences (72 out of 3120), or the verb *oho* 'to go', which is adnominal in 1.0% of all occurrences (51 out of 5011).

When adjectives are grouped in semantic categories, such as suggested by Dixon (2010b: 73), some patterns emerge, as shown in Table 3.3.<sup>40</sup> This table gives the total number of occurrences for the following categories:

- COLOUR: *meamea* 'red'; *moana* 'blue'; *ritomata* 'green'; *ritorito* 'clear, transparent, white'; *teatea* 'white'; *tetea* 'white (Pl)'; *tōuamāhari* 'yellow'; *'uri* 'dark, black'; *'uri'uri* 'dark, black'
- AGE: *'āpī* 'new'; *hō'ou* 'new'; *mātāmu'a* 'past'; *pa'ari* 'adult'; *tahito* 'old'; *tuai* 'old'
- DIMENSION: *'iti* 'small, a bit'; *'iti'iti* 'small'; *nui* 'big'; *nui* 'big'; *parera* 'deep'; *popoto* 'short (Pl)'; *potopoto* 'short'; *raro nui* 'deep'; *rikiriki* 'small (Pl)'; *roaroa* 'long'; *roroa* 'long (Pl)'; *ruŋa nui* 'high'
- VALUE: *hauha'a* 'important; value'; *hōnui* 'respected'; *'ino* 'bad'; *kino* 'bad (arch.)'; *ma'itaki* 'clean, pretty'; *nehenehe* 'beautiful'; *rakerake* 'bad'; *ririva* 'good (Pl)'; *riva* 'good'; *rivariva* 'good, well'; *ta'e au* 'unpleasant'
- PHYSICAL PROPERTY: *hiohio* 'strong'; *māuiui* 'sick'; *paŋaha'a* 'heavy'; *pūai* 'strong'; *tītika* 'straight'
- POSITION: *hāhine* 'near'; *poto* 'nearby; short of breath'; *roa* 'far'
- OTHER: *huru kē* 'different, strange'; *koa* 'happy'; *hōrou* 'quick(ly)'; *aŋarahi* 'difficult'; *parauti'a* 'true, truth'; *tano* 'correct'

Table 3.3 shows that words denoting colour, age and dimension are mostly used adnominally. For value terms, the adnominal function is the most common one as well, though it accounts for only 36.8% of all occurrences. For all other categories, less than

<sup>37</sup> In the frequency counts in this paragraph, adjectives that are part of a name are excluded. Also excluded are syntactically isolated adjectives, e.g. in lists and appositions.

<sup>38</sup> 403 occurrences in total; 25.8% are predicate, 9.7% are NP heads and 3.7% are adverbs.

<sup>39</sup> 837 occurrences in total; 19.6% are predicate, 4.3% are NP heads and 37.8% are adverbs.

<sup>40</sup> For this and the following section, I analysed a number of common adjectives from different semantic categories. See the following footnotes for a listing. In the table, values over 20% are in bold.

20% of the occurrences are adnominal; these words are more commonly used as predicate or as noun. We may conclude that dimension, age and colour terms are the most prototypical adjectives, as far as their syntactic function is concerned; value adjectives are close to prototypical. This coincides with Dixon's generalisation (Dixon 2012: 73) that if a language has any adjectives at all, it will have at least some adjectives from (some of) these four categories.

### 3.5.1.4 Adnominal adjectives versus adnominal nouns and verbs

The previous paragraph showed, that adjectives show a high frequency of adnominal use compared to nouns and verbs. Apart from this, adnominal adjectives are also different in function and syntax from adnominal nouns and verbs. In the first place, modifying NOUNS are usually part of a compound, expressing a single concept together with the head noun, while modifying adjectives specify an additional property of the concept expressed by the head noun (§5.7.1). Modifying nouns are incorporated into the head noun; different from adjectives, they cannot be followed by modifying particles, while adjectives may be accompanied by e.g. degree markers and adverbs (§5.7.3.2).

Modifying VERBS occur in two constructions. First, they may form a compound together with the head noun (§5.7.2.3); in this case, they express a single concept together with the head noun, and the same constraints apply as with modifying nouns. Alternatively, modifying verbs may be the head of a relative clause (§11.4), which consists of a verb phrase optionally followed by one or more arguments or adjuncts. The verb in a relative clause is often preceded by an aspect marker. By contrast, prototypical adjectives – such as terms of dimension, age and colour – are never preceded by an aspectual marker when used adnominally.

Table 3.3: Uses of adjectives

	total	adnominal	predicate	noun	adverb	causative
colour	337	<b>82.5%</b>	13.6%	3.3%	0.3%	0.3%
age	619	<b>77.2%</b>	8.1%	13.6% <sup>a</sup>	0.6%	0.5%
dimension	1315	<b>61.7%</b>	13.5%	11.9%	8.7%	4.1%
value	1842	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	18.1%	13.2%	9.3%
physical property	805	15.3%	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	5.3%	19.3%
position	542	14.9%	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	0.4%	13.1%
other	1426	16.3%	<b>57.4%</b>	4.1%	15.1%	7.1%

<sup>a</sup> Most nominal uses are cases of *mātāmu'a* 'past', which is often used as a noun 'the past, the old days', and *hō'ou* 'new', which is used idiomatically as a term of endearment. Without these two, figures for this category would be as follows:

total	adnominal	predicate	noun	adverb	causative
495	86.5%	9.7%	2.4%	0.8%	0.6%

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Less prototypical adjectives (such as those of position and physical property) do occur in aspect-marked relative clauses, though only occasionally. In the following example, *hāhine* ‘near’+ is used in a relative clause:

- (98) *'Ina tako'a o Oceania te ta'ato'a henua era e hāhine era ki Asia.*  
NEG also of Oceania ART all land DIST IPFV near DIST to Asia  
‘Not all the islands that are close to Asia belong to Oceania either.’ [R342.008]

*Hāhine* is mostly used as predicate; its adnominal use is relatively rare, which suggests that it is not a prototypical adjective.

Now Rapa Nui also has “bare relative clauses”, relative clauses in which the verb is not preceded by an aspect marker (§11.4.5). One could ask whether an adnominal adjective is structurally identical to the verb in a bare relative clause. After all, there are certain similarities between both, besides the absence of the aspect marker. For one thing, adnominal adjectives may be preceded by degree markers and followed by adverbs (§5.7.3.2), elements which also occur in verb phrases (§7.3.2; §4.5.1). Adjectives may enter into the comparative construction, but verbs occasionally enter into this construction as well (see (95) in §7.3.2).

However, there are also structural differences between adnominal adjectives and bare relative clauses. Adnominal adjectives do not take the full range of postverbal particles: they are never followed by the evaluative markers *rō* and *nō*, or by directionals *mai* and *atu*. This is true for all adjectives included in Table 3.3 in the preceding section, not just the prototypical categories. Verbs in relative clauses, on the other hand, do take the full range of postverbal particles.<sup>41</sup>

When adjectives are used predicatively, these restrictions do not hold: not only are predicate adjectives preceded by an aspectual marker, they can be followed by evaluative markers, or by a directional marker as in the following example:<sup>42</sup>

- (99) *Ku rikiriki atu 'ā te ika nei pē he tapatea 'ana.*  
PRF small:PL:RED away CONT ART fish PROX like PRED kind\_of\_eel IDENT  
‘These fish are quite small, just like *tapatea*.’ [R364.015]

Another difference between verbs and adnominal adjectives is, that the latter are only followed by a limited set of adverbs, all of which express a degree: *rahi* ‘much’, *ri'ari'a* ‘very, terribly’, *taparahi-ta'ata* ‘terribly’, or *tano* ‘in a moderate degree’ (§5.7.3.2). With the exception of *rahi*, these adverbs do not occur in the verb phrase, while on the other hand most verb phrase adverbs do not occur in the adjective phrase (§4.5.1).

We may conclude that there are subtle but clear semantic and structural differences between adnominal adjectives and verbs. Together with the higher frequency of adnominal use of adjectives, this suggests that the prototypical adjective is different from a verb.

<sup>41</sup> See also sec. §5.7.2.3 on the difference between modifying verbs as compounds and bare relative clauses.

<sup>42</sup> Examples such as (99) are not very common, as time-stable properties are not naturally associated with directionality. In the example above, *atu* is used in the sense of extent (§7.5.1.5).



## 3.5.1.5 Predicate adjectives

Adjectives are used as verbal predicates (i.e. predicates marked with verbal particles) to express non-permanent properties, properties which characterise their argument during a moment or a period of time. Permanent properties are expressed in nominal clauses, in which the adjective modifies a nominal predicate (§9.2.7).

Adjectives and verbal predicates may take the full range of aspect markers discussed in §7.2: neutral *he*, perfective *i*, imperfective *e*, contiguity *ka* and perfect *ko*. Below are some remarks on specifically adjectival uses (or non-uses) of aspect markers.

**The contiguity marker *ka*** *ka* is used with adjectives in the same way as with any verb. However, there is one use of *ka* which only occurs with certain adjectives, the exclamative construction discussed in §10.4.1.

**Imperfective *e*** As discussed in §7.2.5.4, *e* with adjectives commonly occurs in the construction *e V (nō/rō) 'ā*, but rarely in the construction *e V PVD*. *E V nō 'ā* indicates that a state still exists, implying that it could end at some point, but has not ended yet.

- (100) *Te poki nei e 'iti'iti nō 'ā.*  
 ART child PROX IPFV small:RED just CONT  
 'This child is still small.' [R532-14.007]

**Perfect *ko V 'ā*** *ko V 'ā* indicates that a state has been reached as the result of an otherwise unstated process:

- (101) *Ko koa 'ā a au 'i te hora nei.*  
 PRF happy CONT PROP 1SG at ART time PROX  
 'I am happy now.' [R214.053]
- (102) *Ko rivariva 'ā 'i te hora nei, 'ina he māiuii haka'ou.*  
 PRF good:RED CONT at ART time PROX NEG NTR sick again  
 'He is well now, he is not sick any more.' [R103.234]

Now this use of *ko V 'ā* is not restricted to adjectives, but occurs with a much wider range of verbs, including certain types of active verbs (§7.2.7.2).

**Neutral *he*** *He* with adjectives expresses a state as such.

- (103) *He rivariva tā'ana aŋa era ka aŋa era.*  
 NTR good:RED POSS.3SG.A work DIST CNTG do DIST  
 'The work he was doing, was good.' [R313.116]

*He* + adjective may be used in situations where a state starts to exist, as in the following examples:

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- (104) *I oho era, he māuiui haka'ou tū mata era.*  
PFV go DIST NTR sick again DEM eye DIST  
'Later, his eyes got sick again.' [R237.084]
- (105) *I hini era he paŋaha'a rō atu 'ai 'i te ha'uru.*  
PFV delay DIST NTR heavy EMPH away SUBS at ART sleep  
'Later they got heavy with sleep.' [R536.027]

In such cases, the clause can be labeled inchoative; however, this is not expressed by *he* as such, but simply a feature which can be inferred from the context.

**Other preverbal markers** Just like verbs, adjectives can also be used with the modal markers *ana*, *mo* and *ki*, and be preceded by the verbal negators *'ina*, *kai* and *e ko*. Two examples:

- (106) *Ki nuinui he ma'u he haka hāipoipo ki te taŋata hauha'a.*  
when big:RED NTR carry NTR CAUS marry to ART man value  
'When (the child) was big, they would take it and marry it off to a rich man.'  
[R399.004]
- (107) *He noho Makemake hokotahi nō, 'ina kai riva.*  
NTR stay Makemake solitary just NEG NEG.PFV good  
'Makemake lived on his own, it was not good.' [Ley-1-01.001]

#### 3.5.1.6 Nominal use of adjectives

As pointed out in §3.5.1.3 above, adjectives can be used nominally, i.e. as heads of noun phrases. Nominal adjectives refer to a property as such, not to an object possessing the property: *rivariva* 'goodness', not 'a good one' (§5.6):

- (108) *he me'e mo te rivariva o Rapa Nui pe mu'a ka oho ena*  
PRED thing for ART good:RED of Rapa Nui toward front CNTG go MED  
'something for the good of Rapa Nui in the future' [R470.011]
- (109) *mata nunui pa he matā 'ā te 'uri'uri*  
eye PL:big like PRED obsidian IDENT ART black:RED  
'big eyes, black as obsidian (lit. like obsidian itself the black)' [R310.021]

Verbs are also used nominally in a variety of constructions (§3.2.3.1). However, two nominal constructions occur only with adjectives, not with verbs.<sup>43</sup> Both have an exclamative sense.

1. Exclamative *'ai te X* is only found with adjectives of size, such as *nuinui* 'big' and *kumi* 'long' (§10.4.3).

<sup>43</sup> See Bhat (1994: 29): adjectives are typically able to be the basis of exclamations.

2. Exclamative *ko te X* is used with both nouns and a wide range of adjectives (value, physical property, size etc.) (§10.4.2).

Nominally used adjectives usually do not have a nominalising suffix; in this respect they differ from verbs. For example, in (95) in §3.5.1.3 above, *rivariva* is used as object of a verb of perception; in this context, verbs normally get a nominalising suffix (§3.2.3.1), but *rivariva* does not.

There are two contexts in which adjectives do have a nominalising suffix:

1. When referring to a time, stage or occasion when a certain property applies. This happens especially with stage adjectives like *'āpī* 'young' and *'iti'iti* 'small', but occasionally with other adjectives as well.

(110) *mai te rikiriki haŋa 'ātā ki te nunui haŋa*  
 from ART small:PL:RED NMLZ until to ART PL:big NMLZ  
 'from the time they were small until the time they grew up' [R236.097]

(111) *He rakerake iŋa o te vaikava*  
 PRED bad:RED NMLZ of ART sea  
 'The sea gets rough (lit. the bad of the sea) (title of a story)' [Acts 27:12]

2. In the construction *ko te V iŋa 'ā* (§3.2.3.1.1):

(112) *Ko te hiohio iŋa 'ana te taura 'aka era.*  
 PROM ART strong:RED NMLZ IDENT ART rope anchor DIST  
 'The anchor rope kept being taut.' [R361.061]

### 3.5.1.7 Conclusions

The previous sections have shown that property words differ in their syntactic behaviour from event words in a number of respects:

- They are often used adnominally.
- When used adnominally, they form adjective phrases, which differ from verb phrases: aspect markers and certain postverbal particles do not occur in the adjective phrase, while the set of adverbs in the adjective phrase is different from verb phrase adverbs. This means that adnominal adjectives are distinct from relative clauses.
- When property words are used predicatively, they enter into the same range of constructions as verbs, but there are some minor differences.
- Property words functioning as head of a noun phrase show two differences from verbs in the noun phrase: they enter into certain exclamative constructions, and they rarely take the nominalising suffix.

This allows the conclusion that Rapa Nui has an adjective category. However, given the close correspondence with verbs, it is best to consider adjectives as a subclass of verbs, more specifically, of stative verbs.

The discussion has also shown that the adjectival category is not a monolithic one. Some adjectives – especially those denoting colour, age and dimension – are more prototypical than others.

### 3.5.2 Degrees of comparison

#### 3.5.2.1 The comparative

Rapa Nui has a number of different comparative constructions.<sup>44</sup> In one of these, the particle *'ata* serves as index of comparison ('more, -er'); it precedes the adjective expressing the parameter of comparison. This construction can be used whether the adjective is adnominal as in (113) or predicative as in (114). The standard of comparison is expressed by *ki* + noun phrase.

- (113) *E ai rō 'ā... [te poki] ['ata] [nuinui] ... [ki a Taparahi].*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART child more big to PROP Taparahi  
 COMPAREE INDEX PARAMETER STANDARD

'There were children bigger than Taparahi.' [R250.011]

- (114) *¿['Ata] [maneje] [koe] [ki te poki era ai]?*  
 more medium\_size 2SG to ART child DIST there  
 INDEX PARAMETER COMPAREE STANDARD

'Are you smaller than that boy there?' [R415.176]

*'Ata* also functions as a degree marker in front of event verbs (§7.3.2, where its etymology is also discussed). With verbs, it may also form a complete comparative construction, including a standard of comparison (see (95) on p. 341).

A second construction uses the verb *hau* 'to exceed, surpass, be superior', with the comparee as subject. The parameter of comparison is marked with the locative preposition *i*. The standard of comparison is expressed by *ki* + noun phrase, as in the *'ata*-construction above.

- (115) [*E hau rō atu*] [*a ia*] [*i te roroa*] [*ki a au*].  
 IPFV exceed EMPH away PROP 3SG at ART RED:long to PROP 1SG  
 INDEX COMPAREE PARAMETER STANDARD

'He is taller than me (lit. he is more/surpassing in length to me).' [Notes]

<sup>44</sup> For the different elements in comparative constructions, I use the following terms:

<i>Susan</i>	( <i>is</i> )	<i>more</i>	<i>intelligent</i>	<i>than Mary</i>
comparee		index	parameter	standard

*Hau* can in turn be reinforced by *'ata*, in which case the aspectual marker before *hau* tends to be left out.

- (116) [*'Ata hau*] *ho'i* [*a Veriamo*] [*'i te reherehe*]  
 more exceed indeed PROP Veriamo at ART weak:RED  
 INDEX COMPAREE PARAMETER  
 [*ki a me'e ki a Eva*].  
 to PROP thing to PROP Eva  
 STANDARD  
 'Veriamo was weaker than what's-her-name, than Eva.' [R416.171]

In the older language, comparisons are sometimes made without any marking; only *ki* indicates that a comparison is made:

- (117) *Te poki nei poki ma'ori ki tētahi poki.*  
 ART child PROX child expert to other child  
 'This child is more intelligent than the other.' [Englert 1978: 30]

Although this sentence still sounds acceptable nowadays, speakers of modern Rapa Nui would tend to add *'ata* in front of *ma'ori*.

### 3.5.2.2 The superlative

The superlative can be expressed by *hope'a* 'last' (a Tahitian loan not found in old texts), followed by a genitive phrase which contains a nominalised adjective:

- (118) *Te kona hope'a o te nehenehe ko 'Anakena.*  
 ART place last of ART beautiful PROM Anakena  
 'The most beautiful place (lit. the place last of the beauty) is Anakena.'  
 [R350.013]
- (119) *He autoridad hope'a o te nuinui o te Quinta Región.*  
 PRED authority last of ART big:RED of the Fifth Region  
 'He is the highest authority of the Fifth Region.' [R203.018]

*Hope'a* can also be used in a superlative sense without a qualifying adjective, to express that something is 'ultimate, extreme', whether in a positive or negative sense:

- (120) *Te tai hope'a mo te hāhaki he tai pāpaku.*  
 ART sea last for ART gather\_shellfish PRED sea thin  
 'The best tide for gathering shellfish is low tide.' [R353.018]

*Hope'a* + genitive is also used for the absolute superlative: 'very'.

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- (121) *¡Ko te manu hope'a o te tau!*  
 PROM ART animal last of ART pretty  
 ‘What a very pretty animal!’ [R345.072]
- (122) *E tahi 'ōpītara nuinui, hope'a o te rivariva.*  
 NUM one hospital big:RED last of ART good:RED  
 ‘There was a big hospital, very good.’ [R239.055]

In the older language, the superlative can be expressed by the adjective as such, without any special marking; such unmarked superlatives are obsolete nowadays.

- (123) *Te ma'uŋa Terevaka te ma'uŋa nuinui o te kāiŋa.*  
 ART mountain Terevaka ART mountain big of ART homeland  
 ‘Mount Terevaka is the biggest hill of the island.’ [Englert 1978: 30]

#### 3.5.2.3 The equative

The equative, ‘X is as [Adj] as Y’, is expressed using the preposition *pē* ‘like’ (§4.7.9). The quality with respect to which the two entities are compared, may be expressed as a noun modifier, such as *rikiriki* in the following example:

- (124) *He hakarē i a Tiare 'i muri i te tētahi ŋā poki rikiriki pē ia*  
 NTR leave ACC PROP Tiare at near at ART other PL child small:PL:RED like 3SG  
 'ā.  
 IDENT  
 ‘He left Tiare with the other children that were as small as her.’ [R481.034]

But more commonly, it is expressed as a noun phrase:

- (125) *Te ma'uŋa e take'a mai era mai tū roa era o Ao Tea Roa pē*  
 ART mountain IPFV see hither DIST from DEM far DIST of Ao Tea Roa like  
*he ŋa'oho 'ana te rikiriki.*  
 PRED pebble IDENT ART small:PL  
 ‘The mountains of Ao Tea Roa in the distance were small like pebbles.’  
 [R347.078]
- (126) *Ī a au e kimi 'ā i te tiare tu'u pē koe te nehenehe.*  
 IMM PROP 1SG IPFV search CONT ACC ART flower seem like 2SG ART beautiful  
 ‘I’m looking for a flower that looks as beautiful as you.’ [R433.003–004]

## 3.6 Locationals

### 3.6.1 Introduction

Rapa Nui has a set of words serving to locate entities in space. These words behave somewhat like nouns, yet are a class of their own, and are called **LOCATIONALS** in this grammar.<sup>45</sup>

Different groups of locationals can be distinguished.

1. **RELATIVE LOCATIONALS.** One group indicates basic spatial relationships such as ‘before, behind, under, above’. Often they indicate the relative position of a referent with respect to another specific referent in the context:

(127) *A nua 'i roto i te hare.*  
 PROP Mum at inside at ART house  
 ‘Mother is in the house.’ [R333.284]

*Roto* locates mother with respect to the house. The preceding preposition *'i* indicates that this locative relationship is stable: there is no movement involved towards a position inside the house, or from the inside to the outside.

In this grammar, this first group is called relative locationals.<sup>46</sup>

2. **ABSOLUTE LOCATIONALS.** Absolute locationals locate the referent with respect to certain generally known geographical points of reference:

(128) *He turu a koro ki tai.*  
 NTR go\_down PROP Dad to sea  
 ‘Dad went down to the seashore.’ [R333.388]

3. **DEICTIC LOCATIONALS.** Deictic locationals which indicate distance with respect to the speaker or the discourse situation:

(129) *E va'u mahana i noho ai 'i nei.*  
 IPFV eight day PFV stay PVP at PROX  
 ‘He stayed here (=on Rapa Nui) for eight days.’ [R374.005]

<sup>45</sup> All Polynesian languages have such a word class. They have been called local nouns (Churchward 1985 [1953]; Bauer 1997; Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992; Besnier 2000), locationals (Clark 1976: 59, Clark 1986, Du Feu 1996), L-nouns (Clark 1976: 55), locative nouns (Elbert & Pukui 1979) and locatives (Biggs 1973; Bowden 1992). For the relative locationals, Harlow (2007a: 145) uses the term *relator nouns*.

<sup>46</sup> Note, however, that there is not always a second referent involved. These same locationals can also indicate a general direction:

- (i) *He rere a ruja.*  
 NTR jump by above  
 ‘He jumped up.’

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4. TEMPORAL LOCATIONALS. There is a small group of time words belonging to the locational class, such as *'aŋataiahi* ‘yesterday’.

What all locationals have in common is that they can be preceded by prepositions, like common nouns. Unlike common nouns, they do not take determiners: the preposition immediately precedes the locational. Nor do they take the proper article, as proper nouns do.

Another class of lexical items commonly used in Rapa Nui discourse for spatial orientation, is the class of geographical names, such as *Tahiti* ‘Tahiti’. As discussed in §3.3.2, these can be immediately preceded by prepositions; unlike personal names, they do not take the proper article. Therefore they do not belong to the class of proper nouns, but to the locationals.<sup>47</sup> Geographical names will not be discussed in further detail.

The following sections discuss relative (§3.6.2) and absolute (§3.6.3) locationals. Deictic locationals are very similar in form and function to demonstratives and are discussed in the section on demonstratives (§4.6.5). §3.6.4 discusses temporal words belonging to the class of locationals. §3.6.5 shows which modifying elements may occur in the locative phrase.

Finally, the interrogative *hē* partly behaves like a locational as well; it is discussed in §10.3.2.3.

#### 3.6.2 Relative locationals

Relative locationals, in Polynesian linguistics often simply called ‘locationals’, indicate basic spatial relationships. They are listed in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Relative locationals

<i>mu'a</i>	front
<i>tu'a</i>	back, behind
<i>ruŋa</i>	above, higher place
<i>raro</i>	under, lower place
<i>roto</i>	inside
<i>haho</i>	outside
<i>muri</i>	older RN: back, behind modern RN: proximity, nearby place
<i>tupu'aki</i>	proximity, nearby place
<i>vāeŋa</i>	middle

<sup>47</sup> Clark (1976: 54) likewise classifies proper names of places among the locationals.



Most of these have the same basic sense throughout the Polynesian languages, though the Rapa Nui locationals underwent some idiosyncratic developments.<sup>48</sup>

In the following subsections, these locationals are discussed in detail. Sections §3.6.2.1 and §3.6.2.2 discuss the syntax of locational constructions. §3.6.2.3 discusses the semantics of certain locationals and locational expressions. This is continued in §3.6.2.4, which discusses the temporal use of certain locationals.

### 3.6.2.1 Adverbial expressions

Locationals are usually preceded by one of the locative prepositions discussed in §4.7. Together with these prepositions, the locationals form adverbial expressions of location. Here are a few examples:

- (130) *He uru koe he noho 'i roto.*  
 NTR enter 2SG NTR stay at inside  
 ‘You go in and stay inside.’ [R310.295]
- (131) *He marere te hare ki raro.*  
 NTR scatter ART house to below  
 ‘The house fell down.’ [Ley-2-12.006]
- (132) *Mai ruŋa he raŋi atu a Eva...*  
 from above NTR call away PROP Eva  
 ‘From above, Eva cried...’ [R210.111]
- (133) *Me'e rahi te manu o ruŋa.*  
 thing many ART bird of above  
 ‘There were many birds on (the island).’ [Egt-02.083]

Adverbial expressions like these often have an absolute sense. For example, in (131) *ki raro* indicates ‘down, in a lower direction’. In other cases, the locational is interpreted relative to a second referent, which is implied. In (133), the context makes clear that *o ruŋa* is to be interpreted with respect to an island.

<sup>48</sup> This becomes clear when we compare the Rapa Nui forms and meanings with their PPN equivalents, as given in Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011): PPN *\*muri* meant ‘behind, after, to follow, be last’. Rapa Nui is the only language in which its meaning shifted to ‘proximity’; the original meaning is still present in older texts. PPN *\*tupuaki* meant ‘the top of the head’. In no other language did it develop into a locational. PPN *\*waheŋa* is glossed as ‘division, portion, share, piece of land; middle’. In many languages it is a common noun, and Clark (1976) does not list it as a locational in PPN; however, in most EP languages it does occur as a locational: Marquesan *vaveka* (Cablitiz 2006: 331–332, *k* < PPN *\*ŋ*), Māori *vaenganui* (Biggs 1973: 41), Hawaiian *waena* (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 121), Pa’umotu *vaēŋa* (Stimson 1964: 594), Mangarevan *vaega* (Tregear 2009: 118). It does not occur in Tahitian.

## 3.6.2.2 Locationals with complement: prepositional expressions

The adverbial expressions discussed in the previous section can be followed by a preposition + noun phrase to indicate a spatial relationship with respect to a second referent. The combination of preposition + locational + preposition acts as a sort of complex preposition, in which the locational indicates the spatial relationship between two referents, and the initial preposition the way in which this relationship holds. In the following example, *roto* expresses that the spatial relationship is such that referent A (the cat) is inside referent B (the house). The preposition *ki* expresses that referent A moves towards that location.

- (134) *He uru te kurī ki roto i te hare.*  
 textscnr enter ART cat to inside at ART house  
 ‘The cat entered into (lit. to inside) the house.’ [Notes]

The second preposition does not have any semantic contribution; it serves just to provide a syntactic link between the locational and its complement. The following examples show different ways in which this preposition can be realised:

- (135) *I te rua mahana i tu'u mai ai ki mu'a o Hanga Kaokao.*  
 at ART two day PFV arrive hither PVP to front of Hanga Kaokao  
 ‘On the second day, they arrived in front of Hanga Kaokao.’ [R539-1.570]
- (136) *He e'a mai roto mai te koro.*  
 NTR go\_out from inside from ART feast\_house  
 ‘They went out of the feast house.’ [Mtx-6-03.090]
- (137) *He eke māua ki ruŋa ki te hoi.*  
 NTR go\_up 1DU.EXCL to above to ART horse  
 ‘We mounted (on top of) the horses.’ [R126.045]
- (138) *He 'oka te pua 'i raro i te rano 'i Rano 'Aroi.*  
 NTR plant ART kind\_of\_plant at below at ART crater\_lake at Rano Aroi  
 ‘He planted *pua* down in the crater of Rano Aroi.’ [Mtx-6-05.006]
- (139) *Ko Meta te me'e o tu'a o Juan Hotu.*  
 PROM Meta ART thing of back of Juan Hotu  
 ‘Meta is the one behind Juan Hotu.’ [R412.214]

As these examples show, the second preposition may be either *i* as in (134), *o* as in (135), or a copy of the first preposition as in (136–137). When the first preposition is *'i* or *o*, the analysis of the second preposition is ambiguous: in *'i raro i* in (138), the second preposition may be either a default preposition *i*, or a copy of the first preposition (*'i* and *i* are variants of the same preposition, see §4.7.2). The same is true for *o tu'a o* in (139).

As Clark (1976: 54–55) points out, all other Polynesian languages use either *i* or *o* as second preposition;<sup>49</sup> Rapa Nui is the only language in which the second preposition may be a copy of the first.<sup>50</sup>

In older texts the copying strategy is used in an overwhelming majority of the cases. Not counting the ambiguous '*i* LOC *i* and *o* LOC *o* constructions, the second preposition is a copy of the first in 93% of all PREP + LOC + PREP constructions in this corpus (768 out of 826). Thus, constructions like (136–137) are common in older texts, while constructions such as (134–135) are rare.

In modern Rapa Nui the copying strategy is still in use, as illustrated by (137) above, but it has become relatively rare, occurring in only 10% of all nonambiguous cases (175 out of 1761).<sup>51</sup> And some of these are, on a closer look, not copies at all, but prepositions introducing a new constituent. The following example illustrates this:

- (140) *I oti era he turu ki raro ki te teata māta'ita'i.*  
 PFV finish DIST NTR go\_down to below to ART cinema observe  
 'After that they went down to the theatre to watch.' [R210.145]

This is not a case of a complex preposition 'to below N': *ki raro* is not interpreted relative to the second referent *te teata* (in that case, people would go to a location below the cinema); rather, *ki raro* and *ki te teata* are two separate, parallel constituents.

Instead of a copy of the first preposition, the second preposition is usually *i* or *o* nowadays; both are used without a clear difference in meaning.<sup>52</sup>

In general, *i* is more common in modern Rapa Nui than *o*: over the whole corpus of

<sup>49</sup> Vaitupu (a dialect of Tuvaluan) is the only variety apart from Rapa Nui where both *o* and *i* are used, without apparent difference in meaning.

<sup>50</sup> As Clark (1976: 56–57) indicates, the copying construction could have arisen from cases like (138) or (139): the second preposition, which originally was an invariable *i* or *o*, was reanalysed as a repetition of the first one. This reanalysis could have been facilitated by constructions like the following (quoted by Clark):

- (i) *He topa mai te timo ki roto ki te 'ana o 'Ana te Ava Nui.*  
 NTR descend hither ART warrior to inside to ART cave of Ana te Ava Nui  
 'The warriors were dragged into the cave of Ana te Ava Nui.' (Mtx-3-03.231)

While such constructions could originally have consisted of two parallel phrases: 'inside, to the cave' they could easily be reanalysed as a single phrase 'into the cave', in which the second *ki* is a copy of the first.

According to Finney & Alexander (1998: 27–28), *ki ... ki* also occurs in Vaitupu and, in some constructions, in Māori; however, this does not amount to a generalised copying strategy as in Rapa Nui.

<sup>51</sup> This tendency is even stronger in the Bible translation, which is more recent than most of the newer texts: in the new Testament, the preposition is *i* or *o* in over 99% of the prepositions, with *i* in the overwhelming majority (88%).

<sup>52</sup> Just like the copying construction may be the result of reanalysis (see Footnote 50 above), the choice for *i* or *o* could also have been brought about by reanalysis: in expressions like '*i ruŋa i* and *o roto o*, the second preposition (which was a copy of the first) was reanalysed as default *i* or *o*, and their use was subsequently generalised. *I* lends itself to a generalised use as it is the most general locative preposition; *o* lends itself to a generalised use as it is common as genitive marker. Notice that it is not uncommon for spatial relationships to be expressed by the genitive (see Dixon 2010b: 285). Fischer (2001a: 324) considers the generalisation of *i* as second preposition as a development under Spanish influence.

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modern texts, *i* outnumbers *o* in a proportion of 2:1.<sup>53</sup> The choice between the two is free to a certain degree, but certain tendencies can be observed:

1. When the second referent is pronominal, *i* tends to be used, followed by the proper article.

(141) *Poki ra'e 'ā'aku ka e'a nei mai muri i a au.*  
child first POSS.1SG.A CNTG go\_OUT PROX from near at PROP 1SG  
'You are my first child to leave my side (lit. to go out from near me).' [R210.049]

2. The choice between *i* and *o* also correlates with the choice of locational: *o* is more common with *raro*, *mu'a* and *tu'a*, while *i* is more common with *roto*, *ruŋa* and *muri*. The preposition preceding the locational does not play a role.

The locational *roto* and the following article *te* are often contracted: *roto (i/o) te > rote*. This contraction is a recent development; it does not occur in older texts.

(142) *E koro, ʔe aha 'ā koe 'i rote 'ua?*  
VOC Dad IPFV what CONT 2SG at inside\_ART rain  
'Dad, what are you doing in the rain?' [R210.097]

#### 3.6.2.3 The semantics of some locationals

This section discusses the meaning of some individual locationals, and of some locational expressions.

3.6.2.3.1 *Muri* in older texts means 'after': either in spatial sense ('behind'), or in a temporal sense ('afterward').

(143) *He oho te ŋāŋata 'i muri i tau ŋā io era.*  
NTR go ART men at after at DEM PL young\_man DIST  
'The men went after those youngsters.' [Mtx-7-37.018]

(144) *Ka tiŋa'i kōrua te vi'e ena, mo muri au ana tiŋa'i.*  
IMP kill 2PL ART woman MED for after 1SG IRR kill  
'Kill that woman, after that kill me.' [Mtx-7-21.037]

In modern Rapa Nui, *muri* indicates spatial proximity, 'close to, next to':

(145) *He tu'u ki muri ki te pahī, he ekeke ki ruŋa.*  
NTR arrive to near to ART ship NTR go\_up:RED to above  
'They came alongside the ship and went on board.' [R210.081]

<sup>53</sup> Pace Finney & Alexander (1998: 28), who claim that "o has largely displaced earlier *i* as right-side preposition".

3.6.2.3.2 *Tu'a* refers to the back of something. *'I tu'a* normally refers to a location behind, on the outside of something: *'i tu'a o te hare* ‘behind the house’. But in some situations it may refer to a location within, at the back side. This may occasionally lead to ambiguities:

- (146) *Ka hakarē te bombona 'i tu'a o Te kamioneta.*  
 IMP leave ART gas\_bottle at back of ART van  
 ‘Put the gas bottle behind the van’, or: ‘...in the back of the van.’

*'I tu'a* in this example refers to a location either inside or outside the car.

3.6.2.3.3 *Ruŋa* may be either ‘on, on top of (touching)’ or ‘above (not touching)’:

- (147) *Te puka 'i ruŋa i te 'amurama'a.*  
 ART book at above at ART table  
 ‘The book is on the table.’ [Notes]
- (148) *E revareva rō 'ā te mōrī a ruŋa i te 'amurama'a.*  
 IPFV stand\_out:RED EMPH CONT ART oil by above at ART table  
 ‘The lamp is hanging above the table.’ [Notes]

3.6.2.3.4 *Vāeŋa* refers to the middle, the centre of something:

- (149) *'I vāeŋa o te vaikava he topa te 'ati nuinui.*  
 at middle of ART ocean NTR happen ART problem big:RED  
 ‘In the middle of the ocean a big accident happened.’ [Fel-40-026]

In relation to a set of two referents it indicates a location in between the two:

- (150) *'I vāeŋa o te hare nei 'e o te hare era te karapone.*  
 at middle of ART house PROX and of ART house DIST ART shed  
 ‘The shed is between this house and that house.’ [Notes]

3.6.2.3.5 Some combinations of preposition + locational have specialised meanings:  
*a raro* ‘on foot’:

- (151) *Ko koro a raro 'ā i iri ai. Ko nua a ruŋa te hoi.*  
 PROM Dad by below IDENT PFV ascend PVP PROM Mum by above ART horse  
 ‘Dad goes up (to the field) on foot. Mum goes on horse.’ [R184.052–053]

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*a vāeŋa* ‘in half’:

- (152) *Ana haŋa he 'avahi a vāeŋa, hoa hai miti...*  
IRR want NTR divide by middle throw INS salt  
‘If you want, you cut (the fish) in half, put salt on...’ [R185.007]

*o ruŋa i* ‘about’, in the sense of a topic of knowledge or discourse:

- (153) *He 'ui'ui nō te aŋa o ruŋa i te 'a'amu tuai.*  
PRED ask:RED just ART do of above at ART story ancient  
‘He was always asking about the old stories.’ [R302.018]

#### 3.6.2.4 Temporal use of locationals

While *mu'a* ‘front’ and *tu'a* ‘back’ are primarily spatial terms, they are also used temporally, referring to past and future. However, the temporal dichotomy between past and future does not coincide with the spatial dichotomy between front and back – in other words, it is not the case that *mu'a* refers to the future and *tu'a* to the past, or the other way around. Rather, *mu'a* and *tu'a* acquire specific temporal senses in combination with certain prepositions.<sup>54</sup>

*Pe mu'a* (often in the expression *pe mu'a ka oho ena*) means ‘later, in the future’:

- (154) *Mai te hora nei pe mu'a, e ko take'a haka'ou au e koe.*  
from ART time PROX toward front IPFV NEG.IPFV see again 1SG AG 2SG  
‘From now on, you won’t see me anymore.’ [R309.070]
- (155) *Pe mu'a ka oho ena, he haka aŋa rō au i te hare.*  
toward front CNTG go MED NTR CAUS make EMPH 1SG ACC ART house  
‘Later, I will have a house built.’ [R229.029]

A *tu'a* either means ‘before, ago’ or ‘later, afterwards’:

- (156) *E ai rō 'ā te riuho ... me'e rahi matahiti a tu'a i aŋa ai.*  
IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART drawing thing many year by back PFV make  
PVP  
‘There is a drawing... made many years ago.’ [R296.010–013]

<sup>54</sup> See Tetahiotupa (2005) for an equally complex situation in Tahitian. Temporal reference leads itself easily to ambiguity, as there are two fundamentally different ways to conceptualise the passage of time: either the world is seen as fixed and time moves from the future to the past, or time is fixed and we travel through it from the past to the future (see Anderson & Keenan 1985: 296). In the second case, the future is clearly ahead, while the past is behind. On the other hand, as the past is known and therefore visible while the future is unknown and invisible, the past can be conceived as being before our eyes, while the future is behind our backs.

- (157) *Ka rima ta'u a tu'a ... he mana'u haka'ou a ia ki a Roke'aua*  
 CNTG five year by back NTR think again PROP 3SG TO PROP Roke'aua  
*ararua ko Makita.*  
 the\_two PROM Makita  
 'Five years later he thought again of Roke'aua and Makita.' [R243.205]

*I/o mu'a 'ā* means 'first, in the past':

- (158) *Te mana 'i mu'a 'ā me'e pūai.*  
 ART power at front IDENT thing strong  
 'Mana (supernatural power) was something strong in the past.' [R634.001]

### 3.6.3 Absolute locationals

Polynesian languages have a small set of locationals which locate a person or object with respect to a certain generally known geographical area.<sup>55</sup> These can be labelled 'absolute locationals'.

The absolute locationals are listed in Table 3.5:

Table 3.5: Absolute locationals

<i>tai</i>	seashore (as opposed to land)
<i>'uta</i>	land, inland (as opposed to sea)
<i>tahatai</i>	seashore
<i>kampō</i>	countryside
<i>kōnui</i>	far <sup>56</sup>

*Kampō* is borrowed from Spanish *campo* 'field, countryside'.<sup>57</sup> The other words are common in the Polynesian languages.<sup>58</sup>

Like the relative locationals, these words are immediately preceded by prepositions. Unlike the relative locationals, they cannot be followed by a prepositional phrase indicating a second referent with respect to which the spatial relation holds.

<sup>55</sup> Cf. Levinson & Wilkins (2006: 21): "The absolute frame of reference in ordinary language use requires fixed bearings that are instantly available to all members of the community." See Cablitz (2005) for a discussion of absolute or geocentric localisation in another Polynesian language, Marquesan.

<sup>56</sup> Based on its meaning *kōnui* would seem to belong to the category of deictic locationals (§4.6.5 below). However, syntactically it behaves like the absolute locationals, in that it can be followed by the postnominal demonstrative *era*; see section §3.6.5 about elements modifying locationals.

<sup>57</sup> Rapa Nui is not the only language in which the class of locationals has been extended with borrowings. For example, in Tongan, *uafa* 'wharf', *piliisone* 'prison' and *sitima* 'steamer' are locationals. See Clark (1976: 55).

<sup>58</sup> Most Polynesian languages have a locational *kō* 'there', often modified by deictics *nei*, *ena* or *era* to indicate the degree of distance. *Kōnui*, in which *kō* is modified by *nui* 'big', is its only Rapa Nui reflex. (Similarly, in Rapa Nui *raro nui* became lexicalised, meaning 'deep', and *runa nui*, meaning 'high'.)

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The following sections discuss each of these locationals in turn. First, however, a general note on spatial reference. As the list above shows, the main reference points for spatial orientation in Rapa Nui are related to the sea. Spatial reference in Rapa Nui reflects the geography of the environment in which the language is spoken: a single island, a closed world of limited dimensions. In this world, the coast is always close; it is either visible, or one knows at least in which direction it is. It is not surprising that orientation happens predominantly with respect to the sea.<sup>59</sup>

As the speech community is small and the area is limited, common orientation points (most of them on the island, a few outside, like Tahiti and the mainland) are generally known by name. Therefore, spatial reference in stories often happens by place names. The following is a typical example:

- (159) *He e'a ki ruŋa, he tere he oho mai ki Ma'uŋa Teatea, ki Mahatua ...*  
 NTR go\_out to above NTR run NTR go hither to Ma'unga Teatea to Mahatua  
*He oho, he tu'u ki Vaipū...*  
 NTR go NTR arrive to Vaipu  
 'They got up and travelled to Ma'unga Teatea, to Mahatua ... They went and arrived at Vaipu...' [Mtx-3-01.214–216]

Another feature of Rapa Nui geography is, that the Rapa Nui population is concentrated in one town. The rest of the island is largely uninhabited (though easily accessible) and can be designated as a whole by a couple of generic locationals: either *'uta* 'inland' where agriculture takes place, or *kampō*, 'the countryside' where one goes for an outing. This will be discussed in more detail below.

The cardinal points (north, east, south, west) are not used for spatial orientation. Proto-Polynesian does have words for two of these: *\*toŋa* 'south, southern wind' and *\*tokelau* 'north, north wind'; these are reflected in many daughter languages, but in Rapa Nui they have a different sense: *toŋa* = 'winter', *tokerau* = 'wind (in general)'.

#### 3.6.3.1 *Tai* 'seashore'; *'uta* 'inland'

*Tai* indicates orientation with respect to the seashore:<sup>60</sup>

- (160) *Ko takataka tahi 'ā te ŋā poki 'i tai.*  
 PRF gather:RED all CONT ART PL child at sea  
 'All the children gathered near the shore.' [R161.013]

<sup>59</sup> A correlation between the geographical environment and grammaticalisation of spatial reference systems is crosslinguistically common; Palmer (2015) captures this generalisation as the Topographic Correspondence Hypothesis: "absolute coordinate systems are not merely anchored in, but are motivated by the environment" (210).

<sup>60</sup> There is a difference in meaning between the locational *tai*, which refers to the seashore, and the noun *tai*, which refers to the surface or condition of the sea:

- (i) *Ko māria 'ā te tai.*  
 PRF calm CONT ART sea  
 'The sea is calm.'



- (161) *He turu ki tai hāhaki rāua ko te poki.*  
 NTR go\_down to sea gather\_shellfish 2PL PROM ART child  
 ‘She went down to the seashore to gather shellfish with her child.’  
 [Mtx-7-14.034]
- (162) *He oho atu te hānau momoko a tai ‘ā.*  
 NTR go away ART race slender by sea IDENT  
 ‘The ‘slender race’<sup>61</sup> went along the seashore.’ [Ley-3-06.029]

As (161) shows, the verb used for a movement in the direction of the sea is *turu* ‘go down’. This verb is always used for seaward movement, even when no vertical movement is involved. Note, however, that in the hilly landscape of Rapa Nui a movement towards the sea will often involve some downward movement.

The locational *tai* is only used for movement and location on land. A movement at sea toward land is indicated with ‘*uta* ‘inland’ (see the next section).

‘*Uta* indicates orientation towards the inland, away from the coast. It may indicate a location on land (as opposed to the sea), or a place well inland (as opposed to the coastal region).

For example, *ki ‘uta* either indicates a movement from sea to land as in (163), or a movement from a place on land to a place further inland as in (164). In the first case the verb *tomo* ‘go ashore’ is used, in the second case *iri* ‘go up’.

- (163) *He tomo te tarata ki ‘uta.*  
 NTR go\_ashore ART man to inland  
 ‘The people went ashore.’ [Ley-2-03.036]
- (164) *He iri tau kope era ki ‘uta ki te tau’a.*  
 NTR ascend DEM person DIST to inland to ART battle  
 ‘That man went (further) inland to the battle.’ [Mtx-7-35.012]

*Tai* and ‘*uta* are not only used for large-scale movement, but also for movement and localisation on a small scale. They may serve, for example, to localise people in a group, or objects on a table:

- (165) *Te me’e ena o te pā’eŋa ‘uta ko tō’oku māmā era.*  
 ART thing MED of ART side inland PROM POSS.1SG.O mother DIST  
 ‘(looking at people in a photo:) The one on the inland side is my mother.’  
 [R411.057]
- (166) *Ka va’ai mai te ensalada o te pā’iŋa ‘uta.*  
 IMP give hither ART salad of ART side inland  
 ‘Pass me the salad on the inland side.’ [Notes]

<sup>61</sup> There is some uncertainty about the meaning of the terms *hānau ‘e’epe* and *hānau momoko*. The traditional interpretation is ‘long ears’ and ‘short ears’, but Englert (1978) translates ‘raza corpulenta’ and ‘raza delgada’, respectively (see Mulloy 1993). More recently, Langdon (1994) has defended the traditional interpretation.

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#### 3.6.3.2 *Tahatai* ‘seashore’

*Tahatai* indicates the seashore. Its meaning is similar to *tai* (§3.6.3.1), but seems to focus more narrowly on the line separating land and sea. Like the other locationals, it may be preceded by different prepositions:

- (167) *He ηā poki e kokori 'ā 'i tahatai.*  
PRED PL child IPFV PL:play CONT at seashore  
‘There are children playing on the seashore.’ [R415.950]
- (168) *He turu te tanata ki tahatai he ruku i te ika.*  
NTR go\_down ART man to seashore NTR dive ACC ART fish  
‘The men went down to the seashore and fished underwater.’ [R372.016]
- (169) *He ha'ere a au he oho a tahatai.*  
NTR walk PROP 1SG NTR go by seashore  
‘I walked along the seashore.’ [R475.010]

Like *tai*, *tahatai* is only used for movement on land. Movement from the sea to the shore is indicated by *'uta*.

#### 3.6.3.3 *Kampō* ‘countryside’

*Kampō*, from Spanish *campo*, indicates the area outside town.

- (170) *He eke ararua ki ruŋa i te hoi he oho ki kampō.*  
NTR go\_up the\_two to above at ART horse NTR go to countryside  
‘The two mounted their horse and went to the countryside.’ [R178.013]
- (171) *I te mahana era 'i 'Ōvahe 'o 'i tētahi kona o kampō, i tomo*  
at ART day DIST at Ovahe or at other place of countryside PFV go\_ashore  
*era te ika, he ha'a'ī ki ruŋa i te pere'oa.*  
DIST ART fish NTR fill to above at ART car  
‘On days when in Ovahe or another place in the country the fish would come ashore, they would load it on a wagon...’ [R539-1.482]

As *kampō* is principally used with reference to outings, and as outings typically take place near the shore, *kampō* usually refers to a place near the coast. In this respect it is different from *'uta* ‘inland’, which often refers to areas inland where people grow their crops.

#### 3.6.3.4 *Kōnui* ‘far’

*Kōnui* ‘far, distant’ does not indicate an absolute point of reference, but any point far away from the reference point. The reference point may be the starting point of a movement as in (172), or the place where the action takes place as in (173).

- (172) *He tere he piko a Manu ki kōnui era.*  
 NTR run NTR hide PROP bird to far DIST  
 ‘Manu fled and hid far away.’ [R459.007]
- (173) *He u’i atu mai kōnui nei ’ā ko te pua’a ka teka, ka teka.*  
 NTR look away from far PROX IDENT PROM ART cow CNTG revolve CNTG  
 revolve  
 ‘From afar he saw a cow that was turning round and round.’ [R250.137]

### 3.6.4 Temporal locationals

There are a number of words referring to time which, like locationals, are preceded by prepositions. (They could be labelled ‘temporals’.) These words all share the non-productive prefix *’aŋa-*, which indicates recent past.<sup>62</sup> They are listed in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Temporal locationals

<i>’aŋataiahi</i>	‘yesterday’
<i>’aŋapō</i>	‘last night’
<i>’aŋanirā/’aŋarīnā</i>	‘earlier today’; also more general ‘today, nowadays’
<i>’aŋahē</i>	‘when (past)’ (§10.3.2.3) <sup>63</sup>

Like other locationals, these words are preceded by prepositions, such as locative *’i* (174) or genitive *o* (175):

- (174) *Kai ha’uru mātou ’i ’aŋapō.*  
 NEG.PFV sleep 1PL.EXCL at last\_night  
 ‘We did not sleep last night.’ [R250.126]

<sup>62</sup> This prefix occurs with a similar meaning in many other Polynesian languages, but always as a reflex of PPN *\*’ana*; Rapa Nui is the only language in which *\*n* became *ŋ*.

Green (1985: 12) mentions *\*ina(a)fea* ‘when (past)’ as a PCE innovation; in fact, this reflects a more general shift from PEP *\*’ana-* to PCE *\*ina-*. This shift is not only reflected in *\*inafea*, but also in Māori *inapō*, Tahitian *inapō* ‘last night’; Māori *inakuanei*, Tahitian *inā’uanei*, Pa’umotu *inākuanei* ‘just now’; Tahitian & Māori *inānāhi* ‘yesterday’ (Pollex, Greenhill & Clark 2011; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993; Académie Tahitienne 1999). The Rapa Nui forms *’aŋa-* show that the shift *a > i* took place after Rapa Nui split from PEP. (Notice also that all reflexes of *\*ina* are from Tahitic languages, except Marquesan *inehea* ‘when (past)’.)

<sup>63</sup> About the origin of these terms: *’aŋapō* and *’aŋahē* are transparent: *pō* ‘night’, *hē* ‘content interrogative particle’ (< PPN *\*fea*, see Footnote 7 on p. 487). For *-nirā* and *-rīnā* Pollex does not give any cognates (only Samoan *\*analeilaa* ‘earlier today’ is a possible candidate). It is not clear which form is original in Rapa Nui, as both appear in older texts. For *’aŋataiahi*, the only known cognate in Pollex is Māori (Eastern dialect) *tainahi* ‘yesterday’. However, the second part *-ahi* is common as part of a word meaning ‘yesterday’: most Polynesian languages have a reflex of PPN *\*nanafi* ‘yesterday’, sometimes preceded by *i-* or *a-*.

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- (175) *Te nu'u ruku o 'aḡanīrā ko ai 'ana te raperape, te hi'o...*  
 ART people dive of today.PAST PROM exist CONT ART swimming\_fin ART glass  
 'Today's divers have swimming fins, goggles...' [R539-1.348]

There is also a set of three time words referring to the future; these are listed in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7: Temporal terms with future reference

<i>'anīrā/'arīnā</i>	'later today'
<i>āpō</i>	'tomorrow'
<i>a hē</i>	'when (future)'

These are not locationals but adverbs: they are not preceded by prepositions but form a clause adjunct on their own. The initial *a* in all three words reflects PPN \*'ā-, a prefix indicating near future (Pollex, Greenhill & Clark 2011), despite the variety in spelling in its Rapa Nui reflexes (*'a, ā, a*).<sup>64</sup>

Some examples:

- (176) *E vovo, 'anīrā he hoki māua ki 'uta.*  
 VOC dear\_girl today.FUT NTR return 1DU.EXCL to inland  
 'My girl, today we will return to the field.' [R235.038]
- (177) *Āpō he e'a tātou ki ruḡa ki te vaka.*  
 tomorrow NTR go\_out 1PL.INCL to above to ART boat  
 'Tomorrow we will go out by boat.' [R368.045]
- (178) *¿A hē tātou ka iri haka'ou mai mo piroto?*  
 FUT CQ 1PL.INCL CNTG ascend again hither for soccer  
 'When are we going to play soccer again?' [R155.007]

Interestingly, Rapa Nui has no generic temporal words 'now' and/or 'then'. To express these, the noun *hora* 'time' is used, in combination with a postnominal demonstrative (§4.6.3): *hora nei* indicates temporal proximity 'now', *hora era* expresses temporal distance 'then'.

<sup>64</sup> This prefix occurs in different words in several languages, e.g. Samoan *aa taeao* 'tomorrow'; Tongan *'apogipogi* 'tomorrow'; Tahitian *'ā'uanei* 'shortly, in a while', *afea* 'when (future)' (cf. *ina'uanei* 'just now, a while ago', *inahea* 'when (past)'). Māori, like Rapa Nui, has a whole set of expressions sharing this morpheme: *aapoopoo* 'tomorrow', *aa hea* 'when (future)', *aaianeī* 'now', *aakuaneī* 'presently', *aa teeraa tau* 'next year' (see Biggs 1973: 79).

3.6.4.1 *Ra'e* ‘first’

One more element needs to be mentioned here. *Ra'e* ‘first’ is used in a variety of constructions: it can be an adjective modifying a noun (§4.3.3), a verb, or an adverb modifying a verb. It is also used as a locational, always preceded by the preposition *i*. *I ra'e* functions as an adverbial phrase ‘first, before anything else’ (§11.6.2.4).

- (179) *He kai ia 'i ra'e e tahi 'apa haraoa.*  
 NTR eat then at first NUM one part bread  
 ‘First I will eat a piece of bread.’ [R476.031]

## 3.6.5 The locational phrase

Like other nouns, locationals can be modified by certain noun phrase elements. The full range of possibilities is represented in Table 3.8.

Table 3.8: Structure of the locational phrase

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
prep.	nucleus	adverb	emph. marker	limit. marker	postnom. dem.	ident. marker	complement
<i>'i,</i> <i>mai,</i> <i>pe...</i>	locational	<i>tako'a</i>	<i>mau</i>	<i>nō</i>	<i>nei;</i> <i>ena;</i> <i>era</i>	<i>'ā;</i> <i>'ana</i>	prep. + NP

Position 5 is only available for relative and absolute locationals, not for deictic locationals. This is not surprising, as postnominal demonstratives have (almost) the same form and function as the deictic locationals themselves. Position 7, which connects the locational to a second referent, is only available for relative locationals, not for absolute and deictic locationals.

Here are a few examples:

- (180) *Ki roto mau 'ana a Kekoa e haŋa era mo rere mai.*  
 to inside really IDENT PROP Kekoa IPFV want DIST for fly hither  
 ‘Into (that pool) Kekoa wanted to jump.’ [R408.012]
- (181) *Pē rā nō e kai e oho era.*  
 like DIST just IPFV eat IPFV go DIST  
 ‘Just like that he kept eating.’ [R310.225]
- (182) *Mai 'uta era au, mai roto mai te koro.*  
 from inland DIST 1SG from inside hither ART feast\_house  
 ‘I’m coming from inland, from the feast house.’ [Mtx-7-20.034]

Compared to the common noun phrase (see the chart in §5.1), adjectives are absent from the locational phrase,<sup>65</sup> as well as anything related to quantification: determiners, quantifiers, numerals, plural markers and the collective marker *kuā*. The locational phrase is very similar to the proper noun phrase (§5.13.1), which also excludes quantifying elements; the main difference is, that the latter includes the proper article *a*.

### 3.7 Conclusions

Like other Polynesian languages, Rapa Nui has no inflectional (and little derivational) morphology; moreover, many lexical items are freely used in both the noun phrase and the verb phrase. The existence of a distinction between nouns and verbs in the lexicon has been questioned for Polynesian languages. However, in this chapter I argue that there are good grounds to maintain this distinction. Approaches which conflate the two classes (or which define the bulk of the lexicon as “universals”) do not do justice to the fact that the semantic relationship between the nominal and verbal uses of a lexeme is often unpredictable, and the fact that many words are either predominantly nominal or predominantly verbal in meaning and use. Rather, the occurrence of words with a typically verbal sense in the noun phrase can be regarded as cross-categorial use.

The boundary between nouns and verbs is not clear-cut; hence, the two can be defined in terms of a prototype, an intersection of certain syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features. In actual use, these features are not randomly distributed but tend to converge: a word referring to an entity tends to occur in a noun phrase, modified by noun phrase particles, and function as a referring expression.

The common cross-categorial use of nouns and verbs can be described in terms of two processes: lexical nominalisation (which turns a verb into a true noun, with a nominal sense) and syntactic nominalisation (where a verb is used in a construction which has certain nominal features). In both cases, the resulting nominal form may or may not have a suffix. While in lexical nominalisation the suffix is relatively uncommon, in syntactic nominalisation the use of the suffix depends on the construction; generally speaking, suffixed nominalisations are used when the event is presented as an object, a bounded entity, rather than as an event happening over time.

Syntactic nominalisation is in fact very common in Rapa Nui. In several constructions, a main clause predicate is constructed nominally; in addition, nominalised verbs are used in various subordinate constructions, such as causal clauses and certain complement clauses. The variety and frequency of nominal constructions are evidence of a “nominal drift”, a tendency to maximise the use of nominal constructions.

Nouns can be subdivided into common nouns (which are preceded by determiners), proper nouns (which take the proper article *a*) and locationals (which take neither).

Verbs can be subdivided into several classes, based on criteria such as the number of arguments, the use of the agent marker *e* and the possibility to enter into the actor-

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<sup>65</sup> There is one exception: *ruŋa* ‘above’ and *raro* ‘below’ may be followed by *nui* ‘big’, in both cases with idiomatic sense: *ruŋa nui* ‘high’, *raro nui* ‘deep’. Notice that the same element *nui* has also been added to the original PEP locative \**kō* ‘there’, resulting in *kōnui* ‘far’ (§3.6.3).

emphatic construction. Adjectives are a subclass of verbs; they are characterised by frequency of adnominal use, as well by the presence of certain modifiers and the absence of modifiers occurring with other verbs.





# 4 Closed word classes

## 4.1 Introduction

As indicated in §3.1, there is a basic distinction in Rapa Nui between full words (notably nouns and verbs) and particles. The previous chapter dealt with word classes that are clearly full words: nouns and verbs and subtypes thereof. This section discusses word classes which have at least some characteristics of particles: they form closed classes and do not have a lexical meaning. All of these, except personal pronouns, occur in the periphery of the noun and/or verb phrase.

However, most of these words also share characteristics of full words. Numerals and (occasionally) demonstratives may also be a clause constituent. Pronouns and numerals, and to a lesser extent quantifiers and adverbs as well, may form phrases containing pre- and or postnuclear particles.

Table 4.1 lists these word classes in roughly descending order of full word status:<sup>1</sup>

Table 4.1: Closed word classes

	§	closed class	clause constituent	phrase head	NP/VP periphery
personal pronouns	4.2.1	x	x	x	
possess. pronouns	4.2.2	x	x	x	x
numerals	4.3	x	x	x	x
quantifiers	4.4	x		(x)	x
adverbs	4.5	x	(x)	(x)	x
demonstratives	4.6	x	(x)		x
prepositions	4.7	x			x

<sup>1</sup> Other word classes are not discussed in this chapter, but in sections corresponding to their respective functions. This concerns negators (§10.5), the polar question marker (§10.3.1), coordinating conjunctions (§11.2), preverbal subordinators (§11.5) and subordinating conjunctions (§11.6). Yet other words are particles occurring in fixed positions in the noun phrase and the verb phrase; these are discussed in Chapters 5 and 7: determiners (§5.3), the proper article (§5.9), the collective marker (§5.2), plural markers (§5.5), the identity marker (§5.13.2), aspect markers (§7.2), other preverbal particles (§7.3), evaluative markers (§7.4), directionals (§7.5) and the continuity marker (§7.2.5.5).

## 4.2 Pronouns

Rapa Nui has a set of personal pronouns, two sets of possessive pronouns and a set of benefactive pronouns. §4.2.1 discusses personal pronouns; §4.2.2 discusses possessive pronouns; §4.2.3 lists benefactive pronouns. Finally, §4.2.4 discusses a few marked uses of pronouns.

NB Demonstrative particles are used as pronouns in limited contexts; this is discussed in §4.6.6.

### 4.2.1 Personal pronouns

#### 4.2.1.1 Forms

Personal pronouns are inflected for number (singular, dual, plural), person, and inclusiveness. The forms are given in the Table 4.2.<sup>2</sup>

Table 4.2: Personal pronouns

	singular	dual	plural
1 <sup>st</sup> person inclusive	<i>au</i>	<i>tāua</i>	<i>tātou</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> person exclusive		<i>māua</i>	<i>mātou</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	<i>koe</i>	<i>kōrua</i>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	<i>ia</i>	<i>rāua</i>	

The inclusive forms indicate that the addressee is included in the group referred to by the pronouns: *tāua* ‘you and me’, *tātou* ‘we all, including you’. The exclusive forms indicate that the addressee is not part of the group referred to: *māua* ‘the two of us (but not you)’, *mātou* ‘we (excluding you)’.

Most Polynesian languages have distinct dual and plural pronouns in all persons. As Table 4.2 shows, in Rapa Nui dual and plural are only distinguished in the first person. In the second and third person, the original dual forms *kōrua* and *rāua* extended their use to plural, while the PEP plural forms *\*kōtou* and *\*rātou* were lost.<sup>3</sup>

Personal pronouns tend to be used for animate referents only: humans and animals. Note however that possessive pronouns can be used for inanimates as well. Here is an illustration from a description of a palm tree:

<sup>2</sup> Apart from the loss of plural forms, the personal pronouns were inherited from PEP without any changes (see the reconstructed forms by Wilson 1985: 98); the singular forms are even unchanged from the PPN forms as reconstructed by Kikusawa (2003: 168). Ultimately, the dual and plural forms go back to Proto-Oceanic, where the dual forms had a suffix *\*-dua* ‘two’ and the plural forms a suffix *\*-tolu* ‘three’ (Pawley 1972: 37).

<sup>3</sup> According to Bergmann (1963: 55), in some other Polynesian languages, dual pronouns have extended uses. Thus in Tongan, the first person inclusive dual is often used with a plural sense (Churchward 1985 [1953]: 124–125). A similar process in Rapa Nui may have led to the extension in use of dual pronouns to include plurality, eventually superseding the original plural forms.

- (1) *Tumu nei e ai rō 'ā tō'ona maŋa roaroa.*  
 tree PROX IPFV exist EMPH CONT POSS.3SG.O branch long:RED  
 'This tree has long branches (lit. there are its long branches).' [R483.005]

In the same text, personal pronouns are avoided to refer to the tree; full noun phrases are used instead:

- (2) *Tā'aku aŋa he manava mate ki te tumu nei. E ai rō 'ana te*  
 POSS.1SG.A do PRED stomach die to ART tree PROX IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART  
*maŋa pakapaka o te niu nei.*  
 branch dry:RED of ART palm\_tree PROX  
 'I always like this tree. This palm tree has dry branches.' [R483.009–010]

Personal pronouns belong to the class of proper nouns. This means that in many syntactic contexts, they are preceded by the proper article *a* (§5.13.2.1).

## 4.2.2 Possessive pronouns

Rapa Nui has two sets of possessive pronouns.<sup>4</sup> One set is based on the article *te* and starts with *t-*; I will call this series *t*-possessives. The other set, which does not start with *t-*, will be called *zero possessives* (*Ø*-possessives). In addition, the singular pronouns in each set exhibit a distinction between *o-* and *a-*forms. This results in four forms, for example in the first person singular:

- (3) *tō'oku tā'aku ō'oku 'ā'aku* 'my, mine'

The *t*-possessives are discussed in §4.2.2.1, the *Ø*-possessives in §4.2.2.2.

In this chapter, only the forms of possessive pronouns are given. Their use is discussed – together with possessive phrases in general – in Chapter 6 on possession.

### 4.2.2.1 *t*-possessives

**4.2.2.1.1 Singular possessors** In the singular, there are two classes of possessive pronouns, characterised by the use of *o* and *a*, respectively. These classes indicate different types of relationships between possessor and possessee; the issue of *o-* and *a-*possession is discussed in §6.3.3.

The singular *t*-possessives are given in Table 4.3.

<sup>4</sup> Following Dryer (2007b: 182), I use the term *possessive pronoun* for any pronominal possessive form, whether used as a constituent on its own (English 'mine', 'yours') or as a modifier within the noun phrase (English 'my', 'your'). The latter are often called possessive adjectives, reserving the term possessive pronoun for independent forms which can function as nominal complement or predicate. In Rapa Nui, the difference between the two sets of possessive forms does not correspond to the difference between so-called possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns. Both can, for example, occur as modifier before the noun (§6.2.1). Moreover, the term *possessive adjective* would not be entirely satisfactory for Rapa Nui, as possessors do not occur in the same position in the noun phrase as adjectives (see the position chart in §5.1).

Table 4.3: Singular t-possessive pronouns

	<i>o</i> -class	<i>a</i> -class
1 singular	<i>tō'oku</i>	<i>tā'aku</i>
2 singular	<i>tō'ou, tu'u, to'u</i>	<i>tā'au, ta'a, ta'u</i>
3 singular	<i>tō'ona</i>	<i>tā'ana</i>

*Tu'u* and *to'u* are shortened forms of *tō'ou*; *ta'a* and *ta'u* are shortened forms of *tā'au*.<sup>5</sup> In older texts the short forms are rare; the long forms are used exclusively in all contexts:

- in the noun phrase, before the noun (*tō'ou matu'a* ‘your parent’, *tā'au poki* ‘your child’, §6.2.1)
- in verbless possessive clauses, a construction now obsolete (§9.3.3).

Nowadays, when *t*-pronouns are used in the noun phrase, only the shorter forms are used (*tu'u matu'a* ‘your parent’, *ta'a poki* ‘your child’, §6.2.1). The long forms are only used nowadays in the partitive construction *Poss o te N* (§6.2.2).

**4.2.2.1.2 Plural possessors** In the plural, *a* and *o* forms are not distinguished. Even so, there are two series of *t*-possessive pronouns: one with *to*, one with *te*. Their forms are given in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Plural t-possessive pronouns

	<i>to</i> -series	<i>te</i> -series
1 dual inclusive	<i>to tāua</i>	<i>te tāua</i>
1 dual exclusive	<i>to māua</i>	<i>te māua</i>
1 plural inclusive	<i>to tātou</i>	<i>te tātou</i>
1 plural exclusive	<i>to mātou</i>	<i>te mātou</i>
2 dual/plural	<i>to kōrua</i>	<i>te kōrua</i>
3 dual/plural	<i>to rāua</i>	<i>te rāua</i>

There is no difference in meaning between the two series. The *to*-series is older; it is still used occasionally nowadays, but has an archaic ring to it. The *te*-series is found

<sup>5</sup> According to Mulloy & Rapu (1977: 13), *ta'a* and *tu'u* “demonstrate a relatively recent sound change” from the older forms *tā'au* and *tō'ou*. Note however that, while the shortened forms are indeed relatively rare in older texts, they do occur in MsE and Ley (though not in Mtx).

occasionally in older texts (17x), but *to* is predominant in these texts (176x).<sup>6</sup> In newer texts, *te* is predominant: there are 127 *to*-forms against 1314 *te*-forms.

#### 4.2.2.2 Ø-possessives

The singular Ø-possessives are listed in Table 4.5. They have the same form as the *t*-possessives, minus the initial *t*. The *a*-forms are spelled with an initial glottal, just like the possessive preposition 'a (§2.2.5).

Table 4.5: Singular Ø-possessive pronouns

	<i>o</i> -class	<i>a</i> -class
1 singular	<i>ō'oku</i>	'ā'aku
2 singular	<i>ō'ou, u'u, o'u</i>	'ā'au, a'a, a'u
3 singular	<i>ō'ona</i>	'ā'ana

As with the *t*-possessives, there are shortened forms in the 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular: *u'u* and *o'u* are shortened forms of *ō'ou*, *a'a* and *a'u* are shortened forms of 'ā'au. There is no difference in meaning between the longer and the shorter forms.

The plural forms are given in Table 4.6. In the plural, the Ø-possessives are identical to the personal pronouns preceded by the genitive preposition *o*, as in a genitive noun phrase. As with the *t*-possessives, the plural pronouns do not make a distinction between *a* and *o*-possession.

Table 4.6: Plural Ø-possessive pronouns

1 dual inclusive	<i>o tāua</i>
1 dual exclusive	<i>o māua</i>
1 plural inclusive	<i>o tātou</i>
1 plural exclusive	<i>o mātou</i>
2 dual/plural	<i>o kōrua</i>
3 dual/plural	<i>o rāua</i>

<sup>6</sup> 12 of the 17 *te*-forms in old texts are *te kōrua* in Mtx; *to kōrua* is only used once in Mtx. This may suggest that the change *to* > *te* started off as dissimilation before *o* (*kōrua* is the only plural pronoun with *o* as first vowel); subsequently this was generalised to all pronouns. In any case, the data show that the *te*-possessives are a recent innovation, not a retention from PEP as suggested by Wilson (1985: 105–106); Wilson (2012: 298).

### 4.2.3 Benefactive pronouns

Benefactive pronouns express that something is destined/intended for the person in question. They are identical to the *t*-possessive pronouns (for the second person singular, the long form is used), but with an initial *m*- instead of *t*-. As with possessive pronouns, there is an *o/a* distinction in the singular, but not in dual and plural. The forms are listed in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Benefactive pronouns

	<i>o</i> -class	<i>a</i> -class
1 singular	<i>mō'oku</i>	<i>mā'aku</i>
2 singular	<i>mō'ou</i>	<i>mā'au</i>
3 singular	<i>mō'ona</i>	<i>mā'ana</i>
1 dual inclusive	<i>mo tāua</i>	–
1 dual exclusive	<i>mo māua</i>	–
1 plural inclusive	<i>mo tātou</i>	–
1 plural exclusive	<i>mo mātou</i>	–
2 dual/plural	<i>mo kōrua</i>	–
3 dual/plural	<i>mo rāua</i>	–

Benefactive pronouns are the pronominal counterpart of the preposition *mo/mā* + NP, and have the same uses. The use of these prepositions is discussed in §4.7.8.

### 4.2.4 Uses of pronouns

Personal pronouns are used in the same contexts as nouns: as subjects, objects, after prepositions et cetera. The uses of possessive pronouns will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 6. In this section, a few nonstandard uses of pronouns are discussed.

#### 4.2.4.1 Generic pronouns: ‘one’

As in many languages, the second person singular pronoun *koe* can be used in a generic way, referring to persons in general.

- (4) *E ko takera e koe e noho 'ana, e riri 'ana 'o e tātake*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV see AG 2SG IPFV sit CONT IPFV angry CONT or IPFV argue  
*'ana...*  
 CONT

‘(describing someone’s character:) You would never see him angry or arguing...’  
 [R302.050]

- (5) *E ri'ari'a nō koe 'i te kai ka hiko era.*  
 IPFV afraid just 2SG at ART food CNTG snatch DIST  
 ‘People (lit. you) were afraid because she would snatch the food away.’ [R368.104]

*Koe* as a generic pronoun can have a distributive sense: ‘each one, every one’. In the following example this is reinforced by the repeated *te kope era* ‘that person’:

- (6) *He oho te tanata, he to'o mai koe i tā'au vi'e, te kope era,*  
 NTR go ART man NTR take hither 2SG ACC POSS.2SG.A woman ART person DIST  
*te kope era hoki ananake.*  
 ART person DIST also together  
 ‘The men came, every one took a woman for himself, each and every young man.’  
 [Mtx-3-01.285]

This example also shows that possessive pronouns (here *tā'au* ‘your’) may have a generic sense as well.

#### 4.2.4.2 Second person pronouns of personal involvement

There is yet another use of the second person singular personal and possessive pronouns, which could be labeled “personal involvement”. Even though no participant in the discourse is an addressee, someone – either a participant in the story or the hearer – is addressed directly, to communicate a degree of personal or emotional involvement from the part of the speaker.

Firstly: sometimes a participant in a narrative text is referred to as *koe*, followed by a vocative phrase (§8.11 on the vocative). The narrative is in the third person, i.e. no addressee is involved as a participant; yet the speaker is, as it were, addressing the participant:<sup>7</sup>

- (7) *He 'ara mai koe e Tahonga ē koia ko koa.*  
 NTR wake\_up hither 2SG VOC Tahonga VOC together PROM happy  
 ‘Tahonga (lit. ‘you, O Tahonga’) woke up happy.’ [R301.351]
- (8) *He tu'u koe e te korohu'a nei ē 'i ruŋa i tō'ona hoi*  
 NTR arrive 2SG VOC ART old\_man PROX VOC at above at POSS.3SG.O horse  
*pakiroki.*  
 thin  
 ‘The old man arrived on his skinny horse.’ [R363.017]

As (8) shows, even when the participant is “addressed” in this way, for all other purposes it is still a third-person participant (*tō'ona hoi*, ‘his horse’).

<sup>7</sup> Fedorova (1965: 400) gives examples of this same construction in Mss. A and C (see Footnote 27 on p. 24): *koe e ... ē*, calling it “the article circumfix”.

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Sometimes the pronoun could be paraphrased as ‘that dear one’, but in many cases its exact connotation is hard to convey in translation.

Secondly: the second person singular possessive pronouns *ta'a* and *ta'u* (§4.2.2.1.1) can be used without a real possessive meaning.<sup>8</sup> This happens both in conversation and in third-person contexts. In conversation, they are used to imply that the noun is in some loose way connected to the hearer: ‘your thing’, i.e. the thing you were referring to, or the thing you asked about, or the thing that is of interest to you.

In (9), two people are discussing a photograph. One of them points out a woman they both know:

- (9) —'Ai **ta'u** vi'e ko Eva. —'Ai te rū'au era ko Eva.  
 there POSS.2SG.A woman PROM Eva there ART old\_woman DIST PROM Eva  
 ‘—Here is the (lit. ‘your’) woman Eva. —(Indeed), here is the old woman Eva.’  
 [R416.461–462]

The same use of possessive pronouns is also found in narrative contexts where no second-person participant is involved. By using a second person pronoun the speaker is, as it were, addressing the listener, implying that the object or person under discussion is in some way relevant to him/her. One could say that the listener is made part of the story, a strategy which makes the story more vivid. One function of the pronoun in this construction is stressing familiarity: the person or object is already known to the listener, whether from the preceding text or from general knowledge. *Ta'a/ta'u* could thus be paraphrased as ‘the one you know’.

- (10) He to'o mai **ta'a** ika he totoi ki raro ki tou rua era.  
 NTR take hither POSS.2SG.A fish NTR RED:drag to below to DEM hole DIST  
 ‘They took that (lit. your) victim and dragged her down into the pit.’ [R368.099]
- (11) 'Ina mau ena **ta'a** hahau tokerau o'o atu a roto i te avaava  
 NEG really MED POSS.2SG.A breeze wind enter away by inside at ART crack:RED  
 o te hare.  
 of ART house  
 ‘Really the (lit. your) breeze did not enter through the cracks of the house.’  
 [R347.055]

In this loose sense, the possessive pronouns *ta'u* and *ta'a* have lost their possessive force; rather, they have become a sort of demonstrative, similar to demonstrative determiners like *tū* and *tau*. However, the latter require a postnominal demonstrative *nei*, *ena* or *era*, while *ta'a* and *ta'u* don't.

<sup>8</sup> This use is also noted by Englert (1978: 21), who distinguishes “*taa* y *taau* como artículos” (*taa* and *taau* as articles) from “el pronombre posesivo *taau*” (the possessive pronoun *taau*), and Bergmann (1963: 48).



## 4.3 Numerals

Rapa Nui has a decimal counting system, as is usual in Eastern Polynesia (see Lemaître 1985). As is equally usual, it has terms for several powers of ten.

Cardinal numerals are usually preceded by one of the particles *e* (the default marker), *ka* (the contiguity marker) and *hoko* (when referring to a group of persons); these will be discussed in §4.3.2. Using these particles as a criterion, the interrogative *hia* ‘how many’ also classifies as a numeral (§10.3.2.4).

On the other hand, the archaic form *'aŋahuru* ‘ten’ does not qualify as a numeral in older texts, and neither do certain other forms which are obsolete nowadays (§4.3.1.3).

In this section, first the forms of the numerals are discussed (§4.3.1). §4.3.2 discusses elements preceding and following the numerals in the numeral phrase, especially the numeral particles *e*, *ka* and *hoko*. §4.3.3 discusses ordinal numerals; §4.3.4 discusses definite numerals, special forms with collective reference. Finally, §4.3.5 discusses the expression of fractions.

In the noun phrase, numerals occur either before or after the noun (§5.1); the use of numerals in the noun phrase will be discussed in §5.4. Apart from that, numerals also occur as predicates of numerical clauses; these are discussed in §9.5.

### 4.3.1 Forms of the numerals

#### 4.3.1.1 Basic and alternative forms

**4.3.1.1.1 One to ten** The cardinal numerals from one to ten in modern Rapa Nui are given in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Numerals 1–10

	basic form	alternative form
one	<i>tahi</i>	<i>ho'e</i>
two	<i>rua</i>	<i>piti</i>
three	<i>toru</i>	
four	<i>hā</i>	<i>maha</i>
five	<i>rīma</i>	<i>pae</i>
six	<i>ono</i>	
seven	<i>hitu</i>	
eight	<i>va'u</i>	
nine	<i>iva</i>	
ten	<i>ho'e 'ahuru; 'aŋahuru</i>	<i>ho'e 'ahuru</i>

As this table shows, for certain numerals there are two forms: a basic form and an alternative form. The alternative numerals are used in compound numerals, i.e. as part

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of numerals higher than ten. They are also used in a number of other cases, described in §4.3.1.2.

For ‘ten’, *ho'e 'ahuru* is the most common form nowadays. (*'Ahuru* is never used on its own, but always preceded by *ho'e* ‘one’ or a higher numeral.) *'Aḡahuru* is an older form which is still in use, but rare. It is especially used as a noun ‘a group of ten’, and as ordinal number ‘tenth’ (§4.3.3).

Table 4.9: Numerals 11–100

eleven	<i>ho'e 'ahuru mā ho'e</i>
twelve	<i>ho'e 'ahuru mā piti</i>
thirteen	<i>ho'e 'ahuru mā toru</i>
fourteen	<i>ho'e 'ahuru mā maha</i>
fifteen	<i>ho'e 'ahuru mā pae</i>
twenty	<i>piti 'ahuru</i>
twenty-one	<i>piti 'ahuru mā ho'e</i>
twenty-two	<i>piti 'ahuru mā piti</i>
thirty	<i>toru 'ahuru</i>
fourty	<i>maha 'ahuru</i>
fifty	<i>pae 'ahuru</i>
sixty	<i>ono 'ahuru</i>
seventy	<i>hitu 'ahuru</i>
eighty	<i>va'u 'ahuru</i>
ninety	<i>iva 'ahuru</i>
one hundred	<i>ho'e hānere</i>

4.3.1.1.2 **11 to 100** Numerals above 10 are illustrated in Table 4.9. As this table shows, the alternative numerals are used both for the tens (*piti 'ahuru*, not *\*rua 'ahuru*) and the units (*mā piti*, not *\*mā rua*). Tens and units are connected by the particle *mā* ‘and, with’.<sup>9</sup>

Like *'ahuru*, *hānere* is always preceded by another numeral, whether *ho'e* ‘one’ or a higher numeral:

- (12) *E ho'e hānere māmoē hāpa'o 'ā'ana...*  
 NUM one hundred sheep care\_for POSS.3SG.A  
 ‘He had one hundred sheep he cared for...’ [R490.002]

To indicate an unspecified number above ten, *tūma'a* is used: ‘something, and a bit’.

<sup>9</sup> *Mā* is common in Polynesian languages in the sense ‘and, with’ (< PPN *\*mā*); in various languages it serves to connect to tens to units in numerals, like in Rapa Nui. In Rapa Nui, it is also used in circumstantial clauses (§11.6.8), a function shared with Tahitian (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 107, 196); possibly Rapa Nui borrowed *mā* from Tahitian.

- (13) *piti 'ahuru tūma'a matahiti*  
 two ten more\_or\_less year  
 'twenty-something years'
- (14) ...*'ātā ki tō'ona hora mate era 'i te matahiti pae 'ahuru tūma'a*  
 until to POSS.3SG.O time die DIST at ART year five ten more\_or\_less  
 '...until his death in the fifties (=1950s)' [R539-1.493]

4.3.1.1.3 **Above 100** Table 4.10 shows numerals above 100. Just as in the numerals between 10 and 100, units as part of higher numerals are preceded by *mā*. Between hundreds and tens, and between thousands and hundreds, the particle *e* can be used, but this is not obligatory.

Table 4.10: Numerals &gt; 100

101	<i>ho'e hānere mā ho'e</i>
102	<i>ho'e hānere mā piti</i>
110	<i>ho'e hānere (e) ho'e 'ahuru</i>
111	<i>ho'e hānere (e) ho'e 'ahuru mā ho'e</i>
120	<i>ho'e hānere (e) piti 'ahuru</i>
157	<i>ho'e hānere (e) pae 'ahuru mā hitu</i>
200	<i>piti hānere</i>
678	<i>ono hānere (e) hitu 'ahuru mā va'u</i>
1000	<i>ho'e ta'utini</i>
1001	<i>ho'e ta'utini mā ho'e</i>
1100	<i>ho'e ta'utini (e) ho'e hānere</i>
1722	<i>ho'e ta'utini (e) hitu hānere (e) piti 'ahuru mā piti</i>

In spoken language, high numbers are often expressed with Spanish numerals. These are not preceded by a numeral particle:

- (15) *He take'a e māua i te cien peso.*  
 NTR see AG 1DU.EXCL ACC ART hundred peso  
 'We found one hundred pesos.' [R127.004]
- (16) *Tres mil dorare i va'ai ai a Kontiki.*  
 three thousand dollar PFV give PVP PROP Kontiki  
 'Three thousand dollars Kontiki (=Thor Heyerdahl) gave.' [R416.674]

Common as this may be, speakers do not consider this to be proper Rapa Nui; Spanish numerals are not accepted in formal spoken and written language.

**4.3.1.1.4 Etymology of the numerals** The basic forms of the numerals are regular reflexes of the PPN forms, while the alternative numerals listed above (*ho'e*, *piti*, *maha*, *pae*, *'ahuru*) are borrowed from Tahitian.<sup>10</sup> The basic numerals are the original Rapa Nui forms, except *va'u* (the original form is *varu*) and *ho'e 'ahuru*, which are also Tahitian. The forms *toru*, *ono*, *hitu* and *iva* are common to both languages.<sup>11</sup>

*Hānere* is also a Tahitian borrowing, derived from English 'hundred'. The origin of *ta'utini* is a little more complicated. It was probably borrowed from Tahitian *tauatini*, whereby the second *a* disappeared and a glottal was introduced between the first two vowels. Tahitian *tauatini* itself is a development from the older form *tautani*, from Eng. 'thousand'.<sup>12</sup>

We may conclude that in modern Rapa Nui, all numbers higher than seven are expressed by Tahitian numerals. The remarkable extent of lexical replacement is evidence for the widespread influence of Tahitian on the language (§1.4.1).<sup>13</sup>

#### 4.3.1.2 Other uses of the alternative numerals

As described above, in numbers above ten, the alternative (Tahitian) numerals are used. They are also used in dates and when telling the time, and sometimes in measures. These constructions are discussed here.

##### 4.3.1.2.1 Days and dates

Most of the names of days of the week contain a (Tahitian) numeral:

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<sup>10</sup> The Tahitian forms for 1, 2, 4 and 5 are language-internal developments, some of which may have occurred as late as the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (White 1968: 64).

<sup>11</sup> A Spanish expedition in 1770 recorded a set of numerals totally different from the usual ones and unlike any numerals known from other Polynesian languages: *coyana*, *corena*, *cogojui*, *quiroqui*, *majana*, *teuto*, *tehea*, *morouqui*, *vijoviri*, *queromata* (with some variation between different manuscripts; see Ross 1937). These have sometimes been considered as evidence of a non-Polynesian substrate (Ross 1936; Schuhmacher 1976; 1990; Mangor & Schuhmacher 1998). More likely, however, they represent Rapa Nui words which the Spanish transcribers mistook for numerals (Fischer 1992; Fedorova 1993; Mellén Blanco 1994).

Four years later, in 1774, Johann Reinhold Forster recorded a set of regular Polynesian numerals (Fischer 1992: 184).

<sup>12</sup> The development from *tautani* to *tauatini* probably happened under the influence of Tah. *tini* 'numerous': the second half of *tautani* was assimilated to *tini*, which had a closely related meaning.

<sup>13</sup> According to Lynch & Spriggs (1995: 37), in almost all Oceanic languages, "the basic monomorphemic numerals are well known and very frequently used". Two notable exceptions are Chamorro (Guam, see Topping 1973: 166), in which the whole numeral system was replaced by Spanish, and Anejom (Vanuatu, see Lynch & Spriggs 1995), where all numerals above three were replaced by Bislama/English forms. Clark (2004), however, suggests that numerals are quite susceptible to replacement by terms from a European language, because numerals are often used in domains of interaction with Europeans: in European culture, numbers play a much larger role than in traditional culture. For higher numerals, another reason for substitution is the length of terms: higher vernacular numerals tend to be much longer than English equivalents. This is true for Rapa Nui as well.

We also have to keep in mind that substitution by Tahitian terms is different from borrowing from Spanish. As Fischer (2007: 397); Fischer (2008a: 151) points out, Tahitian forms are considered as indigenous; they do not stand out as Spanish or English borrowings would (§1.4.1). Large-scale replacement of numerals also happened in other languages under Tahitian influence. In Mangarevan for example, all numbers higher than five are nowadays expressed with Tahitian numerals (P. Auguste Uebe-Carlson, p.c.).

- (17) *mahana piti; mahana pae*  
 day two day five  
 ‘Tuesday; Friday’

For numbering the days of the month, the Tahitian numerals are used as well:

- (18) *'i te ho'e mahana o Mē*  
 at ART one day of May  
 ‘on the first of May’ [R231.045]

4.3.1.2.2 **Telling time** ‘X o’clock’ is expressed as *hora X*, where X is a Tahitian numeral:

- (19) *Hora maha nei, 'e hora hitu tātou ka tu'u iho.*  
 hour four PROX and hour seven 1PL.INCL CNTG arrive just\_then  
 ‘It is now four o’clock, and seven o’clock we will arrive.’ [R210.198]

4.3.1.2.3 **Measuring space and time** With spatial measuring words like *mētera* ‘meter’, *māroa* ‘fathom’ and *'umi* ‘ten fathoms’, both Rapa Nui and Tahitian numerals are used:

(20) has the Tahitian term *pae*, while (21) has the Rapa Nui term *rua*.

- (20) *Te tumu nei tumu nikoniko e ko oŋa te pae mētera o te*  
 ART tree PROX tree curl:RED IPFV NEG.IPFV appear ART five meter of ART  
*roaroa.*  
 long  
 ‘This tree is a twisted tree which doesn’t surpass five meters of length.’ [R478.055]
- (21) *E rua mētera mā pae o te roaroa.*  
 NUM two meter plus five of ART long:RED  
 ‘He was 2.05 meters tall.’ [R250.177]

With time words we also find an alternation between Tahitian and Rapa Nui numerals:

- (22) *E u'i nō rā, e pae minuti toe he tu'u mai.*  
 EXH look just INTENS NUM five minute remain NTR arrive hither  
 ‘Just watch, in another five minutes he comes.’ [R437.037]
- (23) *Ka rima matahiti ō'oku...*  
 CNTG five year POSS.1SG.O  
 ‘When I was five years old...’ [R242.001]

#### 4 Closed word classes

##### 4.3.1.3 Old numerals

In older texts, only the original Rapa Nui numerals are used. The numbers one through seven and nine are identical to the basic forms still in use today, listed in §4.3.1.1. For ‘eight’, the old form is *varu*.<sup>14</sup>

For ‘ten’, the original numeral is *'aŋahuru*, which is still marginally in use today (§4.3.1.1 above). In older texts, it is usually preceded by the article *te* rather than the numeral particles *e* or *ka*. Between *'aŋahuru* and the noun there is a second article:

- (24) *He here e tahi te 'aŋahuru te taka.*  
NTR tie NUM one ART ten ART roll  
‘They tie ten rolls (of *mahute* fibers) together.’ [Ley-5-05.002]

Thus, *'aŋahuru* is more a noun than a numeral,<sup>15</sup> the counted item follows as a second noun phrase. On the other hand, it is not quite a regular noun, as the construction *te N te N* is never used with other nouns.

When *'aŋahuru* is used nowadays, it behaves like any other numeral. For example, in the following example it is not preceded by an article:

- (25) *'I ira i noho ai e tahi 'aŋahuru o te mahana.*  
at ANA PFV stay PVP NUM one ten of ART day  
‘There they stayed ten days.’ [R420.047]

Three other old – and obsolete – numerals are *kauatu* ‘ten’, *rau* ‘hundred’ and *pīere* ‘thousand’. Like *'aŋahuru*, they are preceded by the article rather than by a numeral marker.

##### 4.3.2 The numeral phrase

Cardinal numerals are always preceded by one of the particles *e*, *ka* and – less commonly – *hoko*.<sup>16</sup> These are discussed in the following subsections. §4.3.2.4 shows that numerals may be followed by a number of modifying particles.

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<sup>14</sup> It is interesting to note, that the Tahitian form *va'u* appears already in MsE, the oldest text in the corpus, where it is used alongside *varu*. In Ley and Mtx, however, *varu* is consistently used. Englert’s grammar (Englert 1978: 58), which otherwise does not mention Tahitian numerals, states that, while *varu* is the older form, nowadays only *va'u* is used.

*Va'u* may have been replaced earlier than the other numerals because it is a relatively high number, and/or because the Tahitian form is close to the Rapa Nui form. Moreover, the alternation between *r* and glottal is a process which occurs within Rapa Nui as well (§2.5.2).

<sup>15</sup> It is not unusual for higher numerals to have the status of nouns; see Dixon (2012: 78).

<sup>16</sup> A prefix found in other Polynesian languages but not in Rapa Nui is the distributive prefix *\*taki-* (e.g. *takitahi* ‘one each’), used e.g. in Tahitian (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 182), Pa’umotu (Stimson 1964: 492), Māori (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 498), Samoan (Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 116). In Rapa Nui, the distributive is expressed by repetition of the noun phrase.

4.3.2.1 Neutral *e*

*e* is the neutral numeral particle. In most contexts, cardinal numerals are preceded by *e*.

Numerals preceded by *e* occur before or after the noun in the noun phrase (§5.4.1–5.4.2); they also occur as the predicate of a numerical clause (§9.5). Numerous examples of *e* + numeral are provided in the referred sections, as well as in §4.3.1 above.

4.3.2.2 The contiguity marker *ka*

*Ka* is an aspectual marker indicating contiguity between two events (§7.2.6). With numerals, *ka* is used in counting, or when listing or summing up a series of things:

- (26) *ka tahi, ka rua, ka toru, ka hā*  
 CNTG one CNTG two CNTG three CNTG four  
 ‘one, two, three, four’

- (27) *He oho ki te hare hāpī, ka tahi mahana, ka rua, ka toru.*  
 NTR go to ART house learn CNTG one day CNTG two CNTG three  
 ‘He went to school, one day, two, three.’ [R399.013]

When used within a noun phrase, like *ka tahi mahana* in (27), *ka* + numeral always occurs before the noun, never after the noun (different from *e*).

*Ka* as a numeral marker is used when a number or quantity has been reached; it indicates an extent. It is especially common with time words, indicating that a certain time has elapsed. In the following example, *ka* + numeral indicates that the age of ten years has been reached:

- (28) *E tahi poki te 'ījōa ko Eva ka ho'e 'ahuru matahiti.*  
 NUM one child ART name PROM Eva CNTG one ten year  
 ‘There was a girl whose name was Eva, ten years old.’ [R210.001]

In this sense ‘elapsed time’, *ka* is used to indicate minutes after the hour (§4.3.1.2.2).

As *ka* indicates a quantity which has been reached, it may emphasise the amount: ‘up to, as many as’. In (29) this emphasis is further enhanced by the use of *rō atu*:

- (29) *Mo ai rō kona hore iho hai 'ārote e pu'a era e ono 'o ka*  
 if exist EMPH place cut just\_then INS plough IPFV cover DIST NUM six or CNTG  
*va'u rō atu 'uei.*  
 eight EMPH away ox  
 ‘When a field was ploughed for the first time, it was ploughed with six or even eight oxen.’ [R539-1.110–111]

- (30) *Ka ono, ka ono tanjata i mate 'i tau 'ura era ko tetu.*  
 CNTG six CNTG six man PFV die at DEM lobster DIST PROM huge  
 ‘As many as six men died by that enormous lobster.’ [Mtx-4-05.014]

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##### 4.3.2.3 The person marker *hoko*

The particle *hoko* is used when counting persons: *hoko rua* ‘two people’, *hoko toru* ‘three people’ etc.<sup>17</sup> It is only used with numerals under ten.

Numerals preceded by *hoko* may occur after the noun as in (31), before the noun as in (32) (though this is relatively rare), or on their own as in (33):

- (31) *He e'a ia tou nā kope era hoko toru 'i ruṅa o te vaka.*  
NTR go\_out then DEM PL person DIST NUM.PERS three at above of ART boat  
‘Those three people went out by boat.’ [R309.102]
- (32) *I e'a mai ai hoko iva taṅata o ruṅa i te 'avione mau*  
PFV go\_out hither PVP NUM.PERS nine man of above at ART airplane really  
'ana...  
IDENT  
‘When nine men had come out of the airplane...’ [R539-2.215]
- (33) *He ha'uru hoko hā, hoko toru ka 'ara ka vānaṅanaṅa nō.*  
NTR sleep NUM.PERS four NUM.PERS three CNTG wake\_up CNTG talk:RED just  
‘Four (men) slept, three were awake and were talking.’ [MsE-050.005]

*Hoko rua* and *hoko tahi* have both developed certain lexicalised uses in which the sense is somewhat different from ‘a group of X persons’; in these cases, they are written as one word. *Hokorua* is used as a noun ‘companion’ and as a verb ‘to accompany’; *hokotahi* is used as an adjective ‘lonely, solitary’, or an adverb ‘alone, on one’s own’:

- (34) *He hokorua a au i tō'oku repahoa.*  
NTR accompany PROP 1SG ACC POSS.1SG.O friend  
‘I accompany my friend.’ [R208.138]
- (35) *He u'i mai a Ure 'a Reka hokotahi nō a Marama, 'ina he*  
NTR look hither PROP Ure a Reka solitary just PROP Marama NEG PRED  
***hokorua.***  
companion  
‘Ure a Reka saw that Marama was lonely, he had no companion.’ [Ley-7-48.013]

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<sup>17</sup> A prefix *soko* or *hoko* preceding numerals (PPN \**soko*) is found in a smattering of languages throughout Polynesia (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011), though never exclusively referring to persons; it either means ‘just, exactly’ or ‘one, alone, a single’; the latter sense occurs in Rapa Nui in *hokotahi* ‘solitary’. A numeral prefix restricted to human reference is PPN \**toko*, which occurs in the majority of Polynesian languages. Possibly both \**toko* and \**hoko* existed originally in Rapa Nui; the two were conflated because of their formal and semantic similarity, resulting in the form *hoko* with semantic features of both \**hoko* and \**toko*.



## 4.3.2.4 Modifiers in the numeral phrase

Cardinal numerals may be followed by modifying elements like *mau* ‘really’, *nō* ‘just’ or *haka'ou* ‘again, more, other’, elements which also occur in the noun phrase (§5.8).

- (36) *'E ko tū me'e 'ā i aŋa ai e rua haka'ou mahana.*  
 and PROM DEM thing IDENT PFV do PVP NUM two again day  
 ‘And he did that same thing two more days’ [R532-07.021]
- (37) *E tahi mau nō 'ā'ana poki vahine.*  
 NUM one really just POSS.3SG.A child female  
 ‘He had just one daughter.’ [R372.004]

Numerals preceded by *ka* may also be followed by the verb phrase particles *rō* (§7.4.2) and *ō* (§4.5.4.5). *Rō* (which may in turn be followed by *atu*) emphasises the extent or limit of the number: ‘up to, as much as, even’:

- (38) *¡Ka rua 'ō mahana 'ina kai tu'u mai!*  
 CNTG two really day NEG NEG.PFV arrive hither  
 ‘She hasn’t come for two days!’ [R229.132]
- (39) *Mo ai rō kona hore iho hai 'ārote e pu'a era e ono 'o ka*  
 if exist EMPH place cut just\_then INS plow IPFV cover DIST NUM six or CNTG  
*va'u rō atu 'uei.*  
 eight EMPH away ox  
 ‘When a field was ploughed for the first time, it was covered with six or even eight oxen.’ [R539-1.110]

## 4.3.3 Ordinal numerals

Rapa Nui does not have separate forms for ordinal numerals, except *ra'e* ‘first’, which is an adjective, occurring after the noun. Other numerals are interpreted as ordinal numerals by virtue of their position: they are ordinal numerals when they occur before the noun and are preceded by a determiner.

- (40) *te taŋata ra'e* ‘the first man’  
*te rua taŋata* ‘the second man’  
*te toru taŋata* ‘the third man’  
*te ho'e 'ahuru taŋata* ‘the tenth man’

The determiner can be the article *te* as in the examples above, but also a possessive pronoun as in (41), or the predicate marker *he* as in (42):

- (41) *Ku aŋa 'ana i tō'ona rua vaka era.*  
 PRF make CONT ACC POSS.3SG.O two boat DIST  
 ‘He built his second boat.’ [R539-1.168]

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- (42) *Te hare pure he rua hare pure era.*  
ART house pray PRED two house pray DIST  
‘The church (shown in this picture) is the second church.’ [R412.203]

*Rua* as an ordinal numeral is also used in the sense ‘the other’ (out of two):

- (43) *E rua nānata hiva, e tahi taŋata he italiano, te rua taŋata he harani.*  
NUM two men continent NUM one man PRED Italian ART two man PRED  
French  
‘There were two foreigners, one man was an Italian, the other man was a Frenchman.’ [Egt-02.185]

With a time word, *rua* means ‘next’.

- (44) *I te pō'ā o te rua mahana he 'ara a Piu.*  
at ART morning of ART two day NTR wake\_up PROP Piu  
‘In the early morning of the next day, Piu woke up.’ [R437.088]

#### 4.3.4 Definite numerals

To express ‘the two, the three’ et cetera, a special form of the numerals is used, in which the first mora is reduplicated (type 1 reduplication, see §2.6.1.1). These forms, which can be labeled DEFINITE NUMERALS,<sup>18</sup> are always preceded by the proper article *a* (§5.13.2; possibly *a* is used because the definite numerals are functionally similar to pronouns). They are listed in Table 4.11.

Like all reduplications, these forms are written with a hyphen in standard orthography (*a to-toru* etc.). As the table shows, the original *a rurua* has evolved into *ararua*. As this is a frozen form which is not recognisable as a reduplication, it does not have a hyphen in the standard orthography: *ararua* versus *a ru-rua*.

The definite numerals often occur on their own as in (45) below, but they are also used in the noun phrase. In the latter case they may be placed either before the noun as in (46), or after the noun as in (47).

- (45) *He e'a ia a totoru he oho he runu i te rāua tūava.*  
NTR go\_out then PROP RED:three NTR go NTR gather ACC ART 3PL guava  
‘The three went out and gathered their guavas.’ [R496.029]
- (46) *He oho mai a oono nā io, he tu'u ki te hare o Kave Heke.*  
NTR go hither PROP RED:six PL young\_man NTR arrive to ART house of Kave  
Heke  
‘The six young men came and arrived at the house of Kave Heke.’ [Ley-4-01.007]

<sup>18</sup> Other possible terms are “proper numerals” (because of the use of *a*), or “collective numerals” (because they denote a collectivity).

<sup>19</sup> *A rurua* is used only in Ley and MsE; Mtx has *ararua*.

Table 4.11: Definite numerals

	modern form	archaic form
the two	<i>ararua</i>	<i>a rurua</i> <sup>19</sup>
the three	<i>a totoru</i>	
the four	<i>a hahā</i>	
the five	<i>a ririma</i>	
the six	<i>a oono</i>	
the seven	<i>a hihitu</i>	
the eight	<i>a vava'u</i>	<i>a vavaru</i>
the nine	<i>a iiva</i>	
the ten	<i>a hoho'e 'ahuru</i>	<i>a tatahi te 'aṅahuru;</i> <i>a tatahi te kauatu</i>

- (47) *He oje te 'aro a hahā o nei.*  
NTR shortage ART side PROP RED:four of PROX

'The four sides of the island (lit. of here) here suffered shortage.' [Mtx-5-02.017]

Like the cardinal numerals, definite numerals are never preceded by prepositions. They are usually found in subject position, where no preposition is needed. However, they are also used occasionally in positions that would normally require a preposition. In the following example, *a vavaru* occurs in a locative phrase, where the preposition 'i' 'in' is expected; the preposition is left out.

- (48) ...*he tiṅa'i e rima te 'aṅahuru a vavaru pū.*  
NTR kill NUM five ART ten PROP RED:eight hole

'...they killed fifty (people who were hiding) in the eight holes.' [Mtx-3-01.237]

Notice that this restriction distinguishes the definite numerals from all other items preceded by the proper article: pronouns and common nouns marked with the proper article can be preceded by prepositions without a problem (§5.13.2.1).

Nowadays the definite numerals other than *ararua* are used less frequently than in the past.<sup>20</sup> Their role is partly taken over by *ananake* (§4.4.4), which used to be the universal quantifier 'all', but which nowadays has the sense 'together'. Both *ananake* and the definite numerals are mainly used pronominally nowadays, i.e. without a head noun or pronoun.

One could say that *ararua* and *ananake* form a mini-paradigm in modern Rapa Nui, with *ararua* referring to a group of two entities and *ananake* to more than two.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> In the corpus of old texts (122,600 words), there are 73 occurrences, roughly once in 1,700 words; in the much larger corpus of newer texts (367,500 words) there are only 39 occurrences, roughly once in 9,400 words. *Ararua*, on the other hand, is common both in older and newer texts: in the former it occurs 136 times (once in 900 words), in the latter 865 times (once in 425 words).

<sup>21</sup> This is even clearer in comitative constructions: nowadays both *ararua* and *ananake* are used as comitative

### 4.3.5 Fractions

'*Afa* means 'half'. It is only used in '*e te 'afa* 'and a half', supplementing a whole number:

- (49) *e toru mētera 'e te 'afa*  
NUM three meter and ART half  
'three and a half meters' [Notes]

The expression as a whole was borrowed from Tahitian, which in turn borrowed the word '*afa* from English 'half'.

There are no common terms to express other fractions. They can be circumscribed using '*apa* 'part'. In the Bible translation, where certain fractions occur, this may lead to constructions such as the following:

- (50) *Ko mate 'ana e tahi 'apa o te 'apa e toru o te taŋata.*  
PRF die CONT NUM one part of ART part NUM three of ART man  
'One third of the people (lit. one part of the three parts of the people) had died.'  
[Rev. 9:20]

The word '*apa* was probably borrowed from Tahitian, where it means 'half of a fish or animal, cut lengthwise' or 'piece of tissue, patch' (Académie Tahitienne 1999: 49). It is not used in older texts.

## 4.4 Quantifiers

### 4.4.1 Overview

Quantifiers are semantically similar to numerals in that they express a quantity; unlike numerals, quantifiers do not indicate an exact amount.

The quantifiers of Rapa Nui are listed in Table 4.12. As the table shows, the quantifier system has undergone significant changes over the past century. A number of new quantifiers have been introduced, while others have undergone semantic shifts.

Table 4.13 lists a few words which are syntactically different from quantifiers (i.e. they do not occur in the same positions in the noun phrase) but are discussed in this section because they have a quantifying sense.

In Rapa Nui, quantifiers are syntactically like numerals in two respects:

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markers, while other definite numerals are not used as such (§8.10.3).

Table 4.12: List of quantifiers

quantifier	modern Rapa Nui	older Rapa Nui
<i>ta'ato'a</i>	all	—
<i>ananake</i>	together	all
<i>paurō</i>	all, every	—
<i>rauhuru</i>	diverse	—
<i>tētahi</i>	some, other, another	some, other, another
<i>me'e rahi</i>	many	—
<i>kā</i>	each	—
<i>pura</i>	mere, purely, totally	—

Table 4.13: Quantifier-like words

quantifier	sense	syntactic status
<i>rahi</i>	many, much	adjective (cf. <i>me'e rahi</i> above)
<i>tahi</i>	all	verb phrase adverb
<i>kē</i>	some, other	mainly adjective, occasionally quantifier
<i>rua</i>	other	ordinal numeral (§4.3.3)

- they occur as modifiers in the noun phrase, before or after the noun;
- they often exclude the use of the article.

There are important differences as well. Quantifiers are not preceded by the numeral particles *e*, *ka* and *hoko*. And even though they seem to occupy the same positions in the noun phrase, on closer analysis they sometimes turn out to be in a different position. In fact, quantifiers also differ from each other in the positions in which they can occur. They may be pre- or postnominal; if prenominal, they occur before or after the article or without article. Table 4.14 lists the position(s) of each quantifier in the noun phrase.<sup>22</sup>

This table demonstrates that the position of quantifiers is lexically determined. All quantifiers occur before the noun, only some after the noun. *Ta'ato'a* ‘all’ and *rauhuru* ‘diverse’ occur both pre- and postnominally; the other quantifiers only occur before the noun. The position with respect to the article *te* is lexically determined as well: whereas *paurō* ‘all’ is always followed by the article, the other quantifiers mostly occur without article or after the article. The question whether the position of the quantifier has semantic repercussions, is discussed in the subsections on the individual quantifiers.

<sup>22</sup> Not included are *ananake* (which rarely occurs within a noun phrase in modern Rapa Nui) and the minor quantifiers *kā* and *pūra*.

<sup>23</sup> When *me'e rahi* occurs before the article, it is external to the noun phrase.

Table 4.14: Distribution of quantifiers in the noun phrase

		QTF <i>te N</i>	QTF <i>N</i>	<i>te</i> QTF <i>N</i>	( <i>te</i> ) <i>N</i> QTF
<i>ta'ato'a</i>	‘all’	marginal	yes	yes	yes
<i>paurō</i>	‘all’	yes	marginal	no	marginal
<i>rauhuru</i>	‘diverse’	yes	yes	yes	yes
<i>tētahi</i>	‘some’	no	yes	yes	no
<i>me'e rahi</i>	‘many’	no <sup>23</sup>	yes	no	no

#### 4.4.2 *Ta'ato'a* ‘all’

The universal quantifier *ta'ato'a* ‘all’ is the most common quantifier in modern Rapa Nui. It is a relative newcomer, borrowed from Tahitian.<sup>24</sup> It occurs in a variety of positions in the noun phrase; a difference in position does not always imply a clear difference in meaning.

***Te N ta'ato'a*** The most common position of *ta'ato'a* is after the noun, before post-nominal demonstratives (see the chart in §5.1). The noun is preceded by the article *te* or another determiner:

- (51) *Te nūna'a ta'ato'a nei i noho ai 'i 'Anakena.*  
 ART group all PROX PFV stay PVP at Anakena  
 ‘All these people stayed at Anakena.’ [R376.036]
- (52) *E haya koe ki te manu ta'ato'a, ki te 'animare ta'ato'a.*  
 EXH love 2SG to ART bird all to ART animal all  
 ‘You must love all the birds, all the animals.’ [R213.053]

***Te ta'ato'a N*** *ta'ato'a* may also appear before the noun, after the determiner:

- (53) *'I te mahana nei te ta'ato'a ŋā poki he porotē.*  
 at ART day PROX ART all PL child NTR parade  
 ‘Today all the children participate in the parade.’ [R334.324]

The difference between *te N ta'ato'a* and *te ta'ato'a N* is mainly a stylistic one: some speakers freely use *ta'ato'a* prenominal, others feel that *te ta'ato'a N* is less grammatical. On the whole, postnominal *ta'ato'a* is much more common.

Yet there is also a slight difference in meaning: at least for some speakers, prenominal *ta'ato'a* is somewhat emphatic. Compare (54) with (53) above: (53) indicates ‘all without exception’, while (54) is more neutral.

<sup>24</sup> It is found in Fel, Blx and newer texts.

- (54) *I te mahana nei te ηā poki ta'ato'a he porotē.*  
 at ART day PROX ART PL child all NTR parade  
 'Today all the children participate in the parade.'

As (53) and (54) show, the noun phrase containing *ta'ato'a* may include a plural marker. In most cases, however, no plural marker is used; the use of *ta'ato'a* itself is a sufficient indication of the plurality of the noun phrase.

**Ta'ato'a te N** Very occasionally, *ta'ato'a* occurs before the article:

- (55) *Ta'ato'a te taŋata o Rapa Nui i oho ai ki te pure pāpaku*  
 all ART person of Rapa Nui PFV go PVP to ART prayer corpse  
 'All the people of Rapa Nui went to the funeral mass.' [R231.349]

This is merely a stylistic variant of *te ta'ato'a N*. This construction is never used when the noun phrase is preceded by a preposition.

**Ta'ato'a N** *Ta'ato'a* often occurs before the noun without a determiner. This is only possible when the noun phrase is not preceded by a preposition: prepositions require a determiner to be present (§5.3.2.1). *Ta'ato'a* without determiner mostly occurs in noun phrases at the beginning of the sentence or clause, as in (56). However, it may occur further on in the sentence as well, as in (57).

- (56) *Ta'ato'a me'e rakerake e haka aŋa era ki a Puakiva.*  
 all thing bad:RED IPFV CAUS do DIST to PROP Puakiva  
 'He made Puakiva do all sorts of bad jobs.' [R229.397]
- (57) *E hanja koe ta'ato'a nō manu, ta'ato'a nō 'animare.*  
 EXH love 2SG all just bird all just animal  
 'Love all the birds, all the animals.' [R213.026]

This use of *ta'ato'a* may indicate a more generic, less exact quantification, without establishing a precisely defined group: 'all sorts of, everything, whatever'.

**(Te) ta'ato'a** *Ta'ato'a* may occur without an accompanying noun, i.e. in a headless noun phrase (§5.6). In this case, it can be translated as 'all, everyone, the totality'.

Headless *ta'ato'a* may occur either with or without article:

- (58) *E aŋa tahi a ia i te ηā me'e nei mo te rivariva o te ta'ato'a.*  
 EXH do all PROP 3SG ACC ART PL thing PROX for ART good:RED of ART all  
 'He should do all these things for the good of all.' [R647.043]
- (59) *Ta'ato'a e tahuti era, e tari mai era i te kai.*  
 all IPFV run DIST IPFV carry hither DIST ACC ART food  
 'All (people) ran, carrying the food.' [R210.155]

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The choice between *ta'ato'a* and *te ta'ato'a* in headless noun phrases is partly syntactically determined: when the noun phrase is preceded by a preposition, there needs to be a determiner. This is the case in (58). When the context does not require a determiner, the determiner tends to be left out, as in (59). However, this is no absolute rule.

**With pronoun** Finally, *ta'ato'a* may quantify a pronoun; usually it appears after the pronoun:

- (60) *E koro, 'ī a mātou ta'ato'a ia.*  
VOC Dad IMM PROP 1PL.EXCL all then  
'Dad, here we all are!' [R237.051]

#### 4.4.3 *Paurō* 'each'

Like *ta'ato'a*, *paurō* 'each, every, all' is a newcomer in Rapa Nui, borrowed from Tahitian *pauroa*. Interestingly, it already occurs in Mtx and Egt, but only once in each. It is much more common in recent texts.

*Paurō* usually precedes the determiner and is mostly used with temporal nouns like *mahana* 'day', *vece* 'time, turn', *matahiti* 'year'. Some examples:

- (61) *Paurō te mahana he turu au ki te hāpī.*  
every ART day NTR go\_down 1SG to ART learn  
'Every day I go to school.' [R151.059]
- (62) *E ko puē au mo 'a'amu atu ki a kōrua paurō te vece.*  
IPFV NEG.IPFV can 1SG for tell away to PROP 2PL every ART time  
'I can't tell you every time.' [R201.009]
- (63) *E rua ŋā vi'e paurō te pō māhina 'omotohi e vari era ki te  
NUM two PL woman every ART night moon full\_moon IPFV pass DIST to ART  
ika hī.  
fish to\_fish  
'There were two woman who went fishing every night of a full moon.'  
[R532-12.001]*

Occasionally *paurō* is used with other nouns, mostly after the noun. In these cases it is equivalent to *ta'ato'a*:

- (64) *Te aŋa he ri'ari'a nō te tayata paurō 'i tū ŋā tahutahu era.*  
ART do PRED afraid just ART man every at DEM PL witch DIST  
'All the people were continually afraid of those witches.' [R233.007]



#### 4.4.4 *Ananake* ‘together’

In old texts, *ananake* is the most common quantifier; in these texts it has a wide range of uses, much like *ta'ato'a* nowadays. In modern Rapa Nui, the use of *ananake* is semantically and syntactically restricted. In the following sections, these two stages are discussed separately.

*Ananake* does not occur in other languages, but the simple form *anake*<sup>25</sup> is widespread in Polynesian (< PNP \**anake* = ‘completely, only’). *Ananake* may have developed from *anake* by analogy of the definite numerals (§4.3.4): the development *anake* > *ananake* is very similar to (*a*) *toru* > *a totoru*. This would explain the otherwise unattested reduplication pattern, in which the penultimate syllable of a three-syllable word is reduplicated. As discussed in §4.3.4 above, *ananake* shows similarities in use to the definite numerals.

##### 4.4.4.1 Modern use

The modern sense of *ananake* is ‘together, all together’. It is mostly used pronominally: *ananake* is not accompanied by a noun, nor preceded by an article. Its referent must be known from the preceding context. Some examples:

- (65) *He nonoho rō 'ai ananake 'i 'Ohovehi.*  
 NTR PL:stay EMPH SUBS together at Ohovehi  
 ‘They lived together in Ohovehi.’ [R310.481]
- (66) *'I tū hora era ananake i u'i ai rū'au rima kore.*  
 at DEM time DIST together PFV look PVP old\_woman hand lack  
 ‘At that moment they all (together) saw that the old woman had no hands.’  
 [R437.085]
- (67) *He 'amo te 'ura ananake.*  
 NTR carry ART lobster together  
 ‘Together they carried the lobsters.’ [R410.045]

As these examples show, *ananake* may occur after the verb in the subject position as in (65), but also before the verb as in (66), or at the end of the clause as in (67).

Regardless of its position in the clause, *ananake* always refers to the subject. For example, (67) does not mean ‘they carried all the lobsters’. Now this also has a semantic reason: *ananake* normally has human reference; it is uncommon for *ananake* to be used for animals or inanimate things.

Another current use of *ananake* is in the comitative construction (§8.10.3).

##### 4.4.4.2 *Ananake* in older Rapa Nui

The modern pronominal use, in which *ananake* quantifies an implied subject, already occurs in older texts. More commonly, however, *ananake* is used in these texts as a

<sup>25</sup> *Anake* also occurs in Rapa Nui, but only in older texts.

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quantifier within the noun phrase. This syntactic difference between the old and the modern language coincides with a semantic difference: while in modern Rapa Nui *ananake* means ‘together’, in older texts it is a universal quantifier ‘all’, a sense nowadays expressed by *ta'ato'a* and *paurō*.

Just like *ta'ato'a* nowadays, *ananake* in the older language may occur after a noun or pronoun:

- (68) *He hīhiŋa te mōai ananake.*  
NTR PL:fall ART statue all  
‘All the statues fell.’ [Mtx-4-05.060]
- (69) *Ka oho mai kōrua ananake, he mate au.*  
IMP go hither 2PL all NTR die 1SG  
‘(The king said to his children:) Come, all of you, I am dying.’ [Ley-2-08.009]

It also occurs before the noun; in that case it precedes the article *te*.

- (70) *Ananake te mata ana haka uŋa e tahi taŋata.*  
all ART tribe IRR CAUS send NUM one man  
‘All the tribes sent one man.’ [Ley-5-36.001]
- (71) *He oho tau nuahine era ananake te motu.*  
NTR go DEM old\_woman DIST all ART islet  
‘The old woman went to all the islets.’ [Mtx-3-06.045]
- (72) *E taū era ananake te ra'ā.*  
IPFV fight DIST all ART day  
‘They fought every day.’ [Mtx-3-05.006]

Prenominal *ananake* is never preceded by a preposition. Even so, the examples show that it may occur in noun phrases with a variety of functions, for example subject as in (70), locational adjunct as in (71), or temporal adjunct as in (72). But *ananake te N* is especially common with nouns denoting place or time, as in (71–72), a construction that has been taken over by *paurō te N* nowadays.

#### 4.4.5 *Rauhuru* ‘diverse’

*Rauhuru* means ‘diverse, manifold, many kinds’. It is a recent word, derived from *rau* ‘one hundred (archaic)’ + *huru* ‘kind, sort’. Like *ta'ato'a*, it occurs before and after the noun, with and without article, preceding and following the article.

##### *Rauhuru te N*

- (73) *I noho era te oromatu'a i nei, he take'a rauhuru te me'e mātāmu'a.*  
PFV stay DIST ART priest at PROX NTR see diverse ART thing past  
‘When the priest lived here, he saw manifold things of the past.’ [R423.021]

**Te rauhuru N**

- (74) *I te hora nei he vānaŋa a tātou o ruŋa i te rauhuru aŋa o*  
 at ART time PROX NTR talk PROP 1PL.INCL of above at ART diverse work of  
*te taŋata.*  
 ART man  
 ‘Now we are going to talk about the different kinds of work of people.’ [R334.203]

**Rauhuru N**

- (75) *...mo aŋa rauhuru me'e rivariva haŋa 'ā'ana*  
 for do diverse thing good:RED want POSS.3SG.A  
 ‘... to do all sorts of good things which he wants’ [2 Tim. 3:17]

The use or non-use of the article is partly determined by syntax: after prepositions the article is obligatory. Partly it is a matter of style; the article is more common in this construction in certain texts than in others.

**(Te) N rauhuru** The postnominal use of *rauhuru* is limited to some speakers. The article may or may not be used.

- (76) *Ko rahi 'ana te huru rauhuru o te kahu 'e tao'a.*  
 PRF many CONT ART manner diverse of ART cloth(es) and object  
 ‘There are many kinds (lit. many are the different kinds) of clothes and things.’  
 [R539-2.28]
- (77) *Te aŋa 'a Paio he 'oka ha'a'apu rauhuru.*  
 ART work of.A Paio PRED plant crops diverse  
 ‘Paio’s work was planting all kinds of crops.’ [R439.005]

**As a noun** Finally, *rauhuru* itself can also be used as a noun, followed by a possessive phrase:

- (78) *Te aŋa 'ā'ana he 'oka i te kai, i te rauhuru o te me'e.*  
 ART work POSS.3SG.A PRED plant ACC ART food ACC ART diverse of ART thing  
 ‘His work was planting food, all kinds of things’ [R444.015–016]

Nominalised *rauhuru* may or may not be preceded by the article. Again, this choice is partly prescribed by the syntax, partly free.

**4.4.6 Tētahi ‘some, other’**

In this section first the syntax of *tētahi* will be discussed (§4.4.6.1), then its meaning (§4.4.6.2).

4.4.6.1 Syntax of *tētahi*: *te* + *tahi*?

*Tētahi* ‘some, other’ is an ambiguous element. Its origin is clear: the article *te* + the numeral *tahi* ‘one’. *Tētahi* still betrays this origin when it occurs after prepositions:

- (79) *'I tētahi mahana ana ta'o haka'ou te tātou*  
 at some/other day IRR cook\_in\_earth\_oven again ART 1PL.INCL  
*'umu.*  
 earth\_oven

‘Another day we will cook in the (lit. our) earth oven again.’ [R333.546]

- (80) *Ko māhani 'ana ki tētahi nā poki era.*  
 PRF accustom CONT to some/other PL child DIST  
 ‘She had gotten used to the other children.’ [R151.018]

- (81) *He mate te manava ki te mā'āya hāngai o tētahi taŋata.*  
 NTR die ART stomach TO ART chick feed of some/other man  
 ‘She fell in love (lit. the stomach died) with the adopted child (lit. the chick fed/raised) of another man.’ [Mtx-5-04.002]

These prepositions are obligatory followed by a determiner (§5.3.2.1). The fact that they can be followed by *tētahi* shows that in these cases *tētahi* contains a determiner, the most natural explanation being that *tētahi* consists of the article *te* followed by *tahi*.

Yet in other cases *tētahi* does not incorporate a determiner. It can be preceded by determiners, such as the article *te* (82) or a demonstrative (83):

- (82) *'Ina ko oho ki te tētahi kona.*  
 NEG NEG.IPFV go to ART some/other place  
 ‘Don’t go to another place.’ [R481.135]

- (83) *He oho tahi ananake ko tū tētahi nā poki era.*  
 NTR go all together PROM DEM some/other PL child DIST  
 ‘He went together with those other boys.’ [R161.027]

Also, *tētahi* may follow the preposition *hai*, a preposition which is never followed by a determiner (§4.7.10):

- (84) *A Kontiki tako'a i hā'ū'ū mai hai tara 'e hai tētahi atu*  
 PROP Kontiki also PFV help hither INS money and INS some/other away  
*me'e.*  
 thing  
 ‘Kontiki (=Thor Heyerdahl) also helped with money and with other things.’  
 [R375.094]

We may conclude that *tētahi* has – at least in these cases – undergone a process of reanalysis and turned into a monomorphemic quantifier which no longer includes a determiner.

4.4.6.2 Use of *tētahi*

*Tētahi* can be used with singular nouns in the sense ‘another’:

- (85) *E hoki mai ho'i koe 'i tētahi mahana.*  
 EXH return hither indeed 2SG at some/other day  
 ‘Come back another day.’ [R344.034]

More commonly, the noun has a plural sense, and *tētahi* means ‘some’ or ‘others’:

- (86) *Tētahi mahana, e ha'uru era 'i ruŋa o te 'one.*  
 some/other day IPFV sleep DIST at above of ART sand  
 ‘Some days he would sleep on the ground.’ [R309.060]
- (87) *ĀKo ai rā nei te tētahi nu'u era?*  
 PROM who INTENS PROX ART some/other people DIST  
 ‘Who are those other people?’ [R414.075]

Multiple noun phrases can be conjoined in juxtaposed clauses using *tētahi ... tētahi*: ‘some ... others’:

- (88) *...tētahi ŋā poki tane nunui he hāpī mo haka taŋi i te kītara.*  
 some/other PL child male PL:big NTR learn for CAUS cry ACC ART guitar  
*Tētahi ŋā poki he hāpī i te 'ori rapa nui, tētahi haka'ou*  
 some/other PL child NTR learn ACC ART dance shine crouch some/other again  
*mo 'ori i te cueca.*  
 for dance ACC ART cueca  
 ‘...some bigger boys learn to play the guitar. Other children learn Rapa Nui dancing, yet others dancing the *cueca*.’ [R334.130–131]

As the last clause in (88) shows, *tētahi* can also be used without a following noun.

4.4.7 *Me'e rahi* and *rahi* ‘much, many’4.4.7.1 *Me'e rahi*: from noun phrase to quantifier

*me'e rahi*, lit. ‘many things’, is originally a noun phrase, consisting of the noun *me'e* ‘thing’, modified by the adjective *rahi* ‘much/many’. The few times when it is used in older texts (there are only four occurrences), it is used as such. In the following example, the noun phrase *me'e rahi* is in initial position as the predicate of an attributive clause,<sup>26</sup> followed by the subject noun phrase.

- (89) *Me'e rahi te manu o ruŋa.*  
 thing many/much ART bird of above  
 ‘There were many birds (lit. many [were] the birds) on (the island).’ [Egt-02.083]

<sup>26</sup> Attributive clauses commonly have the dummy noun *me'e* as anchor of the predicate adjective (§9.2.7).

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This example has the same structure as the attributive clause below (§9.2.7):

- (90) *Me'e paŋaha'a te kūmara.*  
thing heavy ART sweet\_potato  
'Sweet potatoes are heavy (food).' [Ley-5-24.008]

Nowadays *me'e rahi* is still used in the same way, i.e. as a predicate of an attributive clause. If this construction contains a verb, possibly with other arguments, this is constructed as a relative clause following the subject.

- (91) *Me'e rahi te taŋata [i mate 'i rā noho iŋa].*  
thing many/much ART man PFV die at DIST stay NMLZ  
'Many people died (lit. many [were] the people who died) at that time.' [R250.093]

However, this is not the most common way in which *me'e rahi* is used nowadays. It has also developed into a frozen form which as a whole functions as a quantifier, occupying the quantifier position in the noun phrase. *Me'e rahi* as a quantifier is distinguished by the following characteristics:

- Unlike the examples above, it is not followed by the article, but directly precedes the noun. Unlike most other quantifiers, *me'e rahi* cannot be preceded by the article either.
- It does not need to occur clause-initially, but occurs in noun phrases in different positions in the clause; the noun phrase may be subject (92), direct object (93), oblique (94), time adjunct (95). In all cases, the noun phrase is not marked by a preposition (§5.3.2.1).

- (92) *Me'e rahi nu'u i māmāte.*  
thing many/much people PFV PL:die  
'Many people died.' [R532-05.002]
- (93) *Ko 'amo 'ana me'e rahi nō atu 'ati.*  
PRF carry CONT thing many/much just away problem  
'They have carried many kinds of sufferings.' [1 Tim. 6:10]
- (94) *He tuha'a te henua me'e rahi taŋata mo 'oka i te rāua tarake.*  
NTR distribute ART land thing many/much man for plant ACC ART 3PL  
corn  
'They distributed land to many people to plant corn.' [R424.013]
- (95) *I te kona nei i noho ai me'e rahi mahana.*  
at ART place PROX PFV stay PVP thing many/much day  
'In this place this stayed many days.' [R420.055]

These examples show that reanalysis has taken place. As discussed above, in older Rapa Nui *me'e rahi* was the predicate of a nominal clause, optionally containing a relative clause:

(96) [ *Me'e rahi* ]<sub>NP</sub> [ *te N* ([ *i V* ]<sub>Rel</sub>) ]<sub>NP</sub>

This construction was reanalysed to a simple clause with initial subject, in which *me'e rahi* is a quantifier occurring before the article, by analogy of other quantifiers which may occur in the same position (e.g. *ta'ato'a te N*, §4.4.2):

(97) [ *Me'e rahi te N* ]<sub>NP</sub> [ *i V* ]<sub>VP</sub>

Once *me'e rahi* is part of the noun phrase, the way is open for two developments:

1. The determiner can be left out, as in (92) above:

(98) [ *Me'e rahi N* ]<sub>NP</sub> [ *i V* ]<sub>VP</sub>

2. *me'e rahi* may occur in non-initial noun phrases with different semantic roles, as in (93–95) above.

There is still one difference with quantifiers like *ta'ato'a*: *me'e rahi* is not preceded by the article. If the article is used, it follows *me'e rahi*.

#### 4.4.7.2 *Rahi* ‘many, much’

*Rahi* is used in the expression *me'e rahi* (see above), but also has a number of other uses.

*Rahi* occurs in older texts, but not nearly as frequently as in modern Rapa Nui.<sup>27</sup> Though the word occurs throughout Polynesia, Rapa Nui may have borrowed it from Tahitian, or extended its usage under the influence of Tahitian.<sup>28</sup> Apart from the marked increase in use, another indication for Tahitian influence is the fact that *rahi* can be followed by the Tahitian nominaliser *-ra'a*.

**Predicate** In older texts, *rahi* is mainly used as a verbal/adjectival predicate.

(99) *Ku rahi 'ā te mamae o te vi'e 'a Tau 'a Ure rāua ko*  
 PRF many/much CONT ART pain of ART woman of.A Tau a Ure 3PL PROM  
*tā'ana poki.*  
 POSS.3SG.A child  
 ‘Tau a Ure’s wife and her child were in much pain (lit. Much was the pain of...)’  
 [Ley-9-63.019]

This usage is still common nowadays. *Rahi*, preceded by an aspectual marker, can be the predicate of either a main clause or a relative clause after the noun:

<sup>27</sup> In older texts, *rahi* (including *me'e rahi*) occurs 20x (once per 6,100 words), in newer texts it occurs 896x (once per 410 words).

<sup>28</sup> The form of the word would be the same, whether inherited or borrowed.

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- (100) *Ko rahi 'ana te mahana 'ina e tahi me'e mo kai.*  
 PRF many/much CONT ART day NEG NUM one thing for eat  
 'Many days there was nothing to eat.' [R303.029]
- (101) *He take'a i te nu'u ko rahi 'ā 'i roto i te hare.*  
 NTR see ACC ART people PRF many/much CONT at inside at ART house  
 'He saw that there were many people in the house.' [R229.295]

**Adverb** *Rahi* often serves as adverb, modifying a verb or adjective: 'a lot, very (much)'. When modifying a verb, *rahi* often implies quantification of the subject or object of the verb (in the same way as *tahi* 'all', §4.4.9). E.g. in (103), *rahi* does not refer to many acts of seeing, but quantifies the object of seeing.

- (102) *E topa rahi era te 'ua he ai te mau o te mahiño.*  
 IPFV descend many/much DIST ART rain NTR exist ART abundance of ART  
 people  
 'When a lot of rain fell, the people had abundance.' [Fel-19.006]
- (103) *'Ina he take'a rahi i te tanata.*  
 NEG NTR see many/much ACC ART man  
 'He did not see many people.' [R459.003]

**Noun** When *rahi* is used a noun, it means either 'the many, the large number' or 'the majority, most'. The counted entity is expressed as a genitive phrase after *rahi*.<sup>29</sup>

- (104) *Ka u'i rā koe i te rahi ena o te pua'a ena mo tatau.*  
 IMP look INTENS 2SG ACC ART many/much MED of ART cattle MED for squeeze  
 'Look how many cows there are to milk.' [R245.186]
- (105) *'I te rahi o te nehenehe i tupu ai, 'ina he take'a mai te hakari o te tumu.*  
 at ART many/much of ART fern PFV grow PVP NEG NTR see hither ART  
 body of ART tree  
 'Because of the many ferns, the body of the tree cannot be seen.' [R497.005]

**Adjective** Finally, *rahi* is used adjectivally, i.e. as a noun modifier. As discussed in §4.4.7, in older texts the expression *me'e rahi* is found occasionally, in which *rahi* is an adjective to the generic noun *me'e*. There is only one example in these texts of *rahi* modifying a noun other than *me'e*:

<sup>29</sup> Some speakers use *rahira'a* in the same senses, either 'the many' or 'the majority'. (*-ra'a* is the Tahitian nominaliser).



- (106) *He to'o mai i te moa, moa rahi.*  
 NTR take hither ACC ART chicken chicken many/much  
 'They took chickens, many chickens.' [Ley-9-55.012]

Though one example does not carry too much weight, it is interesting to note that the adjective is not simply put after the noun *moa*. Rather, *moa* is repeated as an apposition, yielding a sort of predicate noun phrase to which *rahi* is added. (Appositions in Rapa Nui are similar to predicate noun phrases.)

The use of *rahi* as an adjective thus seems to be a recent development. *Rahi* as an adjective is relatively common nowadays, though still not quite as common as the predicate and adverbial uses of *rahi*. Speakers hesitate somewhat to use *rahi* as an adjective; when they do so, it is often in situations where a construction with *me'e rahi* is difficult or impossible. *Rahi* as an adjective is especially found in the following situations:

First: when the noun phrase is preceded by a preposition requiring a determiner.

- (107) *He ha'ere mo haka ora 'i te rohirohi o tū aña rahi era.*  
 NTR walk for CAUS live at ART tired:RED of DEM work many/much DIST  
 'He went to rest from the fatigue of those many works.' [R233.069]

Second: when the quantifier is negated by the constituent negator *ta'e*.

- (108) *Ika ta'e rahi nō i rava'a ai.*  
 fish CONNEG many/much just PFV obtain PVP  
 'They caught few fish.' [R312.010]

Third: when the noun modified by *rahi* is itself a modifier:

- (109) *'I te mahana tokerau rahi, e ko e'a ki te ika hī.*  
 at ART day wind many/much IPFV NEG.IPFV go\_out to ART fish to\_fish  
 'On days with much wind, (people) don't go out fishing.' [R334.254]

Fourth: in predicate noun phrases, especially in attributive clauses:

- (110) *Nu'u rahi te nu'u i mana'u pē nei ē ko tētere 'ana ki Tahiti.*  
 people many/much ART people PFV think like PROX thus PRF PL:RUN CONT to Tahiti  
 Tahiti  
 'Many people (lit. many people were the people who) thought that they had fled to Tahiti.' [R303.051]

In fact, this is the same construction as *me'e rahi* when used as a noun phrase (see (89–91) above).

Finally: with abstract nouns like *riva* 'goodness', *mamae* 'pain', *hana* 'love', *aña* 'work' and *mana'u* 'thought'. *Rahi* can be translated here as 'much, great':

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- (111) *Te pohe rahi 'ā'ana he haka piri he haka takataka i*  
ART desire many/much POSS.3SG.A PRED CAUS join PRED CAUS gather:RED ACC  
*te tanata.*  
ART man  
'His great desire was to get people together.' [R302.039]
- (112) *Ko ai 'ā te māuiui rahi 'i nei 'i Rapa Nui.*  
PRF exist CONT ART sick many/much at PROX at Rapa Nui  
'There is a severe disease here on Rapa Nui.' [R398.002]

### 4.4.8 Other quantifiers

#### 4.4.8.1 *Kē* 'some, others'

*Kē* is common as an adjective meaning 'other, different', but in modern Rapa Nui it also serves as a quantifier in the sense 'some' or 'other(s)'. When used as a quantifier, it occurs before the noun; the noun phrase has no determiner.

*Kē* is similar in meaning to *tētahi*, but more than *tētahi* it singles out a subgroup within a larger group. Often, two subgroups are juxtaposed: *kē ... kē* 'some ... others'.

- (113) *Kē ŋā poki he oho he hohopu 'i raro o te rano.*  
different PL child NTR go NTR PL:bathe at below of ART crater\_lake  
'Some children went for a swim down in the crater lake.' [R157.012]
- (114) *Kē nu'u he tu'u, kē he māmate 'i vāeŋa 'ā o te ara.*  
different people NTR arrive different NTR PL:die at middle IDENT of ART road  
'Some people arrived, others died during the voyage.' [R303.002]

This use of *kē* may be influenced by Spanish, where quantifiers like *ciertos* and *algunos* (both meaning 'certain') occur before the noun.

#### 4.4.8.2 *Kā* 'every'

*Kā* 'every' is an adaptation of Spanish *cada*.<sup>30</sup> It occurs before the noun and may be preceded by the article *te*:

- (115) *'I te kā kona e ai rō 'ā te 'āua va'ehau.*  
at ART each place IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART enclosure soldier  
'In every place there was a garrison.' [Notes]
- (116) *Ka tutututu tahi kā hare ta'ato'a.*  
IMP set\_fire:RED all each house all  
'Burn every single house to the ground.' [R368.059]

<sup>30</sup> As intervocalic *d* is pronounced very weakly in Chilean Spanish, it tends to drop out completely in Rapa Nui borrowings (§2.5.3.1).

Unlike Spanish *cada*, which precedes only singular nouns, *kā* is not limited to singulars: it may be followed by the plural marker *ŋā* or the inherently plural noun *nu'u* ‘people’.

(117) *He uru tahi kā ŋā poki.*

NTR enter all each PL child

‘All the children entered.’ [R151.016]

(118) *E noho era kā nu'u 'i tō'ona kona 'āua 'oka kai.*

IPFV stay DIST each people at POSS.3SG.O place enclosure plant food

‘Everyone lived at his plantation.’ [R107.038]

#### 4.4.8.3 *Pura* ‘mere, only’

*Pura* is borrowed from Spanish *pura* (feminine of *puro*) and means ‘mere, only, pure, sheer, simple’. It may or may not be preceded by the article or the predicate marker *he*, depending on the syntactic requirements of the context.

(119) *He pura ŋā vi'e 'ō te me'e o ruŋa i tū vaka era.*

PRED only PL woman really ART thing of above at DEM boat DIST

‘There are only women on that boat.’ [R416.513]

(120) *Te Tāpati Rapa Nui, he tāpati e tahi e hitu nō mahana o te pura*  
ART Tapati Rapa Nui PRED week NUM one NUM seven just day of ART only  
*'ori.*

dance

‘The Tapati Rapa Nui is a week, seven days of just dancing.’ [R240.003]

(121) *Kahu 'ō, pura kahu teatea e uru era 'i rā tiempo.*

clothes really only clothes white:RED IPFV dress DIST at DIST time

‘As for the clothes, they wore only white clothes at that time.’ [R416.1272]

#### 4.4.9 *Tahi* ‘all’

*Tahi* is the numeral ‘one’ (§4.3.1.1), and as such it is always preceded by one of the numeral particles *e*, *ka* or *hoko*. Apart from that, *tahi* is also used as an adverb in the verb phrase, in the sense ‘all’.<sup>31</sup> *Tahi* has reference not to the action itself (in which case it would indicate that the action happens completely), but to one of the arguments of the verb. This argument is usually plural (whether explicitly indicated or not) and *tahi* indicates that all of the entities referred to by the noun phrase are concerned by the action.

*Tahi* may have reference to an O argument as in (122), an S argument as in (123), or an A argument as in (124):

<sup>31</sup> This use of *tahi* does not occur in older texts and is probably borrowed from Tahitian, where *tahi* likewise occurs as a VP adverb meaning ‘all’.

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- (122) *He haka hāηai tahi i tū māmoe era.*  
NTR CAUS feed all ACC DEM sheep DIST  
'We fed all the sheep.' [R131.008]
- (123) *'Arīnā he turu tahi mai tātou.*  
today.FUT NTR go\_down all hither 1PL.INCL  
'Today we all go down (to the school).' [R315.384]
- (124) *He tike'a tahi te ηā poki i te pahī tu'u iho mai.*  
NTR see all ART PL child ACC ART ship arrive just\_then hither  
'The children all saw the ship that had just arrived.' [Notes]

When both arguments of a transitive verb are plural, the reference of *tahi* may be ambiguous. In the following example, *tahi* may quantify either the implied Agent, or the Patient 'the sweet potatoes'.

- (125) *He keri tahi rāua i te kūmara.*  
NTR dig all 3PL ACC ART sweet\_potato  
'They dug up all the sweet potatoes' or 'They all dug up the sweet potatoes'  
[Notes]

#### 4.4.10 The quantifier phrase

Unlike numerals, quantifiers are not preceded by obligatory particles. However, like numerals they can be followed by certain particles; in other words, they are the nucleus of a quantifier phrase.

Universal quantifiers are often followed by the limitative particle *nō* 'simply, just' (§5.8.2), which emphasises that the quantifier involves all people or things, without exception.

- (126) *He mau e tahi 'i te ta'ato'a nō kona 'i rā hora.*  
PRED abundance NUM one at ART all just place at DIST time  
'It (a kind of grass) was abundant just everywhere at that time.' [R106.050]
- (127) *Ka hāpa'o nō i te paurō nō me'e o te misione.*  
CNTG care\_for just ACC ART every just thing of ART mission  
'He took care of everything of the mission.' [R539-1.067]

After *tētahi* 'some/others', and occasionally after *me'e rahi* 'many' and *rauhuru* 'diverse', the directional particle *atu* is used. After verbs this particle indicates a movement away from the speaker (§7.5), but it may also emphasise a quantity or extent (§7.5.1.5); the latter is relevant when it is used after a quantifier.

- (128) *He iri te poki ki 'uta tuatua i te kūmara, ananake ko*  
 NTR ascend ART child to inland dig:RED ACC ART sweet\_potato together PROM  
*tētahi atu nā poki.*  
 other away PL child  
 ‘The child went to the field to harvest sweet potatoes, together with other children.’ [Mtx-7-25.009]

The same quantifiers may be followed by *haka'ou* ‘again’ (§4.5.3.4), here in the sense ‘more, others’, which serves to single out a second or further subgroup:

- (129) *Tētahi nā poki he hāpī i te 'ori rapa nui, tētahi haka'ou mo*  
 some PL child NTR learn ACC ART dance shine crouch other again for  
*'ori i te cueca.*  
 dance ACC ART cueca  
 ‘Some children learn Rapa Nui dancing, others (learn) to dance the cueca.’  
 [R334.131]

#### 4.4.11 Conclusions

The sections above have shown that quantifiers occur in different positions in the noun phrase: after the noun, after the article, without article, sometimes before the article. The positional possibilities are different for each quantifier, as shown in Table 4.14 on p. 160; however, there is a general tendency for prenominal placement, as well as a tendency to omit the article when the determiner is prenominal. In fact, the five most common quantifiers (*ta'ato'a* and *paurō* ‘all’, *rauhuru* ‘diverse’, *tētahi* ‘some’ and *me'e rahi* ‘many’) all occur in the construction *QTFN*. For quantifiers occurring in multiple positions, there may be subtle semantic differences between different placements, but it does not seem to be possible to formulate general rules across the group.

As Table 4.12 on p. 159 shows, the quantifier system has undergone significant changes over the last century:

- Three new quantifiers have emerged, two of which (*paurō*, *ta'ato'a*) were borrowed from Tahitian, while the third (*rauhuru*) is a language-internal development.
- At the same time *ananake*, which used to be the only universal quantifier, has specialised its meaning to ‘together’.
- Two less common quantifiers, *pura* ‘merely’ and *kā* ‘each’, have been borrowed from Spanish.
- The adjective *kē* came to be used as a quantifier ‘some, certain’, probably also under Spanish influence.

Interestingly, while *ta'ato'a* ‘all’ and *paurō* ‘all’ were borrowed from Tahitian, their syntax differs from their Tahitian equivalent. In Tahitian, both quantifiers only occur after the noun or pronoun they modify (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 172, Académie Tahitienne

1986: 148–149). They never occur before the noun, though *ta'ato'a* does occur independently: *te ta'ato'a* ‘the totality’ (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 149). Both elements also occur after verbs; in the examples given by Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 147), they quantify the subject of the verb, in the same way as *tahi* in Tahitian and Rapa Nui. By contrast, in Rapa Nui, *ta'ato'a* occurs either before or after the noun or independently, but only rarely after verbs. When *ta'ato'a* occurs independently in Rapa Nui, it may or may not be preceded by the article; in Tahitian, the article is obligatory.

Likewise, Rapa Nui *paurō* is quite different from its Tahitian equivalent *pauroa*: while the latter occurs after nouns and verbs, Rapa Nui *paurō* usually precedes the article and mainly occurs with temporal nouns. The differences are summarised in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Distribution of Tahitian and Rapa Nui quantifiers

	prenominal: (te) QTF (te) N	postnominal: N QTF	postverbal: V QTF	independent: QTF    te QTF	
Tah. <i>ta'ato'a</i>	no	yes	yes	no	yes
RN <i>ta'ato'a</i>	yes	yes	marginal	yes	yes
Tah. <i>pauroa</i>	no	yes	yes	no	no
RN <i>paurō</i>	yes	marginal	no	no	no

We may conclude that, even though the form and meaning of *ta'ato'a* and *paurō* were borrowed from Tahitian, they acquired a distinctive Rapa Nui syntax, which they partly inherited from *ananake*. For *tahi* a different development took place: the word already existed in Rapa Nui as numeral ‘one’, but came also to be used as a quantifier-like adverb in the VP. If this happened under the influence of Tahitian – as seems likely – this means that an existing word acquired a new syntactic behaviour through borrowing.

Another language-internal development in Rapa Nui is the change of *tētahi* ‘some, other’, originally a combination of article + numeral, into a monomorphemic quantifier which does not include a determiner.

Last of all, *rahi* ‘much’ has undergone a significant syntactic shift. While it used to function predominantly as an adjectival predicate, it came to be used as an adjectival modifier of *me'e* ‘thing’ (a construction already found in old texts, but only sporadically), a combination which subsequently developed into a quantifier.

To summarise: the Rapa Nui quantifier system has radically changed over the past century, partly under Tahitian and Spanish influence, partly as a language-internal development. But even borrowed elements show a syntactic behaviour which is distinctly Rapa Nui.

## 4.5 Adverbs

There are two classes of adverbs in Rapa Nui: VERB PHRASE ADVERBS, which are part of a verb phrase, and SENTENTIAL ADVERBS, which form a separate constituent in the clause. These two classes are discussed in §4.5.1 and §4.5.2, respectively. The two sets are largely distinct.

In §4.5.3, a number of individual adverbs are discussed.

### 4.5.1 Verb phrase adverbs

Adverbs in the verb phrase occur immediately after the verb (see the chart in §7.1).

The following words function primarily as verb phrase adverbs:

<i>tahi</i>	‘all’ (§4.4.9)
<i>iho</i>	‘just now, just then, recently’ (§4.5.3.1)
<i>tako'a</i>	‘also’ (§4.5.3.2)
<i>hoki</i>	‘also’ (obsolete) (§4.5.3.3)
<i>haka'ou</i>	‘again’ (§4.5.3.4)
<i>mau</i>	‘really, completely’
<i>tā'ue</i>	‘by chance, accidentally; suddenly’
<i>tahaŋa</i>	‘simply, spontaneously; without reason’ <sup>32</sup>
<i>koro'iti</i> (var. <i>kora'iti</i> )	‘slowly; softly’

*Tako'a* ‘also’ and *koro'iti* ‘slowly, softly’ are also used as sentential adverbs. *Tako'a*, *haka'ou* ‘again’ and *mau* ‘really’ also occur as adverbs in the noun phrase.

Other words occur both as adjectives and as verb phrase adverbs; this includes words like *rivariva* ‘good; well’, *rahi* ‘much/many’, *'iti'iti* ‘small; a bit’, *ra'e* ‘first’ (§3.6.4.1), *ri'ari'a* ‘terrible; terribly, very’, *kē* ‘different(ly)’, *pūai* ‘strong(ly)’. The first two occur very frequently as adverbs, the others somewhat less.

Still other words occur as adverbs very occasionally; they function primarily as adjectives or verbs. Examples are *parauti'a* ‘truth; true, truly’, *hōrou* ‘quick(ly)’, *nuinui* ‘big; in a big way, on a large scale’, *ora* ‘to live; alive’, *reoreo* ‘to lie; lying’, *tano* ‘correct; somewhat (after an adj.)’, *rikiriki* ‘small (pl.); a bit’.

Though the verb phrase chart in §7.1 shows a single adverb slot, the verb may be followed by more than one adverb, as the following examples show:

- (130) *Ki oti ana aŋa iho haka'ou e tahi pērikura.*  
 when finish IRR make just\_then again NUM one film  
 ‘Later, they may make yet another movie.’ [R647.253]

- (131) *He vahivahi rivariva tako'a a mātou i te henua...*  
 NTR divide:RED good:RED also PROP 1PL.EXCL ACC ART land  
 ‘We will also divide up the land well...’ [R648.224]

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All adverb combinations in the corpus occur in a consistent order. For example, *V rivariva tako'a* is attested, but *\*V tako'a rivariva* is not. Therefore it is possible to establish a number of ordered adverb slots, as shown in Table 4.16.<sup>33</sup>

Table 4.16: Order of postverbal adverbs

1	2	3	4
<i>rivariva</i> ‘well’; <i>kē</i> ‘differently’; <i>takataka</i> ‘together’; <i>'iti'iti</i> ‘a little’	<i>iho</i> ‘just then, recently’; <i>tahi</i> ‘all’; <i>kora'iti</i> ‘slowly’	<i>haka'ou</i> ‘again’; <i>tako'a</i> ‘also’	<i>mau</i> ‘really’
'iti ‘a little’; <i>tahaŋa</i> ‘just, without reason’; <i>hōrou</i> ‘quickly’; <i>rahi</i> ‘much’; <i>'ino</i> ‘badly’; <i>pūai</i> ‘strongly’; <i>parauti'a</i> ‘truly’; <i>tahaŋa</i> ‘just’...			

Another indication for the existence of multiple adverb slots is found in nominalised phrases: *tahi* and *kora'iti* (slot 2) occur before the nominalising suffix, while adverbs from slots 3 and 4 occur after the suffix (§3.2.3.3).

#### 4.5.2 Sentential adverbs

Sentential adverbs are a constituent on their own; they are not part of a noun phrase or verb phrase.

Sentential adverbs form a small class in Rapa Nui. They include words expressing temporal notions relating to the future, like *'anirā* ‘later today’ and *āpō* ‘tomorrow’ (§3.6.4).<sup>34</sup> Apart from these, there are only a few common sentential adverbs: *tako'a* ‘also’, *kora'iti* or *koro'iti* ‘slowly’, *koi'ite* ‘perhaps, if perhaps’, *korohaŋa* ‘even’ and *pēaha* ‘perhaps, probably’.<sup>35</sup> Some of these are discussed individually in §4.5.3 below. Two of them, *tako'a* and *koro'iti*, also occur in the verb phrase.

Sentential adverbs occur in different positions in the clause. For example, while *tako'a* ‘also’ as a sentential adverb is usually clause-initial (see (139) below), *pēaha* ‘perhaps’ occurs after the initial constituent as in (132):

<sup>33</sup> All adverbs in this table co-occur with at least one adverb in the contiguous slot(s), i.e. all adverbs in slot 2 co-occur with an adverb in slot 1 and with one in slot 3, and so on. Adverbs in the same slot do not co-occur in the corpus. Adverbs in the combined slot 1 + 2, such as *'iti*, do not co-occur with any adverb in slot 1 or 2.

<sup>34</sup> Notions like ‘here’ and ‘there’ are not expressed by adverbs, but by a preposition + locational (§4.6.5.1). The same is true for temporal notions related to the past, like ‘yesterday’.

<sup>35</sup> A few other sentential level adverbs are used occasionally, such as *pōrā/pōpōrā* ‘quickly’ and *umarā* ‘hurriedly’. These will not be discussed separately.



- (132) *Ku toke 'ā pēaha to tāua tāropa 'ura.*  
 PRF steal CONT perhaps ART:of 1DU.INCL basket lobster  
 ‘Our basket of lobsters seems to have been stolen.’ [Mtx-7-28.050]

Sentential adverbs can be modified by particles and form an adverb phrase. For example, time adverbs may be followed by *mau* ‘really’, *nō* ‘just’, postnominal demonstratives, and the identity marker *ā*. In the following example, *āpō* is followed by no less than three particles:

- (133) *Āpō mau ena 'ā he hakarōŋo koe i a ia.*  
 tomorrow really MED IDENT NTR listen 2SG ACC PROP 3SG  
 ‘Tomorrow (‘Just tomorrow’ or ‘Tomorrow exactly’) you will hear him.’ [Act. 25:22]

### 4.5.3 Individual adverbs

In this section, a number of adverbs is discussed in more detail. All of these are verb phrase adverbs, though *tako'a* ‘also’ is also used as a sentential adverb.

#### 4.5.3.1 *Iho* ‘just then’

*Iho* (< PPN \**hifo*) is originally a directional particle ‘downwards’, which is widespread throughout the Polynesian languages. In all languages apart from Rapa Nui it is a directional, in the same class as *mai* ‘hither’ and *atu* ‘away’ (§7.5); additionally, in some languages it is used as a verb in the sense ‘to descend’. In many languages, directional particles have additional senses besides the directional one, such as deictic, aspectual and/or reflexive.<sup>36</sup> However, only in Rapa Nui have the following two developments taken place:

1. *Iho* has lost its spatial meaning altogether; instead, it indicates temporal proximity or immediacy: ‘recently; just then, just now’.<sup>37</sup>
2. *Iho* has moved to the adverb position, directly after the verb. As a result, *iho* occurs before *rō* and *nō* (unlike directionals, see the chart in §7.1) and may co-occur with directionals (see (134) below).

*Iho* indicates that an event takes place exactly at, or just prior to, the time of reference. This often implies that something will happen only at the time specified, not earlier. In a perfective clause, this means that the event has just happened: ‘recently, just’; in other aspects, *iho* can be translated as ‘just at that moment, exactly then’. When *iho* occurs in a main clause with perfective sense, the aspectual tends to be left out, as (134) shows.

<sup>36</sup> See e.g. Cablitz (2006: 427) for Marquesan, Académie Tahitienne (1986: 175, 217, 330) for Tahitian, Elbert & Pukui (1979: 92–95) for Hawaiian.

<sup>37</sup> Notice that *iho* can indicate recent past in Hawaiian (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 92) and Tahitian (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 175).

#### 4 Closed word classes

- (134) *Tutu'u iho nō mai te ηā poki 'i 'ajataiahi.*  
PL:arrive just\_then just hither ART PL child at yesterday  
'The children arrived just yesterday.' [R245.225]
- (135) *Hora maha nei, 'e hora hitu tātou ka tu'u iho.*  
hour four PROX and hour seven 1PL.INCL CNTG arrive just\_then  
'It is now four o'clock, and we will (not) arrive (before) seven o'clock.' [R210.198]

Sometimes *iho* means 'for the first time':

- (136) *He piri iho mai ki a au te roe ta'e kai tihota.*  
NTR get\_together just\_then hither to PROP 1SG ART ant CONNEG eat sugar  
'This is the first time I meet an ant which doesn't eat sugar.' [R214.008]

##### 4.5.3.2 *Tako'a* 'also'

*Tako'a* (variants *toko'a*, *takora*) is an additive connective: 'also, as well'. It may have developed by metathesis from PPN \**katoa* 'all' (with added glottal): in several other EP languages (Rarotongan, Tahitian, Pa'umotu), reflexes of *katoa* have the same sense 'also'.

*Tako'a* is most commonly used to indicate a connection between two clauses. In this function it normally occurs as an adverb in the verb phrase. The following is an example:

- (137) *I hīmene tahi era te ηā poki i te hīmene o te reva, he hīmene*  
PFV sing all DIST ART PL child ACC ART song of ART flag NTR sing  
***tako'a a Tiare.***  
also PROP Tiare  
'When all the children sang the national anthem, Tiare also sang.' [R334.340]
- (138) *E hohopu nō 'ā, he u'i atu ko te vave nuinui e tahi. He*  
IPFV PL:bathe just CONT NTR look away PROM ART wave big NUM one NTR  
***take'a tako'a i te ika e tahi.***  
see also ACC ART fish NUM one  
'When they were swimming, they saw a big wave. They also saw a fish.'  
[R338.003–004]

In these examples, *tako'a* indicates that the event or action applies not only to an entity mentioned previously, but to another entity as well, e.g. a different subject as in (137), or a different object as in (138).

In modern Rapa Nui, *tako'a* may also occur clause-initially, sometimes preceded by 'e 'and'. This construction may be influenced by Spanish, where (y) *además* '(and) moreover' commonly occurs at the beginning of a sentence. This serves to create a link between what precedes and what follows, but unlike the examples above, there is not necessarily a constituent which is identical in both clauses.

In the following example (from a text about marriage in the past), the two sentences linked by *tako'a* describe two aspects of the relationship between the families of the bride and the groom.

- (139) *Te hua'ai o Iovani, ko 'ite 'ā ta'e he hua'ai o rāua te hua'ai*  
 NTR family of Iovani PRF know CONT CONNEG PRED family of 3PL ART family  
*o Tiare. Tako'a, 'ina a Iovani kai māhani hia ki a Tiare.*  
 of Tiare also NEG PROP Iovani NEG.PFV accustomed yet to PROP Tiare  
 'Iovani's family knew that Tiare's family was not related to them. Also, Iovani  
 did not know Tiare yet.' [R238.004–005]

*Tako'a* also occurs in the noun phrase. Just as in the verb phrase, it occurs in the adverb position, before other particles (§5.8.1). Like *tako'a* in the verb phrase, it signals that an entity in the clause replaces an entity in the previous clause. It occurs in the noun phrase in the following situations:

Firstly, in nominal clauses, where there simply is no verb to attach to, as in (140):

- (140) *He viri i te moeŋa 'i te kahu, 'i roto 'ana a Ure tako'a.*  
 NTR roll ACC ART mat at ART cloth at inside IDENT PROP Ure also  
 'They rolled the mat (in which Ure was sleeping) in a cloth, Ure too was inside  
 (the cloth).' [Mtx-7-03.016]

Secondly, when the noun phrase in question is preposed, as in (141):

- (141) *A au tako'a e hā'ū'ū rō 'ā ki tō'oku matu'a hāpa'o i te*  
 PROP 1SG also IPFV help EMPH CONT to POSS.1SG.O parent care\_for ACC ART  
*'animare pē Mihaera.*  
 animal like Mihaera  
 'I also help my father to take care of the animals, like Mihaera.' [R334.293]

Thirdly, in elliptic clauses, where the predicate is omitted. In (142) below, only the contrastive constituent – the locative phrase – is expressed, and *tako'a* is added to this constituent.

- (142) *Te nānata o te nohoŋa tuai era 'ā, 'i roto i te hare te*  
 the men of ART stay:NMLZ old DIST IDENT at inside at art hout ART  
*moeŋa haŋa, 'i roto i te 'ana tako'a.*  
 sleep:NMLZ NMLZ at inside at ART cave also  
 'The people of the old times, they slept in houses, and also in caves.'  
 [Ley-5-02.001]

#### 4.5.3.3 *Hoki* 'also'

*Hoki* 'also' is only used in older texts,<sup>38</sup> apart from a few examples of what could be frozen usage in newer texts. It occurs at the end of a constituent; this constituent is

<sup>38</sup> *Hoki* (< PPN \**foki* 'also') does not occur in MsE, but is common in Mtx and Ley. As *tako'a* also occurs in these corpora, the question is whether there is a clear difference between *hoki* and *tako'a*. As far as there is any difference, it seems to be that *hoki* indicates a stronger contrast. For example, while *tako'a* occurs with implicit subjects, *hoki* never does (see 144 below). Also, while *hoki* is used in preposed (i.e. focused) noun phrases, *tako'a* is not (see 145), at least not in older texts.

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typically a noun phrase or verb phrase, but may also be a quantifier phrase (within an NP). *Hoki* signals that the constituent it modifies is added to another constituent of the same kind and in some way parallel to it.

*hoki* can be used to connect NPs or to connect clauses. When it connects two noun phrases, it indicates that the NP is parallel to an earlier NP. This typically happens in lists, where a series of NPs all play the same role in a clause. In this case, *hoki* is attached to the last element of the list.

- (143) *'I te tapa te matu'a, a koro, a nua, te uka riva, te*  
at ART side ART parents PROP Dad PROP Mum PROP girls good PROP  
*repa riva hoki.*  
young\_man good also  
'To the side are the parents, the fathers, the mothers, the pretty girls, the  
handsome boys as well.' [Ley-5-24.013]

When *hoki* connects two clauses, it signals that the second clause (in which *hoki* occurs) is parallel in some way to the first clause. Usually this means that both clauses are identical in one or two constituents,<sup>39</sup> while they contrast in one or two other constituents.<sup>40</sup>

When *hoki* connects two clauses, it is usually added to the first constituent of the second clause. This is normally the verb phrase as in (144), but it may be a preposed constituent as in (145):

- (144) *He to'o mai te nui, he 'akaveŋa. [He to'o mai hoki] te 'iti,*  
NTR take hither ART big ART carry\_on\_back NTR take hither also ART small  
*he 'akaveŋa tako'a.*  
NTR carry\_on\_back also  
'The oldest (girl) took (the food) and carried it on her back. The youngest also  
took (food) and also carried it on her back.' [Mtx-7-24.041-042]
- (145) *He to'o mai i te 'ō'one... [Hai moa hoki] ana to'o mai.*  
NTR take hither ACC ART soil INS chicken also IRR take hither  
'He took dirt... He also took a chicken.' [Ley-5-28.002-004]

#### 4.5.3.4 *Haka'ou* 'again'

*Haka'ou*<sup>41</sup> (older variants *hoko'ou*, *hakahou*) 'again' marks various kinds of repetition. *Haka'ou* may indicate that an event which has happened before, is repeated:

<sup>39</sup> An exception are clauses which are only identical in their subjects; these clauses are extremely common in narrative and don't warrant the use of *hoki*.

<sup>40</sup> Levinsohn (2007: 92) distinguishes several ways in which clauses can be contrasted: "replacing focus" means that one constituent of the clause is replaced by another, while the rest of the clause is identical or synonymous; "prototypical contrast" means that clauses have one constituent in common and two points of contrast. Both of these can be indicated by *hoki*.

<sup>41</sup> *Haka'ou* has cognates in several EP languages: Mangarevan *'aka'ou* 'again', Tahitian *fa'ahou*, Pa'umotu *hakahou*. In these languages it consists of the causative prefix (PEP *\*faka*) plus a reflex of PPN *\*fo'ou*

- (146) *He hāŋai haka'ou i te mā'aŋa rikiriki.*  
 NTR feed again ACC ART chick PL:small

‘He raised chicks again. (He had raised chickens before.)’ [Mtx-7-05.021]

More often *haka'ou* has a broader sense, indicating that the event has some element of repetition, without being repeated exactly. For example, the action expressed by the verb is performed again, even though the event as a whole is not the repetition of a previous event. In the following example, *oho haka'ou* signals that the people keep going, without implying that they had gone to Mount Pu’i before.

- (147) *'Ai ka oho haka'ou mai ira ki Pua Katiki.*  
 there CNTG go again from ANA to Pua Katiki

‘Then they went (continued their way) from there to Pua Katiki.’ [R420.047]

In a negated clause, NEG + *haka'ou* means ‘not any more’ (cf. Spanish *ya no*):

- (148) *'Ina koe ko taŋi haka'ou.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV cry again

‘(to someone who is crying): Don’t cry anymore.’ [R349.016]

In the noun phrase, *haka'ou* means ‘other, another’.

- (149) *...kī tū taŋata era ki tū poki era, ki tū taŋata haka'ou era.*  
 say DEM man DIST to DEM child DIST to DEM man again DIST

‘...said the man to the child and to the other man.’ [R102.020]

#### 4.5.4 Sentential particles

There is another small group of words which can be classified as sentential adverbs: they form a separate constituent in the clause and specify the clause as a whole. Unlike the adverbs discussed so far, these elements are not derived from lexical items: they are short, usually monosyllabic, and in this respect they are similar to particles occurring in the noun phrase and the verb phrase. Also, their sense is more general and they are less straightforward to translate. In other words, they have a more grammatical, less lexical character than the adverbs described so far. Hence their characterisation as particles, even though – different from particles occurring in the NP and the VP – they form a constituent on their own.

These elements are described in the following subsections.

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‘new’. The Rapa Nui reflex of *\*fōu* is *hō'ou*; the form *haka'ou* suggests that the word was borrowed from Mangarevan, with the initial glottal becoming *h* by analogy of the RN causative prefix *haka*.

4.5.4.1 Deictic particles

4.5.4.1.1 'Ī 'here' Ī is a deictic particle expressing immediacy. It is used to point towards an object or event, expressing that it is close in space or time to the speech situation.<sup>42</sup> By drawing attention to the object or event, the latter is put in focus.

Ī is used to draw attention to something which is nearby.

(150) Ī au.

IMM 1SG

'Here I am.' [R363.078]

(151) Ka e'a koe, Ī tu'u pāpā era 'i haho.

IMP go\_out 2SG IMM POSS.2SG.O father DIST at outside

'Go outside, here is your father outside.' [R210.094]

Clauses such as (150–151) could be labeled “presentational”: Ī followed by a nominal constituent serves to signal the presence of someone or something.<sup>43</sup>

Ī may indicate that an event takes place immediately ('right now'):

(152) Ī au he oho rō 'ai mai ta'e pō.

IMM 1SG NTR go EMPH SUBS from CONNEG night

'I'm going now, before it gets dark.' [R153.042]

More generally, Ī expresses simultaneity with respect to a time of reference. In (152) above the time of reference is the present; in narrative discourse the time of reference is the time when events in the context take place. In combination with perfect aspect *ko V 'ā*, Ī underlines that an event has just taken place.

(153) Ī ku e'a haka'ou mai 'ana a ruŋa mai te 'ara

IMM PRF go\_out again hither CONT by above from ART look\_under\_water

ŋa, ka uru mai era 'i tū hora era, ka ŋau.

NMLZ CNTG enter hither DIST at DEM time DIST CNTG bite

'Just when he came up again from looking under water, the (shark) entered and bit.' [R361.016]

Ī may convey immediacy and urgency to a statement or request: 'I'm telling you, listen, look...'

(154) E Pea ē, Ī a Kava e taji mai nei ki a au, mai te

VOC Pea VOC IMM PROP Kava IPFV cry hither PROX to PROP 1SG from ART

pō'ā ki te hora nei.

morning to ART time PROX

'Pea, (listen,) Kava is crying for me, from morning till now.' [R229.017]

<sup>42</sup> Ī is similar in function to focus particles such as *idou* in Koine Greek and *hinneh* in Biblical Hebrew (see Levinsohn 2007: 58, 82; Bailey 2009).

<sup>43</sup> This does not mean that Ī is a general device to express presentational clauses, e.g. to introduce participants in narrative (on presentational clauses, see Bailey 2009: 4). The use of Ī in presentational clauses is limited to deictic contexts, where the entity presented is visible to speaker and hearer.

- (155) *'E 'ī a au ka hatu rō atu ki a koe.*  
and IMM PROP 1SG CNTG advise EMPH away to PROP 2SG  
'Look, I'm advising/warning you.' [R310.294]

Often *'ī* occurs in combination with a perception verb. *'Ī* has the effect of putting the perceived object into focus. What the participant sees or hears is something significant or even surprising. The act of perception may also be implied, as in (157).

- (156) *'Ī a Vai Ora ka u'i atu ena, 'ina a Tahonga.*  
IMM PROP Vai Ora CNTG look away MED NEG PROP Tahonga  
'Vai Ora looked: Tahonga wasn't there!' [R301.164]
- (157) *'Ī ka o'o atu ena, e ha'uru nō 'ā a Makita.*  
IMM CNTG enter away MED IPFV sleep just CONT PROP Makita  
'He entered, and (look!) Makita was sleeping.' [R243.183]

As (154–156) show, the subject of the clause tends to be placed straight after *'ī*, before the verb (§8.6.1.1. This is not obligatory, though).

4.5.4.1.2 **'Ai 'there is'** Just like *'ī*, *'ai* is a deictic particle, calling attention to an object or event; it indicates greater distance.

*'Ai* is used to point at things at a certain distance:

- (158) *'Ai te Padre Sebastian 'i muri i te mōai.*  
there ART Father Sebastián at near at ART statue  
'There is Father Sebastián, next to the statue.' [R412.180]
- (159) *'Ai a Toroa 'ai. 'Ai a Feripe 'ai.*  
there PROP Toroa there there PROP Felipe there  
'There is *Toroa* (=Father Seb. Englert). There is Felipe.' [R411.134–135]
- (160) *'Ai tu'u tao'a ko haka topa 'ā e te kape pahī 'i tū*  
there POSS.2SG.O object PRF CAUS descend CONT AG ART captain ship at DEM  
*hora nei.*  
time PROX  
'There are your belongings, which have just been disembarked by the captain of the ship.' [R231.142]

(159–160) are presentational clauses, which indicate the presence of an entity in the distance, just like *'ī* presents entities nearby.<sup>44</sup> As (159) shows, initial *'ai* may be followed by another *'ai* at the end of the clause, just like *'ī* may be followed by clause-final *'ī a'a*.

Like *'ī*, *'ai* may have a temporal function; it marks a clause referring to a subsequent event:

<sup>44</sup> This use led Fischer (2001a: 319) to take *'ai* as derived from Spanish existential marker *hay*. However, the use of *'ai* to introduce presentational clauses already occurs in old texts.

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- (161) *He haka ekeke i te taŋata ki ruŋa ki te vaka, 'ai ka ma'u ki*  
 NTR CAUS go\_up:RED ACC ART person to above to ART boat there CNTG carry to  
*ruŋa i te pahī.*  
 above at ART ship  
 'They made the people embark the boat, then took them on board the ship.'  
 [R210.042]

As this example shows, 'ai is usually followed by the contiguity marker *ka*.  
 Like 'ī, 'ai may lend emphasis to a clause: 'I'm telling you...':

- (162) *Ko mate era 'ana, 'ai koe ka mana'u nō e ha'uru 'ana.*  
 PRF die DIST CONT there 2SG CNTG think just IPFV sleep CONT  
 'She has died, and there you are just thinking that she is asleep!' [R229.303]

'Ai is marginally used as a deictic preposition 'there in/at' (§4.7.11). Furthermore, 'ai is obviously related to the postverbal particle 'ai, which occurs in the construction *he V rō 'ai* (§7.2.3.3). It is similar in function: while deictic 'ai frequently indicates sequential events, *he V rō 'ai* marks final and culminating events in a series.

**4.5.4.1.3 Nā 'there near you'** The demonstrative *nā* (which indicates medial distance, see §4.6.4.4) is used as a deictic particle. Like 'ī and 'ai it occurs clause-initially, and usually serves to point at something in the vicinity of the hearer. Different from 'ī and 'ai, *nā* is used only in a spatial sense, not in a temporal sense.

- (163) *Nā ka u'i rā kōrua, ka hia 'umu nei 'ā'aku e*  
 MED IMP look INTENS 2PL CNTG how\_many earth\_oven PROX POSS.1SG.A IPFV  
*kā atu ena.*  
 light away MED  
 'Now look, you guys, how many earth ovens I have been cooking!' [R352.089]
- (164) *¿Nā 'ō koe, e māmārū'au ē?*  
 MED really 2SG VOC grandmother VOC  
 'Is that you, grandmother?' [R313.119]
- (165) *'Ē, ka iri mai koe, nā te vave nā.*  
 hey IMP ascend hither 2SG MED ART wave MED  
 'Hey, come up, there is a wave!' [R126.025]

As (165) shows, *nā* may be reinforced by another *nā* at the end of the clause.

#### 4.5.4.2 Ho'i and pa'i

*Ho'i* and *pa'i* are discourse particles which are very common in spoken language; their function is not easy to pin down.<sup>45</sup> They usually occur after the first constituent of

<sup>45</sup> Both particles were borrowed from Tahitian. They are very common in modern Rapa Nui discourse, but do not occur in older texts. Even in the texts collected by Felbermayer and by Blixen in the 1970s, they



the clause; they lend emphasis to this constituent and/or provide a connection to the previous clause.

4.5.4.2.1 *Pa'i* ‘in fact’ *Pa'i* is used to link clauses, indicating that the clause in some way builds upon, confirms or reinforces the preceding clause. In (166), *pa'i* (2x) confirms what the other speaker has said. In (167), a fragment from an oral text, *pa'i* appears to be sprinkled throughout the discourse without a very specific function.

- (166) —*¿Ta'e 'ō mai 'Anakena i haka eke ai? —'Ēē, pa'i. —'I*  
 CONNEG really from Anakena PFV CAUS go\_up PVP yes in\_fact at  
*'Anakena pa'i tū hora ena i haka eke ai.*  
 Anakena in\_fact DEM time DIST PFV CAUS go\_up PVP  
 ‘—Didn’t they take (the statue) up from Anakena? —Yes, indeed. —Indeed, when they took it up, it was in Anakena.’ [R412.159–160]

- (167) *He 'aroha atu pa'i ki a kōrua, 'iorana pa'i a kōrua ta'ato'a. 'I*  
 NTR greet away in\_fact to PROP 2PL hello in\_fact PROP 2PL all at  
*te me'e, ko haŋa 'ā pa'i a au mo vānaŋa atu ki a koe...*  
 ART thing PRF want CONT in\_fact PROP 1SG for talk away to PROP 2SG  
 ‘I’m greeting *pa'i* you; hello *pa'i* to you all. Because, I want *pa'i* to talk to you...’  
 [R403.001–003]

More commonly, *pa'i* is used in clauses providing the grounds for the previous clause: ‘for, as’ (Spanish *pues*):

- (168) *A Tiare 'ina kai 'ite, he turu iho, pa'i, ki te hāpī.*  
 PROP Tiare NEG NEG.PFV know NTR go\_down just\_then in\_fact to ART learn  
 ‘Tiare doesn’t know (the national anthem), as it’s the first time she goes to school.’ [R334.023]
- (169) *¿Pē hē a au ana hoŋi atu i a koe? 'Ina, pa'i, koe o muri i a*  
 like CQ PROP 1SG IRR kiss away ACC PROP 2SG NEG in\_fact 2SG of near at PROP  
*au.*  
 1SG  
 ‘How could I kiss you? You are not with me.’ [R228.006–007]

*Pa'i* seems to have taken on the range of use of Spanish *pues*, which both specifies grounds or reasons (‘for, as’) and provides confirmation or emphasis (‘well, indeed’).

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occur hardly or not (*pa'i* 0x, *ho'i* 2x). In Tahitian, *pa'i* underlines a statement (‘indeed’); *ho'i* may have the same function, but may also connect a statement to the preceding context, for example providing a reason (‘for, as’), an addition (‘also’) or a contrast (‘however’). See Académie Tahitienne (1986: 381) and Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 117).

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4.5.4.2.2 **Ho'i 'indeed'** *Ho'i* gives (some) emphasis to the preceding constituent. It is used after a wide range of elements, such as deictic particles (170) and the negation '*ina*' (171). Like *pa'i*, it may have a confirmatory function: 'indeed' (172).

- (170) 'Ai **ho'i** te taŋata e ha'amata era e tari era ki ruŋa i te  
there ART person IPFV begin DIST IPFV carry DIST to above at ART  
*pa'i*.  
ship

'Then *ho'i* the people started to be transported on board the ship.' [R210.040]

- (171) 'Ina **ho'i** koe ko riri. He kori nō ho'i nei me'e.  
NEG indeed 2SG PROM angry PRED play just indeed PROX thing  
'Don't *ho'i* be angry. This is just a joke.' [R315.040–041]

- (172) —¿He 'ariki ho'i rā? —Ēē, **ho'i**.  
PRED king indeed INTENS yes indeed  
'—Is that a king/chief? —Yes, indeed.' [R415.033]

*Ho'i* may occur at the start of a new episode in discourse, marking a new topic or another initial constituent:

- (173) A nua, **ho'i**, e haka rito 'ā e tahi 'avahata kahu.  
PROP Mum indeed IPFV CAUS ready CONT NUM one box clothes  
'(In the meantime,) Mum *ho'i* was preparing a box of clothes.' [R210.027]

The constituent marked with *ho'i* may be emphasised in opposition to another constituent. In this way, *ho'i* may come to express contrast:

- (174) Kai 'ite mai... Ko koe **ho'i** mo 'ite i ta'a kai tunu  
NEG.PFV know hither PROM 2SG indeed for know ACC POSS.2SG.A food cook  
nei pa'i e koe.  
PROX in\_fact AG 2SG  
'I don't know... You *ho'i* are the one who knows what food you have cooked.'  
[R236.029–030]

Altogether, *ho'i* can be characterised as a SPACER: an element which marks the boundary between two constituents and indicates that the preceding constituent is special in some way (Dooley & Levinsohn 2001: 37). According to Levinsohn (2007: 74), it is not unusual for the same spacer in a given language to occur after a topic, a point of departure (such as a time phrase), or a constituent in focus.

4.5.4.3 *Ia* ‘so, then’

The particle *ia* ‘so, then’ is a transition marker. It occurs in modern Rapa Nui only.<sup>46</sup> When the clause starts with a verb phrase, *ia* occurs after the verb phrase; (175) shows that it occurs after the VP-final particle ‘*ana*’:

- (175) *Ko koa atu 'ana ia a Tamy 'i tū hora era.*  
 PRF happy away CONT then PROP Tamy at DEM time DIST  
 ‘Tamy was happy at that moment.’ [R315.300]

When the verb phrase is not initial in the clause, *ia* occurs either after the first constituent as in (176), or after the verb phrase as in (177).

- (176) *'Ai ia e ranaranga mai era...*  
 there then IPFV float:RED hither DIST  
 ‘Then he floated...’ [R108.117]
- (177) *'I tū hora era he ŋaro'a ia e 'Uri'uri i te ora.*  
 at DEM time DIST NTR perceive then AG Uri'uri ACC ART life  
 ‘At that moment, Uri'uri felt relieved.’ [R536.074]

*Ia* indicates that the event in the clause develops from events mentioned before. It may be the result of, or dependent on, other events (‘so, thus’), as in (178) below. In a weaker sense it marks events which are simply subsequent to other events (‘then’), or marks the apodosis of conditional clauses as in (179).

- (178) *He ha'amata ia te moto 'i tū ŋā poki era.*  
 NTR begin then ART fight at DEM PL child DIST  
 ‘(Some boys mocked Taparahi and he got angry.) So a fight started between the boys.’ [R250.013]
- (179) *'E mo ai ō'ona he repahoa ō'ou, e Okū ē, he repahoa*  
 and if exist POSS.3SG.O PRED friend POSS.2SG.O VOC Oku VOC PRED friend  
*tako'a ia ō'oku!*  
 also then POSS.1SG.O  
 ‘And if he is your friend, Oku, then he is also my friend!’ [R535.151]

Often *ia* marks a new step in the discourse, for example, at the start of a new scene in a story, or a new topic in an exposition. The latter can be seen in the following example:

<sup>46</sup> *Ia* may be a borrowing from Tahitian: Tahitian *ia* is “un anaphorique général qui renvoie d’une manière assez vague à ce qui précède, thème antéposé ou, plus généralement, contexte antérieur” (a general anaphoric which refers in a rather vague way to what precedes, a preposed theme or, more generally, the preceding context, Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 118).

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- (180) *He o'o ia 'i te hora nei ki te aŋa iŋa o te hi'o.*  
NTR enter then at ART time PROX to ART make NMLZ of ART glass  
'(in an explanation of different aspects of diving:) Now let's turn to the making  
of goggles.' [R360.026]

Some speakers use *ia* in clauses which simply represent the next event in the discourse. Others use it sparingly, or not at all. The frequency of *ia* thus depends to a large degree on the preference of the speaker, just like 'then' in English discourse.

##### 4.5.4.4 The intensifier *rā*

The intensifying particle *rā*<sup>47</sup> (not to be confused with demonstrative *rā*) occurs in content questions and imperatives. It is placed after the first constituent of the clause; in questions this is the question phrase, in imperatives the verb phrase.<sup>48</sup> *Rā* occurs after the verb phrase-final particle '*ana* as in (182), but before other sentence-level particles like *ia* 'then', as in (183).

- (181) *Ka noho 'iti'iti mai rā koe.*  
IMP stay little:RED hither INTENS 2SG  
'You wait a little.' [R208.164]
- (182) *¿E aha 'ana rā koe?*  
IPFV what CONT INTENS 2SG  
'What are you doing?' [R212.054]
- (183) *¿Ko ai rā ia koe?*  
PROM who INTENS then 2SG  
'Who then are you?' [R314.099]

*Rā* adds an element of insistence to the question or command.<sup>49</sup> It may be used in rhetorical questions, often adding a note of provocation or rebuke:

- (184) *¿Mo aha rā koe i kī ai i ta'a vānaŋa pē nā?*  
for what INTENS 2SG PFV say PVP ACC POSS.2SG.A word like MED  
'Why did you say something like that?' [R301.301]

It is also used in non-rhetorical questions, to which the speaker expects a reply. *Rā* conveys a certain vividness and inquisitiveness: the speaker is eager to get an answer. (185), for example, is spoken by a curious child. (186) is spoken by one (teenage) friend to another.

<sup>47</sup> The etymology of *rā* is unknown, but it is probably related to Tahitian *rā*, which also occurs after the first clause constituent. Tahitian *rā* is a contrastive conjunction 'but', but also serves as an intensifier in commands and conditional clauses (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 98; Académie Tahitienne 1999: 399).

<sup>48</sup> *Rā* itself is not part of the verb phrase: in (181) it occurs after the direction *mai*; in (182) it occurs after the VP-final particle '*ana*.

<sup>49</sup> Du Feu (1987; 1996) labels this particle as [-REA] (as opposed to *rō* [+REA]), in line with the fact that it does not occur in statements expressing a fact. Weber (2003b) labels *rā* as DUB(itative).

- (185) *ʔA hē nei rā i ŋaro ai? ... ʔ'I hē rā e noho era*  
 toward CQ PROX INTENS PFV disappear PVP at CQ INTENS IPFV stay DIST  
*tō'ona ŋā repahoa era?*  
 POSS.3SG.O PL friend DIST  
 'Where did (the fish) disappear? Where do its friends live?' [R301.179,182]
- (186) *ʔPē hē rā koe, e Hiero ē?*  
 like CQ INTENS 2SG VOC Hiero VOC  
 'How are you, Hiero?' [R315.081]

A question like (186), with its somewhat insistent tone, is only appropriate when talking to friends or close acquaintances. When speaking to strangers, one would use the more neutral *ʔPē hē koe?* 'How are you?' (Nancy Weber, p.c.).

When *rā* is used in imperative clauses, it marks insistence as well. The context may involve a certain emotion: enthusiasm as in (187), defy as in (188):

- (187) *Ka u'i mai rā koe. Ko rava'a 'ā e au e rima tara.*  
 IMP look hither INTENS 2SG PRF obtain CONT AG 1SG NUM five peso  
 'Look at me. I found five pesos!' [R334.288–289]
- (188) *ʔKa kī mai rā 'a 'ai a koe i pu'a atu!*  
 IMP say hither INTENS of.A who PROP 2SG PFV beat away  
 '(Soldiers are mocking Jesus:) Now tell us who hit you!' [Mark 14:65]

#### 4.5.4.5 Asseverative 'ō

The particle 'ō (etymology unknown, possibly from the exclamation 'ō 'oh!') is asseverative. It occurs after the first constituent of the clause and underlines the truth of the clause. Often, but not always, the clause expresses something unexpected.

- (189) *'I te rua mahana... he u'i ko mate 'ana 'ō.*  
 at ART two day NTR look PRF die CONT really  
 'The next day... they saw that (the sea monster) was dead (something they had not expected at all).' [R402.015]
- (190) *ʔKo pō 'ana, 'ina 'ō kai tu'u mai 'ana!*  
 PRF night CONT NEG really NEG.PFV arrive hither CONT  
 'Now it's night, and he hasn't arrived! (And you told me he would come today!)'  
 [R229.148]

'Ō is often used in exclamative constructions (§10.4.2), where it underlines that something is not according to normal expectations.

#### 4 Closed word classes

- (191) *¡Ko te 'aroha 'ō i a koe!*  
PROM ART pity really at PROP 2SG  
'Poor you! (How pitiable you are!)' [R490.018]

'*ō* is used in rhetorical questions to which a negative answer is expected. As in other cases, '*ō* emphasises that the proposition expressed in the question is not in line with what one would expect.

- (192) *¡Ko haŋa 'ana 'ō pēaha koe mo pako'o tō'oku rima?*  
PRF want CONT really perhaps 2SG for loose POSS.1SG.O hand  
'Do you want my hand to come loose?!' [R215.020]
- (193) *¡Kai pāhono mai 'ana 'ō koe i tū vānaŋa era 'ā'aku?*  
NEG.PFV answer hither CONT really 2SG ACC DEM word DIST POSS.1SG.A  
'Don't you answer to what I said?' [R315.264]

##### 4.5.4.6 Dubitative *hō*

*Hō* – a rather rare particle – adds an element of uncertainty or doubt to questions (whether polar or content questions): 'maybe...'. It occurs after the first constituent of the clause.

- (194) *¡He ma'u hō e au 'o 'ina?*  
NTR carry DUB AG 1SG OR NEG  
'Should I take it or not?' [R460.002]
- (195) *He aha hō te aura'a o te vānaŋa era?*  
PRED what DUB ART meaning of ART word DIST  
'What could be the meaning of those words?' [Luke 1:29]

*Hō* may be used in rhetorical questions to which the expected answer is 'no'.<sup>50</sup>

- (196) *¡E ai rō 'ana hō te me'e mo ta'e rova'a e te 'Atua mo aŋa?*  
IPFV exist EMPH CONT DUB ART thing for CONNEG obtain AG ART God for do  
'Would there be anything God is not able to do?' [Gen. 18:14]

## 4.6 Demonstratives

### 4.6.1 Forms

Rapa Nui does not have a single class of demonstratives. Rather, it has four classes of particles with demonstrative functions. Each class consists of three particles indicating

<sup>50</sup> This use of *hō* is only found in the Bible translation.

different degrees of distance: proximal (close to the speaker), medial (at some distance, often close to the hearer) and distal (removed from speaker and hearer).<sup>51</sup> The four classes are similar or even identical in form, but differ in syntactic status; besides, they exhibit certain differences in function.

- DEMONSTRATIVE DETERMINERS occur before the noun, in the same position as other determiners. In addition to the proximal, medial and distal forms, there are two forms which are neutral with respect to distance (glossed *dem*).
- POSTNUCLEAR (= postnominal and postverbal) DEMONSTRATIVES occur after the noun or the verb.
- DEICTIC LOCATIONALS are a subclass of the locationals (§3.6). They point to a general location: ‘here, there’, and correspond to what Dixon (2010b: 228) labels “local adverbial demonstratives”. In addition to the proximal, medial and distal forms, there is also a neutral *pro*-form *ira* which syntactically belongs to the same class.
- DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS are relatively rare and used in limited contexts.

The first two are what Dixon (2010b: 225) calls “nominal demonstratives”, elements in the noun phrase which specify nouns for definiteness, indicate distance with respect to the speaker or hearer, and enable participant tracking in discourse. The others have a more independent status.

The forms for each class are given in Table 4.17.<sup>52</sup>

The four classes will be discussed in the following subsections. First the neutral demonstrative determiners will be discussed (§4.6.2), followed by the postnominal demonstratives (§4.6.3), as these commonly occur together. The other demonstrative determiners are discussed in §4.6.4. §4.6.5 deals with deictic locationals, §4.6.6 with demonstrative pronouns.

Postverbal demonstratives are discussed in Chapter 7 (§7.6), as their use is closely tied to other verb phrase elements (especially aspect markers).

<sup>51</sup> Forms of all classes are glossed PROX, MED and DIST, respectively.

<sup>52</sup> Clark (1974) reconstructs two sets of demonstratives for PPN: monomoraic unstressed forms *\*-ni/\*-na/\*-ra* and bimoraic long forms *nei/naa/laa*. In Rapa Nui, as in some other languages, both sets are reflected, with the exception of *-ni* (*nī* patterns with the long forms and must have developed from *nei* by monophthongisation). Rapa Nui is the only language to have *e*- in the short form *era*; *ena* occurs in Tongan as well. However, similar forms occur in Rarotongan (Buse 1963a: 415–416) and Tahitian (pers.obs.), though less overtly. In these languages, the enclitics *na* and *ra* cause lengthening of the preceding vowel, accompanied by stress shift:

(i) [te taʔata]    [te taʔaʔa: ra]    (Tahitian)  
       ‘the man’    ‘that man’

Thus, *na* and *ra* in these languages actually consist of a CV syllable preceded by an unspecified vowel (*Vna*, *Vra*), which means that they are quite similar to Rapa Nui *ena* and *era*, respectively.

Table 4.17: Classes of demonstratives

	demonstrative determiners	postnuclear demonstratives	deictic locationals	demonstrative pronouns
proximal	<i>nei, nī</i>	<i>nei</i>	<i>nei</i>	<i>nei</i>
medial	<i>nā</i>	<i>ena</i>	<i>nā</i>	<i>nā</i>
distal	<i>rā</i>	<i>era</i>	<i>rā</i>	<i>rā</i>
neutral	<i>tau/tou/tū, hū</i>		<i>ira</i>	

## 4.6.2 Neutral demonstrative determiners

### 4.6.2.1 The *t*-demonstrative: form and function

Rapa Nui has a set of demonstrative determiners of the form *tVV*:

(197) *tau*<sup>53</sup>    *tou*    *tū*

These forms are semantically and syntactically equivalent; they succeed each other in the history of Rapa Nui. In older texts, *tau* is predominant; in some corpora it is the only form in use. *Tou* occurs in both older and newer texts; nowadays, *tū* is used. The sources thus show a gradual vowel assimilation *tau* > *tou* > *tū*.<sup>54</sup>

As the three forms are diachronic variants of the same particle, they will be treated as a single “*t*-demonstrative”. The *t*-demonstrative is a neutral form, which – unlike other demonstratives – is not differentiated for relative distance.<sup>55</sup> It is always accompanied by one of the following postnominal elements: either a postnominal demonstrative (PND) *nei*, *ena* or *era* or the identity marker ‘*ā* or ‘*ana*, but never both. Of these two options, the PND is by far the most common one.

In combination with a PND, the *t*-demonstrative has ANAPHORIC function: it signals that the entity referred to has been mentioned in the preceding context (and, by impli-

<sup>53</sup> *Tau* is probably related to PEP \**taua* (see Pawley 1966: 60; Green 1985: 12), which, however, only occurs in Tahitic languages. An indication for a relationship between the two is that *taua*, like Rapa Nui *tau*, is an anaphoric determiner which co-occurs with postnominal demonstratives – obligatorily so in Tahitian (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 64–65), optionally in Māori (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 152). Rigo & Vernaudon (2004: 462) consider Tahitian *taua* to consist of the article *te* + a cognate of the demonstrative *ua* which appears in Hawaiian but has no cognates in any other language. They tentatively propose that this *ua* is originally the same morpheme as the perfect aspectual *ua* which occurs in both Tahitian and Hawaiian; however, the latter is a reflex of PPN \**kua*, while *taua* also occurs in languages which have preserved PPN \**k*, like Māori, Rarotongan and Pa’umotu (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011).

<sup>54</sup> A similar monophthongisation process may have taken place in Rapa (=Rapa Iti): the definite marker *tō* is probably derived from \**taua*, through a development *taua* > *tau* > *tou* > *tō* (Walworth 2015b: 183).

<sup>55</sup> According to Anderson & Keenan (1985: 280), one-term deictic systems, which do not indicate relative distance, are crosslinguistically very rare. French *ce* is another example, but like the Rapa Nui *t*-demonstrative, it usually goes together with another demonstrative element which does express distance. Notice that the *t*-demonstrative in combination with the identity marker ‘*ā*/‘*ana* is a true one-term subsystem: in this construction no relative distance is expressed, despite the presence of a demonstrative. In such a case, as Anderson and Keenan suggest, the demonstrative is little different from a definite article.



cation, is known to the hearer). In (198), there are three referents: Ure a Ohovehi, the boat and the men. All have been mentioned before, and all are referred to with the same combination of a *t*-demonstrative and a PND.

- (198) *He tike'a e tau kope era, ko Ure 'a Ohovehi, tau vaka era o tau*  
 NTR see AG DEM person DIST PROM Ure a Ohovehi DEM boat DIST of DEM  
*ηāηata era.*  
 men DIST  
 ‘That man Ure a Ohovehi saw that boat of those people.’ [Blx-3.070]

The use of the *t*-demonstrative with postnominal demonstratives is further discussed in §4.6.3.

In combination with the identity marker *'ā/ana* the *t*-demonstrative expresses IDENTITY with an entity previously mentioned; this is discussed in §5.9.

As demonstratives are the main anaphoric device to track participants in discourse, they are much more common than English demonstratives. Example (198) would sound unnatural in translation if all the demonstratives were translated by demonstratives.<sup>56</sup>

#### 4.6.2.2 The demonstrative *hū*

The demonstrative *hū*<sup>57</sup> is always accompanied by a postnominal demonstrative or an identity marker, just like the *t*-demonstrative. It is much less common than the *t*-forms and especially occurs in older texts, but is still in use. Like *tū*, it indicates that the referent has been mentioned before; it may indicate a more pointed deixis: ‘just that, precisely that’.

- (199) *—Ta'e ko Reŋa Roiti ta'a me'e ena. —;He aha rā hū*  
 CONNEG PROM Renga Roiti POSS.2SG.A thing MED PRED what INTENS DEM  
*me'e era?*  
 thing DIST  
 ‘—That one is not Renga Roiti. —Then what exactly is it?!’ [Ley-9-56.092–093]
- (200) *He kī ki te nu'u mo oho a 'uta 'ana mo haka tau mo u'i*  
 NTR say to ART people for go toward inland IDENT for CAUS hang for look  
*'atakea ko hū ηā io era.*  
 if PROM DEM PL young\_man DIST  
 ‘He told the people to go ashore and lie in waiting to see whether it would be those (same) boys.’ [R425.011]

<sup>56</sup> See Englert (1978: 21): “El artículo *tou-era* (a veces *tau-era*) es pronombre demostrativo que se usa frecuentemente como simple artículo definido.” (The article *tou-era* (sometimes *tau-era*) is a demonstrative pronoun which is often used simply as a definite article.)

<sup>57</sup> Etymologically, *hū* is more different from *tū* than its shape may suggest. As *hū* (unlike *tū*) already occurs in older texts, it cannot be derived from *tū* (e.g. by analogy of *te* and *he*). *Hū* may be related to Marquesan *hua*, which likewise serves as an anaphoric article. (Cablitz 2006: 62; Bergmann 1963: 49.) Bergmann also suggests a tentative link to the Hawaiian demonstrative *ua*.

### 4.6.3 Postnominal demonstratives

The postnominal demonstratives *nei*, *ena* and *era* (henceforth PND) indicate different degrees of distance:

<i>nei</i>	proximity, close to the speaker
<i>ena</i>	medial distance, close to the hearer
<i>era</i>	farther distance, removed from both speaker and hearer

PNDs occur towards the right periphery of the noun phrase (see the chart in §5.1).

As discussed in §4.6.2, PNDs are obligatory when the noun is preceded by a *t*-demonstrative (*tau/tou/tū*), unless the noun phrase contains the identity marker *'ā/'ana*. PNDs also occur in combination with other determiners: articles as in (201), possessive pronouns as in (202):

(201) *te kona hare era*  
 ART place house DIST  
 'home' [R210.021]

(202) *tō'ona koro era*  
 POSS.3SG.O Dad DIST  
 'his father' [R380.010]

PNDs may be used either deictically or anaphorically. As deictic markers they serve to point at something which is visible in the nonlinguistic context. As anaphoric markers they refer to entities in the discourse context: entities which have been mentioned before or which are known by some other means. In practice, the anaphoric use is much more common in discourse.<sup>58</sup>

In the following sections, the PNDs are discussed in turn, starting with the most common form *era*.

#### 4.6.3.1 Distal/neutral *era*

When *era* is used deictically, it serves to point at something at a distance from both speaker and hearer.

(203) *¿Hē te haraoa o te poki era?*  
 CQ ART bread of ART child DIST  
 'Where is the bread of that child (over there)?' [R245.041]

(204) *Ka noho, ki ma'u mai tu'u māmātia era i te kai mā'au.*  
 IMP sit to carry hither POSS.2SG.O aunt DIST ACC ART food BEN.2SG.A  
 'Sit down, so your aunt (over there) can bring you food.' [R245.065]

<sup>58</sup> Hooper (2010: 363) notices the same in Tokelauan discourse: situational (=deictic) use only plays a "very minor part" in texts.

Much more commonly, *era* is anaphoric. *Era* is by far the most common postnominal demonstrative and the most neutral in sense. In its anaphoric use *era* usually does not have a connotation of distance, but is simply a general-purpose demonstrative.

*Era* is especially common with the *t*-demonstrative determiner (§4.6.2). The combination *tū/tou/tau N era* is the most general device in narrative texts to refer to participants mentioned earlier in the context. This makes its use extremely common in discourse.<sup>59</sup> In the following example, the two main characters of the story, neither of whom is mentioned by name, are referred to as *tau taŋata era* ‘that man’ and *tau vi'e era* ‘that woman’.

- (205) *He moe rō 'avai tau taŋata era. He koromaki ki tau vi'e*  
 NTR lie\_down EMPH certainly DEM man DIST NTR miss to DEM woman  
*era to'o era e tō'ona matu'a. He moe tau taŋata era, kai*  
 DIST take DIST AG POSS.3SG.O parent NTR lie\_down DEM man DIST NEG.PFV  
*kai. He 'ōtea, he pō haka'ou, tau taŋata era, he mate tau taŋata era,*  
 eat NTR dawn NTR night again DEM man DIST NTR die DEM man DIST  
*he koromaki ki tau vi'e era.*  
 NTR miss to DEM woman DIST

‘The man slept. He longed for the woman that had been taken (back) by her father. The man slept, he did not eat. Day came, then night again; the man died, that man, out of longing for the woman.’ [Mtx-5-02.057-060]

In the following example, two participants (the father and the child) and one object (the child’s umbilical cord) are first introduced with the article *te*. The next time they are mentioned, all are marked with *tou/tū N era*.

- (206) *He poreko te poki o te taŋata e tahi. He uŋa mai te roŋo*  
 NTR born ART child of ART man NUM one NTR send hither ART message  
*mo e'a atu o te taŋata nei, mo oho, mo haha'u i te pito. I*  
 for go\_out away of ART man PROX for go for tie ACC ART navel PFV  
*e'a era te taŋata nei, i oho era ki tou pito era o tū poki era*  
 go\_out DIST ART man PROX PFV go DIST to DEM navel DIST of DEM child DIST  
*o tū taŋata era mo haha'u...*  
 of DEM man DIST for tie

‘A child was born to a certain man. A message was sent for this (other) man to come, to tie the navel (cord). When man had gone out to tie the navel (cord)<sup>60</sup> of the child of that man...’ [Blx-2-1.001-005]

<sup>59</sup> Næss (2004: 81) notices that demonstratives in Pileni (a Polynesian outlier) are “used to an extent which appears quite extraordinary for a language of this family, perhaps for any language”. The same is true for Rapa Nui: over the whole text-corpus, *era* occurs almost 15,000 times and is the seventh most common word overall (after the determiners *te* and *he* and a number of prepositions). Given the fact that demonstratives not only serve to indicate spatial deixis but mark definiteness and anaphora as well (functions carried out by definite articles in other languages), their high frequency is not as surprising as it may seem at first sight.

#### 4 Closed word classes

Another determiner-demonstrative combination is *te N era*, with the article *te* instead of a demonstrative determiner. This combination is used to refer to something which is known to both speaker and hearer, whether or not it has been mentioned in the preceding context. This means that *te N era* indicates DEFINITENESS:<sup>61</sup> it signals that speaker and hearer are both able to identify the referent of the noun phrase. It is therefore the equivalent of the English (or Spanish) definite article, rather than a demonstrative.

Like *tau/tou/tū N era*, it may be used to refer to participants in a story who have been mentioned before. In (207), *tau poki era* and *te poki era* refer to the same child:

- (207) *He oŋa mai tau poki era o tau taŋata era ko Kava te Rūruki. He*  
 NTR appear hither DEM child DIST of DEM man DIST PROM Kava te Ruruki NTR  
*tikera te poki era...*  
 see ART child DIST  
 ‘The child of that man Kava te Ruruki observed him. The child saw it...’  
 [Ley-9-57.035]

- (208) *He tupu te poki o te vi'e, he poreko... He hāŋai, he nuinui te*  
 NTR grow ART child of ART woman NTR born NTR feed NTR big:RED ART  
*poki era.*  
 child DIST  
 ‘A woman was with child, it was born. The child was raised and grew up.’  
 [Mtx-7-21.004–005]

*Te N era* may also refer to entities which are generally known, or which are presumed to be present in the context. In the following example, ‘the cliffs’ refers to the cliffs in general (which all hearers will presumably know to be part of the Rapa Nui coastline); no specific cliff is meant.

- (209) *I na'a era a 'Oho Takatore i tū kūpeŋa era, he oho mai ki te*  
 PFV hide DIST PROP Oho Takatore ACC DEM net DIST NTR go hither to ART  
*kona 'ōpata era.*  
 place cliff DIST  
 ‘When Oho Takatore had hidden that net, he went to the cliffs (lit. the cliff place).’ [R304.110]

*Te N era* may also refer to things which have not been previously mentioned, but which are definite because they are explained in the noun phrase itself: a modifying phrase or relative clause after the noun specifies what the noun refers to. In (210) below, the referent of *te haŋa era* ‘the bay’ is specified by the genitive phrase *o 'Akahaŋa*; in

<sup>60</sup> Lit. ‘gone out to the navel to tie’; for this construction, see §11.6.3.

<sup>61</sup> See the discussion of definiteness in section §5.3.3. The development of demonstratives to definite markers may have taken place in Tongan as well: Clark (1974) shows how the “definitive accent” (a stress shift to the final syllable of the noun, marking definiteness) may have derived from a postposed demonstrative \**aa*.

(211) *te ha'u era* ‘the hats’ is explained by the relative clause *e aŋa era hai rau toa* ‘made with sugarcane leaves’.

(210) *I mu'a i te haŋa era o 'Akahanga, te noho haŋa o'ona.*  
 at front at ART bay DIST of Akahanga ART stay NMLZ POSS.3SG.O  
 ‘His residence was in front of the bay of Akahanga.’ [Blx-2-3.002]

(211) *O rā hora 'ā te ŋā vi'e o nei pa'ari era e hatu rō 'ana*  
 of DIST time IDENT ART PL woman of PROX adult DIST IPFV weave EMPH CONT  
*i te ha'u era e aŋa era hai rau toa...*  
 ACC ART hat DIST IPFV make DIST INS leaf sugarcane  
 ‘At that time the older women here wove those hats which are made with  
 sugarcane leaves...’ [R106.049]

In these contexts, where the noun phrase becomes definite by virtue of a modifier, *tū N era* is not (or rarely) used. In other words, where *Det N era* has a unique referent, *tū* is used; where *Det N era* as such does not have a unique referent but needs a modifier to pinpoint its reference, *te* is used.

To summarise:

- *Te N era* is used when the noun phrase is DEFINITE for any reason (whether known from the context, by general knowledge, or defined by modifiers in the NP)
- *Tū N era* is ANAPHORIC, indicating that the referent of the noun phrase is known from the preceding context.

#### 4.6.3.2 Proximal *nei*

*Nei* indicates proximity. It is more commonly used with the article *te* than with the demonstrative *tū*. When used deictically, *nei* refers to something close to the speaker:

(212) *Te kona nei 'i te hare nei mo te poki mā'aŋa nei 'ā'aku.*  
 ART place PROX at ART house PROX for ART child chick PROX POSS.1SG.A  
 ‘This place (here) in this house is for my adopted child.’ [R229.271]

The proximity indicated by *nei* may also be temporal: the event takes place close to the time of speaking. This is especially clear when *nei* is used with nouns denoting time.

(213) *I te hora nei pa'i ku ŋaro 'ana rā mauku.*  
 at ART time PROX in\_fact PRF disappear CONT INTENS grass  
 ‘Nowadays (lit. ‘in this time’) that grass has disappeared.’ [R106.050]

However, temporal proximity is not necessarily related to the time of speaking. The reference time may also be the time of other events in the same text. In the following example, *te noho iŋa nei* ‘this time/epoch’ refers to the time when the events in the story happened.

#### 4 Closed word classes

- (214) *I te noho ija nei, ho'i, 'ina he mōrī, 'ina he vai...*  
 at ART stay NMLZ PROX indeed NEG PRED light NEG PRED water  
 'At this time there was no electricity, no water...' [R539-1.092]

*Nei* also has anaphoric uses. It may refer to something which has been mentioned just before; the referent is close in a textual sense.

- (215) *‘Ka haka kore te kope ena 'e ka haka e'a mai a Varavā!’ Te*  
 IMP CAUS lack ART person MED and IMP CAUS go\_out hither PROP Barabbas ART  
*taŋata nei i puru ai 'o te haka tumu i te ture.*  
 man PROX PFV close PVP because\_of ART CAUS origin ACC ART quarrel  
 ‘“Away with that man, release Barabbas!” This man had been imprisoned for  
 provoking a riot.’ [Luke 23:19]

Unlike other postnominal demonstratives, *nei* is also used cataphorically, pointing forward to what follows. One such cataphoric use is at the beginning of stories: here *nei* is often used to introduce (main) participants.<sup>62</sup> An example is:

- (216) *I 'Ohovehi te noho ija o te ŋā roe nei e rua.*  
 at Ohovehi ART stay NMLZ of ART PL ant PROX NUM two  
 'In Ohovehi was the place where these two ants lived.' [R214.001]

This sentence is the beginning of a story about two ants. The use of *nei* signals to the reader that the two ants will be playing an important role in the story that follows.<sup>63</sup> This use of *nei* can be considered as cataphoric: *nei* directs the hearer to look forward to provide more information about the indicated participant.

Another cataphoric use of *nei* is after generic nouns like *me'e* 'thing'. Here *nei* signals that more specific information follows:<sup>64</sup>

- (217) *Te me'e nei he ruku e ai te ŋā me'e nei: he pātia, he*  
 ART thing PROX PRED dive EXH exist ART PL thing PROX PRED harpoon PRED  
*hi'o...*  
 glass  
 'For diving you need the following things: a harpoon, glasses...' [R360.001]

The same use of *nei* (though not in a noun phrase) is found in the expression *pē nei ē* 'like this', which introduces speech or thought (see (237–238) on p. 205).

<sup>62</sup> This use is common in newer stories, but not found at all in older texts.

<sup>63</sup> English has a similar – somewhat informal – use of *this*, to introduce a participant at the start of a story: 'Yesterday I met this guy...'

<sup>64</sup> Again, English provides a parallel use of 'this': 'Listen to this: ...'; 'This is what you need...'

4.6.3.3 Medial *ena*

*Ena* indicates something removed from the speaker, but close to the hearer:

- (218) *'Ina koe ko kai i te me'e ena o roto o te kete ena.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV eat ACC ART thing MED of inside of ART basket MED  
 'Don't eat those things in that basket (you have there).' [Blx-3.036]

However, the use of *ena* is somewhat limited: while *nei* is regularly used with first person pronouns, *ena* is not used with second person pronouns.

After temporal nouns like *tāpati* 'week' or *matahiti* 'year', *ena* signifies 'next'.

- (219) *Matahiti ena he hoki a au ki te hāpī.*  
 year MED NTR return PROP 1SG to ART learn  
 'Next year I return to school.' [R210.003]

Here, *ena* signifies a referent which is in the future, one step removed from the time of speaking. To refer to a time one step removed in the past, *ena* is used in combination with the verb *oti* 'finish'. The following example occurs in a newspaper published in May, i.e. it refers to the previous month:

- (220) *'I tū 'āva'e oti ena o Vai Tu'u Nui i ha'amata i keri ai o koā Jo*  
 at DEM month finish MED of April PFV begin PFV dig PVP of COLL Jo  
*Anne...*  
 Anne  
 'In the past month of April, Jo Anne and the others started to dig...' [R647.106]

## 4.6.4 Demonstrative determiners

*Nei*, *nī*, *nā* and *rā* are demonstrative determiners indicating relative distance. Like the *t*-demonstrative they exclude the article, but unlike these, they are not accompanied by a postnominal demonstrative (except *nī*).<sup>65</sup> In fact, these demonstratives themselves are very similar in sense to postnominal demonstratives. They are a recent development: demonstrative determiners are rarely found in older texts. It is not unlikely that they developed under Spanish influence: *nei tānata* 'this man' by analogy of Sp. *este hombre*.<sup>66</sup>

As *rā* is the most common (and most neutral) form, it will be discussed first.

<sup>65</sup> Chapin (1974: 8) also mentions a demonstrative *tenei*, supposedly used in Egt-02. However, in Englert (1974), which includes this text, the form in question is printed as *to nei*. The forms *teenei*, *teenaa* and *teeraa*, which are common in Nuclear Polynesian languages (Pawley 1966: 51), do not occur in Rapa Nui (see also Langdon & Tryon 1983: 21), though they may have existed at a prior stage: *tenā* possibly appears in the old chant *e timo te akoako* (Fischer 1994: 426). The fact that the demonstrative determiners *nei*, *nā* and *rā* hardly occur in older texts, suggests that they did not develop from the PEP demonstrative determiners \**teenei*, \**teenaa*, \**teeraa* through loss of *tee-*, but are an independent recent development.

<sup>66</sup> This is pointed out by Fischer (2007: 389).

4.6.4.1 Distal/neutral *rā*

*Rā* is similar in meaning to the postnominal *era* (§4.6.3.1): just like *era* is the neutral postnominal demonstrative, *rā* is the neutral, most common, demonstrative determiner.

*Rā* is used deictically, referring to something which has not been mentioned before, but which is present in the extralinguistic context and hence accessible to both speaker and hearer. It is used in conversation, for example, when pointing out something at a certain distance, or when indicating something on a picture or map:

- (221) *'I rā hare a mātou e noho ena.*  
 at DIST house PROP 1PL.EXCL IPFV stay MED  
 '(discussing a photograph:) In that house we lived'. [R416.961]

Like *tū N era*, *rā* is also used anaphorically. In the following examples, the noun in question has been introduced in the preceding context.

- (222) *He mate rō 'ai 'i roto 'i rā hare.*  
 NTR die EMPH SUBS at insids at DIST house  
 'She died inside that house.' [R532-14.034]
- (223) *Ko 'ite 'ā, pa'i, a ia i rā hīmene 'i te hare hāpī.*  
 PRF know CONT in\_fact PROP 3SG ACC DIST song at ART house learn  
 'For she had learned that song at school.' [R334.341]

This means that *tū N era* and *rā* are similar in function. Even so, there are differences between the two.

First of all, *rā* is somewhat more informal than *tū N era*. It tends to be more common in conversation and direct speech, while *tū N era* occurs more commonly in narrative texts.

Secondly, there are also collocational differences: *rā N* is especially common before words denoting a moment or period of time, like *hora* 'time, moment, hour', *mahana* 'day' and *noho ija* 'period, epoch', while *tū N era* is found more often with concrete nouns like *hare* 'house' and *taŋata* 'man, person'.

In the third place, the relation between *rā* and *tū N era* also has a diachronic aspect. *Rā* is extremely rare in older texts. The demonstrative *rā* does occur in these texts, but almost always as a locational (§4.6.5): '*i rā* 'over there'.

In newer texts (most of which date from the 1980s), *rā* is common, but *tū* still occurs about twice as often. However, in the Bible translation – the largest part of which was done, or at least thoroughly revised, after 2000 – *rā* is about 50% more frequent than *tū*. In the Bible translation, *rā* is commonly used to track participants in discourse.

Only when the noun phrase contains a modifier (an adjective, a possessor or a relative clause), *tū N era* continues to be the default choice, even in the Bible translation:

- (224) *tū taŋata matapō era*  
 DEM man blind DIST  
 'that blind man' [John 9:6]



Taking these facts together, we arrive at the following explanation: *rā* was originally a deictic locational (§4.6.5), used to point at things and locations: ‘there, over there’. *Tau/tou* had a different role: tracking participants in discourse, i.e. referring to entities mentioned earlier in the context.

When *rā* started to be used as a prenominal demonstrative, it was initially with the same deictic role it already had, pointing to for example things and locations (‘that house there’, ‘that place over there’), and points in time (‘on that day’). Gradually it acquired a participant-tracking role as well, but until recently this role has been predominantly fulfilled by *tau/tou/tū*. This use of *rā* is becoming more and more frequent, to the point where it is now more common than *tū/tou*. Only in complex noun phrases is *tū* still preferred.

#### 4.6.4.2 Proximal *nei*

Prenominal *nei* is similar in meaning to postnominal *nei* (§4.6.3): it indicates proximity in time, location or discourse. It may refer to something near the speaker as in (225), something just mentioned as in (226), or to a time close to the time of the preceding discourse as in (227):

- (225) *Te me'e aṅa mai nei e nei vi'e...*  
 ART thing do hither PROX AG PROX woman  
 ‘What this woman (near the speaker) has done...’ [Mat. 26:12]
- (226) *Mai tētahi henua o te norte o Nueva Zelántia i oho mai ai ki nei*  
 from other land of ART north of New Zealand PFV go hither PVP to PROX  
*henua.*  
 land  
 ‘From other countries, to the north of New Zealand, they came to this island (= New Zealand).’ [R346.012]
- (227) *'E tako'a pa'i, nei noho ija kai rahi mai 'ā te me'e he*  
 and also in\_fact PROX stay NMLZ NEG.PFV much hither CONT ART thing PRED  
*'aurī ki nei.*  
 iron to PROX  
 ‘And also, at this time (the period just mentioned), there was not much iron here.’ [R353.006]

Pre- and postnominal *nei* are not completely identical in function: while postnominal *nei* may be cataphoric, referring to something which has not been mentioned yet, prenominal *nei* always refers something which has been mentioned before.

#### 4.6.4.3 Proximal *nī*

*Nī* is a relatively rare demonstrative, which is not found in older texts. Its function is similar to *nei*; it must have arisen from *nei* by vowel assimilation. That this only

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happened prenominally may be because the prenominal position is phonologically less prominent: unlike postnominal *nei*, it never receives phrase stress.

*Nī* often refers to something which has been recently mentioned. In the following example, *nī taŋata* refers back to *e te taŋata e tahi* in the previous sentence.

- (228) *Pē ira i hīmene ai e te taŋata e tahi... i te hīmene e tahi.*  
like ANA PFV sing PVP AG ART man NUM one ACC ART song NUM one  
*Ko To'o Raŋi te 'iŋoa o nī taŋata.*  
PROM To'o Raŋi ART name of PROX man  
'In that way one man... sang a song. To'o Raŋi was the name of this man.'  
[R539-1.127–128]

Unlike prenominal *nei*, *nī* can be accompanied by a postnominal demonstrative. Interestingly, the latter is not necessarily *nei*:

- (229) *Mai rā hora ŋa'aha era o nī iate nei i tiaki ai 'i nei.*  
from DIST time burst DIST of PROX yacht PROX PFV wait PVP at PROX  
'From the moment this yacht had broken down, they waited here.' [R539-1.686]
- (230) *Titika ki nī titi 'ōpata era o 'Ōroŋo...*  
straight to PROX border cliff DIST of Orongo  
'Straight opposite these cliffs of Orongo...' [R112.008]

*Nī* tends to be used for referents which are not central participants in the discourse: minor participants, objects (*iate* above), places (*'ōpata* above), time words like *mahana* 'day' and *hora* 'time'.

##### 4.6.4.4 Medial *nā*

*Nā* is occasionally used as a prenominal demonstrative. It is similar in meaning to postnominal *ena*, referring to something not close to the speaker, but close to the hearer. Therefore it typically appears in direct speech, as in the following example:

- (231) *Ka to'o mai nā matā ka vero ki rote haha.*  
IMP take hither MED obsidian IMP throw to inside\_ART mouth  
'Take that obsidian spearhead and throw it into his mouth'. [R304.020]

#### 4.6.5 Deictic locationals

##### 4.6.5.1 *Nei*, *nā* and *rā* as deictic locationals

Deictic locationals have the same form as demonstrative determiners (§4.6.4): *nei*, *nā* and *rā*. As locationals, they are a nucleus in their own right, rather than modifiers of a head noun. Just like all locationals (§3.6.1), they can be preceded by a preposition, but not by a determiner. They usually have a deictic function. Some examples:

- (232) *Mai nei te pahī nei i oho ai ki Tahiti.*  
 from PROX ART ship PROX PFV go PVP to Tahiti  
 ‘From here (=Rapa Nui) the ship went to Tahiti.’ [R239.091]
- (233) *¡Ka to'o te me'e era ka hakarē 'i rā!*  
 IMP take ART thing DIST IMP leave at DIST  
 ‘Take that and leave it over there!’ [R208.173]
- (234) *E aha 'ā kōrua 'i nā?*  
 IPFV what CONT 2PL at MED  
 ‘What are you doing there?’ [R416.514]

Preceded by *pē* ‘like’, the deictic locationals tend to be used anaphorically rather than deictically. *Pē rā* is similar in function to *pē ira* (see the next section): it refers back to a state of affairs mentioned before, ‘like that, in the same manner’. An example:

- (235) *Pē rā 'ā e 'amo mai era 'i te mahana.*  
 like DIST IDENT IPFV carry hither DIST at ART day  
 ‘In the same way (as described before) he carried (food) every day.’ [R372.139]

*Pē nei* is used anaphorically as well. As *nei* expresses proximity, anaphoric *pē nei* indicates what can be called discourse proximity: it refers back to something which has just been mentioned.

- (236) *Pē nei a Nueva Zelántia i noho ai mo te paratane.*  
 like PROX PROP New Zealand PFV stay PVP for the British  
 ‘In this way (just described) New Zealand came to belong to the British.’  
 [R346.022]

Especially common is *pē nei ē*, which introduces the content of a speech or thought, or a piece of knowledge.

- (237) *'Ina koe ko taŋi mai pē nei ē: ko au te kai rivariva mai.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV cry hither like PROX thus PROM 1SG ART eat good:RED hither  
 ‘Don’t cry (thinking about the fact) that I am eating well’ [R304.033]
- (238) *Nu'u rahi te nu'u i mana'u pē nei ē ko tētere 'ana ki Tahiti.*  
 people many ART people PFV think like PROX thus PRF PL:TUN CONT to Tahiti  
 ‘Many people thought that they had fled to Tahiti.’ [R303.051]

4.6.5.2 The anaphoric locational *ira*

*Ira*<sup>67</sup> is a multipurpose anaphor (hence its gloss ANA). Whereas personal pronouns serve as anaphors referring back to animate referents mentioned in the preceding context, *ira* refers back to locations or situations.<sup>68</sup>

When preceded by a locative preposition, *ira* refers to a LOCATION which has been mentioned before: ‘that place, there’. In (239) *ira* refers back to ‘home’ in the previous clause, in (240) to ‘his country’:

- (239) *I tu'u haka'ou era a Mako'i ki te kona hare era, 'i ira a Paepae.*  
 PFV arrive again DIST PROP Mako'i to ART place house DIST at ANA PROP  
*Paepae.*  
 Paepae  
 ‘When Mako'i arrived home again, Paepae was there.’ [R214.071]

- (240) *He tu'u ki tō'ona kāiŋa ko Ma'uŋa Terevaka. I tu'u era ki ira...*  
 NTR arrive to POSS.3SG.O homeland PROM Mount Terevaka PFV arrive DIST to  
*ira...*  
 ANA  
 ‘He went to his own place, mount Terevaka. When he arrived there...’  
 [R314.159–160]

One of the contexts in which locational *ira* can be used, is in a relative clause with locative relativisation (see (101–102) on p. 532).

Preceded by other than locative prepositions, *ira* refers to a SITUATION, a state of affairs which has been mentioned in an earlier clause. This happens with *mo ira* ‘therefore, for that purpose’, *'o ira* ‘because of that’,<sup>69</sup> and the very common *pē ira* ‘like that, thus’:

- (241) *Mo ira te puka nei i aŋa ai.*  
 for ANA ART book PROX PFV make PVP  
 ‘Therefore I have made this book.’ [R531.014]

<sup>67</sup> *Ira* does not occur in any other Polynesian language. However, most other EP languages have a locational anaphor *reira/leila* (‘there’, referring to a place mentioned before); Rapa Nui *ira* may be a truncated reflex of the same form. This would mean that *\*leila* is not a PCE innovation as suggested by Green (1985: 12) and Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011), but a PEP innovation with subsequent shortening in Rapa Nui.

<sup>68</sup> Together, personal pronouns and *ira* cover a large part of the field of possible referents for anaphora. For other referents, no anaphor is available, however: 1) inanimates. To refer back to an inanimate, the general-purpose noun *me'e* ‘thing’ can be used: *te me'e era*, lit. ‘that thing’. 2) time. *'I ira* can only refer to place, not to time. To refer back to a moment in time, phrases like *'i te hora era* ‘at that time’ are used.

<sup>69</sup> *'O ira* (with the reason preposition *'o*, §4.7.3) should not be confused with *o ira* ‘of there’ (with possessive *o*), in which *ira* has a locational sense:

(i) *He māta'ita'i ararua i te ŋā mōai era o ira.*  
 NTR observe the\_two ACC ART PL statue DIST of ANA  
 ‘The two of them admired the statue there (lit. the statue of there)’ [R478.044]

- (242) *He me'e kore mo kai, 'o ira au e taŋi nei.*  
 PRED thing lack for eat because\_of ANA 1SG IPFV cry PROX  
 'There is nothing to eat, therefore I am crying.' [R349.013]
- (243) *Te mahana te mahana e raŋi era pē ira.*  
 ART day ART day IPFV call DIST like ANA  
 'Day after day he cried like that.' [R213.003]

#### 4.6.6 Demonstrative pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are relatively rare. In order to refer to a situation in general ('this', 'that'), the dummy noun *me'e* is often used:

- (244) *Me'e rivariva rahi te me'e nei mo te orara'a o te mahiŋo o Rapa Nui.*  
 thing good:RED much ART thing PROX for ART life of ART people of Rapa Nui.  
 Nui  
 'This (the practices just described) was something very good for the life of the people of Rapa Nui.' [R231.314]

The demonstratives *nei*, *nā* and *rā* are also used pronominally, but only as subject of a classifying or identifying clause (§9.2.1–9.2.2). In these constructions, the demonstrative is a constituent by itself; unlike personal pronouns, it is never preceded by the proper article or *ko*, or followed by modifying particles. The constituent order is always predicate—subject. Two examples:

- (245) *He 'ariko nei.*  
 PRED bean PROX  
 'These are beans' [Notes]
- (246) *Ko Rusinta rā 'i te tapa 'uta.*  
 PROM Rusinta DIST at ART side inland  
 'That is Rusinta on the inland side.' [R411.074]

Just like demonstratives in the noun phrase, the demonstrative pronoun can be used either deictically (pointing at something in the non-linguistic context) or anaphorically or cataphorically (pointing back or forward to something mentioned in the text).

Certain postnominal elements belonging to the predicate noun phrase occur after the subject: genitives as in (247), relative clauses as in (248).

- (247) *He toru e'a iŋa atu nei o Tāpura Re'o.*  
 PRED three go\_out NMLZ away PROX of Tapura Re'o  
 'This is the third issue of (the newspaper) Tapura Re'o.' [R649.001]

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- (248) *Famiria hope'a rā oho mai mai kampō, mai 'Anakena.*  
family last DIST go hither from countryside from Anakena.  
'That was the last family who came from the countryside, from Anakena.'  
[R413.889]

Even though the demonstratives in these examples may seem to be postnominal particles which are part of the predicate noun phrase, in reality they are pronominal, i.e. constituents in their own right. This is shown by the following evidence:

1. Postnominal demonstratives have the forms *nei*, *ena*, *era*; the forms under consideration here are different: *nei*, *nā*, *rā*.
2. While a noun phrase may contain only one postnominal demonstrative, the forms considered here may co-occur with a postnominal demonstrative, as the following example shows:

- (249) [*'Aka era*] *rā* [*o te parasa era o mu'a o te hare hāpī*].  
anchor DIST DIST of ART courtyard DIST of front of ART house learn  
'That is the anchor (which is) in the courtyard in front of the school.' [R413.675]

This means that the nominal predicate in (247–249) is split in two, and interrupted by the subject. Split predicates also occur with other pronominal subjects (§9.2.5).

## 4.7 Prepositions

### 4.7.1 Introduction

Prepositions express a semantic relationship between a noun phrase and the rest of the clause. Rapa Nui has a variety of prepositions, some of which (like *i* and *ki*) have a wide range of uses, while others are more narrowly defined. They also serve to mark case, especially the prepositions *i* (direct object) and *e* (agentive subject).

Syntactically, prepositions are characterised by the fact that they are followed by a noun phrase. When the preposition is followed by a common noun phrase, this noun phrase must contain a *t*-determiner (§5.3.2.1). Two prepositions show different behaviour, however:

- *hai* 'with (instrumental)' is not followed by a determiner (with a few exceptions, see §4.7.10);
- *pa/pē* 'like' (not to be confused with *pe* 'toward') is followed by the predicate marker *he* (§5.3.4).

With a proper noun or pronoun complement, prepositions ending in *i* (with the exception of *hai*) are followed by the proper article *a*, while others are directly followed by the (pro)noun (§5.13.2.1).

Most prepositions can be followed by locationals (§3.6.2.1); locationals immediately follow the preposition, without a determiner.

These patterns are summarised in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Preposition classes

	1	2	3	4
	<i>ki</i> ‘to’	<i>mo</i> ‘for’	<i>hai</i> ‘with’	<i>pē</i> ‘like’
<i>te hare</i> ‘the house’	<i>ki te hare</i>	<i>mo te hare</i>	<i>hai hare</i>	<i>pē he hare</i>
<i>Māria</i> ‘Maria’	<i>ki a Māria</i>	<i>mo Māria</i>	<i>hai Māria</i> <sup>70</sup>	<i>pē Māria</i>
<i>rātou</i> ‘3 PL’	<i>ki a rātou</i>	<i>mo rātou</i>	<i>hai rātou</i>	<i>pē rātou</i>
<i>roto</i> ‘inside’	<i>ki roto</i>	<i>mo roto</i>	—	—

Group 1 includes *i* ‘object marker’, *i/i* ‘locative’, *ki* ‘to’ and *mai* ‘from’. Group 2 includes *a* ‘by, along’, *pe* ‘toward’, *e* ‘agent marker’, *o* ‘because of’, *o/a* ‘possessive’, *to/ta* ‘possessive’, *mo/ma* ‘benefactive’, *ko* ‘prominence marker’ and *ai* ‘there in/at’. Group 3 only includes *hai*, group 4 only includes *pa/pē*.

In the following subsections, prepositions are discussed individually, except the Agent marker *e*, the accusative marker *i* (§8.2–8.4), and the possessive prepositions *o* and *a* (§6.2–6.2.4). §4.7.2–4.7.7 deal with prepositions which are primarily locative, such as *i* and *ki*. The causal preposition *o* will be discussed together with *i* in §4.7.3, as the two are similar in function.

§4.7.8–4.7.10 discuss prepositions with other than locative functions, such as benefactive and instrumental. §4.7.11 discusses the rare preposition *ai*. Finally, §4.7.12 deals with the prominence marker *ko*, which is different in function from other prepositions, but which is nevertheless a preposition syntactically.

#### 4.7.2 The preposition ‘*i/i* ‘in, at, on’

The preposition *i/i* ‘in, at, on’ is a reflex of PPN *\*i* (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011) or *\*i* (Clark 1976: 41) – due to the instable character of glottals in particles (Clark 1976: 22), it is impossible to tell with certainty if the preposition had a glottal in PPN.

In most Polynesian languages this preposition has a wide range of functions.<sup>71</sup> In the accepted Rapa Nui orthography (§1.4.4), this preposition is written either *i* and *i*, depending on its function: certain uses of this preposition are written with glottal, others without. The inclusion or non-inclusion of glottals in particles is largely based on whether the particle occurs mainly at the start or in the middle of prosodic units (§2.2.5). This means that functions of *i/i* which tend to occur phrase-initially are written with

<sup>70</sup> In fact, animate complements of *hai* are rare. They are found e.g. in the Bible translation: *hai Ietū* ‘with/by Jesus’, *hai ia* ‘with/by him’.

<sup>71</sup> Chapin (1978: 428) mentions “the extreme polyfunctionality of Polynesian prepositions, and of *i* in particular”.

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glottal, while functions mainly occurring in the middle of phrases, or at the start of phrases prosodically connected to the preceding context, are written without glottal. As a result, the preposition in a locative sense is written 'i, while the preposition occurring after locationals is *i*.

In the following sections, the uses of *i*/*'i* are discussed. Because *'i*/*i* is largely used in a locative or temporal sense, it is glossed 'at'. The causal use of *'i* is discussed in §4.7.3, together with the preposition 'o, which is similar in function.

##### 4.7.2.1 Locative 'i

*I* expresses stationary location: 'in, on, at'. In this sense it is often followed by locationals (§3.6.2). Here are examples where it is directly followed by a noun phrase: in (250–251) in a spatial sense, in (252) in a temporal sense.

(250) *He noho 'i te hare o te huŋavai.*  
NTR stay at ART house of ART parent\_in\_law  
'She stayed in the house of her in-laws.' [Mtx-5-03.002]

(251) *I poreko ena a koe 'i Haŋa Roa.*  
PFV born MED PROP 2SG at Hanga Roa  
'You were born in Hanga Roa.' [R380.156]

(252) *'I tū hora era te taŋata ta'ato'a ko ri'ari'a tahi 'ana.*  
at DEM time DIST ART person all PRF afraid all CONT  
'At that moment all the people were afraid.' [R210.152]

Temporal *'i* may be followed by a nominalised verb, making the *'i*-marked constituent similar to a temporal clause.

(253) *'I te kī nō o Puakiva ki a Pea i tā'ana vānaŋa, kai haka*  
at ART say just of Puakiva to PROP Pea ACC POSS.3SG.A word NEG.PFV CAUS  
*mou e Pea.*  
silent AG Pea  
'When Puakiva said her words to Pea, Pea didn't silence her.' [R229.489]

In comparatives, *'i* marks the quality with respect to which the comparison is made (§3.5.2.1).

##### 4.7.2.2 General-purpose *i*

The preposition *i* serves as a general-purpose oblique marker. It is used to mark noun phrases which are in some way related to the action. Generally speaking, the *i*-marked constituent expresses a participant with respect to whom the event takes place; this constituent can be characterised as the locus of the event.

In some cases this noun phrase has a possessive sense:



- (254) *I a ia i topa ai te 'āua era o Vaihū.*  
 at PROP 3SG PFV happen PVP ART enclosure DIST of Vaihu  
 ‘To him was assigned the field of Vaihu.’ [R250.052]
- (255) *Ku riro mau 'ana ho'i i tū taŋata era te rē.*  
 PRF become really CONT indeed at DEM man DIST ART victory  
 ‘That man became the winner (lit. To that man became the victory).’ [R372.154]

Possessive *i* is also found in proprietary clauses (see (89–90) on p. 470).

With adjectives, *i* expresses the possessor of a certain quality, i.e. the entity where the quality is located. Examples of this are the *ko te X* exclamative construction (see (82–83) on p. 492) and cases such as the following:

- (256) *Me'e 'aroha i tū nanue para era ana ai ko rava'a 'ana e te nu'u*  
 thing pity at DEM kind\_of\_fish DIST IRR exist PRF obtain CONT AG ART people  
*hī ika.*  
 to\_fish fish  
 ‘Poor *nanue para* fish (lit. A pity *i* that *nanue para*) if it is caught by fishermen’  
 [R301.320]

In other cases the sense of *i* is hard to define more precisely; however, it is clear that the *i*-marked NP is involved in the action in some way; the event takes place with respect to the participant mentioned.

- (257) *I tatau era, 'ina he tehe te ū i a Te Manu.*  
 PFV milk DIST NEG NTR flow ART milk at PROP Te Manu  
 ‘When they milked (the cows), the milk didn’t flow to Te Manu (he couldn’t get the milk to flow).’ [R245.192]
- (258) *E ko pau i a koe te kona mo rao o tu'u va'e.*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV run\_out at PROP 2SG ART place for cross\_over of POSS.2SG.O foot  
 ‘There are many places where you can go (lit. The places to put your foot do not finish to you).’ [R315.071]

Two other uses of *i* are discussed elsewhere:

- After locationals, *i* is the most common preposition introducing locative complements (e.g. ‘*i roto i* ‘inside’, see §3.6.2.2).
- *I* marks agentive phrases which are not an argument of the verb (§8.6.4.7).

## 4.7.3 Causes and reasons: 'i and 'o

Causes and reasons may be expressed by a verbal clause (§11.6.4). More commonly, however, they are expressed by a noun phrase marked with either 'i or 'o. This noun phrase often contains a nominalised verb or an adjective.

'I is used to express causes. These causes can be events or states as in (259–260), but also non-human entities as in (261–262). Cf. the discussion on agentive i in §8.6.4.7.

(259) *He mate ta'a māhaki 'i te maruaki!*  
NTR die POSS.2SG.A companion at ART hunger

'Your friend dies from hunger!' [R245.142]

(260) *He viriviri a Torometi 'i te kata.*  
NTR roll:RED PROP Torometi at ART laugh

'Torometi fell down from laughing.' [R245.105]

(261) *He hati te ηao o 'Oto 'Uta 'i te pureva.*  
NTR break ART neck of Oto Uta at ART rock

'The neck of (the statue) Oto Uta broke by/from the rock.' [MsE-089.002]

(262) *Ku ηarepe 'ā te kahu 'i te 'ua.*  
PRF wet CONT ART clothes at ART rain

'The clothes got soaked by the rain.' [Egt. lexicon]

Causes are also expressed with the preposition 'o, but there is a difference. 'I is used in situations where cause and effect are closely linked, i.e. for direct causes which automatically lead to a certain effect. In (260), for example, laughter is not only the cause of falling down, but also accompanies the falling down: 'He fell while laughing, he fell down with laughter'. Similarly, in (259), hunger is not only the cause of death, but hunger and death go together. In some cases – such as (260) – cause and effect are so closely linked, that the 'i-marked constituent is similar to a circumstantial clause. 'O, on the other hand, is used in situations where cause and effect are less closely linked. Here are a few examples:

(263) *He taŋi 'o te mate o Huri 'a Vai.*  
NTR cry because\_of ART die of Huri a Vai

'He cried because Huri a Vai had died.' [R304.104]

(264) *'I tū hora era te tokerau me'e hūhū, 'o ira kai hini i*  
at DEM time DIST ART wind thing roar:RED because\_of ANA NEG.PFV delay PFV  
*oti tahi rō ai tū hare era te vera.*  
finish all EMPH PVP DEM house DIST ART burn

'The wind roared at that time, therefore it wasn't long before the whole house burned down.' [R250.120]

'O is often used to express reasons, i.e. situations where cause and effect are mediated by a volitional decision:

- (265) *Hora kai, 'ina he haraoa mā'au 'o tu'u toke i te haraoa o te poki era.*  
 time eat NEG PRED bread BEN.2SG.A because\_of POSS.2SG.O steal ACC ART  
 bread of ART child DIST

'At dinnertime, there is no bread for you, because you stole the bread of that child.' [R245.048]

- (266) *'Ina pa'i o māua kona mo noho. 'O ira au i iri mai nei ki a koe.*  
 NEG in\_fact of IDU.EXCL place for stay because\_of ANA 1SG PFV ascend hither  
 PROX to PROP 2SG

'We don't have a place to stay. Therefore I have come to you.' [R229.210]

#### 4.7.4 The preposition *ki* 'to'

*Ki* (< PPN \**ki*) indicates movement in the direction of a goal. It is often found with verbs of movement:

- (267) *He hoki mai ararua ki te kona hare era.*  
 NTR return hither the\_two to ART place house DIST

'The two returned home.' [R166.007]

- (268) *E tahi mahana he turu a Tiare ki te hare hāpī.*  
 NUM one day NTR go\_down PROP Tiare to ART house learn

'One day Tiare went down to school.' [R170.001]

*Ki* is often followed by a locational indicating the direction in which the movement takes place (see e.g. (134) on p. 124).

*Ki* is used when the referent makes a movement touching the endpoint, for example with the verb *tu'u* 'arrive':

- (269) *He oho a Teke, he tu'u ki te hare o Mā'eha.*  
 NTR go PROP Teke NTR arrive to ART house of Mā'eha

'Teke went and arrived at Mā'eha's house.' [MsE-059.005]

- (270) *...ko te kutakuta o te vaikava e hāpaki era ki te 'ōpata.*  
 PRF ART foam of ART ocean IPFV slap DIST to ART cliff

'...the foaming water of the sea was slapping against the cliffs.' [R408.105]

*Ki* is used when a referent is oriented towards an object, even when no movement towards this object is involved: in (271) the tree bark is exposed to the sun, but not moved towards the sun.

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- (271) *Ki oti he to'o mai, he tauaki ki te ra'ā, he haka pakapaka.*  
when finish NTR take hither NTR dry\_in\_sun to ART sun NTR CAUS dry:RED  
'After that they take (the tree bark) and put it in the sun to dry.' [Ley-5-04.009]

In a temporal sense, *ki* indicates the end of a stretch of time: 'until', as in (272).<sup>72</sup> In this sense, *ki* may be reinforced by *'ātā* (< Sp. *hasta* 'until') as in (273).

- (272) *'O ira e ko hakarē a au i a koe ki tō'oku*  
because\_of ANA IPFV NEG.IPFV leave PROP 1SG ACC ART 2SG to POSS.1SG.O  
*hope'ara'a.*  
end  
'Therefore I will not leave you till the end of my days.' [R474.010]

- (273) *Mai rā hora 'ātā ki te hora nei kai e'a haka'ou e tahi Rapa*  
from DIST time until to ART time PROX NEG.PFV go\_out again NUM one Rapa  
*Nui.*  
Nui  
'From that time until now, not one Rapa Nui left (the island) anymore.'  
[R303.211]

*Ki* has a wide range of metaphorical extensions; it is the default preposition for semantic roles like Recipient, Beneficiary and Goal (§8.8.2) as in (274). *Ki* is used to indicate an opinion or point of view: 'according to', as in (275). In addition, *ki* marks the object of middle verbs (§8.6.4.2).

- (274) *He va'ai a nua i te kai ki a koro.*  
NTR give PROP Mum ACC ART food to PROP Dad  
'Mum gave the food to Dad.' [R236.078]
- (275) *Ki te kī o te nu'u te repa nei ko Ure 'a Vai 'a Nuhe he*  
to ART say of ART people ART young\_man PROX PROM Ure a Vai a Nuhe PRED  
*kope nehenehe.*  
person beautiful  
'According to (lit. to the say of) the people, young Ure a Vai a Nuhe was a handsome man.' [R532-07.006]

Finally, in comparative constructions, *ki* marks the standard of comparison (§3.5.2.1).

#### 4.7.5 The preposition *mai* 'from'

*Mai* indicates a spatial or temporal point of origin:

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<sup>72</sup> The preverbal marker *ki* has the same function (see examples (197–198) on p. 553).

- (276) *Mai Hanga Roa i iri ai ki 'Ōroŋo.*  
 from Hanga Roa PFV ascend PVP to Orongo  
 'From Hanga Roa they went up to Orongo.' [Ley-2-02.054]
- (277) *Mai te mahana nei 'ina a nua kai haka uŋa haka'ou ki a*  
 from ART day PROX NEG PROP Mum NEG.PFV CAUS send again to PROP  
*Tiare.*  
 Tiare  
 'From this day on, Mum didn't send Tiare anymore.' [R179.046]

When *mai* is followed by a proper noun or pronoun, the proper article *a* is used (as with *ki* and *i/i*); however, the preposition *i* must be added between *mai* and the proper article, as shown in the following example:

- (278) *Ararua nō pā'eŋa e tu'u mai era, mai Tahiti 'e mai i a Tire.*  
 the\_two just side IPFV arrive hither DIST from Tahiti and from at PROP Chile  
 'The two sides came, from Tahiti and from Chile.' [R539-2.221]

The use of *mai* as a preverbal marker in subordinate clauses is discussed in §11.5.5.

#### 4.7.6 The preposition *pe* 'toward'

The preposition *pe* indicates a general direction or orientation.<sup>73</sup> Its function is similar to *ki*, but it is not goal-oriented: to go *ki* X implies that one intends to arrive at X; *pe* X does not have this implication.

- (279) *He iri te nuahine, he oho pe 'Ōroŋo.*  
 NTR ascend ART old\_woman NTR go toward Orongo  
 'The old woman went up, she went towards Orongo.' [Ley-8-52.028]
- (280) *I 'ata oho atu era pe haho o te vaikava...*  
 PFV more go away DIST toward outside of ART ocean  
 'When she went further outside toward the open sea...' [R338.006]
- (281) *E take'a mai era e au mai te pena nō pe ruŋa.*  
 IPFV see hither DIST AG 1SG from ART belt just toward above  
 'I saw him from the belt upwards.' [R106.034]

In a temporal sense, *pe* is used with the locational *mu'a* 'front' to refer to a period of time in the future, or posterior to a time of reference (see (154–155) on p. 128).

*Pe* may also indicate an approximate location as in (282), or an approximate time as in (283):

<sup>73</sup> This preposition does not occur in other languages. It may be derived from *pē* 'like', but its syntax is different: while *pē* 'like' is followed by the predicate marker *he*, *pe* 'towards' is followed by a *t*-determiner, like most prepositions.

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- (282) *Te me'e hau mau o te rahi he mā'ea, pe ruŋa pe raro*  
 ART thing exceed really of ART much PRED stone toward above toward below  
*o te ma'uŋa.*  
 of ART mountain  
 'What's really abundant (on the island) are stones, up and down the mountain.'  
 [R350.011]
- (283) *I ahiahi era pe te hora toru, he turu mai tū Tamy era.*  
 PFV afternoon DIST toward ART time three NTR go\_down hither DEM Tamy DIST  
 'Around three o'clock in the afternoon, Tamy went down.' [R315.273]

#### 4.7.7 The preposition *a* 'along; towards'

Unlike other locative prepositions, *a* is used mainly in a spatial sense, rarely in temporal expressions.<sup>74</sup>

The preposition *a* may indicate a spatial relation which is neither stationary (*'i*), nor involves a movement towards (*ki*) or away from (*mai*) an object. It is used when one object moves with respect to another object in some other way: by, along or via the other object.

- (284) *I hoki mai era ki te hare a te ara kē.*  
 PFV return hither DIST to ART house by ART road different  
 'He returned home by another road.' [R408.038]
- (285) *Ku oho 'ā Tangaroa ki te kāiŋa a roto a te vaikava.*  
 PRF go CONT Tangaroa to ART homeland by inside by ART ocean  
 'Tangaroa has gone to the island by way of the sea.' [Ley-1-06.007]

It is also used when a part of something is singled out as the location where an event takes place.

- (286) *He ha'i i a koro ararua ko nua a te ŋao, he hoŋihōŋi a*  
 NTR embrace ACC PROP Dad the\_two PROM Mum by ART neck NTR kiss:RED by  
*te 'āriŋa.*  
 ART face  
 'She embraced Dad and Mum by the neck and kissed them on the face.'  
 [R210.012]
- (287) *E hā taura: a mu'a, a tu'a, a te mata'u, a te maui.*  
 NUM four rope by front by back by ART right by ART left  
 'There are four ropes (tied to the statue): at the front, at the back, to the right, to the left.' [Ley-5-29.010–011]

<sup>74</sup> The preposition *a* (different from possessive *a* or *'a*) occurs in a few languages as a locative preposition (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011) and is reconstructed as PEP \**aa*.

A often indicates a general direction; this direction is expressed by a locational (such as *mu'a* in (288)), but there is no second referent involved with respect to which this movement takes place.

(288) *He oho, he ao a mu'a, he pū a mu'a.*  
 NTR go NTR rush by front NTR come by front  
 'They went, they came forward, rushed forward.' [Ley-4-05.012]

(289) *He take'a e Tahonga he rere a ruŋa 'i te koa.*  
 NTR see AG Tahonga NTR jump by above at ART happy  
 'When Tahonga saw this, he jumped up from joy.' [R301.210]

A indicating a direction is similar to *pe* 'toward' (§4.7.6 above.) A difference between the two is, that *a* is far more common with locationals than *pe*. Another difference is, that some expressions with *pe* have a temporal rather than a spatial sense, whereas *a* is usually spatial.

Certain combinations of *a* followed by a locational have a lexicalised meaning: *a raro*, *a vāeŋa* (§3.6.2.3) and *a tu'a* (§3.6.2.4).

#### 4.7.8 The benefactive prepositions *mo* and *mā*

The benefactive prepositions *mo* and *mā* express benefactive relations in a broad sense; they are used in situations where an event or object is destined for or aimed at the participant. This pair of prepositions displays the *o/a* distinction between two classes of possessives (§6.3.2). This distinction is only made with proper nouns and singular pronouns: with proper nouns either *mā* or *mo* is used; singular benefactive pronouns start with *mā'a-* or *mō'o-* (§4.2.3). With common nouns and with plural pronouns, *mo* is used in all situations.

Regarding the etymology of these prepositions, the PPN forms are \**mo'o*, \**ma'a*.<sup>75</sup> In Rapa Nui the glottal is still present in the singular pronouns *mā'aku* etc.; the lengthening in these forms is the result of a general tendency to lengthen the first vowel of three-syllable words. In the prepositions as separate words, the glottal has disappeared.<sup>76</sup>

A benefactive relation is in fact a possessive relationship in which a possessee is destined/intended for the possessor.<sup>77</sup> Whether *mo* or *mā* is used, depends on the relationship between the prospective possessor and possessee, as discussed in §6.3.2: *mā* is used when the possessor has control, authority or responsibility over the possessee, *mo* in all other cases. Thus, *mā* is used for possessions over which the possessor has control, as in (290). *Mo* is used for means of transport as in (291).

<sup>75</sup> The original form of both particles, with glottal, appears in other languages that preserved the PPN glottal: East Uvean, Rennell and Tongan (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011).

<sup>76</sup> See Wilson (1985) on the loss of the glottal in *t*-possessives and benefactives. For benefactives, he uses the term *irrealis*.

<sup>77</sup> In Polynesian linguistics, these forms are sometimes characterised as "irrealis possessives" (see e.g. Clark 2000a; Wilson 1982: 48): they indicate not-yet realised possession, in contrast to the "realis possessives" starting with *n-* or  $\emptyset$  (see Footnote 9 on p. 290). The likely origin of the *m*-forms is an irrealis marker *m*- (Clark 1976: 115).

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- (290) *He aya e tō'ona matu'a vahine i te manu parau mā'ana.*  
 NTR make AG POSS.3SG.O parent female ACC ART bird paper BEN.3SG.A  
 'His mother made a paper bird for him.' [R476.002]
- (291) *He pu'a i te hoi e tahi mō'ona, e tahi mo te matu'a.*  
 NTR cover ACC ART horse NUM one BEN.3SG.O NUM one for ART parent  
 'He saddled one horse for himself, one for the priest.' [R167.001]

With certain verbs, possessive *mo/mā* may express a Goal or Recipient, indicating that the object of the verb is destined for this participant; this is discussed in §8.8.2.

Apart from the uses discussed so far, both *mo* and *mā* have uses of their own. *Mo* may indicate the person towards whom an action or attitude is directed. This happens for example with the verbs *riri* 'be angry' and '*aroha* 'be sorry':

- (292) *'Ina koe ko riri mō'oku, e nua ē.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV angry BEN.1SG.O VOC Mum VOC  
 'Don't be angry with me, Mum.' [R229.497]
- (293) *He 'aroha a Vai Ora mo Tahonga.*  
 NTR compassion PROP Vai Ora for Tahonga  
 'Vai Ora felt sorry for Tahonga.' [R301.249]

*Mo* may also indicate a participant from whose perspective the event expressed in the clause is true: 'for X, as far as X is concerned'.<sup>78</sup> This use may have been influenced by Spanish *para*. In (294), the things described in the preceding context are news, not necessary for everyone, but for the person mentioned: as far as he is concerned, they are news. In (295), the clause expresses a point of view which is true for the person expressed with *mo*:

- (294) *'E te nā me'e ta'ato'a nei he parau 'āpī mō'ona.*  
 and ART PL thing all PROX PRED word new BEN.3SG.O  
 'And all of this was news for him.' [R363.055]
- (295) *Mō'oku 'ina he 'ati te noho mai o rāua 'i te kona era.*  
 BEN.1SG.O NEG PRED problem ART stay hither of 3PL at ART place DIST  
 'For me (as far as I am concerned), it is no problem if they live there.' [R647.163]

*Mā* marks the Agent in the imperfective actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3):

- (296) *Mā'aku 'ā a koe e hāpa'o atu.*  
 BEN.1SG.A IDENT PROP 2SG IPFV care\_for away  
 'I will take care of you myself.' [R310.067]

<sup>78</sup> Cf. the use of *ki* to express a point of view (§4.7.4).



### 4.7.9 The preposition *pa/pē* ‘like’

*Pē* is an equative preposition: it serves to compare two entities, expressing that one resembles the other.<sup>79</sup> Equative constructions are discussed in §3.5.2.3; in this section other syntactic and semantic particularities of *pē* will be discussed.

First of all, *pē* is usually followed by the predicate marker *he*,<sup>80</sup> not only when the compared entity is generic as in (297), but also when it is a single, identifiable entity as in (298):

(297) *He u'i atu a Eva ko te me'e pē he tiare 'ā ka 'ī.*  
 NTR look away PROP Eva PROM ART thing like PRED flower IDENT CNTG full  
 ‘Eva saw something like flowers, in great numbers.’ [R210.193]

(298) *Pē he korohu'a era ko Iovani 'Iti'iti te 'āri'a.*  
 like PRED old\_man DIST PROM Iovani Iti'iti ART face  
 ‘His face (looks) like the old man Iovani Iti'iti.’ [R416.1180]

Before *he*, *pē* is often dissimilated to *pa*. The choice between *pē* and *pa* is free; certain speakers favour one over the other.

(299) *'Arero nei pa he 'arero rapa nui 'ā.*  
 tongue PROX like PRED tongue Rapa Nui IDENT  
 ‘This language is like the Rapa Nui language.’ [R231.272]

Occasionally *pē* is followed by a *t*-determiner as in (300), or a proper noun or pronoun as in (301):

(300) *¿Pē tū huru 'ā te kī i'ā o te ŋā vāna'ā nei?*  
 like DEM manner IDENT ART say NMLZ of ART PL word PROX  
 ‘Are these words pronounced the same way (lit. is the saying like that [same] way)?’ [R615.231]

(301) *Pē ia 'ā te huru.*  
 like 3SG IDENT ART manner  
 ‘He looks like him.’ [R415.886]

As most of the examples above show, the comparison may be reinforced by the identity particle *'ā* (§5.9).

In modern Rapa Nui, *pē* also expresses the category to which someone belongs. In (302) below, *pē he 'ōtare* does not mean that the speaker resembles an orphan, but that he is an orphan. This usage may be influenced by Spanish *como*.

<sup>79</sup> *Pē* (< PPN \**pee* ‘like’) occurs in Hawaiian and Māori, but only or mainly as a bound root, followed by a demonstrative (*pēnei*). It is more common in non-EP languages.

<sup>80</sup> Interestingly, the same is true for the preposition *me* ‘like’ in Hawaiian, Marquesan and Māori (§5.3.3).

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- (302) *'Ina ō'oku matu'a, 'o ira a au e noho nei pē he*  
 NEG POSS.1SG.O parent because\_of ANA PROP 1SG IPFV stay PROX like PRED  
*'ōtare.*  
 orphan  
 'I don't have parents, therefore I live as an orphan.' [R214.013]

#### 4.7.10 The instrumental preposition *hai*

*Hai*<sup>81</sup> is an instrumental preposition, indicating the means or tool with which something is done: 'with, using, by means of':

- (303) *He pu'apu'a hai pāoa; he mate.*  
 NTR beat:RED INS club NTR die  
 'They beat her with a club and she died.' [Egt-01.082]

As discussed in §4.7.1, *hai* is not followed by a determiner, but by a bare noun. This correlates with the meaning of *hai*, which tends to occur with non-specific referents as in (303) above. Occasionally, however, *hai* is followed by pronouns or proper nouns as in (304), or by definite nouns (preceded by a demonstrative) as in (305):

- (304) *Hai Eugenio 'i te pū'oko e aña era ananake.*  
 INS Eugenio at ART head IPFV work DIST together  
 'With Eugenio at the head they worked together.' [R231.307]
- (305) *E puru rō 'ā te 'āriņa ararua hai tū paratoa era o rāua.*  
 IPFV close EMPH CONT ART face the\_two INS DEM coat DIST of 3PL  
 'The two covered their faces with their coat.' [R215.038]

The semantic range of *hai* is large. It may indicate the instrument or material with which an action is done, as in (303) above and the following examples:

- (306) *'Ina he ruku hai raperape, ni hai hanuhanu.*  
 NEG NTR dive INS swim\_fin nor INS breathe:RED  
 'They didn't dive with swimming fins or with snorkels.' [R360.004]
- (307) *E paru rō 'ā i te rāua hakari hai kī'ea.*  
 IPFV paint EMPH CONT ACC ART 3PL body INS red\_earth  
 'They painted their bodies with red earth.' [R231.095]

<sup>81</sup> This preposition is not found in any other language. It may have developed from PPN *\*fai*, which occurs in several languages as a verb or prefix meaning 'have, possess'. Reflexes of PPN *\*fai* occur in many non-EP languages; the only EP language in which it occurs, is Māori (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011). The fact that Rapa Nui *hai* is followed by a bare noun suggests that it originated from a prefix *\*fai-* (itself related to the root *\*fai* just mentioned) rather than a full word. As a prefix, it occurs for example in Nukuoro, where *hai-* is – among other things – prefixed to nouns to form derived verbs: *hai hegau* 'do work' = 'to work'; *hai bodu* 'do spouse' = 'to marry' (cf. Carroll & Soulik 1973: 628). It would be a relatively small step for such a prefix to develop into a preposition taking a bare noun complement.

*Hai* may mark various kinds of noun phrases which are in some way instrumental to the action, such as the price paid as in (308), or the language spoken as in (309).

- (308) *E ko ho'o atu ki a koe hai moni tire, ni hai torare...*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV trade away to PROP 2SG INS money Chile nor INS dollar  
 'They wouldn't pay you with Chilean money, nor with dollars...' [R239.077]
- (309) *A au i haŋa ai mo vānaŋa atu hai 'arero o tātou 'ā.*  
 PROP 1SG PFV want PVP for talk away INS tongue of 1PL.INCL IDENT  
 'I wanted to speak in our own language.' [R201.002]

As *hai* expresses the means by which something happens, it may indicate a resource. Used in a more abstract way, it indicates a reason or motive: 'because of, on account of, thanks to'.

- (310) *Hai heruru o tu'u vaikava a au e 'ara nei.*  
 INS sound of POSS.2SG.O ocean PROP 1SG IPFV wake\_up PROX  
 'I wake up with/from the sound of your ocean.' [R474.002]
- (311) *Hai ha'ere mai o Kontiki i ai ai te haŋu.*  
 INS walk hither of Kontiki PFV exist PVP ART breath  
 'Thanks to Kontiki's coming, there was relief (for the people).' [R376.077]

The NP marked with *hai* may also be a resource which is needed but not found yet. This sense is found with verbs of asking or searching as in (312), but also in other contexts as in (313):

- (312) *He nono'i e te korohu'a nei hai haraoa.*  
 NTR request AG ART old\_man PROX INS bread  
 'This old man asked for bread.' [R335.019]
- (313) *He e'a tau vi'e era mai tō'ona hare hai ahi.*  
 NTR go\_out DEM woman DIST from POSS.3SG.O house INS fire  
 'The woman left her house (to look) for fire(wood).' [Mtx-7-35.013]

Finally, *hai* may mark Patient arguments (§8.6.4.3), especially when their role is similar to Instruments.

#### 4.7.11 The deictic preposition 'ai

'Ai is a deictic particle (§4.5.4.1.2). Occasionally it is used as a preposition to point at something which is at a certain distance: 'there at/in/on...'. Like other prepositions, it may be followed by locationals as in (314–315) or nouns as in (316):

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- (314) *E pāpā, ka u'i koe 'ai ruja i te ma'uŋa te moa e rua.*  
VOC father IMP look 2SG there\_at above at ART mountain ART chicken NUM two  
'Father, look, there on the mountain are two chickens.' [R104.052]
- (315) *Te pūtē 'ai roto i te hare.*  
ART sack there\_at inside at ART house  
'The bag is there inside the house.' [R333.349]
- (316) *'E 'ai te pā'eŋa era a mātou.*  
and there\_at ART side DIST PROP 1PL.EXCL  
'And we were there on that side.' [R623.047]

This preposition may be a contraction of the deictic particle 'ai + the preposition 'i. (The glottal in 'i is not pronounced when it is not preceded by a prosodic boundary, see §2.2.5.)

#### 4.7.12 The prominence marker *ko*

The prominence marker *ko* precedes common nouns, proper nouns and pronouns.<sup>82</sup> Even though it does not mark grammatical or semantic relations in the same way as other prepositions do, it is a preposition syntactically:

1. It is never preceded or followed by another preposition.
2. When *ko* is followed by a common noun, this noun always has a *t*-determiner. Proper nouns and pronouns follow *ko* without proper article. This places *ko* in group 2 of the prepositions (§4.7.1).

*Ko* has many different uses, which can be summarised under the heading of PROMINENCE: *ko* signals that the noun phrase is in some way prominent within the context. *Ko* has two main functions:

In the first place, it marks prominent topics in verbal clauses (§8.6.2.1):

- (317) *Ko ia i eke ki tu'a o tū hoi era.*  
PROM 3SG PFV climb to back of DEM horse DIST  
'(He put the child on his horse, at the front.) He (himself) mounted on the back.'  
[R399.046]

Secondly, it marks predicates in identifying clauses (§9.2.2):

- (318) *Te kona hope'a o te nehenehe ko 'Anakena.*  
ART place last of ART beautiful PROM Anakena  
'The most beautiful place (of the island) is Anakena.' [R350.013]

<sup>82</sup> Rapa Nui also has two other particles *ko*, which should not be confused with the prominence marker: the negation (*e*) *ko* (§10.5.4) and the perfect marker *ko/ku* (§7.2.7).

As a nominal predicate marker, *ko* also marks noun phrases in focus in cleft constructions (§9.2.6):

- (319) *Ko te nūna'a era 'a 'Ōrare te nūna'a i rē.*  
 PROM ART group DIST of.A Orare ART group PFV win  
 'Orare's group was the group that won.' [R539-3.313]

Bu *ko* has a number of other uses as well:

It marks non-topicalised verbal arguments (§8.6.4.5):

- (320) *He poreko ko te heke 'Akaverio.*  
 NTR born PROM ART octopus Akaverio  
 'The octopus Akaverio was born.' [Mtx-7-14.003]

It occurs in comitative constructions (§8.10):

- (321) *He noho Rano rāua ko tā'ana poki, ko te vi'e.*  
 NTR stay Rano 3PL PROM POSS.3SG.A child PROM ART woman  
 'Rano lived with his child and his wife.' [Mtx-7-18.001]

It marks noun phrases in apposition (§5.12):

- (322) *He oho mai era te 'ariki ko Hotu Matu'a.*  
 NTR go hither DIST ART king PROM Hotu Matu'a  
 'King Hotu Matu'a came.' [Mtx-2-02.043]

It occurs in the interrogative pronoun *ko ai* 'who' (§10.3.2.1):

- (323) *¿Ko ai koe?*  
 PROM who 2SG  
 'Who are you?' [R304.097]

It occurs in exclamative clauses (§10.4.2):

- (324) *¡Ko te manu hope'a o te tau!*  
 PROM ART animal last of ART pretty  
 'What an extremely pretty animal!' [R345.072]

Finally, *ko te* + verbal noun expresses continuity of action (§3.2.3.1.1):

- (325) *Ko te kimi ko te ohu a nua.*  
 PROM ART search PROM ART shout PROP Mum  
 'Mum kept searching and shouting.' [R236.082]

In the following subsections, only those uses of *ko* are discussed which do not have a place elsewhere in this grammar. This is followed by a general discussion on the nature of *ko*.

#### 4 Closed word classes

##### 4.7.12.1 *Ko* in lists and in isolation

*Ko* is used to mark items in a list. These items may be proper nouns or common nouns with definite reference. The list may be isolated from the syntactic context as in (326), but it may also have a syntactic role in the clause: in (327) the noun phrases introduced by *ko* are direct object, yet they are marked with *ko* rather than the accusative marker *i*.<sup>83</sup>

- (326) ...*i tētere ai 'i ruŋa i te vaka te nu'u nei: ko Parano, ko Hoi*  
PFV PL:run PVP at above at ART boat ART people PROX PROM Parano PROM Hoi  
*Hiva, ko Mā'anga, ko Feri 'e ko Tira.*  
Hiva PROM Ma'anga PROM Feri and PROM Tira  
'(On 2 March 1944) the following people fled by boat: Parano, Hoi Hiva,  
Ma'anga, Feri and Tira.' [R539-1.592]

- (327) *He 'apa tahi ko te ŋā poki, ko te hare, ko te me'e ta'ato'a.*  
NTR gather all PROM ART PL child PROM ART house PROM ART thing all  
'She gathered all the children, the house, everything.' [R352.103]

*Ko* also marks noun phrases used in isolation, i.e. without a syntactic context. In a running text, examples of isolated noun phrases are hard to detect, as a noun phrase which seems to be isolated, may actually be the predicate of a nominal clause with implied subject (see (16–17) on p. 455). Clearer examples of isolated noun phrases are found in titles of stories and other texts. The following examples show that isolated pronouns and proper nouns are marked *ko*, while common nouns in isolation are marked with either *ko* or *he* (§5.3.4.1).

- (328) *He tiare ko au he raŋi he hetu'u*  
PRED flower PROM 1SG PRED sky PRED star  
'The flower, me, the sky and the stars' [R222.000]

- (329) *Ko Petero 'e ko tō'ona repahoa*  
PROM Peter and PROM POSS.3SG.O friend  
'Peter and his friend' [R428.000]

##### 4.7.12.2 *Ko* as a locative preposition

Very occasionally, *ko* is used as a preposition with a locative sense. This usage only occurs before locationals. In modern Rapa Nui, it indicates immediacy: something is in a location without delay, in a flash.

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<sup>83</sup> Common nouns in lists may also be marked with *he* (§5.3.4.1).

- (330) *He tu'u ki 'Apina, ko raro te rŭ'au nei, ko roto i te hare, ki rote piha o Vai Ora.*  
 NTR arrive to Apina PROM below ART old\_woman PROX PROM inside at ART house to inside\_ART room of Vai Ora  
 ‘When she arrived at Apina, the old woman got off (her horse) straightaway, inside the house (she went), into Vai Ora’s room.’ [R301.111]

In older texts, its use is somewhat different. The sense of immediacy is not obvious; *ko* seems to be similar in sense to other locative prepositions like *i*.

- (331) *He nunui ararua pā'iŋa ko tu'a ko te 'ana, ko haho ko te motu.*  
 PRED PL:big the\_two side PROM back PROM ART cave PROM outside PROM ART islet  
 ‘Both groups of children grew up, those in the back of the cave and those outside on the islet.’ [Mtx-3-01.293]
- (332) *Ka varu mai te pū'oko ki toe 'iti'iti ko vāeŋa nō o te rau'oho.*  
 IMP shave hither ART head to remain little:RED PROM middle just of ART hair  
 ‘Shave the head, so a little hair will remain only in the middle.’ [Ley-6-44.033]

#### 4.7.12.3 Lexicalised *ko*

In a number of cases, *ko* has become lexicalised, i.e. become part of a word or expression. In these expressions, *ko* is always used, even in syntactic contexts in which it would not occur otherwise. One example is the construction *ko ŋā kope* ‘the people, the guys’ (§5.5.2). Another example is *ta'e ko 'iti*, which acts as a frozen expression meaning ‘not a few, a considerable number, many’:<sup>84</sup>

- (333) *He turu ia te taŋata ta'e ko 'iti ki tū kona era o te pahī.*  
 NTR go\_down then ART person CONNEG PROM small to DEM place DIST of ART ship  
 ‘Quite a few people went down to the place where the ship was.’ [R250.211]

Thirdly, the word *tetu* ‘huge, enormous’ is usually preceded by *ko*. This combination *ko tetu* is lexicalised, that is, its use cannot be predicted from *ko + tetu*.<sup>85</sup> *Ko tetu* is used very flexibly: as an adjective modifying a noun, but also freestanding as in (334).

- (334) *Nā, te vave e tahi ko uru mai 'ā ko tetu.*  
 MED ART wave NUM one PRF enter hither CONT PROM huge  
 ‘Look, there comes a huge wave.’ [R243.028]

<sup>84</sup> All other adjectives are negated by *ta'e* without the use of *ko* (see (148) on p. 506).

<sup>85</sup> *Ko* in *ko tetu* may have found its origin in the exclamatory *ko*, discussed in sec. §10.4.2.

4.7.12.4 What is *ko*?

§4.7.12 started out with the observation that *ko* is a preposition. The question remains, how the function of *ko* should be characterised in general – if this is possible at all.

The multitude of uses of *ko* discussed in various parts of this grammar make clear that *ko* is a marker with an extremely wide range of use. The most common (and probably syntactically most significant) uses are those where *ko* marks a core constituent: a topicalised subject of a verbal clause, the predicate of an identifying clause, or a noun phrase in focus in a cleft construction.

So on the one hand, *ko* marks NPs in focus, a function associated with high information load: focus highlights new and significant information. On the other hand, *ko* marks topical NPs, a function associated with a relatively low information load – topicalised NPs represents information already established in the context (cf. Levinsohn 2007: 51–52). Several authors have pointed out this dual nature of Polynesian *ko* (e.g. Clark 1976 on PPN, Bauer 1991 and Pearce 1999 on Māori; Massam, Lee & Rolle 2006 on Niuean<sup>86</sup>),<sup>87</sup> Pragmatically, these two functions can be combined under the label *prominence*: in both functions, the noun phrase is in some way prominent or highlighted. For this reason, *ko* is uniformly glossed as PROM.

However, the list in §4.7.12 above shows that the range of functions of *ko* is much wider than topic and focus. Some uses can be reduced to the categories above; for example, *ko ai* in questions is a constituent in focus; the same may be true for *ko* in exclamative clauses, while *ko* in isolated NPs such as titles may be topical. Not all uses are easy to categorise, however: it is less clear how *ko* in appositions, lists, comitative constructions ('X with *ko* Y') and with verbal nouns should be analysed as either topic or focus. The only feature connecting these functions, is that they involve a function not marked by any other preposition. The conclusion seems justified that *ko* is a DEFAULT PREPOSITION for noun phrases which have no thematic role in the clause (i.e. no role marked by any other preposition), an analysis proposed by Clark (1976: 45) for Proto-Polynesian, and adopted by Massam, Lee & Rolle (2006) for Niuean. This analysis is plausible for Rapa Nui as well. Most uses of *ko* involve a noun phrase which either does not have a semantic role, or which has been moved out of its normal argument position. (The only exceptions are non-topicalised subjects marked with *ko*, see §8.6.4.5.)

In many functions, *ko* is in complementary distribution with the nominal predicate marker *he*. (This does not imply that both are structurally identical: while *ko* is a preposition, *he* is a determiner.) Table 4.19 shows how both are used in similar contexts.

As discussed in §5.3.4.1, *he* marks non-referential noun phrases, while other determiners indicate referentiality. We may conclude that noun phrases in non-thematic positions are either non-referential, in which case they are marked with the predicate marker *he*, or referential, in which case they get the default preposition *ko*. For common nouns, both

<sup>86</sup> In Niuean, *ko* has an even wider range of uses than in Rapa Nui, as it also occurs before verbs. Incidentally, Massam, Lee & Rolle (2006: 15) mistakenly assume that the same is possible in Rapa Nui, based on confusion of the prominence marker *ko* and perfect *ko*.

<sup>87</sup> According to Clark (1976: 46), the functions of *ko* can possibly be reduced to “nominal predicate” and “topic”, and the two should not be confused.



Table 4.19: Comparison of *ko* and *he*

	proper nouns incl. pronouns		common nouns	
topicalisation in verbal clauses	<i>ko</i>	§8.6.2.1	<i>ko</i> or <i>he</i>	§8.6.2.1; §8.6.2.2
complement of naming verbs	<i>ko</i>	§8.6.4.5	<i>he</i>	§8.6.4.5
NP predicates	<i>ko</i>	§9.2.2	<i>he</i> or <i>ko</i>	§9.2.1; §9.2.2
appositions	<i>ko</i>	§5.12.2	<i>he</i> or <i>ko</i>	§5.12.1
content questions	<i>ko</i>	§10.3.2.1 ( <i>ko ai</i> ‘who’)	<i>he</i>	§10.3.2.2 ( <i>he aha</i> ‘what’)
in isolation	<i>ko</i>	§4.7.12.1	<i>he</i>	§5.3.4.1
in lists	<i>ko</i>	§4.7.12.1	<i>ko</i> or <i>he</i>	§5.3.4.1

strategies are possible. Pronouns and proper nouns, on the other hand, are necessarily referential, so they are always marked with *ko*.

## 4.8 Conclusions

Closed word classes in Rapa Nui can be placed on a continuum ranging from full words (= open classes of words occurring in the nucleus of a phrase which is a constituent of the clause) to particles (= closed classes occurring in the periphery of a phrase).

Pronouns are close to the full word end of the continuum: they are a closed class, but serve as clause constituents and may take some of the same noun phrase modifiers as proper nouns. They are differentiated for singular, dual, and plural, though the dual/plural distinction was lost in the second and third person.

Both numerals and quantifiers show a massive shift between older and modern Rapa Nui under Tahitian influence. All numerals above seven (or even above five) were replaced by Tahitian equivalents, and in certain contexts the Tahitian terms are used even for lower numerals. On the other hand, a set of reduplicated numerals unique to Rapa Nui (the definite numerals) was preserved, though their use is on the wane (except *ararua* ‘the two’, which was lexicalised).

Three quantifiers were introduced from Tahitian, while existing quantifiers underwent semantic shifts. Interestingly, the introduced quantifiers were incorporated into Rapa Nui in ways not predictable from their Tahitian origin; their syntax shows features not found in Tahitian.

Demonstratives are very common in Rapa Nui. One set of demonstratives is differentiated for distance (proximal, medial, distal); it actually consists of four subsets with

#### 4 Closed word classes

similar forms, which occur in different syntactic contexts: as determiners, pronouns, locationals and postnuclear particles. The other set consists of a single member *tū*, not differentiated for distance. Demonstratives are extremely common in discourse; in combination with articles, they serve to indicate definiteness, deixis and anaphora.

Rapa Nui has about a dozen prepositions. Prepositions impose restrictions on the following noun phrase: after most prepositions the noun phrase must be introduced by a determiner. The instrumental preposition *hai*, however, precludes the use of a determiner (perhaps reflecting its origin as a prefix), while *pē* 'like' is usually followed by the predicate marker *he*, just like its counterparts in other Polynesian languages (even when these are not etymologically related to *pē*).

The most versatile preposition is *ko*; it marks noun phrases with a wide range of functions: prominent topics, constructions in focus, nominal predicates, et cetera. It can be characterised as a default preposition, marking all noun phrases not marked otherwise.

# 5 The noun phrase

## 5.1 The structure of the common noun phrase

As discussed in §3.2, Rapa Nui has three types of nominal elements: common nouns, personal nouns and locationals. This chapter discusses the different elements occurring in the noun phrase. The largest part (sections §5.1–5.12) is devoted to the common noun phrase and its constituents. Proper noun phrases may only contain a subset of these constituents; these are discussed in §5.13.

A prototypical common noun phrase consists of a noun, preceded by a determiner and possibly other elements, and possibly followed by adjectives and other elements. Within the noun phrase, a large number of different positions can be distinguished. Some of these contain a single word, others may contain a phrase. Each position may be empty, including – under certain circumstances – the nucleus. Some positions are mutually exclusive; for example, of the three possessive positions, only one (occasionally two) can be filled in a given noun phrase.

Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 represent the structure of the common noun phrase.

Table 5.1: The common noun phrase: prenominal elements

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
prep.	quantif. phrase	coll. marker	determiner	quantif. phrase	poss.	plural mkr.	nucleus
<i>e,</i> <i>'i,</i> <i>mai</i> etc.	QtP	<i>kuā</i>	<i>te;</i> <i>t</i> -poss.; dem.det.; NumP; <i>he</i>	QtP	Ø-poss.	<i>ηā;</i> <i>mau</i>	noun; compound noun
§	4.4	5.2	5.3; 4.6.2; 4.6.4; 6.2.1	4.4; 5.4	6.2.1	5.5	5.6; 5.7

Apart from these, the noun phrase may contain the following elements:

- appositions (§5.12)
- relative clauses (§11.4)
- vocative particles (§8.9)

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Table 5.2: The common noun phrase: postnominal elements

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
modif.	quantif. phrase	adverb	emph. mkr	limit. mkr	PND	ident. mkr	num. phrase	poss.	deictic part.	
AdjP	QtP	<i>haka'ou;</i> <i>tako'a</i>	<i>mau</i>	<i>nō</i>	<i>nei;</i> <i>ena;</i> <i>era</i>	<i>'ā;</i> <i>'ana</i>	NumP	Ø-poss; poss. phrase	<i>ai</i>	
§	5.7	4.4	5.8	5.8	5.8	4.6.3	5.9	5.4	6.2.1	5.10

Below are examples illustrating the different noun phrase positions. The constituents are numbered according to the numbering in the tables.

- (1) *e<sub>0</sub> kuā<sub>2</sub> tō'oku<sub>3</sub> pāpā<sub>7</sub> era<sub>13</sub>*  
AG COLL POSS.1SG.O father DIST  
'My father and others (said)' [R412.383]
- (2) *mo<sub>0</sub> te<sub>3</sub> nu'u<sub>7</sub> pa'ari<sub>8</sub> ta'ato'a<sub>9</sub> mau<sub>11</sub> nei<sub>13</sub> 'ā<sub>14</sub>*  
for ART people adult all really PROX IDENT  
'for all the older people here' [R207.017]
- (3) *ki<sub>0</sub> tū<sub>3</sub> taηata<sub>7</sub> haka'ou<sub>10</sub> era<sub>13</sub>*  
to DEM man again DIST  
'(he said) to that other man' [R102.020]
- (4) *i<sub>0</sub> tā'ana<sub>3</sub> [poki vahine]<sub>7</sub> mau<sub>11</sub> nō<sub>12</sub> [e tahi]<sub>15</sub>*  
ACC POSS.3SG.A child female really just NUM one  
'(to look at) his really only daughter' [Luke 8:41-42]
- (5) *i<sub>0</sub> te<sub>3</sub> pāpā<sub>7</sub> era<sub>13</sub> [o Pētero]<sub>16</sub> ai<sub>17</sub>*  
ACC ART father DIST of Peter there  
'(look at) Petero's father there' [Notes]
- (6) *rauhuru<sub>1</sub> te<sub>3</sub> me'e<sub>7</sub> mātāmu'a<sub>8</sub>*  
diverse ART thing past  
'(he saw) many things from the past' [R423.021]
- (7) *[me'e rahi nō atu]<sub>4</sub> rāua<sub>5</sub> ηā<sub>6</sub> poki<sub>7</sub>*  
[thing many just away 3PL PL child  
'many children of theirs (were born)' [R438.049]

In §5.2–5.12, different elements in the common noun phrase will be discussed in turn. Some elements are discussed in other chapters: quantifiers and demonstratives are discussed in Chapter 4, possessors in Chapter 6. See the references in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.

## 5.2 The collective marker *kuā*

*Kuā* (etymology unknown; there is also a less common variant *koā*, which does not occur in older texts) indicates a human collectivity, a group of people belonging together. With a singular noun, as in examples (8) and (9) below, it has an associative sense (Dixon 2012: 50): *kuā N* means ‘N and the ones around him/her, N and the others’. When the noun itself has plural reference, as in (10–13) below, *kuā* refers to ‘the group of N’.

In older texts *kuā* is rare and only occurs before proper names. Nowadays its use has increased in frequency and it occurs before the following elements:

### Proper names

- (8) *Pē ira a kuā Tiare i iri ai ki 'uta e tahi mahana.*  
 like ANA PROP COLL Tiare PFV ascend PVP to inland NUM one day  
 ‘Thus Tiare and the others went to the countryside one day.’ [R151.048]

**Kinship terms** Examples are *koro* ‘Dad’, *nua* ‘Mum’:

- (9) *He nonoho a kuā koro he kakai.*  
 NTR PL:sit PROP COLL Dad NTR PL:eat  
 ‘Dad and the others sat down and ate.’ [R333.538]

**Other personal nouns** An example is *māhaki* ‘that person’:

- (10) *E Tiare, e hāpa'o rivariva koe i a kuā māhaki.*  
 VOC flower EXH care\_for good:RED 2SG ACC PROP COLL companion  
 ‘Tiare, take good care of the little ones.’ [R496.015]

### Pronouns

- (11) *¿O kuā kōrua i aña?*  
 of COLL 2PL PFV make  
 ‘Did you (pl.) make it together?’ [R415.808]

In short, *kuā* occurs before the same words which can also be preceded by the proper article *a*, i.e. proper nouns (§3.3.2). This may have led Du Feu (1987: 474) to classify *kuā* as a proper article as well. However, *kuā* is different from the proper article. As examples (8), (9) and (10) show, *kuā* can co-occur with the proper article. This indicates that the two do not belong to the same class of particles, but occupy different slots in the noun phrase.

In fact, the syntactic behavior of *kuā* shows it to be quite different from *a*. *Kuā* occurs in a number of contexts in which *a* is impossible:

In the first place, even though *kuā* usually occurs before proper nouns, it occasionally occurs before common nouns. *Repa* ‘friend’ is a common noun which never takes the proper article *a*, but it can be preceded by *kuā*:

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- (12) *Ka oho mai, e kuā repa ē.*  
IMP go hither VOC COLL young\_man VOC  
'Come, my friends.' [R313.004]

Secondly, unlike the proper article *a*, *kuā* occurs after the preposition *o*, as in (11) above. Thirdly, unlike the proper article, *kuā* can be followed by a possessive pronoun:

- (13) *Ko kuā tō'oku ŋā poki taina rikiriki era ko tō'oku*  
PROM COLL POSS.1SG.O PL child sibling small:PL:RED DIST PROM POSS.1SG.O  
*pāpārū'au era.*  
grandfather DIST  
'We were with my little brothers and my grandfather.' [R123.014]

In the fourth place, unlike the proper article, *kuā* can be followed by the plural marker *ŋā*, as in (13) above.

Finally, *kuā* occurs in the vocative, as in (12) above, something which is not possible with *a*.

All of this shows that *kuā* not only occurs in the proper noun phrase (§5.13.1), but also in the common noun phrase. The fact that *kuā* mostly occurs before the same nouns as the proper article, may have semantic rather than syntactic reasons. The proper article *a* precedes nouns which have a unique referent, and similarly, *kuā* indicates reference to a group which is identified by a unique referent. This unique referent is either a central member of the group (*kuā koro* 'father and company', *kuā Tiare* 'Tiare and the others'), or identified with the group as such (*e kuā repa ē* 'you friends', *kuā ŋā kope* 'guys').

## 5.3 Determiners

### 5.3.1 Introduction

The term DETERMINER is used for a category which includes articles, as well as other elements which occur in the same position in the noun phrase, such as demonstratives and possessive pronouns (Dryer 2007b: 161). This means that 'determiner' is a purely structural category; the function of elements in determiner positions may vary.

Table 5.3 lists the elements occurring in the determiner position in Rapa Nui.

These elements are in complementary distribution; for example, the article *te*, demonstrative determiners and possessive pronouns of the *t*-series never occur together.

There is a fundamental distinction between the predicate marker *he* and the other determiners. Categories 1–3 introduce referential noun phrases; in fact, it can be argued that the determiner serves to make the noun phrase referential (see §5.3.3). Categories 1–3 will be referred to as *t*-determiners, as most of these elements start with *t*.

The predicate marker *he*, on the other hand, marks non-referential noun phrases, such as nominal predicates. Nevertheless, *he* is analysed as a determiner, because it occurs in the same structural position (§5.3.4.2).

Table 5.3: Determiners

	element	§	referential
1.	the article <i>te</i>	5.3.3	yes
2.	demonstrative determiners	4.6.2, 4.6.4	yes
3.	possessive pronouns ( <i>t</i> -series)	4.2.2 (forms); 6.2.1 (use)	yes
4.	numeral phrases	5.4.1	–
5.	the predicate marker <i>he</i>	5.3.4	no

Category 4, numeral phrases, is neutral with respect to referentiality. Numeral phrases in determiner position occur both in referential noun phrases and in certain types of non-referential noun phrases; in both cases, they provide the noun phrase with an obligatory determiner.

In the following subsections, first the distribution of *t*-determiners will be examined (§5.3.2). §5.3.3 then examines the function of the determiner *te*, leading to the conclusion that *te* marks referentiality, not specificity or definiteness. §5.3.4 discusses the use of the predicate marker *he* and shows that, despite its different character compared to other determiners, it should be analysed as a determiner. Finally, §5.3.5 shows that numeral phrases in determiner position occur in both referential and non-referential noun phrases, which shows that they are neutral with respect to referentiality.

### 5.3.2 The syntax of *t*-determiners

In this section I will show that the use of *te* is largely determined by syntax. In many contexts, a *t*-determiner is needed; if no other determiner is present, *te* is used as default determiner.

In the following sections the syntactic conditions are listed under which determiners are or are not used. First the conditions will be listed under which determiners are obligatory (§5.3.2.1), then contexts in which determiners are excluded (§5.3.2.2), and finally contexts in which the determiner is optional (§5.3.2.3).

According to Chapin (1974), Rapa Nui is much more flexible than other Polynesian languages in the omission of the article, and the circumstances under which the article can be omitted are not completely clear. A close look reveals, however, that determiners can only be omitted in a limited set of specific contexts.

#### 5.3.2.1 Obligatory *t*-determiners

In Rapa Nui discourse, the vast majority of all noun phrases is preceded by a determiner. The most neutral determiner is the article *te*; in fact, *te* is the most common word overall in Rapa Nui discourse.

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In many cases, determiners are obligatory. Two main rules can be formulated:<sup>1</sup>

1. Noun phrases having a core grammatical role in the clause must contain a *t*-determiner or a numeral phrase in determiner position.
2. Noun phrases preceded by a preposition (with the exception of *pē* ‘like’ and *hai* ‘with (instrumental)’) must immediately be followed by a *t*-determiner.

Rule 1 is illustrated in the following examples, both with a subject noun phrase:

- (14) *He oho \*(te) taŋata.*  
NTR go PRED man  
‘(The) people came.’ [R648.165]
- (15) *He poreko e toru poki.*  
NTR born NUM three child  
‘Three children were born.’ [R352.010]

Rule 2 is true for all prepositions, including the Agent marker *e* (which often marks subjects) and the accusative marker *i*, but with the exception of *pē* ‘like’ and *hai* ‘with’ (§4.7.1). It is stricter than rule 1: the determiner must follow the preposition immediately and it must be a *t*-determiner. This means that noun phrases preceded by a preposition cannot have a prenominal numeral, as the latter excludes a *t*-determiner. In some cases a preposition is omitted to allow for a prenominal numeral. In the example below, the emphasised noun phrase is a direct object, which would normally be preceded by the accusative marker *i*; in this case however, the accusative marker must be omitted, as the noun phrase does not have a *t*-determiner.

- (16) *He aŋa (\*i) e tahi paepae.*  
NTR make ACC NUM one shack  
‘He built a shelter.’ [Blx-2-1.015]

Most other prepositions cannot be omitted, however. After these prepositions, numerals in determiner position are excluded, so numerals must be placed after the noun. See §5.4 for a fuller discussion and examples.

The rule that prepositions are immediately followed by a *t*-determiner, also has consequences for noun phrases containing a quantifier. As Table 4.14 on p. 160 shows, certain quantifiers may precede the determiner (*ta'ato'a te taŋata* ‘all the people’) or occur without determiner (*ta'ato'a taŋata* ‘every man’). But when the noun phrase is preceded by a preposition, nothing may precede the determiner, so these constructions are excluded. The quantifier must either occur after the determiner (PREP *te ta'ato'a taŋata*), or after the noun (PREP *te taŋata ta'ato'a*).

<sup>1</sup> NB These rules only apply to common nouns, which have a determiner position in the noun phrase. With personal nouns, the proper article *a* is used, but not in exactly the same contexts as common noun determiners (§5.13.2.1).



The quantifier *me'e rahi* 'many/much' (§4.4.7.1) excludes the use of a determiner; this means it cannot occur at all in noun phrases preceded by a preposition. (In this case, speakers may resort to using the adjective *rahi* 'many/much' as an alternative strategy, see (107) on p. 171.)

Exceptions to rules 1 and 2 are only found in a few well-defined contexts, which are described in the next two subsections. Most of these exceptions only apply to rule 1; there are very few situations in which rule 2 is violated.

### 5.3.2.2 Contexts in which determiners are excluded

Determiners are excluded in the following contexts:

1. When the noun is preceded by the quantifier *me'e rahi* 'many/much' (§4.4.7.1).<sup>2</sup> As discussed above, this means that *me'e rahi* cannot be preceded by a preposition.

(17) *Me'e rahi nu'u i māmate.*  
 thing many/much people PFV PL:die  
 'Many people died.' [R532-05.002]

2. When the noun is followed by *aha* 'what' or *hē* 'which' (§10.3.2.2, §10.3.2.3), even when preceded by a preposition (an exception to rule 2 formulated above):

(18) *¿'I kona hē te māmoē nei?*  
 at place CQ ART sheep PROX  
 'Where is this sheep?' [R536.037]

3. When the noun phrase is preceded by the instrumental preposition *hai* (§4.7.10):

(19) *He pu'apu'a hai pāoa; he mate.*  
 NTR beat:RED INS war\_club NTR die  
 'They beat her with a club and she died.' [Egt-01.082]

4. In a few expressions in which the noun phrase is non-referential, even when preceded by a preposition (another exception to rule 2). These expressions are typically repeated noun phrases with a distributive sense:

(20) *He e'a rā matu'a Iporito ki hare era ki hare era.*  
 NTR go\_out DIST parent Hippolyte to house DIST to house DIST  
 'Father Hippolyte went here and there (lit. to that house to that house).'  
 [R231.282]

(21) *He oho hare 'iti hare nui ki te taŋata.*  
 NTR go house small house big to ART man  
 'He went to all the houses (lit. small house big house) to the people.' [R368.056]

<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, *me'e rahi* itself could be analysed as a determiner.

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In these cases the noun phrase does not refer to any house in particular: *hare era* in (20) does not refer to a certain house, but to houses in general. In other words, the noun phrase is non-referential. If the article were used (*ki te hare era*), the noun phrase would refer to a specific house.

### 5.3.2.3 Contexts in which *t*-determiners are optional

In the following situations, *t*-determiners are optional:

1. In a somewhat informal style, the determiner can be left out in the second and following items of enumerations or lists:  
(22) *Māuruuru ki a rāua 'e ki te nu'u era hua'ai, matu'a, nu'u pa'ari...*  
thank fo PROP 3PL and to ART people DIST family parent people old  
'Thanks to them, and to the family members, parents, old people...' [R202.004]
2. Occasionally, the determiner is omitted when the noun phrase contains the plural marker *ηā* (§5.5.2).
3. Sometimes the determiner is omitted in sentence-initial noun phrases which contain a postnominal demonstrative (*nei*, *ena* or *era*). The noun phrase may be the subject of a verbal (23) or nominal clause (24), or a left-dislocated constituent (25):  
(23) *Nu'u nei ko hoki mai 'ā mai Tahiti ki Rapa Nui.*  
people PROX PRF return hither CONT from Tahiti to Rapa Nui  
'These people had returned from Tahiti to Rapa Nui.' [R231.086]  
(24) *Kai ena i a kōrua, kai rivariva.*  
food MED at PROP 2PL food good:RED  
'That food you have is good food.' [R310.262]  
(25) *Taŋata nei ko Pāpu'e, 'i Mā'ea Makohe tō'ona hare.*  
man PROX PROM Papu'e at Ma'ea Makohe POSS.3SG.O house  
'This man Papu'e, his house was in Ma'ea Makohe.' [R372.035]

In these cases, the absence of the article makes no difference in meaning; the omission is a purely stylistic matter, and limited to a somewhat informal style.<sup>3</sup>

4. The determiner is sometimes omitted with the quantifiers *ta'ato'a* 'all' (§4.4.2) and *rauhuru* 'diverse' (§4.4.5), as well as the old quantifier *ananake* 'all' (§4.4.4.2).
5. The determiner can be left out after *koia ko* 'with', which indicates attendant circumstances (§8.10.4.2).

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<sup>3</sup> Note that the same happens in verb phrases: aspect markers are occasionally left out at the beginning of a sentence, but only if the verb phrase has a postverbal particle (§7.2.2).

### 5.3.3 The function of the article *te*

The article *te* is widespread in Polynesian languages.<sup>4</sup> Older descriptions characterise it as a definite article, while *he* is described as an indefinite article. According to Du Feu (1996: 11), *te* in Rapa Nui is a [+specific] article, while *he* is [±specific]. However, in actual fact *he* and *te* are not two articles which can be substituted for each other. They occur in quite different syntactic contexts. *He* mainly introduces noun phrases which serve as predicates of non-verbal clauses (this will be discussed in §5.3.4 below). It does not occur, for example, in noun phrases serving as subject or object of a verbal clause:

- (26) \**He oho he taŋata ki te hare.*  
 NTR go PRED man to ART house  
 ‘A man went home.’
- (27) \**Ko tike'a 'ā a au (i) he honu.*  
 PRF see CONT PROP 1SG ACC PRED turtle  
 ‘I have seen a turtle.’

This means that *te* is the only full-fledged article in Rapa Nui. As indicated in §5.3.1, it is in complementary distribution with the other *t*-determiners: demonstratives and possessive pronouns of the *t*-series.

The article *te* occurs with all common nouns, that is, all nouns which do not take the proper article *a* (§5.13.2). It is not specified for gender or case. Neither is it specified for number:<sup>5</sup> both singular and plural nouns are introduced by *te*. Number is indicated by the plural marker *ŋā*, by numerals or understood from the context.

*Te* can be used with count nouns as in (28), mass nouns as in (29), and abstract concepts as in (30):

- (28) *He tu'u mai te taŋata, te vi'e, he popo mai ki roto ki te hare.*  
 NTR arrive hither ART man ART woman NTR pack hither to inside to ART house  
 ‘Men and women arrived and crowded into the house.’ [Ley-5-34.009]
- (29) *Ko mate atu 'ana ki te vai mo unu.*  
 PRF die away CONT to ART water for drink  
 ‘I’m dying for water to drink.’ [R303.032]
- (30) *Te haya rahi pa he manu era he paloma...*  
 ART love much like PRED bird DIST PRED dove  
 ‘Great love is like a dove...’ [R222.036–037]

<sup>4</sup> In fact, cognates of *te* occur in all Polynesian languages, though in some language PPN \**te* underwent an irregular change (e.g. Tongan *he*, Samoan *le*). Interestingly, *te* as a definite or specific article is not reconstructed for any protolanguage prior to PPN; however, Clark (2015) shows that possible cognates occur in various Oceanic languages, mostly as an indefinite article. If these are indeed cognates, this article extended its use to definite NPs in PPN.

<sup>5</sup> This is different from the situation in some other EP languages, where the plural marker is in determiner position and in complementary distribution with *te*; see Footnote 17 on p. 249.

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Is *te* a definite article, as older descriptions suggest? Lyons (1999) defines definiteness in terms of IDENTIFIABILITY: the definite article signals that the hearer is in a position to identify the referent of a noun phrase. When a speaker says ‘Pass me the hammer’, the hearer infers that there is a single hammer that he/she is able to identify.<sup>6</sup>

In this sense, *te* cannot be considered a definite article. In many cases, *te* introduces noun phrases with indefinite reference.

- (31) *Ko tu'u 'ana a au ki ruŋa i te henua e hitu.*  
 PRF arrive CONT PROP 1SG to above at ART land NUM seven  
 ‘(In my dream) I arrived on seven islands.’ [R420.014]

Even when not definite, *te* usually refers to a SPECIFIC entity. Thus in the following example, *te taŋata e tahi* refers to a specific man; his name is mentioned straight afterwards.

- (32) *'I te noho iŋa tuai era 'ā te taŋata e tahi te 'iŋoa ko*  
 at ART stay NMLZ ancient DIST IDENT ART man NUM one ART name PROM  
*Tu'uhakararo.*  
 Tu'uhakararo  
 ‘In the old times (there was) a man called Tu'uhakararo.’ [R477.002]

However, *te* can also be used in non-specific contexts. This is for example the case in general statements, in which the noun phrases have generic reference:

- (33) *E tano nō mo ma'u i te mōai e ho'e 'ahuru toneladas ... e te*  
 IPFV correct just for carry ACC ART statue NUM one ten tons AG ART  
*taŋata e ho'e hānere va'u 'ahuru.*  
 man NUM one hundred eight ten  
 ‘It is possible to transport a statue of ten tons... by one hundred and eighty men.’  
 [R376.062]

This sentence does not refer to any specific situation involving a specific statue and specific people, but to statues and people in general.

A noun phrase is also non-specific when its referent is hypothetical. This happens for example when the item is desired or sought as in (34–35), denied as in (36), or its existence is questioned as in (37). In all these examples, the referent has not been mentioned in the preceding context, but even so, *te* is used:

- (34) *...mo ai o te moni mo ho'o mai i te haraoa.*  
 for exist of ART money for trade hither ACC ART bread  
 ‘(He sells food) in order to have money to buy bread.’ [R156.023]

<sup>6</sup> As the notion of identifiability is not without problems, Lyons (1999) also uses the notion of INCLUSIVENESS: the definite article signals that there is only one entity satisfying the description used, relative to the context. Thus in ‘There was a wedding. The bride was radiant,’ the hearer cannot identify the bride (he does not know who she is), and yet ‘the bride’ is definite: the article indicates that in the given situation there is only one bride.

- (35) *He kī ō'oku ki tō'oku ηā poki taina era mo oho o mātou mo*  
 NTR say POSS.1SG.O to POSS.1SG.O PL child sibling DIST for go of 1PL.EXCL for  
*kimi i te pipi.*  
 search ACC ART shell  
 'I told my brothers and sisters that we would go to look for shells.' [R125.002]
- (36) *'Ina ko kai i te kai mata.*  
 NEG NEG.IPFV eat ACC ART food raw  
 'Don't eat raw food.' (Weber 2003b: 61)
- (37) *—ĵE ai rō 'ā te ika o roto? —'Ina e tahi.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART fish of inside NEG NUM one  
 '—Are there any fish inside? —Not one.' [R241.058]

We may conclude that the article *te* in Rapa Nui does not indicate definiteness or specificity.<sup>7</sup> Rapa Nui does have other devices to indicate these:

- The article in combination with a postnominal demonstrative indicates definiteness (§4.6.3.1).
- To indicate a specific number, numerals are used. The numeral *e tahi* 'one' may function almost as the equivalent of an indefinite article (§5.4.3).

This raises the question whether *te* has any meaning at all. Its role seems to be purely syntactic as a default determiner: whenever a determiner is needed and the noun phrase has no other determiner, *te* is used. However, this begs the question why the syntax requires a determiner at all in the contexts discussed in §5.3.2. To recapitulate: *te* (or another *t*-determiner) is generally required in core grammatical roles and after prepositions. On the other hand, *t*-determiners do not occur when the noun phrase serves as a predicate; in that case *he* is used (§5.3.4). This suggests that *te* does have a semantic function: the article *te* (and other *t*-determiners) signals REFERENTIALITY; it turns a common noun into a referential expression.

A common noun as such is not referential; in itself it does not refer to an entity, but denotes a certain property which defines a class of entities. A determiner is needed to create an expression which refers to one or more entities belonging to this class, and only on this condition can the noun be used as a subject or object, or as complement of a preposition. The noun phrase may refer to a specific entity (whether known to the hearer or not, i.e. definite or indefinite) or to some unspecified one: referentiality is not the same as specificity.

A noun phrase in argument position or after a preposition is referential, so it needs a determiner. Any determiner will do: a demonstrative, a possessive pronoun, or – by

<sup>7</sup> One could wonder whether an element not encoding definiteness or specificity still qualifies as an article. Dryer (2007b: 157) answers this question in the affirmative.

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default – the article *te*.<sup>8</sup> On the other hand, in order for a noun to function as predicate, *t*-determiners are excluded: the predicate should not be referential, but denote a property.

This analysis explains why determiners are used with noun phrases in argument positions and after prepositions, while *he* is used with predicate noun phrases. It is further confirmed by a number of other phenomena.

In the first place, as discussed in the section on quantifiers, the article is often omitted with a pronominal quantifier (§4.4.2 on *ta'ato'a* ‘all’; §4.4.5 on *rauhuru* ‘diverse’; §4.4.7.1 on *me'e rahi* ‘many’). While referential noun phrases presume the existence of an entity, noun phrases with the universal quantifier ‘all’ do not; in other words, they can be considered non-referential.

It is thus not surprising that with the universal quantifier, the article can be left out. Now this does not explain yet why the article can also be left out with *rauhuru* ‘diverse’ and *me'e rahi* ‘many’: unlike the universal quantifier, these do imply the existence of a set of entities. However, they do not single out a definite number of individuals from a set; rather, they denote an unspecified subset from the total set of entities denoted by the noun. ‘Many people went’ implies that there exists a subset from the class of ‘people’ for whom the predicate ‘went’ is true, but without being specific about the extent of this subset. While these expressions are not strictly non-referential, they appear to be lower on the referentiality scale than expressions referring to individuated entities. These quantifiers are somewhat similar to distributional expressions (§5.3.2.2), which likewise exclude the article *te*:

- (38) *He e'a rā matu'a Iporito ki hare era ki hare era.*  
NTR go\_out DIST parent Hippolytus to house DIST to house DIST  
‘Father Hippolytus went here and there (lit. to that house to that house).’  
[R231.282]

Secondly, as will be discussed below (§5.3.4), *t*-determiners are excluded – and the predicate marker *he* is used – not only with nominal predicates, but with other non-referential noun phrases as well:

- noun phrases in apposition. Noun phrases in apposition do not refer to an entity or set of entities, but depend for their reference on the preceding head noun. The function of the apposition is to specify a further property of this head noun; they are more like predicates than referential expressions.
- noun phrases after the comparative preposition *pē* ‘like’ (§4.7.9). Interestingly, the same constraint applies to the preposition *me* ‘like’, which occurs in Marquesan

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<sup>8</sup> Rigo & Vernaudo (2004: 467) apply the same analysis to the Tahitian article *te*. They refer to Lemaréchal (1989), who analyses such elements as translating a “nom” into a “substantif”. A “nom” expresses a quality (e.g. ‘doctor’ = the quality of being a doctor), while a determiner converts this into a referring expression (a person who has the quality of being a doctor). Gorrie, Kellner & Massam (2010) give a partly similar analysis for determiners in Niuean: determiners are the obligatory elements which allow a noun to function as an argument. They separate this function from referentiality, which in their analysis is provided by other noun phrase elements.

(Cablitz 2006: 136–137), Hawaiian (Cook 1999: 53; Elbert & Pukui 1979: 156), Māori (Polinsky 1992: 237; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 356) and Tuvaluan (Besnier 2000: 224). In all these languages, *me* must be followed by the predicate marker *se* or *he*. The use of *he* after prepositions meaning ‘like’ can be explained from the non-referential character of the noun phrase after these prepositions: the noun phrase does not refer to any concrete entity, but involves a comparison with a class of entities; hence the predicate marker *he* is appropriate rather than referential *te* (cf. Polinsky 1992: 236; cf. the discussion of *he* in §5.3.4).

Thirdly, noun phrases in interrogative and negative sentences are less referential than those in positive declarative sentences: in both cases, the noun phrase does not refer to an entity whose existence is presupposed.<sup>9</sup> Now the use of *t*-determiners is not excluded in interrogative and negative contexts per se. Two examples from the previous section are repeated here:

- (39) *'Ina ko kai i te kai mata.*  
 NEG NEG.IPFV eat ACC ART food raw  
 ‘Don’t eat raw food.’ (Weber 2003b: 610)
- (40) *—¿E ai rō 'ā te ika o roto? —'Ina e tahi.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART fish of inside NEG NUM one  
 ‘—Are there any fish inside? —Not one.’ [R241.058]

On the other hand, there is one negative and one interrogative construction in which *t*-determiners are excluded:

- when the noun itself is questioned by the interrogative adjective *hē* ‘which’: see example (18) in §5.3.2.2.
  - when the noun phrase occurs immediately after the negator *'ina* (§10.5.1, esp. (95–97)).<sup>10</sup>
- (41) *'Ina he rū'au nei he turu mai ki Hanga Roa.*  
 NEG PRED old\_woman PROX NTR go\_down hither to Hanga Roa  
 ‘This old woman did not go down to Hanga Roa.’ [R380.006]

Recapitulating: *t*-determiners are excluded (and *he* used instead) in non-referential noun phrases: nominal predicates, appositions, after *pē* ‘like’. They are also commonly omitted (though not excluded) with the universal quantifier *ta'ato'a*. Finally, *t*-determiners are excluded in a number of contexts which are low on the referentiality scale (though not strictly non-referential): with *me'e rahi* ‘many’, in questioned noun phrases, and after the negation *'ina*.

<sup>9</sup> Chung, Mason & Milroy (1995: 437) explain the use of *he* in Māori in (among others) interrogative and negative constructions precisely from the non-referential character of the noun phrase in these contexts.

<sup>10</sup> Notice that the use of *he* rather than *te* in this example cannot be explained as an existential construction. This sentence is not a negation of ‘there was an old woman who went down to Hanga Roa’, but refers to a definite woman, as the demonstrative *nei* indicates. Even so, the negation triggers the use of the predicate marker instead of the referential article.

5.3.4 **The predicate marker *he***5.3.4.1 **Uses of *he***

The determiner *he* reflects PPN \**sa* (> PNP \**se*); its cognates occur in most Polynesian languages. In the past these have often been analysed as indefinite articles (see references in Polinsky 1992: 230). For Rapa Nui, Englert (1978: 18) already realised that *he* is something different from an indefinite article: *he* ‘se emplea cuando se trata de denominaciones generales de personas u objetos’ (is used when general designations of persons and objects are concerned).

The Proto-Polynesian ancestors of *te* and *he* did function as definite and indefinite (or specific and non-specific) article respectively (see Clark 1976: 47–50; Hamp 1977: 411). In Samoic and Tongic languages, *he* continued to function as an indefinite article: it is commonly used to introduce referential noun phrases functioning as verb arguments.<sup>11</sup> In Eastern Polynesian languages, however, *he* mainly functions as nominal predicate marker, though in some languages it is occasionally used to mark argument noun phrases<sup>12</sup> (see §5.3.3 on referentiality).

As explained in the previous section, Rapa Nui *he* occurs in non-referential noun phrases and is excluded in referential noun phrases (with a single exception, see Footnote 12 above). It is mainly used to mark noun phrases as PREDICATES of a verbless clause. In the following example, *he taŋata* is the predicate of the clause: ‘man’ is predicated of the subject *tau manu era*. The clause is CLASSIFYING (§9.2.1): it expresses that the subject belongs to the class of human beings. *Taŋata* does not refer to any man in particular, nor to a group of men or even to men in general; rather, it denotes the property of ‘being man’.

- (42) *He taŋata tau manu era.*  
 PRED man DEM bird DIST  
 ‘That bird was a human being.’ [Mtx-7-12.069]

Besides classifying clauses, *he* is also used in EXISTENTIAL clauses (§9.3.1):

- (43) *He taŋata ko Engo.*  
 PRED man PROM Engo  
 ‘There was a man (called) Engo.’ [Mtx-7-28.001]

As a nominal predicate marker, *he* also marks the complement of the COPULA VERBS *riro* ‘become’ and *ai* ‘be’ (§9.6).

Apart from marking the predicate of a verbless clause, *he* has the following other uses:

<sup>11</sup> See e.g. Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992: 261–264) on Samoan, Besnier (2000: 365) on Tuvaluan, and Anderson & Otsuka (2006: 22) on Tongan.

<sup>12</sup> In Māori (Polinsky 1992; Chung, Mason & Milroy 1995) and Hawaiian (Cook 1999), \**he* occasionally marks objects or non-agentive subjects. In Rapa Nui its use with argument noun phrases is very marginal, though not limited to non-agentives: it may mark topicalised noun phrases, regardless the nature of the verb (§8.6.2.2). Clark (1997) provides a reconstruction of the shifts in the use of *he* in PEP.



**In appositions** *He* optionally occurs before common nouns in appositions (§5.12):

- (44) *He kī e te matu'a tane era o Te Rau, he taŋata pū'oko o te nu'u*  
 NTR say AG ART parent male DIST of Te Rau PRED man head of ART people  
*o Kapiti...*  
 of Kapiti  
 'The father of Te Rau, the leader of the people of Kapiti, said...' [R347.089]

**In isolation** *He* is used before common nouns in isolation (i.e. without a semantic role in the clause), for example in titles:

- (45) *He aŋa vaka, 'e he e'a iŋa ki haho i te tai*  
 PRED make boat and PRED go\_out NMLZ to outside at ART sea  
 'Building boats, and going out to sea' [R200 title]
- (46) *He tiare ko au he raŋi he hetu'u*  
 PRED flower PROM 1SG PRED sky PRED star  
 'The flowers, me, the sky and the stars' [R222 title]

**In lists** Noun phrases in enumerations or lists may also be syntactically isolated, in which case they are also marked by *he*:

- (47) *Te aŋa nō 'a Reŋa he tunu i te kai: he moa, he tarake,*  
 ART work just of.A Renga PRED cook ACC ART food PRED chicken PRED corn  
*he kūmā, ika 'e tētahi atu.*  
 PRED sweet\_potato fish and other away  
 'What Renga used to do was cooking food: chicken, corn, sweet potato, fish and other things.' [R363.119]

(Proper nouns and pronouns in isolation and in lists are marked with *ko*; common nouns are marked with *ko* when uniquely identifiable; see §4.7.12.1.)

**After *pē* 'like'** After the preposition *pē* 'like' (§4.7.9), *he* is obligatory.

**After the negator 'ina** *He* is used in noun phrases immediately following the negator 'ina, whether the noun phrase is referential or not (§10.5.1):

- (48) *'Ina he rū'au nei he turu mai ki Haŋa Roa.*  
 NEG PRED old\_woman PROX NTR go\_down hither to Hanga Roa  
 'This old woman did not go down to Hanga Roa.' [R380.006]

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**In topicalisation** *He* occasionally marks topicalised subjects in a verbal clause (§8.6.2.2):

- (49) *He taŋata he oho he ruku i te ika mo te hora kai.*  
PRED man NTR go NTR dive ACC ART fish for ART time eat  
'The men went diving for fish for lunch.' [R183.019]

### 5.3.4.2 *He* is a determiner

The discussion so far has shown that the distribution of *he* is quite different from that of *t*-determiners: it usually does not mark verbal arguments, does not occur after most prepositions, but instead is mainly used when the noun phrase functions as predicate or is in another non-argument position. Even so, *he* is most plausibly analysed as a determiner, i.e. an element occurring in the same structural position as the *t*-determiners. There are different reasons for doing so.<sup>13</sup>

1. *He* excludes other determiners. *He* and *te* never occur together, and neither can *he* co-occur with a *t*-possessive pronoun; if a *he*-marked noun phrase has a possessive pronoun, the latter must be postnominal:
- (50) *Te me'e nei he toto o'oku.*  
ART thing PROX PRED blood POSS.1SG.O  
'This is my blood.' [Luke 22:20]
- (51) \**Te me'e nei he o'oku/tō'oku toto.*

Likewise, *he* it is excluded when the noun phrase contains a prenominal numeral. Here is an example with a noun phrase following the negation *'ina*, a context in which normally *he* would be used (see 48 above):

- (52) *'Ina e tahi me'e o mātou mo kai.*  
NEG NUM one thing of 1PL.EXCL for eat  
'We didn't have anything to eat (lit. there was not one thing of ours to eat).'  
[R130.002]

2. Although *he* is precluded after almost all prepositions, there is one exception: *he* does occur – and is even obligatory – after the preposition *pē* 'like' (§4.7.9), as the following little riddle shows:

- (53) *'Iti'iti pē he kio'e, hāpa'o i te hare pē he paiheŋa haka 'āriŋa.*  
small:RED like PRED rat care\_for ACC ART house like PRED dog CAUS face  
'Small like a mouse, guarding the house like an insolent dog.' [R144.007]

<sup>13</sup> Cook (1999) proposes the same analysis for Hawaiian *he*, based on the fact that it can be preceded by the preposition *me* 'like', cannot be followed by another determiner, and does not occur before pronouns.

3. Just like *t*-determiners, *he* is placed before quantifiers like *ta'ato'a*, *rauhuru* and *tētahi*:

- (54) *Te me'e nō e noho era he rauhuru nō atu o te taro.*  
 ART thing just IPFV stay DIST PRED diverse just away of ART taro  
 'The only thing that was still there, was many kinds of taro.' [R363.004]
- (55) *Te vaka o Paka'a pē he tētahi vaka era 'ā.*  
 ART boat of Paka'a like PRED other boat DIST IDENT  
 'Paka'a's boat was just like other boats.' [R344.040]

4. Like other determiners, *he* does not occur before pronouns or proper names. Pronouns and proper names are rather preceded by *ko* or the proper article *a* (see §5.13.2).

5. Like other determiners, *he* can signal nominalisation of a verb; see (23) on p. 91 for an example.

This evidence clearly shows that *he* is a determiner, even if its distribution is different from other determiners.

### 5.3.5 Numeral phrases in determiner position

As indicated in §5.3.1 above, numeral phrases may occur in determiner position, thereby excluding other determiners. Interestingly, they occur both in referential noun phrases (which would otherwise contain a *t*-determiner) and in non-referential noun phrases (which would otherwise contain the predicate marker *he*).

Here are two examples of prenominal numerals in referential noun phrases, as subject (56) and direct object (57), respectively:

- (56) *He poreko e toru poki.*  
 NTR born NUM three child  
 'Three children were born.' [R352.010]
- (57) *He aŋa e tahi paepae.*  
 NTR make NUM one shack  
 'He built a shelter.' [Blx-2-1.015]

Prenominal numerals also occur in various non-referential (or at least less referential) constructions, in which the determiner *he* would be used otherwise (cf. the uses listed in §5.3.4.1 above):

After *'ina*:

- (58) *'Ina e tahi kope i 'ite ko ai te me'e i rē.*  
 NEG NUM one person PFV know PROM who ART thing PFV won  
 'No one (lit. not one person) knew who had won.' [R448.018]

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In an existential clause:

- (59) *E tahi poki te 'iŋoa ko Eva ka ho'e 'ahuru matahiti.*  
NUM one child ART name PROM Eva CNTG one ten year  
'There was a child called Eva, ten years old.' [R210.001]

In a list:

- (60) *E ono kope o ruŋa: e hā taŋata, e tahi vi'e, 'e he poki*  
NUM six person of above NUM four man NUM one woman and PRED child  
*e tahi.*  
NUM one  
'There were six people on board: four men, one woman, and one child.' [R231.085]

In the first version of this grammar (Kieviet 2016), pronominal numerals were analysed as being in a post-determiner position. However, on a closer analysis it makes more sense to analyse them as determiners: they are in complementary distribution with other determiners and they occur in contexts where otherwise either a *t*-determiner or *he* is required. Under the present analysis, noun phrases with a pronominal numeral are no exception to the rule that in these contexts a determiner is obligatory.

Finally, if pronominal numerals are determiners, this also explains why they are excluded after the instrumental preposition *hai*, which precludes the use of a determiner: in order to use a numeral after *hai*, the numeral must occur after the noun (see (65) in §5.4.2 below).

## 5.4 Numerals in the noun phrase

§3.5 discusses numerals in general; in the present section, their occurrence in the noun phrase is discussed. Numerals can appear either before or after the noun; both positions will be discussed in turn.

### 5.4.1 Numerals before the noun

Numeral phrases very often appear before the noun. In §5.3.5 I argued that these numerals are in determiner position, as they exclude other determiners and have a distribution typical of determiners.

As discussed in §5.3.2.1, pronominal numerals cannot be preceded by a preposition. As a consequence, they occur most commonly in noun phrases functioning as subject or direct object<sup>14</sup> (see (56–57) in §5.3.5 above); however, the noun phrase may also be an oblique argument (61) or adjunct (62). Without a pronominal marker, the noun phrase in (61) would be preceded by the preposition *ki* 'to', while the adjunct noun phrase in (62) would be preceded by *'i* 'in, at'.

<sup>14</sup> The same constraint applies in Tahitian: with pronominal numerals, the object marker is omitted (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 184).

- (61) *E ko 'avai e au e tahi taŋata i tā'aku poki.*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV give AG 1SG NUM one person ACC POSS.1SG.A child  
 'I won't give my child to anybody.' [R229.069]
- (62) *He noho e toru marama 'i Aro Huri.*  
 NTR stay NUM three month at Aro Huri  
 'He stayed three months in Aro Huri.' [MsE-109.013]

Constructions like (61) above are somewhat rare, though; it is unusual for the preposition *ki* to be omitted.

### 5.4.2 Numerals after the noun

When the noun phrase is preceded by a preposition requiring a determiner (§5.3.2.1), numerals must be placed after the noun. Here are examples with possessive *o* (63), and the preposition *i* after a locational (64):<sup>15</sup>

- (63) *te hare o te taŋata e tahi*  
 ART house of ART man NUM one  
 'the house of one man' [Notes]
- (64) *He eke ki ruŋa i te mā'ea e tahi.*  
 NTR go\_up to above at ART stone NUM one  
 'He climbed on a stone.' [R229.347]

The instrumental preposition *hai* 'with' excludes a determiner (§4.7.10); here as well, numerals must be postnominal.

- (65) *E 'auhau era 'i te 'āva'e hai māmo'e hā.*  
 IPFV pay DIST at ART month INS sheep NUM four  
 'He was paid four sheep (lit. with four sheep) per month.' [R250.053]

Likewise, numerals must be postnominal after the preposition *pē* 'like', which is obligatorily followed by the predicate marker *he* (§4.7.9):

<sup>15</sup> The only case in which a numeral does occur after a locative expression, is when the noun phrase is headless. In the following example, the noun phrase *e tahi o kōrua* consists of a numeral phrase and a possessive; there is no head noun.

- (i) ...*'o topa tā'ue rō atu te 'ati a ruŋa e tahi o kōrua.*  
 lest happen by\_chance EMPH away ART problem by above NUM one of 2PL  
 'lest a disaster may fall on one of you' (R313.010)

In this case, there is no postnominal position available (alternatively, one could assume that the numeral is in postnominal position, which cannot be distinguished from the prenominal position anyhow).

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- (66) *Ta'ato'a mata e ai rō 'ana te rāua taŋata pū'oko... pē he suerekao*  
all tribe IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART 3PL man head like PRED governor  
*e tahi te haka aura'a.*  
NUM one ART CAUS meaning  
'All tribes had a leader... someone like a governor (lit. like one governor the meaning).' [R371.006]

In other situations, a noun phrase must contain a *t*-determiner for discourse reasons. When a participant is definite, this is indicated by a *t*-determiner + a postnominal demonstrative (§4.6.3). In such cases, numerals must come after the noun. Consider the following example:

- (67) *A Makemake i hakarongo mai era ki te ani atu o tou ŋānata*  
PROP Makemake PFV listen hither DIST to ART request away of DEM men  
*era e rua.*  
DIST NUM two  
'Makemake listened to the request of those two men.' [Fel-40.044]

The two men have been mentioned before and are therefore known; this is signalled by anaphoric *tou N era*. The numeral *e rua* necessarily occurs after the noun.

### 5.4.3 Optional numeral placement; *e tahi* 'one'

§5.4.1 above describes contexts in which the numeral can be prenominal. This does not mean that the numeral must be prenominal in these contexts. Syntactically, in most of these cases the numeral can be placed after the noun as well. Here are examples with a postnominal numeral in a subject noun phrase (68) and a direct object noun phrase (69):

- (68) *He oho mai te Miru e rua, ko Tema ko Pau 'a Vaka.*  
NTR go hither ART Miru NUM two PROM Tema PROM Pau a Vaka  
'Two Miru men came, Tema and Pau a Vaka.' [Mtx-3-06.024]
- (69) *He tute mai i te moa e tahi.*  
NTR chase hither ACC ART chicken NUM one  
'He chased a (lit. one) chicken.' [Mtx-7-03.033]

In cases like (68–69) the choice between pre- and postnominal numerals is syntactically free; however, there may be a subtle difference in meaning. This is especially the case with *e tahi* 'one'. In prenominal position, *e tahi* tends to have a non-specific sense. This sense is especially clear after negations, when *tahi* can often be translated as 'any':

- (70) *He hāhaki mai, pero 'ina kai rava'a e tahi me'e.*  
NTR gather\_shellfish hither but NEG NEG.PFV obtain NUM one thing  
'She went to gather shellfish, but she didn't get anything.' [R178.026]

Similarly, in existential clauses, *'ina e tahi* is used in the sense ‘not any, none at all’:

- (71) *'Ina e tahi kona toe mo moe.*  
 NEG NUM one place remain for sleep  
 ‘There was no place left to sleep.’ [R339.027]

When the numeral is placed after the noun, its sense is often specific, ‘one, a certain’:

- (72) *He moe ki te uka e tahi...*  
 NTR lie\_down to ART girl NUM one  
 ‘He married a (certain) girl...’ [Blx-3.002]

There is no absolute distinction between the two, though. For example, in narrative texts, both prenominal and postnominal *e tahi* are common to introduce participants at the beginning of stories:

- (73) *E tahi taŋata hōnui, te 'īŋoa o tū taŋata era ko 'Ohoŋehi.*  
 NUM one man respected ART name of DEM man DIST PROM Ohoŋehi  
 ‘There was a respected man, the name of that man was Ohoŋehi.’ [R310.001]
- (74) *He taŋata e tahi ko Marupua te 'īŋoa.*  
 PRED man NUM one PROM Marupua ART name  
 ‘There was a man called Marupua.’ [R481.001]

## 5.5 Plural markers

### 5.5.1 The plural marker *ŋā*

#### 5.5.1.1 The position of *ŋā*

The plural marker *ŋā* always occurs immediately before the noun:

- (75) *He tu'u mai tou ŋā uka era.*  
 NTR arrive hither DEM PL girl DIST  
 ‘Those girls arrived’. [Blx-3.053]

As this example shows, *ŋā* is not an article.<sup>16</sup> It occurs in a different position than the article *te* and often co-occurs with it. This is different from its cognates in most other Eastern Polynesian languages, which are usually plural articles.<sup>17</sup>

The fact that the plural is always contiguous to the noun, is an indication of its close syntactic association to the noun. Other indications are:

<sup>16</sup> Pace Du Feu (1987: 474).

<sup>17</sup> Hawaiian *naa*, Māori *nga*, Marquesan *na* and the possible cognate Tahitian *nā* are all determiners, which do not co-occur with *te*. In Hawaiian and Māori this article denotes plurality, in Marquesan and Tahitian it is used for a dual or limited plural (see Elbert 1976: 19; Biggs 1973: 20; Zewen 1987: 11; Académie Tahitienne 1986: 16). In Tahitian, according to Académie Tahitienne (1986: 18), *nā* is incompatible with the article *te*

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- The plural of *taŋata* ‘man’ coalesced from \**ŋā taŋata* into *ŋāŋata*.
- Unlike any other prenominal element, *ŋā* can precede a noun which modifies another noun:

(76) *Ta'e he aŋa ŋā vi'e rā.*  
 CONNEG PRED work PL woman DIST  
 ‘That’s not women’s work.’ [R347.103]

### 5.5.1.2 Use and non-use of *ŋā*

*Nā* is not obligatory. When it is clear that the noun phrase has plural reference, *ŋā* can be left out; this happens in the following situations:

Firstly, when the noun phrase contains a numeral:

(77) *Vi'e nei e ai rō 'ā e rua poki vahine.*  
 woman PROX IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM two child female  
 ‘This woman had two daughters’ [R491.008]

Secondly, when the noun is subject of a verb which has a plural form as in (78), or is modified by a plural adjective.

(78) *He ŋaro tū pere'oa era, he ŋāŋaro te va'ehau.*  
 NTR disappear DEM car DIST NTR PL:disappear ART soldier  
 ‘The carriage disappeared and the soldiers disappeared.’ [R491.039]

Thirdly, when the noun phrase contains the collective marker *kuā* (§5.2).

Finally, when there are other indications in the context that the noun phrase has plural reference. The following example occurs in a story about a party. No plural marker is needed to indicate that a party involves more than one man and more than one woman:

(79) *He hoki te taŋata, te vi'e, te ŋā poki... ki to rātou hare.*  
 NTR return ART man ART woman ART PL child to ART:of 3PL house  
 ‘(When the party is finished,) men, women and children go home.’ [Mtx-7-30.037]

In conclusion, *ŋā* can be omitted when it is clear that reference is plural. However, this does not mean that *ŋā* is only used when there is no other clue for plurality. It may co-occur with a numeral or other quantifier as in (80) or a plural verb form as in (81):

(80) *He e'a mai tou ŋāŋata e ono mai roto mai te hare ki haho.*  
 NTR go\_out hither DEM men NUM six from inside from ART house to outside  
 ‘Those six men came out of the house.’ [Ley-4-01.023]

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and composite determiners containing *te* (despite Tryon’s example *tā'u nā 'urī*, Tryon (1970: 17)), but it may co-occur with the demonstrative *taua*: *taua nā tamari'i a Noa...* ‘those children of Noah’ (Gen. 9:18).

In Rarotongan, on the other hand, the particle *ŋā* – which is most commonly used for pairs – is commonly preceded by the article or another determiner: *tōku ngā metua* ‘my parents’ (Buse 1963a: 405–406); *te ngā pēre pūtē* ‘the two bales of sacks’ (Sally Nicholas, p.c.).



- (81) *Ko 'a'ara 'ana tū ηā vārua era.*  
 PRF PL:wake\_up CONT DEM PL spirit DIST  
 ‘Those spirits woke up.’ [R233.026]

The only case in which *ηā* is obligatory, is with the noun *io* ‘young man’, which (almost) only occurs as a plural *ηā io*. *Ŋā io* is especially common in older stories, but is still in use. It is so much a unit that Englert (1978; 1980) writes it as one word.

### 5.5.1.3 Semantics of *ηā*

In older texts, *ηā* is almost exclusively used with nouns referring to humans: *tajata* ‘man’, *vi'e* ‘woman’, *poki* ‘child’, *matu'a* ‘father’, *taina* ‘brother’, et cetera.<sup>18</sup>

Nowadays, *ηā* is frequently used with inanimate nouns as well, including abstract nouns:<sup>19</sup>

- (82) *Te ηā vaka ra'e tu'u mai era e ueue nō 'ana 'i rote*  
 ART PL boat first arrive hither DIST IPFV sway:RED just CONT at inside\_ART  
*vai 'i te reherehe.*  
 water at ART weak  
 ‘The first boats that arrived rocked in the water because they were so flimsy.’  
 [R539-1.550]
- (83) *E tai'o 'i ra'e 'e 'ai ka pāhono iho te ηā 'ui ena.*  
 EXH read at first and there CNTG answer just\_then ART PL ask MED  
 ‘First read, then answer these questions.’ [R534.013]

The sense of *ηā* is very general. It can be used for small and large numbers alike:

- (84) *tā'ana ηā poki e rua*  
 POSS.3SG.A PL child NUM two  
 ‘his two children’ [R376.033]
- (85) *He pōrekoreko me'e rahi nō atu rāua ηā poki.*  
 NTR born:RED thing many just away 3PL PL child  
 ‘They had many children (lit. many their children were born).’ [R438.049]

It can be used for items forming a group as in (86), or for a plurality of separate items as in (87):<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Englert (1978: 26) states that *ηā* is only used for persons.

<sup>19</sup> According to Schuhmacher (1993: 170), this development occurred under influence of Tahitian *nā*; more likely, it was influenced by Spanish – where plurality is consistently marked – or a (quite natural) language-internal development.

<sup>20</sup> Pace Du Feu (1996: 135); Du Feu (1987: 485).

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- (86) *I taŋi era te oe, he tāhuti tahi te ŋā poki he haka kāuŋa.*  
PFV cry DIST ART bell NTR PL:run all ART PL child NTR CAUS line\_up  
'When the bell sounded, all the children ran and stood in line.' [R334.012]
- (87) *Te nua rakerake mo te ŋā me'e ha'ere tahaŋa nō a te ara.*  
ART cloth\_cape bad:RED for ART PL thing walk aimlessly just by ART road  
'The ordinary capes were for the ones (=people) who just walked along the road.'  
[Ley-5-04.012]

In conclusion, *ŋā* may indicate any kind of plurality with any noun.

### 5.5.2 Co-occurrence of *ŋā* and the determiner

As shown above, the occurrence of *ŋā* is independent of the occurrence of the article. However, there are some noun phrases containing *ŋā* which do not have any determiner, even though there should be a determiner according to the conditions listed in §5.3.2. Here are some examples:

- (88) *ĶKi hē kōrua ko ŋā kope?*  
to CQ 2PL PROM PL person  
'Where are you going, guys?' [Ley-4-05.066]
- (89) *Ka raŋi ŋā kope ka oho mai.*  
IMP call PL person IMP go hither  
'Call the guys to come.' [R232.058]
- (90) *E tahi pihi o te ta'u o ŋā poki o Miru, he ora haka'ou ŋā poki o Tūpāhotu.*  
NUM one decade of ART year of PL child of Miru NTR live again PL child of  
Tupahotu  
'After ten years of (the reign of) the children of Miru, the children of Tupahotu revived.' [Mtx-3-07.016]
- (91) *He oho au ki ŋā hare he no'ino'i hai kona mahute.*  
NTR go 1SG to PL house NTR request:RED INS place mulberry  
'I'm going to the houses to ask for mulberry fibres.' [R352.025]

Although these examples are unusual, they are grammatical and can be explained in one of several ways:

- In (88) and (89) the noun is *kope*. (*Kōrua*) *ko ŋā kope* is more or less a frozen expression, though (89) shows that it also occurs without *ko*. It expresses endearment: 'those dear boys'.

- The noun phrase in (90) can be regarded as similar to a name: *ηā poki o Miru* ‘the Miru people’. Rapa Nui has more cases where names are introduced by *ηā*:
- (92) *E ono Nā Ruti Matakeva... He oho e tahi Nā Ruti,*  
 NUM six Nga Ruti Matakeva NTR go NUM one Nga Ruti  
 ‘There were six (men called) Nga Ruti Matakeva... One Nga Ruti went...’  
 [Mtx-3-11.001,005]
- (91) may be an example of non-referential use. In such expressions the noun phrase does not refer to any house, but to houses in general. (See (20–21) on p. 235.)

### 5.5.3 Other words used as plural markers

Sometimes plurality is expressed by other words than *ηā*.

**Mau** Some speakers use the Tahitian plural marker *mau* (not to be confused with the emphatic marker, §5.8). Tahitian *mau*, like Rapa Nui *ηā*, is a marker which occurs after the article. For speakers familiar with Tahitian, the similarity in syntax would facilitate using the Tahitian form.

- (93) *te mau matahiti i noho era 'i Rapa Nui*  
 ART PL year PFV stay DIST at Rapa Nui  
 ‘the years when he lived on Rapa Nui’ [R231.306]
- (94) *mo te mau mā'ohi o Rapa Nui*  
 for ART PL indigenous of Rapa Nui  
 ‘for the indigenous people of Rapa Nui’ [billboard in the street]

Like most Tahitian borrowings, this is a relatively recent phenomenon.

**Nu'u** *Nu'u* ‘people’ (an inherently plural noun, borrowed from Tahitian *nu'u* ‘army, collectivity’) can be placed in front of another noun and play the same role as a plural marker. It implies a group of people being and/or acting together.

- (95) *Mai ira ia māua i oho ai ki te hare o tō'oku nu'u*  
 from ANA then 1DU.EXCL PFV go PVP to ART house of POSS.1SG.O people  
**hujavai.**  
 parent-in-law  
 ‘From there we went to the house of my parents-in-law.’ [R107.018]
- (96) *Tā'ana me'e haŋa... he reka ananake ko tō'ona nu'u*  
 POSS.3SG.A thing want PRED entertaining together PROM POSS.3SG.O people  
**repahoa.**  
 friend  
 ‘What he likes is... having a good time with his friends.’ [R489.003]

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This does not mean that *nu'u* is a plural marker like *ŋā*. Syntactically *nu'u* is a head noun modified by another noun. It can even be preceded by *ŋā* (*tū ŋā nu'u era* ‘those people’).

### 5.6 The noun: headless noun phrases

In most contexts, the noun is obligatory; headless noun phrases are uncommon in Rapa Nui. They do occur, but only in certain specific contexts.

5.6.1 With numerals, and with quantifiers like *tētahi* (§4.4.6.2) and *ta'ato'a* (§4.4.2).

- (97) *E tahi i va'ai ki a tō'ona māmātia. Tētahi atu i va'ai ki tētahi nu'u.*  
NUM one PFV give to PROP POSS.3SG.O aunt other away PFV give to other people  
‘One she gave to her aunt. The others she gave to other people.’ [R168.006–007]

- (98) *Ta'ato'a e tahuti era, e tari mai era i te kai.*  
all IPFV run DIST IPFV carry hither DIST ACC ART food  
‘All ran, carrying the food.’ [R210.155]

5.6.2 After a *t*-possessive pronoun, in the partitive construction “possessive *o te* noun” (§6.2.2). In this construction, the noun phrase does not have a head noun; instead, the main concept is expressed by a genitive phrase:

- (99) *Kai toe tā'ana o te ika, o te 'ura, o te kō'iro.*  
NEG.PFV remain POSS.3SG.A of ART fish of ART lobster of ART conger\_eel  
‘There was no fish, lobster or conger eel left for her.’ [Mtx-4-04.003]

In other cases it is also possible to leave out the noun after a *t*-possessive pronoun. The implied head noun may be expressed in a preceding clause as in (100), or not at all as in (101).

- (100) *Ka rova'a e Hete i te māmari ka puā tako'a a Kikio ki tā'ana.*  
CNTG obtain AG Hete ACC ART egg CNTG touch also PROP Kikio to POSS.3SG.A  
‘When Hete got an egg, Kikio also touched his (one).’ [R438.042]

- (101) *He va'ai tā'ana, tā'ana, he tuha'a.*  
NTR give POSS.3SG.A POSS.3SG.A NTR distribute  
‘He gave everyone his share, distributing it.’ [R372.123]

5.6.3 Similarly, a possessive phrase may occur without head noun; the head noun is understood from the context. The noun phrase starts with *to*, which is a contraction of the article *te* and the possessive marker *o* (§6.2.3):

- (102) *Ko Koka te 'īhoā o tō'ona hoi... ko Parasa to te rū'au*  
 PROM Koka ART name of POSS.3SG.O horse PROM Parasa ART:of ART old\_woman  
*era 'ā'ana.*  
 DIST POSS.3SG.A

‘Koka was the name of his horse, Parasa the (name) of his old wife.’ [R539-1.420]

- (103) *¿Ko ai te 'īhoā o te taŋata? ¿To te vi'e?*  
 PROM who ART name of ART name ART:of ART woman  
 ‘What is the man’s name? And the woman’s?’ [Notes]

5.6.4 Headless noun phrases are marginally possible in noun phrases containing adjectives. Adjectives in the noun phrase usually need a noun. If need be, a generic noun like *kope* ‘person’ or *me'e* ‘thing’ is used.

- (104) *He kī te poki (kope, me'e) nuinui ki te poki (kope, me'e) 'iti'iti...*  
 NTR say ART child person thing big:RED to ART child person thing small:RED  
 ‘(There were two children.) The big one said to the small one..’ [Notes]

But with a few adjectives in a specific idiomatic sense, the noun can be left out:

- (105) *Te pepe nei mo te hōnuī. Te pepe era mo te rikiriki.*  
 ART chair PROX FOR ART respected ART chair DIST FOR ART small:PL:RED  
 ‘These chairs are for the authorities. Those chairs are for the small people.’  
 [Notes]

In the (infrequent) cases above, the nounless construction refers to someone or something possessing a quality. These should be distinguished from nominally used adjectives which refer to the quality as such. The former can be considered as ellipsis of a noun, the latter as conversion of an adjective to a noun (Bhat 1994: 96). In the following examples, *nuinui* ‘big’ is used as a noun in the sense ‘bigness, size, greatness’. It cannot be used in the sense ‘big one’.

- (106) *Te nuinui o Tahiti e 'āmui atu tāua e ono nuinui nei o Rapa*  
 ART big:RED of Tahiti IPFV add away 1DU.INCL NUM six big PROX of Rapa  
*Nui.*  
 Nui  
 ‘The size of Tahiti altogether is six times the size of Rapa Nui.’ [R348.003]

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5.6.5 Relative clauses (§11.4) can never be headless, but need to be preceded by a noun. When no other noun is available, the dummy noun *me'e* is used. This happens for example in clefts (§9.2.6).

To summarise: headless noun phrases occur occasionally, on the condition that the noun phrase contains either a possessor, a numeral phrase, a quantifier, or one of a small set of adjectives. They cannot occur with just any adjective; neither is the presence of a relative clause or a demonstrative sufficient to omit the head noun.

## 5.7 Modifiers in the noun phrase

### 5.7.1 Introduction: types of modifiers

The noun may be modified by various elements: nouns, adjectives or – less commonly – verbs.<sup>21</sup> A modifying noun may in turn be modified by another noun, verb or adjective, and so on. Modifying verbs may be followed by a direct object; modifying adjectives may be modified by various elements, such as degree markers.

At first sight, a modifying noun or verb seems to have the same status as a modifying adjective, but there are important differences between the two. Syntactically, a modifying noun or verb is incorporated into the head noun; it is a bare noun or verb, not followed by verb phrase particles. Modifying adjectives, on the other hand, form an adjective phrase, which may contain elements like degree modifiers, negators and adverbs (§5.7.3.2). This correlates with a difference in position: when a noun phrase contains both a modifying noun or verb and an adjective, the former is usually closer to the head noun.

Semantically, a modifying noun or verb tends to express a single concept together with the head noun. In other words, the combination is a compound, a single lexical item. Adjectives, on the other hand, express some additional property of the concept expressed by the head. For example, in the following noun phrase, *pū'oko haka tere* 'head CAUS run' is a compound noun with the sense 'leader, head', consisting of a noun and a modifying verb. The adjective phrase *ta'e tano* 'not correct' = 'unrighteous' modifies this compound noun.

- (107) *te* [*pū'oko haka tere*] [*ta'e tano*] *era o te hare ture*  
ART head CAUS run CONNEG correct DIST of ART house judgment  
'the unrighteous head of the courthouse' [Luke 18:6]

We may therefore assume a distinction between modifiers as part of a compound and modifiers in a post-nominal modifier position; in other words: noun adjuncts versus noun phrase adjuncts. This coincides with another syntactic difference: the order of elements within a compound is fixed, while the relative order of adjectives is sometimes free ((135–136) on p. 264).

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<sup>21</sup> Cf. Vernaudon (2011: 325), who gives examples of an adjective, noun and verb modifying a noun in Tahitian.

Now the distinction between nominal and adjectival modifiers is not absolute. In the following example, the adjective *'āpī* and the proper noun *rapa nui* both modify the noun *poki*; there is no functional difference between the two modifiers.

- (108) *Poki 'āpī te me'e era, poki rapa nui te me'e ena.*  
 child new ART thing DIST child Rapa Nui ART thing MED  
 'That one is a young child, that one is a Rapa Nui child.' [R416.238]

In the following example, the noun+adjective combination *tuki tōumāmari* is further removed from the noun than the adjective *teatea*; here the modifying noun *tuki* is obviously not incorporated into the head noun *pokopoko*, but is a modifier on the same level as adjectives.

- (109) *Ka ma'u mai ta'a pokopoko teatea tuki tōumāmari.*  
 IMP carry hither POSS.2SG.A container white:RED dot yellow  
 'Bring your white, yellow-dotted bowl.' [Notes]

Also, the fact that a certain noun+noun combination is a semantic unit does not imply that it is necessarily a syntactic unit as well, occupying the head position as a whole. Syntactic structure does not always mirror semantic structure. The underlined expressions in the following examples have an idiomatic sense, but they are not a syntactic unit. While there is a compound *vare/ηao* 'slimy' + 'neck' = 'to crave', here the same two elements are used in a verb + subject construction:<sup>22</sup>

- (110) *He vare te ηao ki te kai hāhaki 'i tai.*  
 NTR slimy ART neck to ART food gather\_shellfish at sea  
 'They were craving to get shellfish on the seashore.' [Mtx-7-30.043]

- (111) *He mate te manava o tau ηā uka era ki tau ηā io era.*  
 NTR die ART stomach of DEM PL girl DIST to DEM PL lad DIST  
 'The girls fell in love with those boys.' [Mtx-6-03.079]

Thus, the fact that a collocation is a semantic unit does not imply that its parts are in a single position in the noun phrase. Moreover, some noun-adjective combinations also express a single concept, just like noun + noun compounds.

- (112) *parau*<sup>23</sup> *'āpī haraoa mata*  
 word new 'news' bread raw 'flour'

In conclusion, there is no absolute distinction between modifying nouns and modifying adjectives. However, the following things are clear:

<sup>22</sup> However, idioms like this do have a tendency to become syntactically united. In newer texts the expression *mate te manava* is not found; instead, the compound verb *manava mate* is used.

<sup>23</sup> This compound was borrowed from Tahitian as a whole. 'Word' is the Tahitian sense of *parau*; in Rapa Nui, *parau* on its own does not mean 'word', but 'paper', 'document' or 'authority'.

## 5 *The noun phrase*

1. the noun phrase may contain various modifiers;
2. modifiers closer to the noun are semantically closer to it as well. This is illustrated in (107) above; see also (135–136) on p. 264;
3. modifying nouns and verbs are usually incorporated into the head noun, occurring as bare modifiers immediately after the head noun. They tend to express a single concept together with the head noun;
4. modifying adjectives are not incorporated into the head noun. They may be further removed from the head noun and form an adjective phrase; they tend to express an additional property of the concept expressed by the head.

Because of the distinction between 3 and 4, the noun phrase chart in §5.1 places compounds as a whole in the head position, while modifying adjectives are placed in a separate slot.

In the following sections, the different types of modifiers will be discussed: §5.7.2 deals with compounds, §5.7.3 with modifying adjectives. Even though this section is part of the chapter on noun phrases, verb compounds (i.e. compounds with a verb as head and occurring in a verbal context) will be discussed in §5.7.2.4.

### 5.7.2 **Compounds**

As shown in the previous section, compounds in Rapa Nui are formed by simply juxtaposing two words. The head word comes first, then the modifier. The structure may be recursive: the modifier may itself be the head to a second modifier. The modifying element may be a noun or verb. Most compounds are nouns (i.e. they have a noun as their head), but the discussion in these sections includes examples of compound verbs and adjectives as well.

A distinction can be made between lexical and syntactic compounds (see Dryer 2007b: 175). Lexical compounds have a meaning which is not predictable from the meaning of their parts, while syntactic compounds are productive constructions with a predictable meaning. Both are found in Rapa Nui and are discussed separately below. There is, however, no sharp distinction between the two. Certain compounds have a somewhat specialised, not quite predictable sense, yet it is easy to see how this sense could have arisen from the sense of their components. In fact, the distinction between lexical and syntactic compounds can be thought of as a continuum. At one end are completely predictable and productive compounds, at the other end are compounds with a completely unpredictable (e.g. figurative) sense. Table 5.4 gives examples illustrating different points along this continuum.

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<sup>24</sup> For compounds written as one word in the standard orthography, the parts are separated by a slash.



Table 5.4: Syntactic and lexical compounds

semantic relation	example	sense of parts	sense of whole
predictable	<i>ivi ika</i>	bone + fish	fish bone
specialised, transparent	<i>hare pure</i>	house + prayer	church
less transparent	<i>manu/pātia</i> <sup>24</sup>	insect + sting	wasp
metaphorical	<i>manu/rere</i>	bird + to fly	airplane
idiomatic, opaque	<i>manu/uru</i>	bird + to enter	guest
idiomatic, opaque	<i>vare/ηao</i>	slimy + neck	to crave

### 5.7.2.1 Lexical compounds

As discussed in the previous section, there are various degrees of lexical compounding. Some compounds are specialised in meaning (i.e. the sense of the compound cannot be predicted from the sense of the parts), but it is still clear how their meaning is derived from the meaning of the parts:<sup>25</sup>

- (113) a. *manu/meri* insect + honey bee  
 b. *manu/pātia* insect + sting wasp  
 c. *manu/rere* bird + to fly airplane  
 d. *kiri/va'e* skin + foot shoe  
 e. *tuke/ηao* leaf vein + neck nape of the neck  
 f. *mata/vai* eye + water tear  
 g. *repa/hoa* friend + friend friend

In the last two examples above, the relation between the two words is not that between head and modifier. In *matavai*, the second noun *vai* is semantically the head.<sup>26</sup> In *repahoa*, both components are synonyms which together yield a third synonym.

The compound may also be a verb or adjective:

- (114) a. *ma'u/rima* take hold + hand catch in the act, surprise  
 b. *tunu/ahi* cook + fire to roast on a fire  
 c. *aηa/rahi* work + much difficult

Some compounds are more than specialised in meaning: their sense is to a greater or lesser degree opaque.

- (115) a. *hua/tahi* fruit + one only child  
 b. *manu/piri* bird + join friend  
 c. *vare/ηao* slimy + neck to crave, desire

<sup>25</sup> In the tables in this section, the second column gives the meaning of the component parts, the third column the meaning of the whole compound.

<sup>26</sup> Another example is *motore vaka* 'motor boat', noted by Fischer (2001a: 322); this is probably a calque from English.

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Opacity goes even further in compounds where one or both components do not occur at all in Rapa Nui (at least, not in the sense underlying the compound); the origin of these components may or may not be reconstructible.

- (116) a. *hata/uma* PPN \**fatafata* ‘chest’ + sternum  
                   RN *uma* ‘chest’  
       b. *hatu/kai* RN *hatu* ‘clod’ + ? coagulated blood  
       c. *hānau/tama* PPN \**fānau* ‘give birth’ + pregnant; pregnant woman  
                   PPN \**tama* ‘child’

These compounds either developed at a stage when both components were still in use in the sense they had in the protolanguage, or else they were inherited from the protolanguage as a whole. Opaque compounds may also have a more recent origin, being borrowed as a whole. One such word is *hare toa* ‘store’, borrowed from Tahitian. The first part means ‘house’ (Rapa Nui *hare*, Tahitian *fare*), the second part means ‘store’ in Tahitian (from English) but is not used in other contexts in Rapa Nui.<sup>27</sup>

In other cases, both components are known as Rapa Nui words, but one of them is no longer in use, or at least archaic.

- (117) a. *rau/huru* hundred (archaic) + sort manifold, diverse  
       b. *hiri/toe* braid + hairlock (archaic) hairband  
       c. *koro/haŋa* when (archaic) + want maybe

Such compounds function practically as single words: the original sense of their parts no longer plays a role.

Near the other end of the spectrum, i.e. similar to syntactic compounds, are compounds which are quite transparent in meaning, but which are still lexicalised to a certain degree; that is, they may be a single unit in the mental lexicon of speakers of the language. Though it is impossible to say exactly whether a compound is or is not lexicalised, two indications for lexicalisation of a compound are:

- it is used frequently;
- it expresses a single concept, and is often a single word in other languages.

Some examples are:

- (118) a. *ma'ori hāpī* expert + learn teacher  
       b. *hare hāpī* house + learn school  
       c. *hare pure* house + pray church  
       d. *hi'o mata* glass + eye eyeglasses, spectacles  
       e. *kona hare* place + house home

<sup>27</sup> *hare toa* is written as two words, because (at least some) speakers know the origin and meaning of the second part.

## 5.7.2.2 Syntactic compounds

Syntactic compounds are transparent in sense: their meaning can be predicted from the meaning of the parts. Syntactic compounds are productive and may express a wide variety of semantic relations. Here are some examples:

(119)	compound	sense of parts	sense of whole	semantic relation
	a. <i>kete kai</i>	basket + food	basket of food	A containing B
	b. <i>hare oru</i>	house + pig	pigsty	A destined for B
	c. <i>kūpeŋa ika</i>	net + fish	fishnet	A destined for B
	d. <i>karone pure</i>	necklace + shell	shell necklace	A made of B
	e. <i>tumu 'ānani</i>	tree + orange	orange tree	A of the kind B, or: A producing B
	f. <i>'ā'ati vaka</i>	contest + boat	rowing contest	A of the kind B
	g. <i>'au 'umu</i>	smoke + earth oven	earth oven smoke	A originating from B
	h. <i>pū'oko ika</i>	head + fish	fish head	A part of B

In syntactic compounds, the plural marker *ŋā* may intervene between the two nouns:

- (120) *Ta'e he aŋa ŋā vi'e rā.*  
 CONNEG PRED work PL woman DIST  
 'It's not women's work.' [R347.103]

As illustrated in the previous section, the second element of a lexical compound may also be a verb. This also happens with syntactic compounds. The noun may refer to a location where the event expressed by the verb takes place (as in a and b below), or an instrument used to perform the action expressed by the verb (as in c).

(121)	a. <i>'ana ha'uru</i>	cave + to sleep	cave for sleeping
	b. <i>henua poreko</i>	country + be born	country of birth
	c. <i>hau hī</i>	line + to fish	fishing line

Compounds may also consist of three members. The third word is a noun (122), verb (123) or adjective (124) modifying the second noun; together they modify the head noun. (On modifying verbs, see §5.7.2.3 below.)

(122)	a. <i>kona nūna'a hare</i>	place [group + house]	village
	b. <i>kona tumu pika</i>	place [tree + fig]	figtree grove
(123)	a. <i>pūtē hare hāpī</i>	bag [house + learn]	schoolbag
	b. <i>hāipoipo hare pure</i>	wedding [house + pray]	church wedding
(124)	a. <i>nu'u kiri teatea</i>	people [skin + white]	light-skinned people
	b. <i>kona 'ō'one rivariva</i>	place [soil + good]	place of good soil

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### 5.7.2.3 Incorporation of objects and verbs

A verb as modifier may in turn be followed by its object. Like any modifying noun, the object is a bare noun, not marked with a determiner and/or object marker. This is a case of object incorporation: the object loses its object marking and its status as a noun phrase, and is directly adjoined to the verb.

- (125) a. *kona ha'amuri 'Atua* place [to worship + God] temple  
 b. *hi'o u'i 'āriŋa* glass [to watch + face] mirror  
 c. *taŋata keukeu henua* man [to labour/till + land] farmer  
 d. *'āua 'oka kai* garden [to plant + food] plantation, field

A combination of noun and verb modifiers and object incorporation may lead to even longer compounds, as the following examples show:

- (126) *'i te mahana ta'e noho 'i te kona 'āua ['oka kai] nei*  
 at ART day CONNEG stay at ART place enclosure to\_plant food PROX  
*'ā'ana*  
 POSS.3SG.A

‘on a day when he did not stay in his garden plot’ [R381.004]

- (127) *Hai me'e potupotu niuniu taratara [haro 'āua] ena e aŋa era*  
 INS thing piece:RED wire:RED spine:RED pull enclosure MED IPFV make DIST  
*te me'e vivi rikiriki.*  
 ART thing chain small:PL:RED

‘With pieces of barbed fence wire they made little chains.’ [R364.005]

It is also possible to incorporate the verb into the noun which is semantically its object. These compounds are unusual in that the noun is syntactically the head of the compound (it retains its status as a regular noun, i.e. head of a noun phrase), even though it is semantically an argument of the verb.<sup>28</sup> These compounds may appear in any nominal context, just like any noun or noun compound. (In (128–129), the compound is the predicate of a nominal clause.)

- (128) *'I tō'ona mahana he ai mai te aŋa he 'āua titi, 'o he*  
 at POSS.3SG.O day NTR exist hither ART work PRED enclosure build or PRED  
*rau kato.*  
 leaf pick

‘On certain days there were jobs like making fences or picking leaves.’

[R380.084]

<sup>28</sup> For a somewhat similar mismatch between syntax and semantics, cf. the nominal purpose construction discussed in §11.6.3. There as well as here, an event is expressed by a nominal construction, with one of the arguments of the verb in question as syntactic head. Both of these are among the many instances in Rapa Nui where a nominal construction serves to express an event (§3.2.5).

- (129) *He kai toke nō mai o te tanata te aŋa.*  
 PRED food steal just hither of ART man ART do  
 ‘Stealing the people’s food was what she did all the time.’<sup>29</sup> [R368.017]

Noun + verb compounds are similar to bare relative clauses (§11.4.5): in the latter, the verb – which is always initial in relative clauses – is not preceded by an aspectual; just as in a compounds, it follows immediately after the head noun. There are two important differences, however.

In the first place, a bare relative clause is still a clause: the verb is part of a verb phrase which may contain postverbal particles, such as *iho* in (130). Moreover, arguments of the verb may be expressed by independent case-marked noun phrases, such as the subject *e ia* (with agentive marking) in (131).

- (130) *He aŋa i te paepae e tahi 'i tu'a o tō'ona hare 'āpī aŋa*  
 NTR make ACC ART shack NUM one at back of POSS.3SG.O house new do  
*iho.*  
 just\_then  
 ‘He built a shelter behind his new house he had just built.’ [R250.131]

- (131) *He 'amo tahi mai ia i tū ŋā kai haka rito era e ia.*  
 NTR carry all hither then ACC DEM PL food CAUS ready DIST AG 3SG  
 ‘He carried all that food he had prepared.’ [R304.078]

By contrast, a modifying verb in a compound does not form a clause. No other VP elements can be included.

Secondly, a bare relative clause expresses an event which happens or happened at a specific time, whether once or repeatedly. By contrast, an incorporated verb denotes something which characterises the noun, irrespective of whether the event has really taken place or not. For example, a plot of land may be *'āua 'oka kai* (garden for planting food, (125)d), even when nothing has been planted yet.

#### 5.7.2.4 Compound verbs

Though the vast majority of compounds in Rapa Nui function as nouns, compound verbs are also found. Some of these were mentioned in §5.7.2.1, e.g. the lexical compound *tunuahi* (cook + fire) ‘to roast on a fire’.

Most compound verbs consist of a verb + noun. The noun may have various semantic roles in relation to the verb; interestingly, it is usually not the direct object, but often the instrument with which the action is performed:

- (132) *He to'o mai era he tunu pani, he tunuahi.*  
 NTR take hither DIST NTR cook pan NTR cook.fire  
 ‘They took the food and cooked it in the pan, roasted it on a fire.’ [R107.049]

<sup>29</sup> The noun *kai* has a genitive modifier *o te tanata*; this is leapfrogged over by the incorporated verb. The construction is similar to nominal purpose constructions (§11.6.3).

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- (133) *He tunu mā'ea vera, haka hopu i te poki hai vai vera.*  
NTR cook stone hot CAUS bathe ACC ART child INS water hot  
'He cooked (the water) with hot rocks, and bathed the child with hot water.'  
[Mtx-1-07.016]

In the following example, the modifier *rapa nui* can also be considered as an instrument in a loose sense.

- (134) *E nu'u ta'e rahi 'i te ra'ā nei e 'aroha rapa nui nei.*  
and people CONNEG many at ART day PROX IPFV greet Rapa Nui PROX  
'Few people today greet each other in Rapa Nui (with this Rapa Nui greeting).'  
[R530.038]

That these combinations are compounds is clear from the fact that the noun is not preceded by a determiner, nor by a preposition indicating its semantic role. (For example, the instrumental role would normally be indicated by *hai*.) Also, postverbal particles follow the noun (*nei* in (134) above), showing that the noun has been incorporated into the verb phrase.

### 5.7.3 Modifying adjectives

As discussed in §5.7.1, modifying adjectives are usually semantically different from modifying nouns. This section discusses a few issues concerning adjectives in the noun phrase.

Several elements occurring in the adjective position are discussed elsewhere:

- the ordinal numeral *ra'e* 'first' (§4.3.3)
- the interrogative adjective *hē* 'which' (§10.3.2.3)
- the quantifying element *rahi* 'much, many' (§4.4.7)
- the noun negator *kore* 'without; lack of' (§10.5.7)

#### 5.7.3.1 Multiple adjectives

As (109) shows, the noun phrase may contain more than one adjective. The order of the adjectives is not fixed:

- (135) *He aŋa i te hare teatea nuinui.*  
NTR make ACC ART house white:RED big:RED  
'He built a big white house.' [Notes]
- (136) *He aŋa i te hare nuinui teatea.*  
NTR make ACC ART house big:RED white:RED  
'He built a big house, which was white.' [Notes]

As the translation shows, there is a subtle difference between the two examples above. The adjective closest to the noun denotes the quality that is most fundamental in the context; this noun + adjective combination is in turn modified by the second adjective. This is in line with the general principle noted in §5.7.1: elements closest to the noun are semantically closer to it as well; they form a unit with the noun which may in turn be modified by other modifiers.

Cases of multiple adjectives are uncommon, though. The contrasting examples above were given during a discussion session. An example from the text corpus is the following:

- (137) *He u'i mai i te 'ohe tītika rivariva.*  
 NTR look hither ACC ART bamboo straight good:RED  
 'You look (= one looks) for a straight, good bamboo stick.' [R360.015]

More commonly, multiple adjectives are separated by a pause or the conjunction 'e 'and'; for an example, see R215, sentence 02 in Appendix A (p. 575).

### 5.7.3.2 The adjective phrase

The adjective constituent which modifies the noun is not always a bare adjective, but can be a phrase containing other elements: adverbs and/or particles.

The adjective may be preceded by a modifier of degree: '*apa* 'to a moderate degree, somewhat, sort of' or '*ata* 'to a higher degree, more'. '*Ata* is discussed in §3.5.1.1; here are examples of '*apa*:

- (138) *he vere 'apa meamea*  
 PRED beard part red:RED  
 'a reddish beard' (Weber 2003b: 77)
- (139) *He oti 'ā te henua mā'ohi 'apa hāhine ki te ŋā henua ena o*  
 NTR finish CONT ART land indigenous part near to ART PL land MED of  
*te America\_del\_Sur.*  
 ART South\_America  
 'This is the only Polynesian island sort of close to the countries of South America.' [R350.003]

The adjective may be followed by an intensifying adverb *rahi* 'much', *ri'ari'a* 'very, terribly', *taparahi-ta'ata* 'terribly' (a Tahitian phrase which literally means 'killing people'), *tano* 'in a moderate degree', *mau* (in (142), emphasised by the identity particle '*ā*):

- (140) *Me'e rivariva rahi te me'e nei mo te orara'a o te mahiño o Rapa*  
 thing good:RED much ART thing PROX for ART life of ART people of Rapa  
*Nui.*  
 Nui  
 'This was something very good for the life of the people of Rapa Nui.' [R231.314]

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- (141) *Pē he 'ariki te ha'aura'a, me'e mo'a ri'ari'a.*  
like PRED king ART example thing respect very  
'The king, for example, was very sacred.' [R371.009]
- (142) *'I nei i nonoho i u'i ai kāiηa rīvariva mau 'ā.*  
at PROX PFV PL:stay PFV look PVP homeland good really IDENT  
'Here they stayed and saw that it was a really good country.' [R420.054]

The adjective may also be followed by a prepositional phrase as in (143):

- (143) *'I Haηa Roa te nonoho haηa, 'i te kona [hāhine [ki te 'ōpītara tuai era]].*  
at Hanga Roa ART PL:stay NMLZ at ART place near to ART hospital ancient  
DIST  
'They lived in Hanga Roa, in a place close to the old hospital.' [R380.003]

## 5.8 Adverbs and *nō* in the noun phrase

### 5.8.1 Adverbs

As the position chart in §5.1 shows, after the quantifier phrase there is a position for adverbs. The only adverbs found here are *haka'ou* 'again', *tako'a* 'also' and *mau* 'really'. *Haka'ou* and *tako'a* are more common in verb phrases, but do appear in noun phrases occasionally; they are discussed in sections §4.5.3.4 and §4.5.3.2, respectively. *Mau* may co-occur with another adverb (just as in the verb phrase, §4.5.1), hence its separate slot in the noun phrase chart in §5.1.

### 5.8.2 The limitative marker *nō*

*Nō* is a marker of limitation, which is also common in the verb phrase (§7.4.1). In the noun phrase, *nō* has a number of uses. In several constructions it serves to restrict the reference of a noun phrase, though – as will be illustrated below – not necessarily the noun phrase it occurs in. In other cases it is used in the sense 'just, simply' in much the same way as in verb phrases.

#### 5.8.2.1 'The only one'

In initial subject NPs, *nō* indicates that the set referred to by the noun phrase has only one entity, viz. the one described in the rest of the sentence. The sentence can be paraphrased as: 'There is only one [NP], and that is [rest of sentence]', or more simply: '[rest of sentence] is the only [NP]'. For example in (144): 'There was only one thing on board, and that was a piece of pumpkin', or 'A piece of pumpkin was the only thing on board.'



- (144) *Te me'e nō o ruŋa, he parehe mautini, he oti mau nō.*  
 the thing just of above PRED piece pumpkin NTR finish really just  
 'The only thing (they had with them) on board was a piece of pumpkin, that was all.' [R303.054]
- (145) *'E tō'ona 'iŋoa nō pa'i i 'ite era e tātou ko Sebastián*  
 and POSS.3SG.O name just in\_fact PFV know DIST AG 1PL.INCL PROM Sebastián  
*Englert.*  
 Englert  
 'And the only name we knew him by, was Sebastián Englert.' [R375.005]

## 5.8.2.2 'Only that one'

With noun phrases in other positions, *nō* signals that the rest of the sentence applies only to the entities described by the noun phrase with *nō*. The sentence can be paraphrased as: 'only for [NP] is it true that [rest of sentence]'. For example in (146): 'Only for lobster and crab is it true that they fished with it'; in other words: 'Lobster and crabs were the only (bait) they fished with.'

- (146) *Te taŋata o nei e hī era hai 'ura nō rāua ko te pīkea.*  
 ART man of PROX IPFV to\_fish DIST INS lobster just 3PL PROM ART crab  
 'The people here used to fish only with lobster and crab.' [R354.029]
- (147) *'I te pō nō te ika nei ana hī.*  
 at ART night just ART fish PROX IRR to\_fish  
 'Only at night this fish can be fished.' [R364.007]

This is also common with *nō* in predicate noun phrases. *Nō* indicates that there is only one entity to which the subject applies, viz. the one referred to in the noun phrase containing *nō*. The sentence can be paraphrased as: 'Only [predicate] is [subject]', or more naturally: '[predicate] is the only [subject]'. This happens for example in the identifying clause (§9.2.2) in (148) below: 'Only she was the new child inside' = 'She was the only new child inside.'

- (148) *Ko ia nō te poki 'āpī o roto.*  
 PROM 3SG just ART child new of inside  
 'She was the only new child inside (the class).' [R151.020]

## 5.8.2.3 'Just'

In all cases above, *nō* limits the reference of a noun phrase. It may also have a weaker sense: 'just, simply, no more than':

- (149) *He tāvini nō māua ō'ou.*  
 PRED servant just 1DU.EXCL POSS.2SG.O  
 'We are just your slaves.' [R214.015]

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- (150) *He repahoa nō au ō'ou.*  
PRED friend just 1SG POSS.2SG.O  
'I am just your friend.' [R308.032]

### 5.8.2.4 Contrastive use

*Nō* is used in a number of expressions indicating a contrast. The noun phrase *te N nō*, placed initially in the clause, functions as a connective which signals that the following clause is an exception to what has been stated before. An appropriate translation is 'however'. The noun may express how this contrast is to be evaluated, whether negatively as in (151), positively as in (152), or neutral as in (153). In (151), the contrast is reinforced with the Spanish conjunction *pero*.

- (151) *Pero te 'ino nō, 'ina e tahi materiare mo aŋa.*  
but ART bad just NEG NUM one material for make  
'(He wanted to build a house.) But unfortunately (=the problem was), there were no building materials.' [R231.156]
- (152) *Te riva nō, e ta'ero era, 'ina he tiŋa'i i tā'ana hua'ai.*  
ART good just IPFV drunk DIST NEG NTR strike ACC POSS.3SG.A family  
'(He used to drink.) Fortunately (=the good thing was), when he was drunk, he did not beat his family.' [R309.056]
- (153) *Te me'e nō, 'i ruŋa i tū vaka era ō'ona e ai rō 'ā e*  
ART thing just at above at DEM boat DIST POSS.3SG.O IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM  
*tahi pē'ue, e rua miro 'i te kaokao o te vaka.*  
one mat NUM two wood at ART side:RED of ART boat  
'(His boat was like the other ones;) however, in his boat there was a rug, and two poles on the sides of the boat.' [R344.040]

## 5.9 The identity marker 'ā/'ana

'Ā and 'ana are variant forms of the same particle.<sup>30</sup> This particle functions as a continuous marker in the verb phrase and as an identity marker in the noun phrase. This section deals with its use in the noun phrase; its use in the verb phrase is discussed in §7.2.5.5.

The choice between 'ā and 'ana is partly a stylistic one. 'Ā is somewhat more informal (and therefore more common in oral language), while 'ana is more formal. Rhythm may also play a role: in some contexts a one-syllable particle may yield a better rhythm than a two-syllable one, or the opposite.

Other euphonic effects may play a role as well. For example, after the particle *ena*, one usually finds 'ā, not 'ana: the alliterating *ena 'ana* is avoided.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> In other Eastern Polynesian languages, cognates of 'ana are used in the verb phrase, but not in the noun phrase (see Footnote 21 on p. 328).

<sup>31</sup> By contrast, after *era* both 'ā and 'ana are commonly used.

Part of the difference is ideolectical, as shown by the fact that some (groups of) texts show a strong preference for one variant. For example, in Ley 'ā is about six times as common as 'ana (296 against 58 occurrences), while in MsE 'ana is predominant (121 against 23 occurrences). One recent text (R539) shows an extraordinary preference for 'ana (557x 'ana against 30x 'ā), while some oral texts use 'ā almost exclusively. In most texts, however, the two occur in more equal proportions, though 'ā is more common overall.

Concerning the use of 'ā/'ana: with a pronoun it may be used when the pronoun has a REFLEXIVE sense, i.e. is coreferential with the subject of the clause. The pronoun may be, for example, the direct object or an oblique argument:

- (154) *Ko ri'ari'a 'ana 'i tū māuiui era ō'ona e ma'u era 'i roto i*  
 PRF afraid CONT ACC DEM sick DIST POSS.3SG.O IPFV carry DIST at inside at  
*a ia 'ā.*  
 PROP 3SG IDENT

‘She was afraid of the sickness she carried inside herself.’ [R301.091]

- (155) *He noho 'i ruŋa i te mā'ea e tahi, he kī ki a ia 'ā...*  
 NTR sit at above at ART stone NUM one NTR say to PROP 3SG IDENT

‘He sat down on a stone and said to himself...’ [R229.365]

However, 'ā/'ana as such is not a reflexive marker: a noun phrase containing 'ā does not need to be in the same clause as its antecedent. In the following example, 'ā appears with a subject pronoun, coreferential with the subject of the preceding sentence:

- (156) *He kī atu ia e tō'oku koro era ki a au... 'Ai ka kī haka'ou*  
 NTR say away then AG POSS.1SG.O Dad DIST to PROP 1SG there CNTG say again  
*atu e ia 'ā...*  
 away AG 3SG IDENT

‘Then my uncle (lit. father) said to me.... Then he himself said again...’  
 [R230.254-6]

It is more accurate to analyse 'ā/'ana in broader terms: it serves as a marker of IDENTITY. As such, it can be used in different ways. Sometimes it indicates that the referent of the noun phrase is identical to another referent in the same clause, as in the reflexive examples (154–155) above. In other cases it indicates that the referent of the noun phrase is identical to another referent mentioned earlier in the text, as in (156). It may also underline that the referent is identical to an entity known in some other way (‘the same’). Some examples:

- (157) *I oti era te kai, he ha'uru rō 'ai a Taparahi 'i tū kona era*  
 PFV finish DIST ART eat NTR sleep EMPH SUBS PROP Taparahi at DEM place DIST  
*'ā.*  
 IDENT

‘When he had finished eating, Taparahi slept at that same place.’ [R250.032]

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- (158) *I poreko ai a ia 'i te motu mau nei 'ā 'i te matahiti 1922.*  
PFV born PVP PROP 3SG at ART islet really PROX IDENT at ART year 1922  
'He was born on this very same island here in the year 1922.' [R487.041]

In (157), the place where Taparahi sleeps is the same place where he has just eaten. In (158), the island where the person in question is born is the same island where the story is being told.

These examples also illustrate the syntax of 'ā/'ana: when 'ā/'ana follows a noun, the noun phrase also has a demonstrative: usually prenominal (*tū* in (157)), occasionally postnominal (*nei* in (158)). When 'ana follows a pronoun, no demonstrative is used.

After a possessive pronoun, 'ā (often preceded by *mau*) stresses the identity of the possessor: 'one's own'.

- (159) *¿E ai rō 'ā tu'u vaka ō'ou mau 'ā?*  
1PFV exist EMPH IDENT POSS.2SG.O boat POSS.2SG.O really IDENT  
'Do you have your own boat?' [Notes]

One more nominal construction in which 'ā/'ana is used, is *ko te V iŋa 'ā/'ana* (§3.2.3.1.1).

### 5.10 The deictic particle *ai*

The deictic particle *ai* is used when pointing at something; it can only be used when the entity referred to is visible.

- (160) *¿O hua'ai hē te rū'au era ai?*  
of family CQ ART old\_woman DIST there  
'Of which family is that old woman over there?' [R413.305]
- (161) *'Ai 'ō te me'e pē Mariana 'ā ai.*  
there really ART thing like Mariana IDENT there  
'There is someone (who looks) like Mariana.' [R415.423]

As these examples show, *ai* is usually preceded by a postnominal demonstrative (*era*, *nei* or *ena*) or an identity marker ('ā or 'ana).

This particle is similar in function to the sentence-initial particle 'ai 'there is'. The particles are phonetically different, however: NP-final *ai* has no glottal, while initial 'ai does. Even so, the two could be etymologically related (§2.2.5 on glottals in particles). Another possibility is that final *ai* has developed from the existential verb *ai*. This verb is used postnominally to construct certain types of relative clauses (§11.4.3):

- (162) *te nu'u ai o te vaka*  
ART people exist of ART boat  
'the people who had a boat' [R200.086]

It is conceivable that the deictic particle *ai* developed from a relative clause which was truncated, and of which only the verb was left.

## 5.11 Heavy shift

Sometimes longer subphrases are placed at the end of the noun phrase. This is in accordance with a universal tendency to move long constituents to the end of the phrase or clause, a phenomenon known as heavy shift (Payne 1997: 326).

In (163) below, the noun is modified by a complex adjective phrase ‘smaller than it’. The adjective itself is in its normal position, but its complement *ki a ia* ‘than it’, which expresses the standard of comparison, is placed after the postnominal demonstrative *era*. In (164), the whole adjective phrase is placed at the end of the noun phrase, even after the relative clause:

- (163) *He take'a ta'ato'a mai e tāua te ta'ato'a ma'uŋa 'ata rikiriki*  
 NTR see all hither AG 1DU.INCL ART all hill more small:PL:RED  
*era ki a ia.*  
 DIST to PROP 3SG

‘We will also see all the mountains smaller than it (=Terevaka).’ [R314.002]

- (164) *'I tū hora era ia i u'i atu ai a Kālia ko te me'e teatea*  
 at DEM time DIST then PFV look away PVP PROP Kalia PROM ART thing white:RED  
*e tahi [e take'a mai era mai ruŋa i tū pahī era] 'ata nuinui ki*  
 NUM one IPFV see hither DIST from above at DEM ship DIST more big:RED to  
*te taŋata e tahi.*  
 ART man NUM one

‘At that moment Kalia saw something white, which was seen on the ship, bigger than a man.’ [R345.061]

## 5.12 Appositions

### 5.12.1 Common nouns in apposition

Common noun phrases in apposition are never preceded by a *t*-determiner. They may be marked in several ways: without any marker (bare appositions), with the predicate marker *he*, or with the prominence marker *ko*.

**Bare appositions** Bare appositions may have generic reference, indicating that the head noun belongs to a certain class of referents. In (165), the apposition tells that Renga Roiti belongs to the class of female children.

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- (165) *He poreko ko Reŋa Roiti, poki tamahahine.*  
 NTR born PROM Renga Roiti child female  
 ‘Renga Roiti, a girl, was born.’ [Mtx-7-15.002]
- (166) *I ira e noho era tū taŋata era, taŋata keukeu henua 'oka kai.*  
 at ANA IPFV stay DIST DEM man DIST man labour:RED land plant food  
 ‘There that man lived, a farmer who planted crops.’ [R372.036]

They may also have specific reference, identifying the head noun with a certain referent. For example, the apposition in (167) tells that Papeete is the same place as the capital of Tahiti.

- (167) *te kona ko Pape'ete, kona rarahi o Tahiti*  
 ART place PROM Papeete place important of Tahiti  
 ‘the city of Papeete, the capital of Tahiti’ [R231.045]

**He-marked appositions** Appositions introduced by *he* may also be either specific as in (168) or generic as in (169). In the Bible translation, appositions tend to be marked with *he*, possibly because the translation employs a relatively polished/formal style.

- (168) *He oho ki Vērene 'i Hūrea, he kona poreko o tō'ona hakaara ko Tāvita.*  
 NTR go to Bethlehem at Judea PRED place born of POSS.3SG.O ancestor PROM  
 David  
 ‘They went to Bethlehem in Judea, the birth place of his ancestor David.’ [Luk. 2:4]
- (169) *He haka hāhine rā nu'u ki a Feripe, he kope o Vetetaira.*  
 NTR CAUS near DIST people to PROP Philip PRED person of Bethsaida  
 ‘Those people approached Philip, a man from Bethsaida.’ [John 12:21]

Bare and *he*-marked appositions are used as the equivalent of nonrestrictive relative clauses, clauses which provide information about a noun phrase without limiting its reference.<sup>32</sup> In Rapa Nui, relative clauses must be restrictive, and therefore they cannot be attached to nouns which already have a unique reference, like proper names. To add a clause providing more information to such a noun, a noun with generic meaning (e.g. *me'e* ‘thing’, *kope* ‘person’) is placed in apposition; a relative clause is attached to this apposition, limiting the reference of the generic noun:

- (170) *He oho ia a Vakaiāheva ki Rano Raraku, kona [i ira te kape e noho era].*  
 NTR go then PROP Vakaiāheva to Rano Raraku place at ANA ART boss IPFV  
 stay DIST  
 ‘Vakaiāheva went to Rano Raraku, the place where the boss lived.’ [R440.028]

<sup>32</sup> Andrews (2007a: 207) does not consider nonrestrictive clauses as relative clauses, as relative clauses (in his definition) delimit the reference of the noun phrase.

- (171) *He turu a Rovi, he taʻata [hāpa'o i te poki 'a Hotu 'ariki].*  
 NTR go\_down PROP Rovi NTR person care\_for ACC ART child of.A Hotu king  
 ‘Rovi came down, the man who took care of the child of king Hotu.’ [R422.002]

**Ko-marked appositions** Sometimes a common noun apposition is marked by the prominence marker *ko* (§4.7.12), followed by a determiner.<sup>33</sup> This happens when the apposition refers to an entity uniquely identifiable by the hearer (cf. §9.2.1 on the distinction between *ko*-marked and *he*-marked noun phrases).

- (172) *He tu'u mai te 'avione ra'e ko te 'avione ena e kī ena he*  
 NTR arrive hither ART airplane first PROM ART airplane MED IPFV say MED PRED  
*DC 10.*  
 DC 10  
 ‘The first airplane, the airplane called DC 10, arrived.’ [R203.062]
- (173) *te mahiʻo i haka maraʻa ena 'i ruʻa i te henua nei ko te*  
 ART people PFV CAUS scattered MED at above at ART land PROX PROM ART  
*kāiʻa*  
 homeland  
 ‘the people who spread over the land, over the homeland’ [R350.016]

### 5.12.2 Proper nouns in apposition

If the apposition is a proper noun, it is introduced by *ko*. This is to be expected, as proper nouns are inherently uniquely identifiable in a given context (§9.2.1).

- (174) *He oho mai era te 'ariki ko Hotu Matu'a, he rarama era.*  
 NTR go hither DIST ART king PROM Hotu Matu'a NTR inspect DIST  
 ‘King Hotu Matu’a came and examined it.’ [Mtx-2-02.043]
- (175) *te kona ko Pape'ete, kona rarahi o Tahiti*  
 ART place PROM Papeete place important of Tahiti  
 ‘the city of Papeete, the capital of Tahiti’ [R231.045]

The examples above illustrate the most common way to express a combination of a common noun and a name: the common noun is the head noun; the name follows as apposition, introduced by *ko*. There are exceptions though: sometimes *ko* is not used as in (176); sometimes the name precedes the common noun as in (177):

- (176) *Te kona noho o te 'ariki Hotu Matu'a 'i Hiva Mara'e Renga.*  
 ART place stay of ART king Hotu Matu'a at Hiva Mara'e Renga  
 ‘The place where king Hotu Matu’a lived in Hiva was Mara’e Renga.’  
 [Ley-2-01.002]

<sup>33</sup> *Ko* in appositions is common in Polynesian languages, see Clark (1976: 45).

- (177) *He turu a Rovi, he taŋata hāpa'o i te poki 'a Hotu 'ariki.*  
 NTR go\_down PROP Rovi PRED man care\_for ACC ART child of.A Hotu king  
 'Rovi came down, the man who took care of the child of king Hotu.' [R422.002]

### 5.13 The proper noun phrase

Proper noun phrases are those headed by proper nouns. As discussed in §3.3.2, the class of proper nouns in Rapa Nui not only includes names of persons, but a number of kinship terms and other nouns as well, as well as pronouns. These items are grouped together on syntactic grounds: they do not take the determiner *te*, but the proper article *a*.

What proper nouns have in common semantically, is that they refer to a unique entity. Unlike common nouns, which denote a property or class, they do not need a determiner to be referential. Anderson (2004: 456) argues that proper names and pronouns belong to the same category as determiners and deictics like *this*: while determiners turn a common noun into a referential expression, proper nouns are inherently referential. While common nouns can function as predicates, proper nouns cannot. In Rapa Nui this means that they cannot take the predicate marker *he*. And as they do not need a determiner to acquire referentiality, they do not take the common noun article *te*.

In §5.13.1, the structure of the proper noun phrase is discussed. §5.13.2 examines the distribution and structural position of the proper article *a*.

#### 5.13.1 Structure of the proper noun phrase

As Dixon (2010a: 108) points out, proper nouns usually have fewer syntactic possibilities than common nouns. In Rapa Nui, most proper noun phrases consist only of a proper noun preceded – if syntactically appropriate – by the proper article *a*. Even so, the proper noun phrase may contain a range of other elements as well. The full structure of the proper noun phrase, including the preceding preposition, is shown in Table 5.5 and Table 5.6.

Table 5.5: The proper noun phrase: prenominal elements

0	1	2	3	4
preposition	proper article	coll. marker	(determiner)	nucleus
<i>'i, ki, mai</i> etc.	<i>a</i>	<i>kuā</i>	<i>t</i> -possessive	<i>proper noun</i>
§	5.13.2	5.2	6.2.1	3.3.2

The head is obligatory, and so are the preposition and the proper article, if required by the syntactic context. All other elements are optional.



Table 5.6: The proper noun phrase: postnominal elements

	5	6	7	8	9	10
	adverb	emphatic marker	limitative marker	postnom. demonstr.	identity marker	possessor
	<i>tako'a</i>	<i>mau</i>	<i>nō</i>	<i>nei; ena; era</i>	<i>'ā; 'ana</i>	possessive phrase
§	5.8	5.8	5.8	4.6.3	5.9	6.2.1

With the exception of the proper article, all items occur in the common noun phrase as well. They have been discussed in the preceding sections (see the paragraph references in the tables).

The following examples illustrate different possibilities; each word or phrase is numbered according to the numbering in Table 5.5 and Table 5.6.

- (178) *ki*<sub>0</sub> *a*<sub>1</sub> *tō'oku*<sub>3</sub> [*matu'a vahine*]<sub>4</sub>  
 to PROP POSS.2SG.O parent female  
 '(I said) to my mother' [R334.287]
- (179) *a*<sub>1</sub> *kuā*<sub>2</sub> *koro*<sub>4</sub>  
 PROP COLL father  
 'Father and the others' [R184.032]
- (180) *ki*<sub>0</sub> *a*<sub>1</sub> *Rātaro*<sub>4</sub> *tako'a*<sub>5</sub>  
 to PROP Lazarus also  
 '(they wanted to see) Lazarus as well' [John 12:9]
- (181) *ko*<sub>0</sub> *'Anakena*<sub>4</sub> *mau*<sub>6</sub> *nō*<sub>7</sub>  
 PROM Anakena really just  
 'only Anakena (was the place where the people were not ill)' [R231.098]
- (182) *Pē*<sub>0</sub> [*Māria Gonzales*]<sub>4</sub> *mau*<sub>6</sub> *'ā*<sub>9</sub>  
 like Maria Gonzales really IDENT  
 '(That woman looks) like Maria Gonzales herself' [R416.360]

Most of these elements (except for the *kuā*, determiners, and genitive phrases) may occur with pronouns as well. (See §3.3.2: pronouns belong syntactically to the class of proper nouns.). A few examples:

- (183) *ko ia tako'a*  
 PROM 3SG also  
 'he (knew it) as well' [R620.037]

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(184) *ko au mau nō*  
PROM 1SG really just  
'really just I' [R404.048]

(185) *ko au nei*  
PROM 1SG PROX  
'I here (am Huri a Vai)' [R304.086]

The determiner position plays a marginal role in personal noun phrases. It can only be filled by possessive pronouns, and only when the head noun is a kinship term; see (198) on p. 279. The post-nominal elements are uncommon as well.

### 5.13.2 The proper article *a*

This section discusses the proper article *a*.<sup>34</sup> In §5.13.2.1 the contexts are listed in which this article occurs. In §5.13.2.2 the question is raised whether *a* is a determiner.

According to Clark (1976: 58), *a* occurs in almost all Polynesian languages preceding a personal noun or pronoun after certain prepositions; in a number of Nuclear Polynesian languages it is also used in the nominative case. Both are true for Rapa Nui as well, see below.<sup>35</sup> The nominative case marker '*a*' in Tongan reflects the same PPN particle.<sup>36</sup>

#### 5.13.2.1 Contexts in which *a* is used

The proper article *a* is not the proper noun equivalent of the common noun article *te*: it is not used in the same contexts where a common noun would have the article *te*. The use of the proper article is limited to the following contexts:

**Subject** The proper article is used when the noun phrase or pronoun is subject of a verbal or nonverbal clause.

(186) *He tutu a nua i te ahi.*  
NTR set\_fire PROP Mum ACC ART fire  
'Mum lighted the fire.' [R232.047]

<sup>34</sup> In Polynesian linguistics, *a* is more commonly called "personal article"; I use "proper article", a term suggested by Dixon (2010a: 108), as *a* is exclusively used with the class of proper nouns. The term "proper" seems more appropriate than "personal": this class is not defined by 'personal' (i.e. human) reference, but by its 'proper', name-like character.

<sup>35</sup> In languages where *a* is only used after prepositions, it tends to be considered (and written) as one word together with the preceding *i* or *ki*: *ia*, *kia*. See e.g. Elbert & Pukui (1979: 107) for Hawaiian, Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 186) for Tahitian.

<sup>36</sup> Fischer (1994: 429) presumes that the Old Rapa Nui form was '*a*', which was replaced by Tahitian *a* in Modern RN. This is based on the fact that the form reconstructed for PPN is \**a*; the latter is based on the Tongan nominative marker '*a*'. Notice, however, that the form does not have a glottal in other languages which normally preserve the PPN glottal (Rennell, East Uvean and East Futunan). It is thus well possible that *a* had lost the glottal by PNP. In any case, the glottal is unstable in particles in Polynesian languages, especially in initial particles, and may disappear and (re)appear unpredictably (§2.2.5; Clark 1976: 20). Notice also that in Tahitian *a* has a more limited distribution than in Rapa Nui: it is only used after prepositions.

- (187) *I te ahiahi he oho a au he tatau i te ū.*  
 at ART afternoon NTR go PROP 1SG NTR squeeze ACC ART milk  
 ‘In the late afternoon I go and milk the cows.’ [R334.277]

With personal pronouns used as subject, the proper article is sometimes left out. This happens especially with the plural pronouns and *koe*, less commonly with *au*, never with *ia*.

- (188) *Ka e'a mai rāua mai te hāpī...*  
 CNTG go\_out hither 3PL from ART learn  
 ‘When they came from school...’ [R381.012]
- (189) *¿He aha koe e tanjī ena?*  
 NTR what 2SG IPFV cry MED  
 ‘Why are you crying?’ [R229.185]

Usually, the proper article is omitted before the subject pronoun of an imperative clause, as in (190).

- (190) *Ka oho koe.*  
 IMP go 2SG  
 ‘Go.’ [Notes]

**After prepositions ending in *-i*** <sup>37</sup> When a proper noun is preceded by ‘*i/i* ‘in, at’, the accusative marker *i*, *mai* ‘from’ or *ki* ‘to’, the proper article is used. When the preposition is *mai*, the preposition *i* is added between *mai* and the proper article (see (278) on p. 215).

- (191) *I e'a era au e kimi 'ā i a kōrua.*  
 PFV go\_out DIST 1SG IPFV search CONT ACC PROP 2PL  
 ‘I went out and looked for you all.’ [R182.012]
- (192) *He kī a Kaiŋa ki a Makita ki a Roke'aua...*  
 NTR say PROP Kaiŋa to PROP Makita to PROP Roke'aua  
 ‘Kaiŋa said to Makita and Roke'aua...’ [R243.063]

The proper article is **not** used after any other preposition: agentive *e*, vocative *e*, genitive *o*, the prominence marker *ko*, and the prepositions *mo/mā* ‘for’, *a* ‘by’, *'o* ‘because of’, *pe* ‘toward’, *pē* ‘like’, *hai* ‘with’. The proper noun or pronoun follows immediately after these markers:

<sup>37</sup> In almost all Polynesian languages *a* occurs after *i*, *ki* and *mai*, but not after other prepositions. Clark (1976: 58) suggests this can be explained by a morphophonemic rule which deleted *a* after prepositions ending in a non-high vowel. This rule must have been operative at a stage prior to Proto-Polynesian, as it affected all Polynesian languages. The fact that *a* in Rapa Nui does not occur after *hai* ‘with’ shows that the rule is no longer productive.

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(193) *Ka oho mai, e (\*a) Tiare ē.*  
 IMP go hither VOC PROP Tiare VOC  
 ‘Come, Tiare.’ [R152.035]

(194) *ko (\*a) koe, ko (\*a) Alberto, ko (\*a) Carlo*  
 PROM PROP 2SG PROM PROP Alberto PROM PROP Carlo  
 ‘you, Alberto, and Carlo’ [R103.026]

When the noun phrase or pronoun is used in an elliptic construction, *a* is used if a context is implied where it would normally be used. In the following example, the reply *a au* implies the clause ‘I climbed the crater’, in which the pronoun is subject of a verbal clause, a context in which *a* would be used.

(195) *—¿Pē hē koe i iri ai ki te rano? —¿A au? A raro ‘ā,*  
 like CQ 2SG PFV ascend PVP to ART crater\_lake PROP 1SG by below IDENT  
*a pie.*  
 by foot  
 ‘—How did you climb the crater? —Me? On foot.’ [R623.015–017]

In other contexts, isolated proper nouns are marked by the prominence marker *ko* (§4.7.12.1).

### 5.13.2.2 Is *a* a determiner?

In a number of respects, the proper article shows complementary distribution with the common noun article *te*:

- It never co-occurs with the article *te*.
- It occurs mostly with those elements that do not take *te*: names and personal pronouns. (Only a few nouns may function both like proper nouns and common nouns, see §3.3.2.)
- In contexts where the proper article is used, it is obligatory, just like *te* is obligatory.

It seems a logical step to analyse *a* as an article, and indeed, in Polynesian linguistics *a* is often labelled as “personal article” (see e.g. Clark 1976: 58, Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 109, Cablitz 2006: 62). There are, however, important differences in distribution between *te* and *a* in Rapa Nui. For one thing, after the prepositions *e*, *o*, *ko*, *a*, *o* and *pe*, the article *te* is obligatory (§5.3.2.1), but *a* is not used.

It is even questionable whether *a* is a determiner at all. For one thing, the collective marker *kuā* precedes the determiner *te*, but occurs after the proper article:

(196) *a kuā Tiare*  
 PROP COLL Tiare  
 ‘Tiare and the others’ [R315.227]

- (197) *kuā te kape*  
 COLL ART captain  
 ‘the captain and company’ [R416.864]

Secondly, while *a* does not co-occur with the article *te*, it does co-occur occasionally with possessive pronouns which are in the determiner position:

- (198) *He 'ui iho ia ō'oku ki a tō'oku koro era...*  
 NTR ask just\_then then POSS.1SG.O TO PROP POSS.1SG.O Dad DIST  
 ‘Then I asked my uncle (lit. father) again...’ [R230.121]

These data show that *a* is not in the determiner position, but in an earlier position in the noun phrase. It can thus only be called “proper article” in a loose way, without implying that it occupies the same position as other articles.

*A* is not a preposition or case marker, either, as it occurs both with subject nouns/pronouns and after several prepositions, such as the accusative marker *i*.

## 5.14 Conclusions

The preceding sections have shown that the structure of the noun phrase in Rapa Nui is complex, with no less than seventeen different slots. Apart from the head, the only element which is obligatory in most contexts is the determiner. In the determiner position, two fundamentally different elements occur: *t*-demonstratives and the predicate marker *he*. The former mark referentiality (not specificity or definiteness; the latter is indicated by demonstratives), while *he* marks a noun phrase as non-referential. Indefiniteness is sometimes indicated by the numeral *e tahi* ‘one’.

In subject position and after most prepositions, the determiner is obligatory. On the other hand, the determiner cannot co-occur with pronominal numerals and certain quantifiers; this means that the latter are excluded when a determiner is needed.

Two elements which do not occur in the determiner position are the collective marker *kuā/koā* and plural markers. The proper article *a*, which precedes proper nouns and pronouns, is not a determiner either: it occurs in a different position in the noun phrase. Also, it occurs in less contexts than determiners; in many contexts, proper nouns are not marked with *a*. This means that *a* is not the proper noun counterpart of the article *te*.

The head noun is usually obligatory. There are a few constructions in which a noun phrase is headless, but all of these are relatively rare.

The noun may be modified by either a noun, verb or adjective, but these do not have the same status. Modifying nouns and verbs are incorporated into the head noun, forming a compound: they are bare words and express a single concept together with the head noun. Modifying adjectives, on the other hand, express an additional concept and may form an adjective phrase.

Modifying verbs are superficially similar to bare relative clauses; in both of these, the verb is not preceded by any aspect or mood marker. However, unlike modifying verbs,

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bare relative clauses are full clauses which may contain arguments and modifiers. Also, they do not express a single concept together with the head noun, but express a specific event.

Finally, the noun may be modified by certain adverbs, the limitative marker *nō*, the identity marker *'ā/'ana* and the deictic particle *ai*.

# 6 Possession

## 6.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the syntax and semantics of possessive constructions.<sup>1</sup> Possessive constructions in Rapa Nui are defined by the use of the possessive prepositions *o* and *'a*. They occur in a wide variety of syntactic environments: as modifiers in the noun phrase, as predicates of nominal clauses, and in several other constructions. This range of possessive constructions is discussed in §6.2. §6.3 deals with the semantics of possessives. Possessives express a wide range of relationships besides the idea of possession as such; these are described in §6.3.1.

Whether a possessive construction is marked with *o* or *a* depends on the semantic relationship between possessor and possessee. The distinction between the two classes of possession is discussed in §6.3.2–6.3.4.

The *o/a* distinction also applies to the benefactive prepositions *mo/ma* (§4.7.8),<sup>2</sup> which in turn form the basis for benefactive pronouns (§4.2.3). The semantic relationships discussed in the sections below are also valid for benefactives.

## 6.2 Possessive constructions

As mentioned above, all possessive constructions contain a possessive preposition *o* or *'a*. In certain constructions, *o* and *'a* coalesce with the determiner *te* into a marker *to* or *ta*. These four forms (*o* and *'a*, *to* and *ta*) in turn form the basis for possessive pronouns (§4.2.2). The *o/a* forms are labelled Ø-possessives, the *to/ta* forms *t*-possessives.

In this section, the range of possessive constructions is discussed. §6.2.1 deals with the use of possessives in the noun phrase. A peculiar noun phrase construction is the partitive; this is discussed in §6.2.2. Other possessive constructions (such as possessive

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<sup>1</sup> The term *possessive* is used as a technical term here including not only relationships of possession, but any relationship expressed by possessive pronouns, possessive prepositions, or benefactive pronouns or noun phrases (cf. Lichtenberk 1985: 94). For relationships within noun phrases, the term *possessee* is used for the head, *possessor* for the possessive modifier.

<sup>2</sup> Possessive constructions marked with prepositions or possessive pronouns are the common pattern in Polynesian. In this respect, Polynesian is unusual within the wider family of Oceanic languages: the latter are generally characterised by a distinction between direct and indirect possession (Lynch 1997; Lichtenberk 1985). Direct possession is marked by suffixes on the noun; in Polynesian, traces of this system survive in a number of kinship terms ending in *-na* (Lynch 1997; Marck 1996b); in Rapa Nui: *tuakana* 'older sibling'; *taina* 'sibling'; *makupuna* 'grandchild'; *tupuna* 'ancestor'; possibly also *ha'ana* 'woman's sister's husband (obsolete)' (Métraux 1971: 99), cf. PPN \**sa'a* 'family, clan'.

clauses) are listed in §6.2.3; they are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this grammar. §6.2.4 summarises the use of the different possessive forms.

### 6.2.1 Possessives in the noun phrase

Possessive NOUN PHRASES (i.e. those involving a common or proper noun) occur at the end of the noun phrase, after other particles. They are introduced by *o* or *'a*:<sup>3</sup>

- (1) *ko te vaka tama'i era o te 'ariki*  
 PROM ART canoe fight DIST of ART king  
 'the battle canoe of the king' [R345.013]
- (2) *te poki 'a Taka*  
 ART child of.A Taka  
 'Taka's child' [Mtx-3-03.024]
- (3) *mai tū 'ōpata nei 'ā o te karikari*  
 from DEM cliff PROX IDENT of ART narrow\_part  
 'from this same cliff of the narrow rock' [R112.011]

Possessive noun phrases also appear in headless noun phrases, in which case *o/'a* coalesces with the determiner to *to/ta* (examples (102–103) in §5.6).

When the possessor is PRONOMINAL, i.e. a possessive pronoun, it may occur in three different positions, as Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 in §5.1 show: in determiner position; before the noun but not in determiner position; after the noun.

As explained in §4.2.2, Rapa Nui has two sets of possessive pronouns: *t*-possessives (*tā'ana*, *te mātou*) and  $\emptyset$ -possessives (*'ā'ana*, *o mātou*). Which form is used, depends on the position of the pronoun in the noun phrase.

When the noun phrase needs a determiner (§5.3.2.1), possessive pronouns usually occur in the determiner position. In this position, *t*-possessives are used. This happens for example when the noun phrase is subject, or occurs after a preposition:

- (4) *¿He aha tō'ona rua 'iŋoa?*  
 PRED what POSS.3SG.O two name  
 'What is his second name?' [R412.079]

<sup>3</sup> In other Eastern Polynesian languages, possessive noun phrases may also occur in the determiner position, introduced by a *t*-form *to* or *ta*. See for example the following example from Tahitian (pers.obs.):

- (i) *E mea maita'i [tā terā ta'ata] tipi.* (Tahitian)  
 PRED thing good ART:of.A DIST man knife  
 'That man's knife is good.'

The head noun *tipi* is preceded by a genitive noun phrase *tā terā ta'ata*; the possessive preposition *ta* is based on the article *te* + possessive *a*. In Rapa Nui this construction occurs only in headless noun phrases (§5.6). Fischer (2000: 336) gives an example of a pronominal noun phrase possessor (*tā te tanata poki* 'the man's children'), but such a construction does not occur anywhere in my corpus.



- (5) *Ko haŋa 'ana a au mo u'i i t̄ā'aku vi'e mo hāipoipo.*  
 PRF want CONT PROP 1SG for look ACC POSS.1SG.A woman for marry  
 'I want to find a wife to marry' [R491.005]
- (6) *hai matavai 'i t̄ō'oku mata*  
 INS tear at POSS.1SG.O eye  
 'with tears in my eyes' [R221.009]

That the possessive pronoun is in determiner position, is also confirmed by the fact that prenominal quantifiers occur after the possessor, as in (4).

Possessive pronouns may also occur before the noun in noun phrases not containing a determiner. In that case, Ø-possessives are used.<sup>4</sup> This happens especially when the noun phrase contains a prenominal numeral, but also after the negator *'ina*. Prenominal numerals preclude the use of all determiners (§5.3.2.2), while *'ina* precludes the use of *t*-determiners (§10.5.1):

- (7) *He ai e tahi 'ā'ana poki 'i roto o te vi'e ko Rurita.*  
 NTR exist NUM one POSS.3SG.A child at inside of ART woman PROM Rurita  
 'He had one (lit. there was one his) child by the woman Rurita.' [R309.027]
- (8) *Te nu'u nei e ai rō 'ā e rua rāua ŋā poki*  
 ART people PROX IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM two 3PL PL child  
 'These people had two children (lit. there were two their children).' [R481.005]
- (9) *'Ina 'ā'aku nanue para era o nei.*  
 NEG POSS.1SG.A kind\_of\_fish DIST of PROX  
 'My *nanue para* fish is not here.' [R301.272]

When plural Ø-pronouns occur before the noun, the *o* is omitted.<sup>5</sup> This means that they have the same form as the corresponding personal pronouns; only their position identifies them as possessive pronouns.

- (10) *E ai rō 'ā e tahi rāua poki tane te 'iŋoa ko Iovani.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM one 3PL child male ART name PROM Iovani  
 'They had one son (lit. there was one their son) named Iovani.' [R238.002]

<sup>4</sup> When a *t*-possessive occurs in this position, the numeral is not part of the noun phrase, but predicate of a so-called 'numerical clause' (§9.5).

<sup>5</sup> Wilson (1985: 106) gives an example from Rapa Nui in which the genitive preposition is not omitted (modified spelling & gloss):

- (i) *E rua o mātou hare.*  
 NUM two of 1PL.EXCL house  
 'We have two houses.'

Unfortunately, no source is given for this example; it may well be erroneous, as no examples of this construction occur in my corpus.

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- (11) *'Ina tātou haŋu mo kai ko kuā nua.*  
 NEG 1PL.INCL sustenance for eat PROM COLL Mum  
 'We don't have any food left to eat, me and Mum.' [R372.047]

After the noun, these pronouns do have the *o*, as illustrated in (12) below.

Finally, possessive pronouns may occur at the end of the noun phrase, in the same position as possessive noun phrases (see (1–3) above). In this position, Ø-possessives are used:

- (12) *He hiŋa 'i tū kori haŋa rahi era o rāua he haka nininini 'i ruŋa o*  
 NTR fall at DEM play love much DIST of 3PL PRED CAUS spin:RED at above of  
*te ma'uŋa.*  
 ART mountain  
 'He fell during that much-loved game of theirs, (which was) sliding down the hill.' [R313.103]

- (13) *pē tū vārua moe era 'ā e tū poki taina era ō'ona*  
 like DEM spirit lie\_down DIST CONT AG DEM child sibling DIST POSS.3SG.O  
 'like that dream dreamt by her sister (lit. that sister of hers)' [R347.131]

These postnominal possessives occur when the determiner slot is occupied by another element. As these examples show, this especially happens when the noun phrase contains a demonstrative determiner such as *tū*. *Tū* fulfills the requirement for the noun phrase to have a determiner, but it precludes the use of a prenominal possessive, hence the possessive is placed after the noun.

Sometimes a *t*-possessive pronoun before the noun occurs together with a Ø-possessive after the noun. In this double possessive construction, the two pronouns reinforce each other:

- (14) *Ka turu era tu'u rima ō'ou ki te kai era mo to'o mai.*  
 CNTG go\_down DIST POSS.2SG.O hand POSS.2SG.O to ART food DIST for take hither  
 'When your hand goes down to take the food...' [R310.088]
- (15) *Ki ta'a u'i 'ā'au, ʒe hau rā hora 'i te rivariva ki te*  
 to POSS.2SG.A look POSS.2SG.A IPFV exceed DIST time at ART good:RED to ART  
*hora nei?*  
 time PROX  
 'In your view, was that time better than the present time?' [R380.106]

Possessive doubling only happens in the second person. The *t*-possessive before the noun is always one of the shortened forms *tu'u* or *ta'a* (§4.2.2.1.1).

## 6.2.2 The partitive construction

Besides the common construction “*t*-possessive N” discussed above, Rapa Nui has a construction “*t*-possessive *o te* N”. In this construction, the possessee has been demoted from the head noun position to a possessive phrase *o te N*. The construction has a partitive sense, indicating someone’s share, portion: *tā'aku o te vai* = ‘my portion of the water, the part of the water that is mine’. Some examples:

- (16) *Mai tā'aku o te vai.*  
 hither POSS.1SG.A of ART water  
 ‘Give me some water.’ [Notes]
- (17) *Mo 'avai atu i tō'ou o te parehe...*  
 for give away ACC POSS.2SG.O of ART piece  
 ‘(I want) to give a piece to you...’ [R219.021]
- (18) *He ta'o tako'a to rāua o te tanata mo kai.*  
 NTR cook\_in\_earth\_oven also ART:of 3PL of ART man for eat  
 ‘They also cooked people for them(selves) to eat.’ [Mtx-3-01.282]

As the examples above show, the sense of ‘share, portion’ often implies that the item is not yet in the hands of the possessor, but destined for him or her.

This construction may be emphatic: ‘yours, nobody else’s’:

- (19) *...e a koe ka ha'amata ka kimi tā'au o te repa.*  
 and PROP 2SG CNTG begin CNTG search POSS.2SG.A of ART young\_man  
 ‘...and you should start looking for your own boyfriend.’ [R315.258]
- (20) *He haka eke i te poki nei, he eke ko ia i tō'ona o te hoi.*  
 NTR CAUS go\_up ACC ART child PROX NTR go\_up PROM 3SG ACC POSS.3SG.O of ART horse  
 ‘He lifted the boy on the horse, and he mounted on his own horse.’ [R105.028]

As these examples show, in this construction the long second-person pronouns *tō'ou* and *tā'au* are used, even though prenominal possessive pronouns usually have one of the short forms *ta'a*, *tu'u* etc (§4.2.2.1.1). There is another difference between prenominal possessives and partitives. While prenominal possessives can only be pronouns (§6.2.1 above), the possessive in a partitive construction may also be a full noun phrase. This noun phrase is constructed with a possessive preposition *to* or *ta*, following the *o/a* distinction (§6.3.2). In the following examples, just as in some of the examples above, the construction expresses something destined for the possessor.

- (21) *Ī au he ha'ata'a i to Vaha o te kahu.*  
 IMM 1SG NTR separate ACC ART:of Vaha of ART cloth(es)  
 ‘I will put apart some clothes for Vaha.’ [R229.194]

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- (22) *Ī au he ha'ata'a i ta Māria o te kai.*  
 IMM 1SG NTR separate ACC ART:of.A Maria of ART food  
 'I will put apart some food for Maria.' [Notes]

A similar but simpler construction – which can be labelled “pseudo-partitive” – is *to te N*. In this construction, the noun phrase *te N* is introduced by *to* in a possessive/partitive sense:

- (23) *Te taŋata e ai rō 'ā tā'ana kai, ka va'ai to te taŋata*  
 ART man IPFV exist EMPH CONT POSS.3SG.A food IMP give ART:of ART man  
 'ina 'ā'ana kai.  
 NEG POSS.3SG.A food  
 'The man who has food, should give some to the man who does not have food.'  
 [Luke 3:11]

- (24) *Te ŋā kai 'āpī ra'e era... e ma'u to te hare pure 'i ra'e.*  
 ART PL food new first DIST IPFV carry ART:of ART house prayer at first  
 'The first food... they first had to take some to the church (lit. carry those of the church)' [R539-3.150]

This construction is reminiscent, syntactically speaking, of the headless possessive construction (§5.6), of which an example is given here:

- (25) *Ko Koka te 'iŋoa o tō'ona hoi... ko Parasa to te rū'au*  
 PROM Koka ART name of POSS.3SG.O horse PROM Parasa ART:of ART old\_woman  
 era 'ā'ana.  
 DIST POSS.3SG.A  
 'Koka was the name of the horse he went on, Parasa the (name) of his old wife.'  
 [R539-1.420]

There is an important difference though: while in (25) *to te rū'au* has a straightforward possessive sense (parallel to the possessive phrase *o tō'ona hoi*), in (23–24) the possessive phrase occurs in a context where normally the dative preposition *ki* would be used.

Semantically, (23–24) are similar to the partitive construction discussed above. In both cases, the noun phrase refers to something which is destined for the person referred to; moreover, the sense is partitive: ‘some of the food, some of the clothes’. Also, in both cases the *to*-phrase is independent: there is no head noun to which it is attached. The difference is that in the partitive construction in (16–18) above the possessee is expressed by a genitive phrase *o te kahu* which is semantically the head of the phrase (the noun phrase as a whole refers to ‘clothes’, not to ‘Vaha’), while in (23–24) it is not expressed at all.

### 6.2.3 Other possessive constructions

Possessive constructions occur not only as modifiers in the noun phrase, but in a range of other constructions as well. This section gives a concise listing; all of these constructions (with the exception of the elliptic construction in (34) below) are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this grammar.<sup>6</sup>

6.2.3.1 *o*-class Ø-possessives are used to mark the S/A argument of a clause introduced by preverbal *mo* ‘if; in order to’ (§11.5.1.2):

- (26) *Mo kī ō'oku he teatea, he rere a ruŋa he kī atu he*  
 if say POSS.1SG.O PRED white:RED NTR jump by above NTR say away PRED  
*'uri'uri.*  
 black:RED  
 ‘If I say it’s white, he jumps up and says it’s black.’ [R480.003]

Occasionally, *O*-class Ø-possessives are used to mark the S/A argument of a main clause (§8.6.4.1):

- (27) *He u'i atu ō'oku i tō'oku pāpā era...*  
 NTR look away POSS.1SG.O ACC POSS.1SG.O father DIST  
 ‘Then I saw my father...’ [R101.012]

6.2.3.2 *a*-class Ø-possessives<sup>7</sup> serve to express the Agent in the actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3):

- (28) *Ī'Ā'au rō ta'a moeŋa nei o māua i toke!*  
 POSS.2SG.A EMPH POSS.2SG.A mat PROX of IDU.EXCL PFV steal  
 ‘It was you who stole that mat of ours!’ [R310.428]

6.2.3.3 Ø-possessives (both *a*- and *o*-class) served as the predicate of proprietary clauses (§9.4.2).

- (29) *Ō'ona ho'i te 'āua era.*  
 POSS.3SG.O indeed ART field DIST  
 ‘That field is his.’ [R413.228]

<sup>6</sup> Not included here are possessives expressing the subject of a relative clause in the “possessive-relative construction”; as argued in §11.4.4, these should be considered as normal noun-phrase possessors which are syntactically separate from the relative clause.

<sup>7</sup> *A*-forms only occur with singular pronouns and with proper nouns (§6.3.2); with plural pronouns and with common nouns, only the default *o*-forms are available.

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6.2.3.4 In older Rapa Nui, the *t*-possessives serve as the predicate of possessive clauses (§9.3.3). In modern Rapa Nui, this construction is no longer in use.<sup>8</sup>

- (30) *He poki tā'ana e tahi, poki tamāroa.*  
NTR child POSS.3SG.A NUM one child male  
'He had a child, a boy.' [Ley-9-57.002]

6.2.3.5 Possessives of the *o*-class may serve as the predicate of existential-locative clauses (§9.3.2); see §6.3.1.8 below on the locative use of possessives. In modern Rapa Nui, Ø-possessives are used as in (31); in older Rapa Nui, *t*-possessives were used as in (32–33).

- (31) *¿E ai rō 'ā te ika o roto?*  
IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART fish of inside  
'Are there fish inside (the net)?' [R241.058]

- (32) *He tanata to nei... Njata Vake te 'iñoa.*  
PRED person ART:of PROX Ngata Vake ART name  
'There was a man here, called Ngata Vake.' [Ley-3-02.002]

- (33) *He tanata to ruja to te motu, ko Motu Tapu te 'iñoa.*  
PRED man ART:of above ART:of ART islet PROM Motu Tapu ART name  
'There was a man on the islet which was called Motu Tapu' [Ley-8-52.024]

6.2.3.6 Finally, *to* (i.e. the *t*-possessive *o*-form) + locational is sometimes used as an elliptic noun phrase. This use is especially found in older Rapa Nui. *To* + noun refers to a group of people situated in the location indicated by the locational: 'those ones inside/outside/over there...' (cf. the headless construction 2 above). In the following example, *to haho* is a short way to refer to 'the people outside'.

- (34) *He toe e toru te 'ajahuru nō toe, ku oti 'ā to haho.*  
NTR remain NUM three ART ten just remain PRF finish CONT ART:of outside  
'Only thirty (men) were left, those outside were finished.' [Mtx-3-01.092]

### 6.2.4 Summary: use of possessive forms

The occurrence of the different possessive forms is summarised in Table 6.1.

The discussion in the previous sections has shown that various possessive forms are used, depending on the construction. Three parameters play a role, which are reflected in Table 6.1:

- the choice between *t*- and Ø-possessives;

<sup>8</sup> In modern Rapa Nui, possessive clauses are constructed as verbal or verbless existential clauses; the possessor is expressed not as a predicate, but as a noun phrase modifier (§9.3.3):

Table 6.1: Possessive constructions

	§	<i>t</i> -possessive				∅-possessive			
		pronoun		noun		pronoun		noun	
		<i>o</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>a</i>
		<i>tō'oku</i>	<i>tā'aku</i>	<i>to NP</i>	<i>ta NP</i>	<i>ō'oku</i>	<i>'ā'aku</i>	<i>o NP</i>	<i>'a NP</i>
prenominal, determiner position	6.2.1	x	x						
prenominal, otherwise	6.2.1					x	x		
postnominal	6.2.1					x	x	x	x
partitive	6.2.2	x	x	x	x				
headless noun phrase	5.6			x	x				
S/A of <i>mo</i> -clause	11.5.1.2					x		x	
S/A of main clause	8.6.4.1					x		x	
actor-emphatic Agent	8.6.3						x		x
proprietary predicate	9.4.2					x	x	x	x
possessive clause pred. (old RN)	9.3.3	x	x	x	x				
neg./num. possessive clause	9.3.3					x	x	x	x
existential-locative pred. (old RN)	9.3.2			x					
existential-locative pred. (modern RN)	9.3.2							x	
elliptic noun phrase	6.2.3			x					

- pronominal versus noun phrases possessors. In most constructions, both are possible, but in prenominal positions only pronominal possessors occur;
- *o*- and *a*-class. In most constructions both occur, depending on the semantic relationship between possessor and possessee; in some constructions, only one class is used. Regardless of the construction, *a*-class forms are only used with singular pronouns and proper nouns (§6.3.2).

Summarising these data: *t*-possessives are used in the following environments:

- in the noun phrase, in determiner position (this includes partitive constructions, headless and elliptic noun phrases);
- in old Rapa Nui as the predicate of possessive clauses and existential-locative clauses.

∅-possessives are used:<sup>9</sup>

- in the noun phrase, in non-determiner positions;
- in actor-emphatic constructions;
- as S/A arguments of *mo*-clauses and – occasionally – main clauses;
- as the predicate in proprietary and existential-locative clauses;
- in possessive clauses containing a numeral, and negative possessive clauses.

### 6.3 The semantics of possessives

As in many languages, possessive constructions express a wide range of relationships between two entities. These are listed in §6.3.1.

When the possessor is a singular pronoun or a proper noun, it can be expressed in two ways, using either *o* or *a*. The distinction between *o* and *a* is discussed in §6.3.2–6.3.4; in those sections, the range of relationships expressed by the possessive will be discussed and illustrated in more detail.

<sup>9</sup> The range of use of the ∅-possessives is remarkably similar to the use of *n*-possessives which occur in most other EP languages, e.g. Māori *nāku* ‘mine’, *nōna* ‘his’ (cf. Wilson 2012: 316). For example, in Māori and Tahitian *n*-possessors are used in the actor-emphatic construction and in proprietary clauses; in Tahitian and Hawaiian, they also occur in the noun phrase (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 208–209; Harlow 2000; Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 175–176, 189; Cook 2000: 349). Māori also has ∅-possessive pronouns, which occur in the noun phrase and in negated possessive clauses (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 202, 381; Harlow 2000: 359). This suggests that the Rapa Nui ∅-possessive pronouns are cognates of both the *n*-possessives and ∅-possessives in other EP languages: PEP had a set of ∅-possessives and a set of *n*-possessives; in Rapa Nui, the initial *n*- was lost, so that both sets coincided; in CE languages, *n*- was retained.

The reverse scenario, in which PEP only had the ∅ forms and *n*- was added in PCE, is unlikely. First, it would leave the co-existence of ∅- and *n*-possessives in Māori unexplained: if PEP only had ∅-possessives, it would be hard to explain why *n*- was added in some contexts, while in other contexts the ∅-forms were retained. Second, there is no ready explanation for the addition of *n*- within Central-Eastern Polynesian, while on the other hand the existence of *n*- in PEP can be explained either from the past tense marker *ne*, or – more likely – from the possessive *ni* which occurs in various Outliers (see Wilson 1982: 50; Wilson 1985: 101; Clark 2000a: 263).

We may conclude that the *n*-possessives are not a PCE innovation as suggested by Green (1985: 12), but already present in PEP (§1.2.2).



### 6.3.1 Relationships expressed by possessives

Possessive constructions serve to express a wide range of relationships between two entities.

#### 6.3.1.1 Ownership:

- (35) *He haka hopu i tā'ana paiheŋa.*  
 NTR CAUS wash ACC POSS.3SG.A dog  
 'She washed her dog.' [R168.012]

#### 6.3.1.2 Whole/part relations:

- (36) *He puru i te papae o te hare.*  
 NTR close ACC ART door of ART house  
 'He closed the door of the house.' [R310.144]

#### 6.3.1.3 Interhuman relationships, such as kinship and friendship:

- (37) *He hokorua a au i tō'oku repahoa.*  
 NTR accompany PROP 1SG ACC POSS.1SG.O friend  
 'I accompany my friend.' [R208.138]

#### 6.3.1.4 Attributes:

- (38) *¿He aha to'u tau tu'u rivariva?*  
 NTR what POSS.2SG.O pretty POSS.2SG.O good:RED  
 'What (use) is your beauty, your goodness?' [R372.045]

6.3.1.5 Specification (epexegetical use), where the possessive has the same referent as the head noun:

- (39) *He eke ki ruŋa ki te 'ana o 'Ana Havea.*  
 NTR go\_up to above to ART cave of Ana Havea  
 'He climbed above the cave (of) Ana Havea.' [Mtx-7-18.010]

6.3.1.6 Actions, feelings and emotions, when these are expressed as nouns or nominalised verbs:

- (40) *Me'e rahi tō'oku māuruuru ki a koe, e koro ē.*  
 thing much POSS.1SG.O thank to PROP 2SG VOC Dad VOC  
 'I am very grateful (lit. much is my gratitude) to you, Dad.' [R363.112]

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- (41) ...'o            **tō'oku**    kī nō mo to'o mai i a Puakiva mai i a  
                          because\_of POSS.1SG.O say just for take hither ACC ART Puakiva from at PROP  
                          ia.  
                          3SG  
                          '(Kava is crying) because I said (lit. because of my saying) I would take Puakiva  
                          away from her.' [R229.017]

6.3.1.7 Any kind of association, for example between a person and a group, or a person and a location:

- (42) He raŋi te 'ariki ki **tō'ona** taŋata...  
                          NTR call ART king to POSS.3SG.O man  
                          'The king called out to his people...' [MsE-055.005]
- (43) Ka haka hoki ki **tō'ona** henua.  
                          CNTG CAUS return to POSS.3SG.O land  
                          'Let (him) return to his country.' [Ley-9-63.065]

6.3.1.8 The possessor may be a location to which the possessee belongs as in (44), or a place where the possessee is located at a given time, as in (45–46).

- (44) Te me'e nei he heke, he 'animare e tahi **o rote** **vaikava**.  
                          ART thing PROX PRED octopus PRED animal NUM one of inside\_the ocean  
                          'The octopus is an animal of (lit. of inside) the ocean.' [R356.029]
- (45) 'Ina he ika **o 'Apina**.  
                          NEG PROM fish of Apina  
                          'There are no fish at Apina.' [R301.292]
- (46) Ko Alfredo te me'e era **o mu'a** i te microfono.  
                          PROM Alfredo ART thing DIST of front at ART microphone  
                          'Alfredo is the one in front of the microphone.' [R415.600]

In (45–46), *o* is close in meaning to the locative 'i 'in, at'. As these examples show, the possessive is used especially in negative or interrogative clauses. In those sentences, 'i is considered awkward.

6.3.1.9 When the head noun expresses time, the possessive may express an event with respect to which this time applies. In (47) the event is punctual, and 'three days' is the time elapsed after the event. In (48) the event is durative, and 'eight days' is the time elapsed since the beginning of this event. (In both cases, *ka* indicates that a certain moment in time has been reached, see §4.3.2.2.)

- (47) *Ka toru mahana o te tanu o Kava, he 'ui e Puakiva ki a Pipi...*  
 CNTG three day of ART bury of Kava NTR ask AG Puakiva to PROP Pipi  
 'Three days after (lit. of) the burial of Kava, Puakivi asked Pipi...' [R229.358]
- (48) *Ka va'u mahana o te noho o Eugenio o te hāpī 'i Vaihū...*  
 CNTG eight day of ART stay of Eugenio of ART teach at Vaihu  
 'When he had stayed and taught for eight days in Vaihu...' [R231.203]

The possessive after the temporal noun may also refer to somebody or something which was involved in a certain event at the time specified. The event itself is expressed as a relative clause following this noun. (49) can be translated literally 'Three days of the rain which fell'.

- (49) *E toru mahana o te 'ua i hoa ai, ko reherehe atu 'ā te*  
 NUM three day of ART rain PFV throw PVP PRF soft:RED away CONT ART  
*'ō'one.*  
 soil  
 'When it had been raining for three days, the ground was quite soft.' [R378.040]
- (50) *E tahi nō mahana o te pahī holandese nei i noho mai 'i nei 'i*  
 NUM one just day of ART ship Dutch PROX PFV stay hither at PROX at  
*Rapa Nui.*  
 Rapa Nui  
 'The Dutch ship only stayed one day here on Rapa Nui (lit. Just one day of the Dutch ship that stayed).' [R373.005]

6.3.1.10 Regardless of the semantic relationship, the possessor may express something which does not yet belong to the possessor, but which the possessor intends to have:<sup>10</sup>

- (51) *Ki iri tāua ki te tāua māmari vīvī kimi.*  
 HORT ascend 1DU.INCL to ART 1DU.INCL egg partridge search  
 'Let's go up to look for partridge eggs (lit. to search our partridge eggs).'  
 [R245.192]
- (52) *Mo pohe ō'oku mo oho mo hī, he oho au ki tā'aku ika.*  
 if desire POSS.1SG.O for go for to\_fish NTR go 1SG to POSS.1SG.A fish  
 'If I desire to go fishing, I go fishing (lit. to my fish).' [R647.061]
- (53) *Ko haŋa 'ana a au mo u'i i tā'aku vi'e mo hāipoipo.*  
 PRF want CONT PROP 1SG for look ACC POSS.1SG.A woman for marry  
 'I want to find a wife for me (lit. my wife) to marry.' [R491.005]

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Lichtenberk (2002), who gives examples of "prospective possessive relationships" in several Oceanic languages.

6.3.2 *A-* and *o-*possessives

Like most Polynesian languages, Rapa Nui makes a distinction between two types of possessive marking, which are characterised by the vowels *o* and *a*, respectively.<sup>11</sup> In most languages this distinction is pervasive, affecting all possessive noun phrases and pronouns. In Rapa Nui, the *o/a* distinction is only made with the following nominal elements:<sup>12</sup>

1. Singular pronouns:<sup>13</sup>

- (54) *tā'ana poki; tō'ona matu'a; e tahi 'ā'ana poki; e tahi*  
 POSS.3SG.A child POSS.3SG.O parent NUM one POSS.3SG.A child NUM one  
*ō'ona matu'a*  
 POSS.3SG.O parent  
 'his/her child; his/her parent; one child of his/hers; one parent of his/hers'

## 2. Names and other proper nouns:

- (55) *te poki 'a Tiare; te matu'a o Tiare*  
 ART child of.A Tiare ART parent of Tiare  
 'Tiare's child; Tiare's parent'

With common nouns and plural pronouns, only *o*-forms are used.<sup>14</sup>

- (56) *te poki o te 'ariki; te matu'a o te 'ariki*  
 ART child of ART chief ART parent of ART chief  
 'the chief's child; the chief's parent'

<sup>11</sup> Besides the grammars of individual languages, see Clark (1976: 42-44); Capell (1931); Biggs (2000). On the *o/a* distinction in Rapa Nui, see especially Mulloy & Rapu (1977). In Rapa Nui, '*a*' (both as a preposition and at the start of possessive pronouns) is written with a glottal, while *o* is not. The main reason is, that '*a*' happens to occur initially more often than *o*. It is used, for example, in the active-emphatic construction (§8.6.3). See sec. §2.2.5 on the (non-)occurrence of initial glottals in particles. It is not impossible that the glottal-non/glottal distinction in these particles was inherited from an earlier stage. Clark (2000a: 259) points out that in Tongan, certain *a*-forms have a glottal, while the corresponding *o*-forms do not (e.g. *he'eku* 'my.A' vs. *hoku* 'my.O'). See also Wilson (1982: 48).

On the other hand, the pervasive presence of the glottal in sg. possessive pronouns (*tā'aku*, '*ā'aku*, *mō'oku*, *tō'oku* etc.) suggests that originally the glottal preceded both *a* and *o* (cf. Lynch 1997: 232; Wilson 1982: 50).

<sup>12</sup> Neutralisation of the *o/a*-distinction is not uncommon in Polynesian languages. In Niuean (Seiter 1980: 34), the distinction is completely lost. The same is true in a group of Outliers: Nukeria, Takuu, Nukumanu and Luangiua (Wilson 1982: 11; Clark 2000a: 267), while in Rennell, the distinction is lost in third person pronouns (Nico Daams, p.c.).

<sup>13</sup> For the forms of possessive pronouns, see sec. §4.2.1.

<sup>14</sup> A peculiar exception, in which a common noun phrase is an *a*-possessor, is the expression '*a te hau*' Chilean, from the mainland', as in *va'ehau 'a te hau* 'Chilean soldiers' (R539-1.616). *Te hau* seems to be used as a name here, meaning something like 'the State'; proper names in Rapa Nui may contain the article *te*.

- (57) *tū poki era o rāua*  
 DEM child DIST of 3PL  
 ‘that child of theirs’

The two types of possessive constructions will be referred to as *a*-possession and *o*-possession. The choice between the two can often be predicted from the head noun (the possessee): *matu'a* is *o*-possessed, *poki* is *a*-possessed. However, many words can be possessed with either *o* or '*a*'; Englert (1978: 43) gives the following pair of examples (for more examples, see §6.3.4.1):

- (58) *He to'o tō'ona kahu mo tata.*  
 NTR take POSS.3SG.O clothes for wash  
 ‘She took her (own) clothes to wash’.

- (59) *He to'o tā'ana kahu mo tata.*  
 NTR take POSS.3SG.A clothes for wash  
 ‘She took her clothes (the clothes that had been given to her as a laundress) to wash.’

The choice for '*a*- or *o*-possession, then, is not an inherent property of the noun; it is determined by the **relation** between the possessor and the possessee, not by the nature of the possessee as such.<sup>15</sup> If many nouns are always *a*-possessed or always *o*-possessed, this is because they always stand in the same relationship to the possessor. For example, when *poki* ‘child’ is possessed, i.e. ‘A is *poki* of B’, this usually means that A stands in a child-parent relationship to B, a relationship which is expressed by *a*-possession.

The *o/a* distinction does not only affect possessive pronouns and genitive constituents in the noun phrase (including partitives, see §6.2.2), but benefactives as well: the latter are constructed with either *mā* or *mo* when followed by a singular pronoun or proper noun, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two referents involved (§4.7.8).

### 6.3.3 Possessive relations marked with *a* and *o*

In §6.3.1, a general overview was given of relationships expressed by possessive constructions. The present section provides a detailed discussion of these relationships, categorised by *a*- and *o*-marking.

§6.3.3.1 deals with relationships between people, while §6.3.3.2 and §6.3.3.3 discuss relationships involving non-human possessee. §6.3.3.4 deals with nominalised verbs and their arguments. §6.3.4 addresses the question whether a general characterisation of '*a*- and *o*-possession is possible.

<sup>15</sup> See also Chapin (1978: 151).

## 6.3.3.1 Human possessees

When both possessor and possessee are human, the situation is relatively straightforward in the case of kinship relations. These will be discussed in §6.3.3.1.1. Other interhuman relationships are discussed in §6.3.3.1.2.

**6.3.3.1.1 Kinship relations** 'A-possession is used to express the following kinship relations:

1. children of the possessor, including adoptive children: *tā'au poki'atariki/vovo* 'your child/firstborn/daughter'.
2. spouses: *tā'aku vi'e* 'my wife', *tā'ana korohu'a* 'her old man'.

All other kinship relationships are expressed with *o*-possession:

1. parents, including adoptive parents and godparents: *tō'oku matu'a/māmā/comadre* 'my parent/Mum/godmother'.
2. siblings: *tō'ou ηā taina* 'your brothers and/or sisters'.<sup>16</sup>
3. grandparents and grandchildren: *tō'ona makupuna* 'his grandchild'; *tō'oku māmā-rū'au* 'my grandmother'.

However, grandchildren may also be *a*-possessed, whereby the grandchild is in fact treated in the same way as one's own child:<sup>17</sup>

- (60) ...e 'a'amu nō 'ana e **tā'ana ηā makupuna** era...  
 IPFV tell just CONT AG POSS.3SG.A PL grandchild DIST  
 '...her grandchildren told...' [R380.007]

4. further offspring and offspring in general: *tō'ona hinarere* 'his great-grandchild'; *tō'ona hakaara* 'his descendants'.

<sup>16</sup> Mulloy & Rapu (1977: 22) quote one example from Métraux' published stories where *taina* is *a*-possessed:

(i) *He tomo Poie ki te motu ananake ko tā'ana ηā taina.*  
 NTR go\_ashore Poie to ART islet together PROM POSS.3SG.A PL sibling  
 'Poie landed on the island, together with his brothers.' (Mtx-3-01.311)

According to Mulloy & Rapu, this suggests that in the past younger brothers were *a*-possessed, a situation which was changing to *o*-possession in the 1930s, when this story was recorded. However, *tā'ana* turns out to be a faulty transcription in the printed text: the text in Métraux' notebook (notebook 4, p. 170) has the regular *tō'ona*. Note, however, that Mtx's texts do show some other irregularities in the use of 'a and *o* possession, without a clear reason: *te matu'a 'a Ure* 'Ure's father' (Mtx-7-03.108); *ta'u ha'ana* 'your brother-in-law' (Mtx-7-30.062); in both cases, *a*-possession is used where one would expect *o*.

<sup>17</sup> As with siblings, Mulloy & Rapu (1977: 22) suggest that a shift has been taking place in the possession class of grandchildren; the text corpus gives no evidence of such a shift, however.

5. uncles/aunts and nephews/nieces: *tō'oku pāpātio* ‘my uncle’; *tō'ou sobirino* ‘your nephew’.

When nephews/nieces are indicated with *poki* ‘child’, i.e. placed on a par with one’s own children, they are *a*-possessed. The following example is said by an uncle to his nephew:

- (61) *He aha tā'aku poki ka mana'u rō ki te pāpā?*  
 PRED what POSS.1SG.A child CNTG think EMPH TO ART father  
 ‘Why does my child think of his father?’ [R230.026]

6. all in-law relationships: *tō'ou hunoŋa* ‘your son/daughter-in-law’; *tō'ou huŋavai* ‘your father/mother-in-law’; *tō'ou ta'okete* ‘your brother/sister-in-law’.

7. the family as such:

- (62) *He haka ma'u rā moni ki tō'ona hua'ai 'i Harani.*  
 NTR CAUS carry DIST money to POSS.3SG.O family at France  
 ‘He sent that money to his family in France.’ [R231.013]

However, in the sense of a nuclear family (people living together in one house), family may also be *a*-possessed:

- (63) *E noho era a Manutara ananake ko tā'ana hua'ai.*  
 IPFV stay DIST PROP Manutara together PROM POSS.3SG.A family  
 ‘Manutara lived with his family.’ [R309.039]

### 6.3.3.1.2 Other human relationships

1. Friends, companions or colleagues are *o*-possessed: *tō'oku hoa/hokorua* ‘my friend/companion’.
2. When the possessee is higher in status or authority, or in charge of the possessor, *o* is used.

- (64) *He e'a mai he kimi i tō'ona kape.*  
 NTR go\_out hither NTR search ACC POSS.3SG.O boss  
 ‘He went out and searched for his boss.’ [R237.008]

3. When the possessor is higher in status or authority, or in charge of the possessee (e.g. as employer or teacher), *'a* is used.

- (65) *Te ma'ori aŋa hare 'a Hotu Matu'a ko Nuku Kehu tō'ona 'iŋoa.*  
 NTR expert make house of.A Hotu Matu'a PROM Nuku Kehu POSS.3SG.O name  
 ‘Hotu Matu’a’s house builder (who was in his service) was called Nuku Kehu.’  
 [Ley-2-12.002]

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- (66) *He uŋa ia e Ietū e rua o tā'ana nu'u hāpī.*  
NTR send then AG Jesus NUM two of POSS.3SG.A people learn  
'Then Jesus sent out two of his disciples.' [Mrk. 14:13]

This also means that 'a is used for a group of people over which the possessor is in charge:

- (67) *Ko arma 'ā a au i tā'aku ekipo mai i a marzo 'ā.*  
NTR assemble CONT PROP 1SG ACC POSS.1SG.A group from at PROP March IDENT  
'From March on, I have put together my group.' [R625.082]

On the other hand, for a group of people to which the possessor belongs, o is used.

- (68) *He aŋa tau kope era i te koro kumi, ananake ko tō'ona*  
NTR make DEM person DIST ACC ART feast\_house long together PROM POSS.3SG.O  
*taŋata i aŋa ai.*  
person PFV make PVP  
'That man made a large feast house, together with his people he made it.'  
[Mtx-4-03.003]

4. Somewhat unexpectedly, when the possessee is a subordinate, o tends to be used:  
*tō'oku raro'va'e/tāvini* 'my subordinate/servant'.

### 6.3.3.2 Non-human possesseees with 'a

With non-human possesseees, 'a is used in the following situations:

1. The possessee is an instrument handled by the possessor. This includes a wide variety of objects: tools, bags and other containers, musical instruments, objects used as parts to make something, et cetera.

- (69) *He hoa i tā'ana hau.*  
NTR throw ACC POSS.3SG.A cord  
'He threw out his fishing line.' [R338.024]

- (70) *'Ina e ko haha'o te 'ature ki roto ki tā'ana kete.*  
NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV insert ART kind\_of\_fish to inside to POSS.3SG.A basket  
'He did not put the *ature* fish in his basket' [Ley-5-27.011]

This category includes furniture, except furniture supporting the body (see 6c in the next section).

2. The possessee is something produced or caused by the possessor.



(71) *Mai hai tiare mo tui o tā'aku karone.*  
 hither INS flower for string of POSS.1SG.A necklace  
 'Give me some flowers to make my necklace.' [R175.006]

(72) *...i pāpa'i ai i tā'ana puka ra'e era.*  
 PFV write PVP ACC POSS.3SG.A book first DIST  
 '(In the year 1948) he wrote his first book.' [R539-1.080]

3. The possessee is a dream of the possessor ('to dream' is *moe i te vārua*, lit. 'lie down a spirit').

(73) *Ko moe 'ana au i tā'aku vārua.*  
 PRF lie\_down CONT 1SG ACC POSS.1SG.A spirit  
 'I have had a (lit. my) dream.' [R167.045]

However, dreams can be *o*-possessed as well:<sup>18</sup>

(74) *Ka vānaŋa tahi rō i to'u moe vārua.*  
 IMP talk all EMPH ACC POSS.2SG.O lie spirit  
 'Tell your dream completely.' [R105.075]

4. The possessee is land worked by the possessor.

(75) *E hakaheu 'ana tū rū'au era i tā'ana kona 'oka tiare.*  
 IPFV weed CONT DEM old\_woman DIST ACC POSS.3SG.A place plant flower  
 'The old woman was weeding her flower garden.' [R301.103]

5. The possessee is food. This can be food grown, caught or otherwise obtained by the possessor as in (76) and (77), or food/drink consumed – or destined to be consumed – by the possessor as in (78).

(76) *He to'o i tā'ana kūmara kerikeri era.*  
 NTR take ACC POSS.3SG.A sweet\_potato dig:RED DIST  
 'He took his sweet potato that he had dug up.' [Mtx-7-25.022]

(77) *'Ina kai rava'a rahi tā'ana ika.*  
 NEG NEG.PFV obtain much POSS.3SG.A fish  
 'He did not catch much fish (lit. his fish)' [R312.004]

(78) *Ko hiko 'ā tā'aku haraoa e Te Manu.*  
 PRF snatch CONT POSS.1SG.A bread AG Te Manu  
 'Te Manu has snatched away my bread.' [R245.039]

<sup>18</sup> The same variability is seen in Māori, where *moemoeā* 'dream' is *o*-possessed for some speakers and *a*-possessed for others (Harlow 2007a: 170).

6. The possessee is an animal or plant owned by the possessor.

(79) *He hānai i tā'ana oru.*

NTR feed ACC POSS.3SG.A pig

‘He raised pigs (lit. his pigs).’ [R423.019]

(80) *He pa'o mai i tā'ana mahute i tā'ana hauhau.*

NTR chop hither ACC POSS.3SG.A mulberry ACC POSS.3SG.A kind\_of\_tree

‘He chopped down his mulberry and *hauhau* trees.’ [R352.030]

Horses, however, are *o*-possessed, as they are animals of transport (see (86–87) in the next section).

### 6.3.3.3 Non-human possesseees with *o*

With non-human possesseees, *o* is used in the following situations:

1. The possessee is something inherently belonging to the possessor: *tō'oku hakari/ 'iŋoa/ora/vārua* ‘my body/name/life/spirit’, *tō'ona matahiti* ‘her years = her age’
  2. The possessee is a part of the possessor: *tō'ona raupā* ‘its leaves (of a tree)’; *tō'ona taha tai* ‘its coast (of the island)’. This includes body parts: *tō'oku mata/tariŋa/ pū'oko/kōkoma* ‘my eye/ear/head/intestine’.
  3. The possessee is produced naturally by the possessor. This includes body secretions, eggs of an animal, breathing and the voice: *tō'ona 'ā'anu* ‘his saliva’, *tō'oku matavai* ‘my tears’, *tō'ona māmari* ‘its eggs (of a hen)’.  
Young of animals, on the other hand, are *a*-possessed (like human children): *tā'ana mā'aŋa* ‘its chicks (of a hen)’.  
Fruits and flowers of plants can be included in this category, although these may also be *o*-possessed by virtue of being part of a whole (see 2 above).
- (81) *'E 'i rā kona he tupu te pua, 'e he 'ūa'a tō'ona*  
and at DIST place NTR grow ART kind\_of\_plant and NTR blossom POSS.3SG.O  
*tiare.*  
flower  
‘And in that place the *pua* grew and its flowers blossomed’ [R532-07.081]
4. The possessee is an attribute, a quality or a status of the possessor: *tō'ona rivariva/ pūai/māramarama* ‘his/her goodness/strength/wisdom’; *tō'ona kōrore/'eo/tau* ‘its colour/smell/beauty’.
- (82) *'Ai, ho'i, tū pū era 'ai, tō'ona raro nui 'e tō'ona 'a'ano.*  
there indeed DEM hole DIST there POSS.3SG.O deep and POSS.3SG.O wide  
‘That there is the hole, its depth and its width.’ [R620.095]

- (83) ...'o *hakame'eme'e mai i tō'oku veve e Mako'i.*  
 lest mock hither ACC POSS.1SG.O poor AG Mako'i  
 '...so that Mako'i would not mock my poverty.' [R214.050]

This also includes sicknesses: *tō'ona māuiui/renkē/kokoŋo* 'his sickness/dengue/cold'.

5. The possessee is an attitude or feeling of the possessor: *tō'oku heva/koromaki/mamae* 'my mourning/sadness/pain'; *tō'ou haŋa/haka 'aroha/māuruuru* 'your love/compassion/gratitude'. This includes error and sin: *tō'oku hape* 'my fault', as well as thoughts and opinions: *tu'u mana'u* 'your thought/opinion'.
6. The possessee is something containing, covering, supporting, carrying or transporting the possessor. This includes:
- a) clothing and footwear worn by the possessor: *tō'oku kahu/kamita/kiriva'e/kete* 'my clothes/shirt/shoes/pocket'.<sup>19</sup>  
 Clothing is *a*-possessed when it does not refer to clothing to be worn, but functions just as a possession or an object to be handled:

- (84) *He tu'u a au, he tata i tā'aku kahu.*  
 NTR arrive PROP 1SG NTR wash ACC POSS.1SG.A clothes  
 'I arrived (at the crater lake) and washed my clothes.' [R623.011]

- b) other things covering or adorning the body, such as jewellery, eyeglasses, tattoos and body paint: *tō'ona karone/hei/tāpe'a/hi'o* 'her necklace/ head-dress/ring/glasses'. Watches, however, are *a*-possessed; presumably, they are not classified with jewellery, but with tools and instruments (see 1 in the previous section):

- (85) *'Ina 'ā'aku hora.*  
 NEG POSS.1SG.A time  
 'I don't have a watch.' (Mulloy & Rapu 1977: 17)

- c) objects supporting or containing the body:

- (86) *He ha'amata he aŋa i tō'ona pē'ue.*  
 NTR begin NTR make ACC POSS.3SG.O mat  
 'He began to make his mat.' [R344.030]
- (87) *te pu'a e pu'a era te rua o Eugenio*  
 ART cover IPFV cover DIST ART hole of Eugenio  
 'the lid that covered Eugenio's grave' [R231.353]

<sup>19</sup> *Kete* means 'pocket' in modern Rapa Nui. In the past, *kete* used to mean 'basket' and was *a*-possessed, like any container.

Other furniture is *a*-possessed, like tools and instruments (see 1 in the previous section): *tā'aku 'amurama'a* ‘my table’.

- d) dwelling places: *tō'ona hare/karapā* ‘his house/tent’.
- e) buildings and rooms in general: *tō'ona oficina/piha hāpī/piha moe* ‘her office/classroom/bedroom’. However, buildings not for sheltering humans are *a*-possessed: *tā'aku hare moa* ‘my chicken house’.
- f) means of transport, including horses: *tō'ou 'auto/vaka/hoi* ‘your car/boat/horse’. Other animals are *a*-possessed, see 6 in the previous section.  
In the following example, a banana trunk is used to slide down a hill, i.e. as a means of transport; hence it is *o*-possessed, even though plants are normally *a*-possessed (6 in the previous section):

- (88) *He eke te kope ra'e ki ruŋa tō'ona huri.*  
NTR go\_up ART person first to above POSS.3SG.O banana\_trunk  
‘The first person mounted his banana trunk.’ [R313.028]

7. The possessee is the country, territory or place to which the possessor belongs.

- (89) *Kai hoki hoko'ou ki tō'ona kāiŋa, ki Ma'ori.*  
NEG.PFV return again to POSS.3SG.O homeland to Ma'ori  
‘He did not return to his homeland Ma'ori anymore.’ [MsE-005.004]

- (90) *He oho a 'Orohe ki roto i tō'ona piha hāpī.*  
NTR go PROP Orohe to inside to POSS.3SG.O room learn  
‘Orohe goes into his classroom.’ [R334.027]

8. The possessee is property owned by the possessor. This includes:

- a) land, for example, a plantation or garden:

- (91) *te ŋā 'āua 'oka tarake era o Te Mōai*  
ART PL field to\_plant corn DIST of Te Moai  
‘the corn fields of Te Moai’ [R539-2.154]

This means that fields and gardens can be either *a*- or *o*-possessed, depending on whether the focus is on possession (*o*) or labour (*'a*); cf. (75) in the previous section.

- b) money: *tō'oku moni* ‘my money’.
  - c) property in general: *tō'ou me'e* ‘your belongings (lit. things)’; *tō'ona hauha'a* ‘his riches, possessions’.
9. The possessee is an event, and the possessor is the person concerning whom, with respect to whom, this event happens.

- (92) *He oho te taŋata ta'ato'a ki tō'ona pure.*  
 NTR go ART man all to POSS.3SG.O prayer  
 'All the people went to his (funeral) mass.' [R309.141]

- (93) *He ma'u... i te uka ki tō'ona ŋoŋoro.*  
 NTR carry ACC ART girl to POSS.3SG.O feast  
 'They carried the bride (lit. girl) ... to her wedding (lit. feast).' [R539-3.033]

This includes stories, songs, pictures and other work of art with the possessor as theme: *tō'oku 'a'amu* 'the story about me'; *te hoho'a o Tiare* 'the picture of Tiare, showing Tiare'.

10. The possessor is a place where the possessee lives, stays, or originates from:

- (94) *He e'a mai te taŋata o 'Ana te Ava Nui.*  
 NTR go\_out hither ART man of Ana te Ava Nui  
 'The people of Ana te Ava Nui went out.' [Mtx-3-01.283]

- (95) *Rano Aroi... koia ko tō'ona ŋā'atu*  
 Rano Aroi COM PROM POSS.3SG.O bulrush  
 'Rano Aroi with its bulrush' [R112.051]

11. The possessee is a noun referring to time: *tō'ona mahan poreko* 'his birthday'.

- (96) *'Ina ō'oku hora.*  
 NEG POSS.1SG.O time  
 'I don't have time.' (Mulloy & Rapu 1977: 17)

12. The possessor specifies the reference of the possessee, it is a specific instance of the possessee (epexegetical use).

- (97) *'i te 'āva'e era o 'Ātete*  
 at ART month DIST of August  
 'in the month of August' [R250.063]

- (98) *Te pīkano nei 'i te kona era o Roiho.*  
 ART eucalyptus PROX at ART place DIST of Roiho  
 'These eucalyptus trees are in that place (called) Roiho.' [R130.008]

13. O-possessive pronouns are used in what could be called a distributive sense:

- (99) *'I rā noho iŋa te me'e ena he pua'a ka 'aŋahuru 'o ka hānere*  
 at DIST stay NMLZ ART thing MED PRED COW CNTG ten or CNTG hundred  
*atu i tō'ona kope ka tahi.*  
 away at POSS.3SG.O person CNTG one  
 'In that time each person (lit. his person one) had tens or hundreds of cows.'  
 [R107.035]

- (100) *E ho'e 'ahuru mā ho'e huru kē, huru kē, huru kē*  
 NUM on ten plus one manner different manner different manner different  
*tō'ona puka 'o tō'ona 'a'amu.*  
 POSS.3SG.O book or POSS.3SG.O story  
 'There are eleven different books and different stories.' [R206.019]

### 6.3.3.4 Possession with nominalised verbs

The arguments of nominalised verbs are often expressed as a possessor (§8.7).

When the possessor is Patient, i.e. undergoes the action, *o*-possession is used:

- (101) *He taji 'o te mate o Huri 'a Vai.*  
 NTR cry because\_of ART die of Huri a Vai  
 'He cried because of the death of Huri a Vai.' [R304.104]
- (102) *E rua matahiti toe mo oti o tō'oku hāpī.*  
 NUM two year remain for finish of POSS.1SG.O learn  
 'There are two years left to finish my schooling.' [R399.070]
- (103) *'I te mahana era o tō'ona tanu, he nehenehe nō.*  
 at ART day DIST of POSS.3SG.O bury NTR beautiful just  
 'On the day of his funeral ('his being buried'), it was beautiful.' [R309.140]

When the possessee is Agent, i.e. performs the action, the situation is more complicated. Actions as such tend to be *o*-possessed:<sup>20</sup>

- (104) *...i tō'oku hiko mai i te poki mai tu'u hua'ai.*  
 at POSS.1SG.O snatch hither ACC ART child from POSS.2SG.O family  
 '...because I took (lit. in my taking) the child away from your family.' [R229.027]
- (105) *Ko koa 'ā a au 'i te hora nei 'o tō'ona tute mai*  
 PRF happy CONT PROP 1SG at ART time PROX because\_of POSS.3SG.O chase hither  
*i a au.*  
 ACC PROP 1SG  
 'I am now happy because of his chasing me.' [R214.053]
- (106) *He 'ui e tū tahutahu era i te tumu o tō'ona tere.*  
 NTR ask AG DEM witch DIST ACC ART reason of POSS.3SG.O travel  
 'The witch asked about the reason for his trip.' [R532-07.043]

<sup>20</sup> This is different from the situation in other Polynesian languages, where subjects of transitive verbs (and often intransitive agentive verbs as well) tend to be marked with *a*, while objects and non-agentive subjects are marked with *o* (See e.g. Chung 1973; Clark 1981: 69; Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 197–201; Cablitz 2006: 173–174; Mosel & Hovdhaugen 1992: 540–541; Besnier 2000: 503–505; Elbert & Pukui 1979: 140–142). For Hawaiian, Baker (2012) shows that the choice between *a* and *o* for subjects is pragmatically motivated: *a*-marked subjects are agentive and/or volitional and/or individuated.

When the noun refers to the product or result of an action rather than the action itself, it is *a*-possessed:

- (107) *E hakarongo rivariva tā'aku hāpī.*  
EXH listen good:RED POSS.1SG.A teach  
'Listen well to my teaching.' [Luke 8:18]
- (108) *He koa ia te 'Atua 'i te tutia era 'a 'Avere.*  
NTR happy then ART God at ART sacrifice DIST of.A Abel  
'God was happy with Abel's sacrifice.' [Gen. 4:4]

The following pair of examples show the contrast between the action as such as in (109) and the product of an action as in (110):

- (109) *He riro he taŋata rivariva hai 'aiua o Eugenio.*  
NTR become PRED man good:RED INS help of Eugenio  
'He became a good man with Eugenio's help.' [R231.316]
- (110) *Tā'ana 'aiua he pua'a e tahi.*  
POSS.3SG.A help PRED COW NUM one  
'His help/contribution (for the feast) was a cow.' [Notes]

Verbs expressing verbal utterances ('say', 'tell', 'sing') show the same distinction between the product of an action and the action itself. Utterances made by the possessor – words, stories, songs, et cetera – are *a*-possessed, as in (111–112). On the other hand, when the act of uttering itself is in focus, the possessor is *o*-marked, as in (113–114):

- (111) *I oti era te 'a'amu 'a 'Orohe...*  
PFV finish DIST ART story of.A Orohe  
'When Orohe's story was finished...' [R334.249]
- (112) *He katikati i tā'ana hīmene a Kava.*  
NTR sing ACC POSS.3SG.A song PROP Kava  
'Kava sang his song.' [R229.158]
- (113) *Nōatu tō'ona ture mai.*  
no\_matter POSS.3SG.O scold hither  
'Don't mind his scolding.' [Egt-02.184]
- (114) *Ko huru kē 'ā 'o tō'oku ta'e pāhono i te*  
PRF manner different CONT because\_of POSS.1SG.O CONNEG answer ACC ART  
*vānaŋa 'ui mai.*  
word ask hither  
'He feels strange because I didn't answer (lit. my not answering) his question.'  
[R363.108]

Finally, in the actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3), Agents are *a*-possessed.

### 6.3.4 General discussion

#### 6.3.4.1 Summary

The examples in the previous sections show that the choice between 'a and o depends on the semantic relation between the two referents, not on the actual noun used. A given noun can be *a*- or *o*-possessed, depending on the relation to the possessor. Table 6.2 gives a few examples.

Table 6.2: Some *a*- and *o*-possessed words

	use with <i>o</i>	use with 'a
<i>māmari</i> 'egg'	egg of a chicken	egg as food
<i>kahu</i> 'clothes'	clothes worn	clothes handled
<i>korohu'a</i> 'old man'	old father, father-in-law etc.	old husband
'a'amu 'story'	story about	story by
<i>karone</i> 'necklace'	necklace worn	necklace made by

The fact that the *o/a* distinction has a semantic basis, also means that new words (usually Spanish borrowings) are integrated into the system on the basis of the semantic relation they bear to their possessors. For example, *kōrore* 'colour', 'auto' 'car' and *sobirino* 'nephew' are *o*-possessed, while *koneta* 'trumpet' and *ekipo* 'group' are *a*-possessed.<sup>21</sup>

In fact, apart from lexical changes, the system shows a remarkable stability over time, as far as the sources show. None of the semantic categories described in the previous sections shows shifts in possessive marking between older texts and modern Rapa Nui. (It is only with younger speakers who master the language imperfectly that the *o/a* distinction is starting to break down.)

The findings from §6.3.3 can be summarised as follows:

- *O*-possession applies to inherent properties, parts, things produced without effort, qualities, attitudes, actions undergone or (sometimes) done, nominalised actions, body covering and transport, countries, land owned, money, subjects of discourse or art, epexegetical constructions, family relations except spouse and children, friendship, persons of higher status, and servants.
- *A*-possession applies to the product of actions, utterances, dreams, land that is worked, instruments, products, food, animals/plants, spouses, children, and persons of lower status.

The next section deals with the question whether the *o/a* distinction can be explained by a general rule.

<sup>21</sup> See Makihara (2001b: 203) for more examples.



## 6.3.4.2 A general rule?

The *o/a* distinction occurs more or less along the same lines in almost all Polynesian languages,<sup>22</sup> and it has been described in various ways.

In general linguistic literature, the distinction between two classes of possession, one of which is more permanent and/or closer to the possessor, is usually labelled alienable/inalienable, and this terminology is followed by Du Feu (1996: 102): *o*-possession is inalienable, *a*-possession is alienable. Pukui & Elbert (1957) use the same terms for Hawaiian. Englert (1978: 42) makes a similar distinction when he states that *o* is used with objects which, in the idea of the speaker, are closer to the possessor. Hohepa (1967) characterises the distinction as one between inherited and acquired possession. According to Capell (1931: 145), “*o* forms indicate a passive relation to the possessor, the *a* forms an active relationship”. Biggs (1973: 43) extends this further: *a* is used “when the possessor is active, dominant or superior to that which is possessed”; *o* is used “when the possessor is passive, subordinate or inferior to that which is possessed”. Finally, Mulloy & Rapu (1977) propose a distinction between dependence and responsibility.<sup>23</sup>

What, then, is the most appropriate way to characterise the '*a/o*' distinction in general terms?

First of all, the distinction between ALIENABLE and INALIENABLE is not very accurate in describing which items are *o*- and *a*-possessed. Inalienable possession refers to inherent and/or permanent relationships, such as kinship and part-whole (Dryer 2007b: 185). While it is true that the *o*-possessive indicates inherent and/or permanent possessions like body and soul, body parts and land, its use is much broader, including categories like attitudes and feelings, clothing, jewellery, means of transport and actions undergone. The alienable/inalienable distinction is therefore inadequate as a general characterisation. The same is true for the distinction between INHERENT and ACQUIRED possession.

The distinction between DOMINANT and SUBORDINATE makes a number of correct predictions: some possessors that are dominant with respect to their possessees, are *a*-marked, while some possessors that are subordinate with respect to their possessees, are *o*-marked. The leader or organiser of a group has a dominant role, while the subjects of a king have a subordinate role. I am dominant with respect to the tools and instruments I handle, the products I make, and the animals and plants I possess.

For other categories, however, this distinction does not work very well. Can a person said to be subordinate with respect to his/her body, voice, feelings and attitudes, or with

<sup>22</sup> There are minor differences between languages. In Tahitian, for example, horses are classified as domesticated animals (*a*-possessed) rather than means of transport (*o*-possessed). Money is *a*-possessed, buildings (except dwellings) are *a*-possessed. Children are *a*-possessed, but young of animals are *o*-possessed (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 86–92). In Māori, grandchildren are *a*-possessed, and so are servants. Food is *a*-possessed, but drinking water is *o*-possessed (Biggs 1973: 44).

<sup>23</sup> This explanation is already suggested – though not accepted – for East Futunan by Capell (1931: 146): “A native explanation of the use of *tiaku* with *tafine*, wife, and *tapakasi*, pig, is that they are ‘objects of special care!’”

Other approaches have been suggested. Bennardo (2000a,b) proposes a dichotomy in terms of opposing directionality: for *a*-possession the origin is specified, for *o*-possession the direction/recipient is specified. Finally, Elbert (1969) refrains from a general characterisation, suggesting that the labels “*o*-class” versus “*a*-class” may be the easiest for students.

respect to his/her house, clothing, and vehicle? The subordinate category is inaccurate in certain interhuman relationships as well: spouses are mutually *'a*-marked, yet not mutually dominant; siblings are mutually *o*-marked, yet not mutually subordinate.

Mulloy & Rapu (1977) suggest an alternative: RESPONSIBILITY VERSUS DEPENDENCE. A possessor who is responsible towards the possessee is expressed with *'a*, a possessor who is dependent versus the possessor is expressed with *o*. From the perspective of the possessee, *'a* is used when it depends on the possessor, *o* is used when it is responsible for the possessor.<sup>24</sup>

This idea enables us, for example, to explain the use of *'a* and *o* with respect to interpersonal relationships. A person is responsible with respect to his or her spouse and children, hence *a*-possession. A person depends on his or her parents and extended family, hence *o*-possession. A child is dependent on its parents, hence *o*-possession. A person is responsible for his/her nuclear family (*'a*), but depends on the wider family as a support system (*o*).

For non-human referents, things which “care for, protect, and shelter the possessor” (Mulloy & Rapu 1977: 23) are *o*-possessed, as the possessor depends on them. On the other hand, possessions which the possessor cares for, shelters and protects, are *a*-possessed.

However, for other categories the responsibility/dependence dichotomy is less satisfactory. In a certain sense, a person is dependent on inherent attributes like body and soul. It is even conceivable that someone is dependent on qualities like size, beauty and poverty, as these attributes define a person. It is a bit of a stretch, however, to qualify attitudes like love, compassion, error and sin under the heading of dependency. The same applies for actions and events undergone, like ‘problem, punishment, imprisonment’, and even more so for actions performed by the possessor. Further, can a person said to be dependent on his saliva or tears, or a chicken on its eggs? Categories like these are defined by neither dependency nor responsibility.

The dichotomy of ACTIVE VERSUS PASSIVE is more promising as a general explanation. In many cases when *'a* is used, the possessor has an active role towards the possessee. A person is active when performing an act or making an utterance; people are active with respect to the land they work, the instruments they use, the products they make, the animals they care for and the food they eat. They are passive with respect to their spirit, life, age and body parts, with respect to buildings and means of transport (although here passivity is expressed more appropriately as dependence, see above), and with respect to feelings, thoughts, and actions they undergo.

In describing interhuman relationships, the terms “active” and “passive” are somewhat less clear, unless “passive” is explained in terms of dependence or subordination: a child is “passive” with respect to its parents insofar as it depends on its parents for its needs; a worker is “passive” with respect to his boss, insofar as the latter takes the initiative in telling him what to do. In the same way, “active” in these relationships can be explained in terms of responsibility, being in charge: a king is “active” with respect to his subordinates in the sense that he is responsible of caring for them.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. also Thornton (1998) for an analysis of the *o/a* distinction in Māori in cultural terms (“mind set and spirituality”, 381), i.e. in terms of *tapu* (sacredness) and *mana* (power).

However, like the other dichotomies, the active/passive opposition does not explain why *o* possession applies to actions performed. Nor does it explain well why so many interhuman relationships are mutually *o*-possessed. Biggs' conclusion seems justified, that "efforts to generalise in terms of a binary opposition have not met with general acceptance. There are always many examples where the opposition doesn't fit well, if at all." (Biggs 2000) In the next section, a different solution will be proposed.

#### 6.3.4.3 *o* as unmarked possession

Clark (1976: 44) suggests that the relationship between *a* and *o* in Polynesian is not symmetrical: "*\*a* [...] indicates a relation of control or authority of the adjunct over the head. The relation indicated by *\*o* can best be characterised as covering all relations not included in *a*." This idea is presented again in Biggs (2000): *a* marks an active or dominant possessor; *o* is the unmarked form, used in all other cases. Wilson (1982: 16) characterises *a*-possession as indicating relationships initiated by the possessor, while *o* is used for everything else.

There are indeed indications that the relation between *a* and *o* in Rapa Nui is not symmetrical. One such indication is the large number of family relationships which are mutually *o*-possessed. Concepts like "dependence" do not explain these well. A child depends on its parent, a person depends on his family. But does an uncle depend on his nephew, or a mother-in-law on her daughter-in-law, to warrant the use of *o*?

Another indication is suggested by those categories of *o*-possession not explained by any of the dichotomies discussed above, e.g. *o*-possessed actions, time words ('your birthday'), distributive constructions ('his day' = 'a certain day'), and epexegetical constructions ('the town of Hanga Roa').

A third indication is the asymmetry displayed within some categories: people under a leader can be either '*a* or *o*-possessed, while on the other hand the leader is always *o*-possessed.

These facts can be explained by stating that *o* is the UNMARKED possessive marker. '*A* is used to express that the possessor has an ACTIVE role, which includes being in charge, responsible, or dominant with respect to the possessor; in all other cases, *o* is used. This rule correctly explains why tools and instruments (things to be used) are *a*-possessed, just like animals and plants (things to be cared for), while possessions in general are *o*-possessed.

It also explains why certain categories normally *a*-possessed may in certain cases take *o*-possession: *o*-possession does not imply a passive or dependent possessor, but only refrains from marking the possessor as active or dominant.

Thirdly, this rule explains why *o* is used in constructions where the distinction between active and passive does not play a role, such as distributives, epexegetical possessives and time words. In all these cases, *o* is used as the default marker.

Lastly, this rule goes some way to explaining the use of *a* and *o* possession for actions. A possessor is active with respect the product of his action (e.g. a feast organised, a saying uttered, a teaching performed); on the other hand, it is less clear whether a person can

be said to be active with respect to the action as such; and indeed, here Rapa Nui tends to have *o*-possession.

#### 6.3.4.4 The *o/a* distinction and the nominal hierarchy

In Rapa Nui there is one more indication that *o* is the unmarked form: as discussed in §6.3.2, common noun phrases and plural pronouns are *o*-possessors in all contexts, regardless their semantic relationship to the possessee. The marked form '*a*' is used only with a subset of nominal constituents: singular pronouns and proper nouns.

This subset coincides with a subset of the “nominal hierarchy”. Certain referents are inherently more likely to function as topics of discourse, or to be agents of a verb, than others. Pronouns are more likely agents than common nouns, human referents are more likely agents than inanimates. This has led linguists to propose a nominal hierarchy – a.k.a. “animacy hierarchy” or “topic-worthiness hierarchy” – along the following lines (see Payne 1997: 150; cf. Foley 2007: 413):

(115) 1<sup>st</sup> > 2 > 3 > proper names > humans > non-human > inanimates

Another distinction cuts partly across the hierarchy above:

(116) definite > indefinite

Languages may grammaticalise any part of this hierarchy, for example in case marking.<sup>26</sup> Rapa Nui has grammaticalised this hierarchy with respect to possessive marking: only pronouns and proper names, which are high on the hierarchy, may take the “active” possessive marking with '*a*'; elements lower on the hierarchy always get the default marking with *o*.

This leaves the question why only singular possessive pronouns have the option of taking active marking. Why do plural pronouns only get default marking, even though they are higher on the scale than proper names?

This lack of distinction in the plural cannot be explained from the nominal hierarchy as given above, but may have to do with the behaviour of singular and plural in general. Dixon (1994) observes that languages sometimes have more distinctions in the singular than in the plural. Distinctions that exist in the singular, may be neutralised in the plural.

This fact itself may have something to do with the nominal hierarchy. Just like proper names are more topic-worthy than common nouns, and definite nouns more topic-worthy than indefinite nouns, it is conceivable that singular referents are more topic-worthy than plural referents. In all cases a highly individuated referent is more topic-worthy than a less individuated one; highly individuated (singular, definite) referents tend to be topics of discourse.

<sup>25</sup> The numbers refer to first, second, and third person respectively. The complete hierarchy also includes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person agreement, a category not relevant for Rapa Nui.

<sup>26</sup> In some languages, only constituents high on this hierarchy get accusative case-marking (i.e. are case-marked when used as Patient), while only elements lower on the hierarchy get ergative case-marking (i.e. are case-marked when used as Agent). (See Dixon 1994.)

We may therefore tentatively add another dimension which cuts across the nominal hierarchy:

(117) singular > plural

Under this hypothesis, Rapa Nui makes the *'a/o* distinction for a subset of nominal referents which is high on the nominal hierarchy. Items lower on the hierarchy always take the default *o* marking.

## 6.4 Conclusions

Possessive constructions are widely used. They occur as noun phrase modifiers and as nominal predicates, but may also be used to mark arguments in a verbal clause; the latter happens in the actor-emphatic construction, in clauses introduced by *mo* 'in order to', and occasionally in main clauses.

Possessives are united by the use of a possessive preposition; they are distinguished along three parameters:

- the form of this preposition: *o* versus *'a*;
- a bare preposition *o/'a* ( $\emptyset$ -possessives) versus coalescence of the preposition with the article *te* to the forms *to/ta* (*t*-possessives);
- pronominal versus full noun phrase possessors.

Forms with *to* and *ta* are used when the possessor is in determiner position; in older Rapa Nui, they are also found as possessive clause predicates. In all other contexts,  $\emptyset$ -forms are used.

Possessive constructions express a wide range of semantic relationships, including attributes, parts, verb arguments, and various kinds of associations. They may express prospective possessive relationships, relationships which do not yet hold but are expected to come into being: 'I am looking for my wife to marry'; 'let's search our eggs in the field'.

As in other Polynesian languages, certain relationships are marked with *o*, others with *'a*. Various proposals have been made in the past to characterise the *o/a* distinction, but the only way to account for the wide range of *o*-marked relationships is to view *o* as default marker; *'a* is only used when the possessor is dominant and/or active in relation to the possessee.

The idea that *o* is the default marker is confirmed by the fact that for plural pronouns and common nouns, *o* is the only marker used, while *'a* is limited to singular pronouns and proper nouns. This can be explained by an expanded version of the nominal hierarchy which has been shown to play a role in various grammatical areas cross-linguistically: only nominal constituents high in this hierarchy exhibit the *o/a* distinction.



# 7 The verb phrase

## 7.1 The structure of the verb phrase

In Rapa Nui, the verb phrase consists of a verb, usually preceded by a preverbal marker, and often followed by one or more particles which contribute aspectual, spatial or other nuances.

The structure of the verb phrase is shown in Table 7.1 and Table 7.2.<sup>1</sup>

Table 7.1: The verb phrase: preverbal elements

1 A/M	2 constit. negator	3 habitual	4 degree	5 causative
aspect/mood: <i>he, i, e, ka, ku/ko</i> (§7.2); subordinators/modality: <i>mo, ki, ana, 'o, mai</i> (§11.5); clausal negators: <i>kai, (e) ko</i> (§10.5)	<i>ta'e</i>	<i>rava/ vara</i>	<i>'ata; 'apa</i>	<i>haka</i>
§	10.5.6	7.3.1	7.3.2	8.12

Table 7.2: The verb phrase: postverbal elements

6 nucleus	7 adverb	8 'yet'	9 evaluative	10 directional	11 postverbal dem.	12 final dem.
verb	<i>tahi, iho, tako'a</i> etc.	<i>hia</i>	<i>rō; nō</i>	<i>mai; atu</i>	<i>nei; ena; era; ai</i>	<i>'ā/'ana; 'ai</i>
§	4.5.1	10.5.8	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.2.5.5; 7.2.3.3

The preverbal constituents 2–5 may occur in different orders, depending on their relative scope. For examples, see (97–100) on p. 342.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted and expanded from Weber (2003b: 26).

In this chapter, the various elements occurring in the verb phrase are discussed. The largest section (§7.2) is devoted to the set of five aspect markers. Aspect markers can largely be described in terms of well-known categories such as perfectivity and imperfectivity; one marker, however (*ka*) is more elusive.

Another major topic is directional marking (§7.5). Two directional markers are used in various ways to orient events with respect to a deictic centre, pointing either towards or away from this deictic centre.

Shorter sections deal with preverbal particles (§7.3), evaluative markers (§7.4) and postverbal demonstratives (§7.6). Finally, §7.7 deals with serial verb constructions, a construction in which two or more verbs occur in a single verb phrase.

As the tables show, the first slot (labelled A/M, aspect/mood) contains not only aspect markers but a variety of other particles as well. Two aspect markers also mark imperative mood; this is discussed in §10.2. The preverbal slot is also home to a group of subordinating particles; these are discussed in §11.5. Two negators occur in the same position; these are discussed in §10.5.

Finally, verb phrase adverbs are discussed with other minor parts of speech in §4.5.1. The particle *hia* ‘yet’, which occurs in combination with negators, is discussed in §10.5.8.

## 7.2 Aspect marking

### 7.2.1 Introduction

As the chart in the previous paragraph shows, the first slot in the verb phrase may be occupied by particles of various nature: aspect markers, subordinators and negators. This means that a verb is either marked for aspect, introduced by a subordinator, or negated by *kai* or (*e*) *ko*. Combinations of these are impossible. This means, for example, that purpose clauses introduced by *mo* and clauses negated with *kai* are not marked for aspect.<sup>2</sup>

In this section, the use of the aspectual markers is discussed.<sup>3</sup> This discussion will make clear that all markers have indeed an aspectual value and do not mark tense. In other words, they do not specify how the event is located in time, whether it happens before, at, or after the time of utterance. Rather, they are concerned with the internal temporal structure of the event and how the event is temporally related to other events in the context. The aspect markers are listed in Table 7.3.

Certain aspectual functions are expressed by a combination of an aspectual marker and one or two postverbal particles; these particle combinations will be discussed as a whole.

The discussion in this section is largely restricted to main clauses. The use of aspectuals with subordinate clauses (complement clauses, relative clauses and adverbial clauses) is discussed in Chapter 11. As certain subordinate clause types are strongly linked to – and

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<sup>2</sup> Neither is aspect marked when the verb is nominalised (§3.2.3).

<sup>3</sup> This section is largely based on the analysis of all clauses in a subcorpus of 29 texts: 15 old texts, containing 2597 clauses; 14 new texts, containing 5834 clauses.



Table 7.3: Overview of aspect markers

<i>he</i>	neutral	§7.2.3
<i>i</i>	perfective	§7.2.4
<i>e</i>	imperfective	§7.2.5
<i>ka</i>	contiguity	§7.2.6
<i>ku/ko V 'ā</i>	perfect	§7.2.7

highly illustrative of – certain aspectuals, reference will be made to Chapter 11 where appropriate.

## 7.2.2 The obligatoriness of aspectuals

In most contexts, the use of aspectuals is obligatory. Verbs without aspectuals occur in the following situations:

- Verbs which are incorporated, i.e. part of a compound noun (§5.7.2.3).
- Bare relative clauses (§11.4.5); this includes the nominal purpose construction (§11.6.3).
- Bare purpose clauses (§11.6.3).
- Occasionally in imperatives (§10.2.1).

Otherwise, aspectuals are occasionally omitted clause-initially (and especially sentence-initially) in an informal style, if the verb is followed by one or more postverbal particles. As the following examples show, different aspectuals can be omitted. In (1), the perfect aspect marker *ko* is implied; the usual perfect aspect construction is *ko V 'ā* (§7.2.7). In (2), neutral *he* is implied: the verb is followed by *rō 'ai*, which points towards the construction *he V rō 'ai* (§7.2.3.3); the second clause in (2) shows the same construction in full, with aspect marker.

- (1) *Pae tahi 'ā te tājata mo māta'ita'i.*  
 go\_all all CONT ART person for observe  
 'All the people went to watch.' [R415.785]
- (2) *Noho rō 'ai te tau'a, he rakerake rō 'ai ararua 'aro.*  
 stay EMPH SUBS ART battle NTR bad:RED EMPH SUBS the\_two side  
 'The battle went on, it got bad on both sides.' [R104.074]

### 7.2.3 Neutral *he*

#### 7.2.3.1 Introduction

*He* is the most common aspect marker. It probably developed from the nominal predicate marker *he* (§5.3.4). This development took place only in Rapa Nui – no other Polynesian language has an aspect marker cognate to *he* – so we may tentatively conclude that it took place after the language split off from PEP.<sup>4</sup>

While it may go too far to consider nominal and verbal *he* as one particle synchronically, the two are very similar in function. The nominal predicate marker *he* marks noun phrases as predicates, without attributing any aspectual value to them. Aspect concerns the internal temporal structure of an event; as entities (expressed in a noun phrase) do not have an internal temporal structure, they cannot be marked for any specific aspect. In the same way, the aspectual *he* is the least specific of all aspect markers.<sup>5</sup> Englert (1978: 64) calls it “the most general, most used and least precise tense” (my trl.). Chapin (1978: 153) labels it as a “neutral marker”, a term I adopt in this grammar (gloss NTR). The range of use of *he* will be discussed in the next section; the examples will make clear that *he* is used in a wide variety of clauses; these clauses may be punctual, durative or habitual; they may convey events in a narrative, future events or instructions. This confirms the idea that *he* itself expresses none of these functions, but is a neutral marker. The aspectual value of the clause is not expressed by *he* as such, but can be deduced from the nature of the verb and/or the context. In other words, *he* is functionally unmarked.<sup>6</sup>

In many cases, a *he*-marked clause depends on other clauses in the context for its aspectual value. In narrative, a perfective clause may set the scene, after which a series of *he*-marked clauses follow (see (4) below). Another example: *he* may mark a series of instructions, but only when the first of these is explicitly marked as imperative (see (5) below).

*He* is rare in subordinate clauses, which may also be due to its neutral character. Subordinate clauses typically stand in some temporal or aspectual relation to their main clause, whether simultaneous, overlapping, contiguous, anterior or posterior. *He* is not able to supply this temporal link, hence it is not suitable in these contexts.

#### 7.2.3.2 Range of use

As indicated above, *he* does not express any specific aspect; rather, it depends on the context for its aspectual value. In this section, this will be illustrated through examples of different contexts in which *he* is used.

<sup>4</sup> Interestingly, Cook (1999: 57) gives an example of *he* in Hawaiian preceding a verb.

<sup>5</sup> Another phenomenon linking the predicate marker *he* and the aspectual *he*, is that the negation *'ina* is either followed by *he* + noun (never by the article *te*), or by *he* + verb (never by a different aspectual). See section §10.5.1.

<sup>6</sup> Chapin (1978) suggests a different unified account for nominal and verbal *he*: the “noun” after *he* could be a verb, i.e. in *he taŋata koe* ‘you are a man’, *taŋata* could be analysed as a verb, an analysis also proposed (though in a more cautious wording) by Finney & Alexander (1998: 22). This analysis is syntactically implausible, however, as *he* is followed by a true noun phrase. As the examples in section §5.3.4 show, the noun following *he* may be preceded and followed by noun phrase elements like adjectives and numerals, while verb-phrase particles like *rō*, *atu* and *'ai* are excluded.

7.2.3.2.1 In narrative, *he*-marked clauses express the THEME LINE of a story. Strings of *he*-clauses constitute the “back bone” of a story, describing the sequence of narrative events.<sup>7</sup> The following is a typical example:

- (3) *He e'a mai a nua he haka rivariva he oti he e'a he*  
 NTR go\_out hither PROP Mum NTR CAUS good:RED NTR finish NTR go\_out NTR  
*туру ararua ko Eva he tu'u ki Hanga Piko.*  
 go\_down the\_two PROM Eva NTR arrive to Hanga Piko  
 ‘Mum went out, she made preparations, she finished, she went out, she went  
 down with Eva, they arrived in Hanga Piko.’ [R210.038]

Other aspectuals may interrupt the stream of *he*-clauses to indicate non-theme line elements of the narrative; they serve for example to provide background information, to express events anterior to the theme line, and to mark events which are highlighted in some way. (See the discussion on perfective *i* in §7.2.4.2 below.)<sup>8</sup>

The string of *he*-clauses providing the theme line of the story is usually preceded by one or more clauses which establish a time frame in which the events take place. The following example is the beginning of a story. The story starts with a cohesive clause, a temporal clause providing a time frame for what follows, marked with perfective *i* (§11.6.2.1). After that, the story continues with *he*-marked clauses.

- (4) *I poreko era a Puakiva, he māuiui a Kuha, tō'ona matu'a vahine.*  
 PFV born DIST PROP Puakiva NTR sick PROP Kuha POSS.3SG.O parent female  
 ‘When Puakiva was born, his mother Kuha got sick.’ [R229.001]

The fact that the time reference is established beforehand, confirms the idea that *he* is a neutral aspect marker: *he* has no temporal or aspectual value of its own, but continues within a previously established framework.<sup>9</sup>

In other text types, theme-line clauses are also marked with *he*. For example, in procedural texts the theme line consists of a series of steps which are taken to perform a certain procedure: building a boat, performing a burial, making a traditional cape. In the following example, the speaker describes how to prepare a certain medicine. The first step of the procedure is indicated by the imperative *e*, conveying a general instruction; this is followed by a series of *he*-marked verbs.

<sup>7</sup> The following examples are translated more literally than usual in this grammar, to convey the idea of the concatenation of *he*-clauses.

<sup>8</sup> The interplay of *he* and other aspectuals and their respective functions in narrative have been analysed by Weber (2003b).

<sup>9</sup> Notice that *he* itself does not explicitly indicate either that the events happen sequentially; there is no ‘and then’ sense implied in *he* as such. This feature is understood in the narrative context (cf. Hooper 1998: 127 on zero-marked narrative events in Tokelauan).

## 7 The verb phrase

- (5) *E haka piha'a i te vai. Ki oti he to'o mai he huri he haka tano te matu'a pua'a ki roto o te vai piha'a.*  
 EXH CAUS boil ACC ART water when finish NTR take hither NTR turn NTR  
 CAUS correct ART *matu'a pua'a* to inside of ART water boil  
 'Boil water. When done, take it and pour the right amount of *matu'a pua'a* (a medicinal plant) into the boiling water.' [R313.160–161]

7.2.3.2.2 *He*-marked clauses may refer to durative or habitual actions as in (6),<sup>10</sup> or general truths as in (7).

- (6) *Paurō te mahana he turu au ki te hāpī.*  
 every ART day NTR go\_down 1SG to ART learn  
 'Every day I go to school.' [R151.059]
- (7) *He hīmene te perete'i. He kirukiru te manu. He 'ūmō te pua'a.*  
 NTR sing ART cricket NTR chirp ART bird NTR moo ART cow  
 'Crickets sing. Birds chirp. Cows bellow.' [Notes]

7.2.3.2.3 *He* is used with stative verbs (including adjectives) to express a state of affairs which holds at the time of reference. This may be the time of speech as in (8), or the time of the narrative as in (9).

- (8) *He nene nō ta'a ika mata, e nua ē.*  
 NTR sweet just POSS.2SG.A fish raw VOC Mum VOC  
 'Your raw fish is really nice, Mum.' [R535.095]
- (9) *He topa te poki tamahahine... He hāḡai i a Uho, he nuinui.*  
 NTR descend ART child female NTR feed ACC PROP Uho NTR big:RED  
 'A girl was born... They raised Uho and she grew up.' [Ley-9-55.026–027]

7.2.3.2.4 *He*-marked clauses may express events that are about to happen or foreseen in the (near) future. The time frame is established in the context ('next year' in (10)).

- (10) *Matahiti ena he hoki a au ki te hāpī.*  
 year MED NTR return PROP 1SG to ART learn  
 'Next year I will return to school.' [R210.003]

To express the future character of the action explicitly, *e V rō* is used (§7.2.5.3). Clauses expressing plans or intentions may also be marked with *ka* (§7.2.6.3).

<sup>10</sup> To mark durativity or habituality explicitly, *e V era* or *e V 'ā'ana* is used (§7.2.5.4).

7.2.3.3 *He* and postverbal particles

7.2.3.3.1 **Demonstratives** Unlike the aspectuals *i*, *e* and *ka*, *he* is rarely followed by one of the postverbal demonstratives *nei*, *ena* or *era* (§7.6).<sup>11</sup> Occasional examples are found:

- (11) *He moe era koe e Hina ē 'i te kata.*  
 NTR lie DIST 2SG VOC Hina VOC at ART laugh  
 'Hina laughed her head off (lit. you, Hina, lied down laughing).' [R313.025]

7.2.3.3.2 ***He V rō 'ai*** More common is the construction *he V rō 'ai*: a *he*-marked verb followed by the asseverative particle *rō* (§7.4.2) and the sequential particle *'ai*. Weber (2003b: 125) shows that *he V rō 'ai* in narrative texts indicates notable, important events on the theme line: significant developments or culminating points in the story. My analysis of several narrative texts confirms this. *he V rō 'ai* clauses indicate events which are either climactic in a story, final in a sequence, or both.

In other cases, *he V rō 'ai* marks an event which is not only final in a series, but which constitutes a climax in the story. In the following example, a sequence of events is concluded with *he V rō 'ai*: the woman tries to catch her child, which has turned into a fish, but in vain: the child disappears. The last event, the climax of the sequence, is marked with *rō 'ai*.

- (12) *He tute he oho e te vi'e nei... 'e he ŋaro rō atu 'ai.*  
 NTR chase NTR go AG ART woman PROX and NTR disappear EMPH away SUBS  
 'The woman chased the fish.... but it disappeared.' [R338.009]

The use of *rō* in this construction conforms to the general sense of *rō*, asserting the reality of the event (§7.4.2).

*He V rō 'ai* is also used at points of emotional intensity; in the following example (from the same story as (12)), the mother is grieved because her child has disappeared.

- (13) *Te matu'a vahine o te poki nei he taŋi rō atu 'ai.*  
 ART parent female of ART child PROX NTR cry EMPH away SUBS  
 'The mother of the child cried.' [R338.008]

## 7.2.3.4 Summary

The discussion above has shown that *he* does not express one single aspect. It is used in punctual, durative, habitual and stative clauses; the verb may refer to a timeless truth, a narrative event or a future event. This wide range indicates that *he* is a neutral aspect marker, which in itself does not express any aspect. The aspectual value of the clause is contributed by the context, for example a time phrase, a temporal clause or a preceding imperative.

<sup>11</sup> *He V era* occurs relatively often in the stories recorded by Métraux; however, this probably represents the much more common construction *e V era*: Métraux, whose first language was French, sometimes took initial glottals for *h* and vice versa.

*He* is especially common in sequences of clauses expressing successive events; this happens both in narrative and procedural discourse.

## 7.2.4 Perfective *i*

### 7.2.4.1 Introduction

*I* is the perfective marker.<sup>12</sup> The perfective aspect presents an event as a single, unanalysable whole (Comrie 1976: 3; Dixon 2012: 35), without considering its internal structure (e.g. its duration). In other words, the perfective regards the event from the outside, while the imperfective considers its temporal make-up from the inside.

Perfective aspect is naturally correlated with past tense (Comrie 1976: 72), and in fact, *i* usually marks events in the past. *I* has been characterised as a past tense marker in several descriptions of Rapa Nui and other Polynesian languages.<sup>13</sup> In non-narrative contexts *i* is the common aspectual for past events, as the following examples show. As (17) shows, it may also express general facts about the past.

- (14) *A au i oho mai nei ki a koe mo noho o'oku 'i nei.*  
 PROP 1SG PFV go hither PROX to PROP 2SG for stay POSS.1SG.O at PROX  
 'I have come to you to live here.' [R245.072]
- (15) *Ko koe i rē.*  
 PROM 2SG PFV win  
 'You have won.' [R210.071]
- (16) *ʔE Nuahine Pikea 'Uri ē, 'ā'au rō ta'a moeŋa nei o*  
 VOC Nuahine Pikea Uri VOC POSS.2SG.A EMPH POSS.2SG.A mat PROX of  
*māua i toke!*  
 1DU.EXCL PFV steal  
 'Nuahine Pikea Uri, it was you who stole that mat of ours!' [R310.428]
- (17) *Te me'e o te mātāmu'a me'e ta'e vānaŋa, i mou nō.*  
 ART thing of ART past thing CONNEG talk PFV quiet just  
 'The people of old used not to speak, they kept silent.' [R310.216]

There are cases, however, where *i* conveys a non-past event. For example, in (18) *i* is used with reference to the future:

- (18) *I o'o era koe ki roto i tu'u hare era e noho koe.*  
 PFV enter DIST 2SG to inside at POSS.2SG.O house DIST IPFV stay 2SG  
 'When you have entered into your house, stay there.' [R310.297]

<sup>12</sup> Perfective *i* is common in Eastern Polynesian languages; non-EP languages have *na*, *ne* or *ni*. Wilson (2012: 314) suggests a development PNP \**ne* > Central Northern Outliers \**ni* > PEP \**i*.

<sup>13</sup> See Du Feu (1996: 156) for Rapa Nui, Mutu & Teikitutoua (2002) for Marquesan, Académie Tahitienne (1986: 172) for Tahitian, Biggs (1973: 34) for Māori. Note that Chapin (1978: 153) labels Rapa Nui *i* as perfective.

Conversely, other aspectuals are used besides *i* in clauses referring to past events: narrative *he* (§7.2.3), imperfective *e V 'ā* (§7.2.5.4). This means that *i* is not a past tense marker; rather, it expresses that an action is temporally closed. This may in turn mean that the event is in the past, or anterior to other events, or finished at a certain point, but neither of these is a necessary condition for the use of *i*.

Comrie (1976: 17–18) stresses that perfective is not the same as punctual. This is true in Rapa Nui as well: while *i* often marks punctual events, it is equally used to mark events that have a certain duration. This is clear in examples like the following, where the perfective is used for events that take place over many years:

- (19) *A Te Manu i noho ai 'i muri i tū māmātia era ō'ona 'ātā*  
 PROP Te Manu PFV stay PVP at near at DEM grandmother DIST POSS.3SG.O until  
*ki te nuinui ija.*  
 to ART big:RED NMLZ  
 'Te Manu stayed with his aunt until he had grown up.' [R245.246]

In main clauses, the *i*-marked verb is usually followed by a postverbal demonstrative (PVD). The use of PVDs after *i*-marked verbs will be discussed in more detail in §7.6.5.

#### 7.2.4.2 Neutral *he* versus perfective *i*

As discussed in §7.2.3.2 above, *he* is used to mark the theme line of discourse. This means that the relation between *he* and *i* calls for an explanation. As Timberlake (2007: 293) points out, the perfective is typically the aspect of narrative texts: a perfective event leads to a new state, which is the input for the next event; a string of such events constitutes a narrative. In Rapa Nui, however, sequential events in a narrative are marked with *he*, not *i* (§7.2.3.2 above).

As shown in this section, *i* is used when the event is not sequential to the event in the preceding clause, for example in clauses providing background information. Moreover, *i* is used to highlight events, setting them off from the theme line of *he*-marked clauses. This means that *i* is used in narrative discourse to mark clauses not belonging to the theme line for some reason.

**Anteriority** *I* is used when the event is anterior with respect to the theme line of the story (i.e. where the English equivalent is the pluperfect).

- (20) *Māuiui nei i tu'u mai ai ki Rapa Nui o te nu'u empereao o te*  
 sick PROX PFV arrive hither PVP to Rapa Nui of ART people employee of ART  
*Compañía i ma'u mai.*  
 company PFV carry hither  
 'This disease had arrived on Rapa Nui, introduced by the employees of the Company.' [R250.084]

*I* with anterior events is especially common in cohesive clauses, temporal clauses preceding a main clause (§11.6.2.1).

**Highlighting** *I* marks events which the speaker wants to highlight in the stream of *he*-clauses. In the following example, Kalia, the protagonist of the story, has been swimming all night to get to Ao Tea Roa to get help for the people of Kapiti. The moment in which she finally arrives and is able to warn the people of Ao Tea Roa, is marked with *i V ai*. As this example shows, the significance of the event may be underlined by the asseverative particle *rō* (§7.4.2).

- (21) *Kai puhi rivariva ia te haŋu 'i te poto o te aho i ohu*  
 NEG.PFV blow good:RED then ART breath at ART short of ART breath PFV shout  
*rō atu ai mo haka 'ite i tū 'ati era.*  
 EMPH away PVP for CAUS know ACC DEM problem DIST  
 'Short of breath, she shouted to make the trouble known.' [R347.128]

**Intervening events** More specifically, *i* is used when the clause expresses what may be called an intervening event. As Comrie (1976: 3) indicates, the perfective sees the action as an unanalysable whole, without an internal temporal structure. Therefore, the perfective is used in many languages to express punctual events. In Rapa Nui, the perfective is often used with punctual events which take place while something else is happening. The punctual event interrupts another event which has been going on for some time: it intervenes into an existing situation.

This is common after the imperfective *e V nō 'ā* (§7.2.5.4):

- (22) *E noho nō 'ā a Te Manu i vari atu ai a Nune...*  
 IPFV sit just CONT PROP Te Manu PFV pass away PVP PROP Nune  
 'When Te Manu was sitting, Nune came by...' [R245.174]
- (23) *E iri nō atu 'ā i take'a rō ai e te vi'e o tū pāpā*  
 IPFV ascend just away CONT PFV see EMPH PVP AG ART woman of DEM father  
*era o Te Manu.*  
 DIST of Te Manu  
 'When he was going up, the wife of Te Manu's father saw him.' [R245.214]

**Background** *I*-marked clauses may express background information. For example, in the introduction of a story, *i*-clauses may serve to set the stage by telling what happened before the beginning of the story, as in (24). *I*-marked clauses may also express restatements or clarifications, as in (25).<sup>14</sup>

- (24) *Te ara nei o te nu'u nei, i e'a ai mai Hanga Roa o Tai 'i*  
 ART way PROX of ART people PROX PFV go\_out PVP from Hanga Roa o Tai at  
*ruŋa o te vaka nei.*  
 above of ART boat PROX  
 'As to these people's trip, they had left Hanga Roa o Tai by boat.' [R361.004]

<sup>14</sup> Similarly, *i*-marked clauses may express background events in subordinate clauses (§11.6.2.2).



- (25) ...*he iri he oho ki te kona hare era. I tahuti a Tiare i iri*  
 NTR ascend NTR go to ART place house DIST PFV run PROP Tiare PFV ascend  
*ai ki te kona hare era.*  
 PVP to ART place house DIST  
 ‘...she went up to her home. Running, Tiare went up to her home.’ [R151.053]

### 7.2.4.3 Summary

*I* is the perfective marker: it marks events which are viewed as a whole, without internal temporal structure. The event is usually, but not always, in the past.

In narrative, *i* is used for events which stand out in some way from the thematic backbone of events marked with *he*: *i* marks background events, restatements and conclusions, flashbacks, but also events which are highlighted.

## 7.2.5 Imperfective *e*

### 7.2.5.1 Introduction

*E* is the imperfective marker. It is common throughout Polynesian languages; Pollex (see Greenhill & Clark 2011) glosses it as ‘non-past’. According to Comrie (1976: 24), the imperfective makes “explicit reference to the internal temporal structure of a situation, viewing a situation from within” (see also Dixon 2012: 35). Languages may grammaticalise certain subcategories of the imperfective; Comrie divides the imperfective into two subcategories: CONTINUOUS (an event or situation goes on for some time) and HABITUAL (“a situation which is characteristic of an extended period of time”, 27–28). The continuous can be further divided into progressive and nonprogressive: in various European languages, stative verbs may be used in the imperfective (with a continuous interpretation), but not in a progressive form. The PROGRESSIVE is thus a combination of a continuous meaning and non-stativity (35–36).<sup>15</sup>

As it will turn out, the categories mentioned here are relevant in Rapa Nui as well. While *e* as such expresses imperfectivity, finer distinctions are expressed by *e* in combination with certain postverbal particles. Thus the aspectual value of the clause is defined not by *e* alone, but by a combination of *e* and postverbal particles. The following particles contribute to the aspect of the clause: the evaluative markers *rō* and *nō*, the continuity marker ‘*ā*’*ana*,<sup>16</sup> and the postverbal demonstratives (PVDs) *nei/ena/era*. With *e*, these particles show the following cooccurrence restrictions:

- (26) *e* V (adverb) (*rō/nō*) (*mai/atu*) (*’ā*’*ana*)  
*e* V (adverb) (*mai/atu*) *nei/ena/era*

<sup>15</sup> Others consider “continuous” and “progressive” as synonymous, see e.g. Dixon (2012: 34).

<sup>16</sup> There is no difference in function between ‘*ā*’ and ‘*ana*’; ‘*ā*’ is more common (§5.9). In this section, ‘*ā*’ will be used as a shorthand for ‘*ā*’*ana*.

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In other words, PVDs after *e* do not cooccur with either the evaluative markers *rō* and *nō* or the continuity marker '*ā*/*ana*,<sup>17</sup> but the latter two categories do occur together.<sup>18</sup>

In the following sections, different constructions with *e* will be discussed: bare *e* (i.e. without any postverbal particle) is briefly discussed in §7.2.5.2, *e V rō* in §7.2.5.3. *E V era* and *e V 'ā* (which largely occur in the same contexts and have similar functions) are treated together in §7.2.5.4. Finally, in §7.2.5.5, the distinction between *e V era* and *e V 'ā* is explored.

### 7.2.5.2 Bare *e*

The aspect marker *e* without any postverbal particle occurs in two contexts only:

1. as an exhortative marker, used for non-immediate commands (§10.2.1):

(27) *E hāpa'o kōrua i a Puakiva.*  
EXH care\_for 2PL ACC PROP Puakiva  
'Take care of Puakiva.' [R229.420–421]

2. in the imperfective actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3):

(28) *Mā'aku 'ā e e'a ki te manu.*  
BEN.ISG.A IDENT IPFV go\_out to ART bird  
'I myself will go up to the birds.' [Egt-01.014]

In all other contexts, the *e*-marked verb is followed by one or more postverbal particles.

### 7.2.5.3 *e V rō*: future

The combination of imperfective *e* and the emphatic particle *rō* expresses future events. It is used to express intentions or plans:

(29) *Ka noho kōrua ko koro, e hoki rō mai mātou ka muraki*  
IMP stay 2SG PROM Dad IPFV return EMPH hither 1PL.EXCL CNTG bury  
*tā'au pāpaku.*  
POSS.2SG.A corpse

'You and Dad should stay, we will return and bury the body.' [Ley-4-08.017]

(30) *E hāpa'o rō e au i tā'ana poki.*  
IPFV care\_for EMPH AG 1SG ACC POSS.3SG.A child  
'I will look after her child.' [R229.081]

<sup>17</sup> This restriction is specific to imperfective *e*; after other aspectuals, postverbal demonstratives do co-occur with *rō*, *nō* and '*ā*/*ana*.

<sup>18</sup> In fact, these two categories co-occur far more often than one would statistically expect: while *e V 'ā* occurs 35 times and *e V nō/rō* occurs 34 times, *e V nō/rō 'ā* occurs no less than 153 times.

7.2.5.4 *E* with postverbal demonstratives and with 'ā/'ana

As pointed out in §7.2.5.1 above, *e* is used in combination with both PVDs and 'ā.<sup>19</sup> With either of these, the clause has either a HABITUAL or a CONTINUOUS sense, both of which are subcategories of the imperfective. The question is, whether there is any difference between *e V PVD* and *e V 'ā*. In this section the use of *e* with these markers is discussed. This discussion will show that there is a great deal of overlap between both constructions, but that there are differences in use as well.

*E V PVD* and *e V 'ā* occur in main clauses and in temporal subordinate clauses. The former are discussed here, the latter will be discussed in §11.6.2.2 (see (225–228)).

In main clauses, *e V PVD* expresses either a continuous action as in (31–32), or a habitual action as in (33–34):

- (31) *E piko era a Kaiŋa.*  
 IPFV hide DIST PROP Kainga  
 'Kainga was hiding.' [R304.093]
- (32) *Te 'ori, te hīmene rapa nui te reka e u'i era e Eva.*  
 ART dance ART song Rapa Nui ART entertaining IPFV look DIST AG Eva  
 'Eva looked at the dancing, Rapa Nui singing and the entertainment.' [R210.133]
- (33) *Paurō te mahana a Huri 'a Vai e iri era mai Hanga Tu'u Hata ki*  
 every ART day PROP Huri a Vai IPFV ascend DIST from Hanga Tu'u Hata to  
*Kauhanga o Varu.*  
 Kauhanga o Varu  
 'Every day, Huri a Vai went up from Hanga Tu'u Hata to Kauhanga o Varu.'  
 [R304.001]
- (34) *Ta'ato'a me'e rakerake e haka aŋa era ki a Puakiva.*  
 all thing bad:RED IPFV CAUS do DIST to PROP Puakiva  
 'He made Puakiva do all bad/dirty jobs.' [R229.397]

*E V 'ā* also expresses either continuous actions as in (35–36) or habitual actions as in (37); the latter is not very common, though.

- (35) *E 'oka 'ana a Tama te Rano Kao i te maika 'i raro i te rano.*  
 IPFV plant CONT PROP Tama te Rano Kao ACC ART banana at below at ART crater  
 'Tama te Rano Kao was planting bananas below in the crater.' [Mtx-3-11.053]
- (36) *A koro e aŋa 'ā 'i te 'uahu.*  
 PROP Dad IPFV work CONT at ART wharf  
 'Dad was working on the wharf.' [R210.041]

<sup>19</sup> In this section, 'ā is a shorthand for 'ā/'ana.

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- (37) *Te hi'o ho'i e aḡa nō 'ā 'i rā hora e te nu'u pa'ari era.*  
 ART glass indeed IPFV make just CONT at DIST time AG ART people adult DIST  
 'The (diving) glasses were made at that time by the older people.' [R360.027]

*e V 'ā* is also used with adjectives, expressing an enduring state:<sup>20</sup>

- (38) *E mata nō 'ana ho'i te miro era i hore mai era.*  
 IPFV unripe just CONT indeed ART wood DIST PFV cut hither DIST  
 'The wood that has been cut is still green.' [R200.063]

- (39) *E 'iti'iti nō 'ā a koe.*  
 IPFV small:RED just CONT PROP 2SG  
 'You are still small.' [R210.052]

By contrast, *e V PVD* is rarely used with statives. It never occurs with adjectives of dimension, value of colour (the prototypical adjectives, see §3.5.1.3), only with adjectives from other categories:

- (40) *ĤHe aha e aḡarahi ena mo haka rehu ō'oku i a koe?*  
 PRED what IPFV difficult MED for CAUS forgotten POSS.1SG.O ACC PROP 2SG  
 'Why is it difficult to forget you?' [R452.025–026]

Table 7.4 summarises these findings. Plain x indicates that the category in question is common; (x) indicates uncommon or restricted occurrence.

Table 7.4: Functions of *e V PVD* and *e V 'ā*

	<i>e V PVD</i>	<i>e V 'ā</i>
continuous event	x	x
habitual event	x	(x)
state	(x)	x

<sup>20</sup> The most frequent stative use of *e V 'ā* is with the existential verb *ai*: the fossilised expression *e ai rō 'ā* 'there is' is a very common existential construction (§9.3.1).

## 7.2.5.5 Postverbal demonstratives versus 'ā; the function of 'ā

As the discussion in §7.2.5.4 shows, there is a great deal of overlap between *e V PVD* and *e V 'ā*. Both are used in a habitual and a progressive sense; both are found in main and subordinate clauses. Even so, the two cannot always be used interchangeably. One difference lies in the possibility to express additional meaning elements: as shown in §7.2.5.1, PVDs do not co-occur with the evaluative particles *nō* or *rō* (§7.4); in order to use one of these markers in an imperfective clause, 'ā must be used instead (see (37–39) above).

While 'ā can be used together with *nō* and *rō*, the PVD also has some possibilities of its own: different PVDs indicate different degrees of distance. The default – and by far the most frequent – PVD is *era*, as in (31–34) above; *nei* can be used to indicate proximity to the speaker as in (41), *ena* to indicate proximity to the hearer as in (42).

- (41) *Pē nei e kī nei e te nu'u nei: ko mate 'ana koe.*  
 like PROX IPFV say PROX AG ART people PROX PRF die CONT 2SG  
 'This is what these people are saying; you have died.' [R229.316]
- (42) *;'ī mau 'ā a au e taŋi atu ena ki a kōrua ko te ŋā poki!*  
 IMM really IDENT PROP 1SG IPFV cry away MED TO PROP 2SG PROM ART PL child  
 'I was just missing you, children!' [R313.097]

Apart from these possibilities to express additional meaning elements, there is a more general difference between *e V era* and *e V 'ā*. This is suggested by two facts:

1. As discussed above, *e V 'ā* can be used with adjectives to indicate a state (see (38–39) above). On the other hand, adjectives rarely enter into the *e V PVD* construction. A similar difference can be observed in temporal clauses (discussed in §11.6.2.2): *e V 'ā* is more stative-like, while *e V PVD* is more dynamic.
2. In main clauses, *e V 'ā* constructions only rarely have habitual sense; habituality is usually expressed by *e V PVD*. Similarly, in cohesive clauses (§11.6.2.1), I have not found any example of habitual *e V 'ā*, while habitual *e V PVD* is quite common.

This raises the question of the function of the marker 'ā. According to Weber (2003b: 52), 'ā is a progressive marker. This would fit many of its occurrences; however, it should be noted that progressive events may also be expressed by *e V PVD*. Moreover, *e V 'ā* can be used with stative verbs, whereas the progressive (in Comrie's definition, see §7.2.5.1 above) is limited to nonstative verbs.

Another fact which should be taken into consideration, is that 'ā occurs after the perfect marker *ko/ku* as well; in fact, after the perfect marker 'ā is obligatory. Now perfect aspect is incompatible with the progressive; rather, it indicates the continuing relevance of a situation which has come about in the past. As will be discussed in §7.2.7.1 and §7.2.7.4 below, *ko V 'ā* expresses a state of affairs resulting from an earlier event, rather than the event itself. We may conclude that 'ā marks CONTINUITY or stability over

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time: *e V 'ā* expresses that an event or a state continues; *ko V 'ā* indicates the continuing relevance of a state which has started in the past.<sup>21</sup> Hence the gloss CONT(inuity).<sup>22</sup>

Notice that this does not mean that '*ā* as such is a marker of continuous aspect. Continuous aspect (expressing events which continue for some time, whether stative or non-stative) is a subcategory of the imperfective, which is expressed by either *e V PVD* or *e V 'ā*. '*ā* itself simply emphasises the continuity or stability of a situation, whether in combination with imperfective *e* or perfect *ko*.

This is confirmed by the occasional use of '*ā* after the preverbal marker *mai* (§11.5.5): *mai* as such indicates a temporal boundary ('before, until'); in combination with '*ana* it expresses the continuation of a state up to a certain point: 'while, as long as'.

The meaning of postverbal '*ā* is clearly related to the meaning of postnominal '*ā* (§5.9); while postverbal '*ā* indicates stability of an event over time, postnominal '*ā* underlines the identity of a referent, i.e. stability in reference: 'the same, himself'.

### 7.2.5.6 Summary

*E* is the imperfective marker. Its temporal/aspectual value is further defined by certain postverbal particles, as indicated in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5: Functions of imperfective *e*

<i>e</i>	– imperative; – imperfective actor-emphatic
<i>e V rō</i> (emphatic marker)	– future
<i>e V nei/ena/era</i> (postverbal demonstratives)	– continuous; – habitual; – (stative – rarely)
<i>e V 'ā/'ana</i> (continuity marker)	– continuous; – stative; – (habitual – rarely)

In clauses where the verb is non-initial, *e* tends to be used whenever the clause has nonpast reference; this will be briefly discussed in §7.2.8 below.

<sup>21</sup> *Ana* occurs in other Eastern Polynesian languages (which have not retained the Proto-Polynesian glottal plosive) as a post-verbal particle marking a continuing action or state, usually after imperfective *e*, e.g. Hawaiian (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 57–60), Marquesan (Mutu & Teikitutoua 2002: 67), Mangarevan (Janeau 1908: 32), Māori (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 416–419). Interestingly, in Marquesan the variant *aa* is used as well; given the fact that other languages only have the longer form, it is not unlikely that Rapa Nui '*ā* and Marquesan *aa* are independent developments. In Hawaiian, *ana* alternates with postverbal demonstratives as in Rapa Nui. The use of '*ana/'ā* in the noun phrase (§5.9) is unique to Rapa Nui.

<sup>22</sup> In addition, '*ā* is used in negated perfect aspect clauses, marked with preverbal *kai* (see (124–125) on p. 501).

## 7.2.6 The contiguity marker *ka*

### 7.2.6.1 Introduction: *ka* in Polynesian and in Rapa Nui

*Ka* occurs in most Polynesian languages. It tends to be a somewhat elusive marker. Pawley (1970: 347–348) glosses PPN/PNP *\*kaa* as “anticipatory, future” and PCE *\*kaa* as “inceptive”; Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011) has PPN *\*ka* as an inceptive marker. In most grammars of Polynesian languages, it is explained as inceptive and/or future and/or imperative; the latter function occurs only in EP languages.<sup>23</sup>

For Rapa Nui, the existing grammars offer little analysis on *ka*. Englert (1978: 63, 72) does not list or discuss *ka* among the “tenses”, but only gives examples of its use in the imperative. According to Du Feu (1996: 37) *ka* and *ki* are momentary particles indicating temporal relationships between actions; she gives examples of the use of *ka* in the imperative (38), *ka V rō* in the sense ‘until’ (52) and *ka* in temporal clauses referring to the future. Chapin (1978: 154) indicates that there are various other uses of *ka* besides the imperative, but that on the basis of his data, it is not possible to reach any satisfactory generalisation regarding these uses.

Weber (2003b: 33), on the contrary, offers a thorough analysis of *ka*. On the basis of a number of newer narrative texts he concludes that *ka* does not give information about the aspectual value of the verb itself, but about its temporal relation to a following or preceding proposition. He postulates that *ka* indicates temporal CONTIGUITY between two events, in that the two events are temporally adjacent or overlapping.

My analysis, as outlined below, largely confirms and refines Weber’s findings. In many of its uses, *ka* represents a BOUNDARY, setting off one event from another; this happens for example when one event represents a temporal limit for another, ongoing event. In other cases *ka* indicates SIMULTANEITY with respect to the event expressed in a preceding or following clause. This simultaneity can be either total or partial (i.e. overlapping). Both situations can be subsumed under the label “contiguity” (CNTG), proposed by Weber (2003b).

This section discusses the contiguity marker *ka*; the use of *ka* as imperative marker (which occurs more frequently in discourse) is discussed in §10.2.1. Weber (2003b) treats the contiguity marker and the imperative marker as different particles; in §10.2.1 I will argue that the two are best considered as a single particle.

Another use of *ka* not discussed in the present section, is *ka* preceding numerals (§4.3.2.2). The discussion and examples there show, that *ka* indicates a quantity which has been reached, a use which corresponds neatly to *ka* as a boundary marker.

In the following subsections, different contexts in which *ka* occurs, are discussed in turn. First a number of uses in subordinate clauses are briefly listed (§7.2.6.2), then its use in main clauses is discussed (§7.2.6.3). In §7.2.6.4, some minor uses of *ka* are listed.

<sup>23</sup> PPN *\*ka* reflects a Proto-Oceanic coordinating conjunction *\*ka* ‘and then’ (Lynch, Ross & Crowley 2002: 85; Lichtenberk 2014), which developed into a marker of sequentiality, future tense, irrealis, imperative and/or inceptive in various (groups of) languages. Evidently, the use of *\*ka* is not narrowed down to a single function in Polynesian.

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### 7.2.6.2 *Ka* in subordinate clauses

*Ka* is used in a wide range of subordinate clauses. In this section, these constructions are listed with a single example; they are discussed in more detail in Chapter 11.

*Ka* occurs in complements of perception verbs (§11.3.1.1):

- (43) *He u'i atu, ka pū te manu taiko.*  
NTR look away CNTG approach ART bird taiko  
'She saw a taiko bird come by.' [Ley-9-55.078]

In relative clauses (§11.4.3), *ka* indicates events posterior to the time of reference:

- (44) *Te 'īhoā o te kai era [ka ma'u mai era ki a koe] he ioioraŋi.*  
ART name of ART food DIST CNTG carry hither DIST to PROP 2SG PRED ioioraŋi  
'The name of the food they will bring you is ioioraŋi.' [R310.060]

In temporal clauses (§11.6.2.1, §11.6.2.2), *ka* indicates temporal contiguity with the event in the main clause:

- (45) *Ka hakame'eme'e era he riri a Taparahi.*  
CNTG mock DIST NTR angry PROP Taparahi  
'When they mocked, Taparahi would get angry.' [R250.151]

*Ka* marks conditional clauses (§11.6.6):

- (46) *Ka hāŋai atu ena ki a koe, he mate koe.*  
CNTG feed away MED to PROP 2SG NTR die 2SG  
'If (the two spirits) feed you, you will die.' [R310.061]

*Ka* occurs after certain temporal conjunctions: 'ō ira 'before' (§11.6.2.4); 'ātā/'ā 'until', 'ahara 'until' (§11.6.2.5):

- (47) *Mai ki hāpa'o nō tātou i a ia 'ātā ka nuiŋi rō.*  
hither HORT care\_for just 1PL.INCL ACC PROP 3SG until CNTG big:RED EMPH  
'Let us take care of him until he is big.' [R211.063]

Without a conjunction, *ka V rō* marks a temporal boundary, 'until' (§11.6.2.5):

- (48) *He kai a Te Manu ka mākona rō.*  
NTR eat PROP Te Manu CNTG satiated EMPH  
'Te Manu ate until he was satiated.' [R245.067]

*Ka V atu* marks a concessive clause (§11.6.7):

- (49) *Ka rahi atu tā'aku poki, e hāpa'o nō e au 'ā.*  
CNTG many away POSS.1SG.A child IPFV care\_for just AG 1SG IDENT  
'Even if I have many children, I will care for them myself.' [R229.023]



In most of these examples, *ka* expresses temporal contiguity. The event in the *ka*-clause is temporally contiguous to the event in the main clause; often it indicates a boundary to the event in the main clause as in (45), (47) and (48); sometimes the event overlaps with or is simultaneous to the main clause event as in (43).

### 7.2.6.3 *Ka* in main clauses

When *ka* occurs in main clauses, the clause often refers to an event POSTERIOR to the time of reference, something which happens later than other events in the context. As in subordinate clauses, the verb is often followed by a postverbal demonstrative.

In direct speech, the time of reference is the moment of speech; the *ka*-clause refers to the future, but always the immediate or very near future:

- (50) *'I 'Ohovehi mātou ka noho nei 'ātā ki te ηaro haηa o te pahī.*  
 at Ohovehi 1PL.EXCL CNTG stay PROX until to ART disappear NMLZ of ART ship  
 'We will stay in Ohovehi until the ship disappears (behind the horizon).'  
 [R210.083]
- (51) *¿I hē tāua ka kimi nei i te tāua māmari?*  
 at CQ 1DU.INCL CNTG search PROX ACC ART 1DU.INCL egg  
 'Where will we search for eggs?' [R245.199]

In these cases – different from the subordinate clauses in the previous section – the temporal/aspectual reference of the clause is not determined by its relation to surrounding clauses, but independently anchored in the non-linguistic context. For example, (51) forms a complete speech, so the sentence has no direct linguistic context. The contiguity marker indicates that the event is contiguous to the time of reference, in this case, the moment of speech.

Posterior *ka*-clauses also occur in narrative contexts. These clauses describe events which happen later than the main line of events. As in the examples above, the *ka*-event is posterior to the time of reference (in this case, the main line of the story). An example:

- (52) *...he oho ararua ki Santiago ki te hare era o Ma'atea. 'I ira ho'i*  
 NTR go the\_two to Santiago to ART house DIST of Ma'atea at ANA indeed  
*ka noho era.*  
 CNTG stay DIST  
 'The two went to Santiago to the house of Ma'atea. There she would stay.'  
 [R210.221]

Sometimes two successive clauses are both marked with *ka*, indicating TEMPORAL CONTIGUITY between the two events: one event marks the boundary of the other. In this construction, the first clause is a temporal clause providing a time frame for the second. The second clause is the main clause, but this can only be concluded on semantic grounds; the clauses do not differ syntactically, except in their respective order.

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- (53) *Ka haka mao tū vānaŋa era a Moe, ka taŋi mai te oe mo*  
CNTG CAUS finish DEM speak DIST PROP Moe CNTG cry hither ART bell for  
*o'o ananake ki te rāua hāpī.*  
enter together to ART 3PL learn  
'When Moe had finished speaking, the bell sounded for all to enter their class.'  
[R315.075]
- (54) *Ka tu'u mai nei, e rāua mau 'ana ka 'a'amu nei i te rāua*  
CNTG arrive hither PROX AG 3PL really IDENT CNTG tell PROX ACC ART 3PL  
*'ati.*  
problem  
'When they arrived, they themselves told about their trouble.' [R361.035]

Finally, *ka* in main clauses is common after certain clause-initial PARTICLES, especially deictic particles: 'ī 'here; right now'; 'ai 'there (§4.5.4.1); then'.

### 7.2.6.4 Other uses of *ka*

Firstly, *ka* is used in an exclamative construction preceding adjectives (§10.4.1).

Secondly, as discussed in the previous sections, *ka* is commonly used to indicate temporally contiguous events. A natural derivative from this is its use to indicate alternatives. When there are two alternative events or states, either of which can be true, they can be expressed by two *ka*-clauses. An appropriate translation is 'whether ... or'.

- (55) *Ka 'uri'uri ka teatea te huruhuru, ko tū māhatu ā.*  
CNTG black:RED CNTG white:RED ART hair PROM DEM heart IDENT  
'Whether your hair is black or white, it's the same heart.' [R211.078]
- (56) *O te ta'ato'a mahana te aŋa nei e aŋa era ka rohirohi, ka*  
of ART all day ART work PROX IPFV do DIST CNTG tired:RED CNTG  
*ta'e rohirohi.*  
CONNeg tired:RED  
'The work was done every day, whether (you were) tired or not.' [R539-2.026]

### 7.2.6.5 Summary

*Ka* is best characterised as a contiguity marker: it marks events which are temporally contiguous to events in a neighbouring clause. This means that the temporal value of a *ka*-marked clause often depends on a preceding or following clause; not surprising, *ka* often occurs in a subordinating clause, relating it temporally to the main clause.

The *ka*-clause may also be related to an (implied) time of reference; it is usually posterior to this reference time.

### 7.2.7 Perfect aspect *ko V 'ā*

Perfect aspect is marked by the aspect marker *ku/ko*, in combination with the continuous marker *'ana* or *'ā* (§7.2.5.5).

First an etymological note. The aspectual particle *ko/ku* reflects PPN *\*kua*, which serves as a perfect aspect marker in almost every Polynesian language (Clark 1976: 30).<sup>24</sup> It has the form *kua* in most languages; apart from Rapa Nui, only a few other languages have dropped the final *-a*.<sup>25</sup>

In Rapa Nui both *ku* and *ko* are used as perfect aspect marker. On etymological grounds, *ku* must be the original form, and indeed, in older texts only *ku* is found. Today *ko* is prevalent, while the use of *ku* is limited to certain speakers.

*'Ā* is a reduced form of *'ana*; the choice between both variants is free (§5.9). A verb marked with *ku/ko* is always followed by *'ana/'ā*.

According to Comrie (1976), the perfect aspect relates a state to a preceding situation: the perfect signals that a situation in the past has a continuing relevance in the present.

In Rapa Nui, the perfect *ko V 'ā*<sup>26</sup> emphasises a current state of affairs. With active verbs, it refers to an event anterior to the time of reference, which has resulted in a current situation. With stative verbs, it refers to the state of affairs itself, which has started at some moment in the past. (In fact, with some verbs it is questionable whether *ko V 'ā* refers to the anterior event or to a resulting state, an ambiguity which is inherent in the character of the perfect.) The time of reference may be in the present, in the past, or in the future; in other words, *ko V 'ā* has no temporal value.

In the following sections, different uses of the perfect aspect will be discussed.

#### 7.2.7.1 Anterior events leading to a present situation

With active verbs, *ko V 'ā* indicates that the action has taken place and has led to a certain state of affairs which still holds at the time of reference. The time of reference may be the present, in which case the action took place in the past. A few examples:

(57) *Ko hiko 'ā tā'aku haraoa e Te Manu.*  
 PRF snatch CONT POSS.1SG.A bread AG Te Manu  
 'My bread has been snatched by Te Manu.' [R245.039]

(58) *¿Ko kai 'ā koe?*  
 PRF eat CONT 2SG  
 'Have you eaten?' [R245.058]

(59) *Ko haka moe 'ana 'i rote 'ōpītara.*  
 PRF CAUS lie CONT at inside\_ART hospital  
 'They have put him into hospital.' [R210.122]

<sup>24</sup> Massam, Lee & Rolle (2006: 15) mistakenly assume that preverbal *ko* in Rapa Nui is the same particle as the prominence marker *ko*. The historical data show that this cannot be the case.

<sup>25</sup> All of the latter are outliers (e.g. Takuu, Kapingamarangi), except Marquesan (Zewen 1987: 34) and Mangarevan (Janeau 1908: 61), in which the *-a* is dropped before verbs having more than two syllables.

<sup>26</sup> Henceforth, *ko V 'ā* is used as a shorthand for *ko/ku V 'ana/'ā*.

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The time of reference may also be in the past. This happens especially in narrative, where *ko V 'ā* clauses relate events which have taken place anterior to theme line events. The English equivalent is the pluperfect. The following example shows the alternation between theme-line events (*he*) and anterior events (*ko V 'ā*).

- (60) *He e'a tau poki era, he 'a'aru mai. Ku e'a 'ā Kaiŋa, ku kā*  
 NTR go\_out DEM child DIST NTR grab hither PRF go\_out CONT Kainga PRF kindle  
*'ā i te 'umu, he unu i tau moa era...*  
 CONT ACC ART earth\_oven NTR pluck ACC DEM chicken DIST  
 'The child went out and grabbed (the chickens). Kainga had already gone out and lighted the fire for the earth oven; he plucked those chickens...' [Ley-8-53.004]

The time of reference may be in the future: at a certain point in time something will have happened.

- (61) *Ko e'a 'ā te ŋā vārua era ana tu'u kōrua.*  
 PRF go\_out CONT ART PL spirit DIST IRR arrive 2PL  
 'The spirits will have left when you arrive.' [R310.273]

Sometimes *ko V 'ā* is used with action verbs without an anterior sense. The event takes place not before, but at the time of reference; for example, it takes place at the same time as events in the immediate context which are marked with *he*. In these cases *ko V 'ā* emphasises the completed character of the event: the event is done as soon as it is started. An example is the following.

- (62) *Hora hitu ko o'o 'ā ki rote hare pure ki te pure.*  
 hour seven PRF enter CONT at inside\_ART house pray to ART prayer  
 'Seven o'clock they entered into the chapel for prayer.' [R210.140]

The perfect emphasises that at seven o'clock the action of entering was over and done with; in other words, it took place at exactly seven o'clock.

### 7.2.7.2 Present states

With stative verbs, *ko V 'ā* is frequently used to indicate that a state of affairs has been reached. Use of the perfect aspect suggests that some change has taken place, leading to the situation at the time of reference; in other words, the situation has not always been there, but is the result of some unspecified prior process.<sup>27</sup>

Here are a number of examples of *ko V 'ā* with stative verbs.

- (63) *Ko ve'ave'a 'ā 'i te rahi o te māuiui.*  
 PRF hot:RED CONT at ART much of ART sick  
 'She was hot because of her grave illness.' [R229.229]

<sup>27</sup> Cf. Comrie (1976: 57): in many languages, present states are expressed using the perfect, whereas in English, the present is used in such cases: Greek *tethnēkenai*, English 'be dead'.

- (64) *Ku pakapaka 'ā te henua. Ku oje 'ā tātou.*  
 PRF dry:RED CONT ART land PRF shortage CONT 1PL.INCL  
 'The land is dry. We are in need.' [R352.116]
- (65) *Hora nei pa'i ko veve 'ā te taŋata.*  
 time PROX in\_fact PRF poor CONT ART person  
 'Now the people are poor.' [R250.128]

In all these cases *ko V 'ā* retains its character as a perfect aspect marker: the present situation is one which has not always existed, but which has come about at some point, often quite recently.

The range of verbs which commonly take *ko V 'ā* is wide. Roughly speaking, three categories can be distinguished:

In the first place: physical and mental states, including for example pain, sickness, anger, happiness. Also included in this category are *ha'uru* 'to sleep', *ora* 'to live' (PRF 'to recover'), and *mate* 'to die' (PRF 'to be dead'), as well as verbs with a more active sense like *kata* 'to laugh', *taŋi* 'to cry', 'eki'eki 'to sob'.

- (66) *Ko mamae 'ā tō'oku niho.*  
 PRF pain CONT POSS.1SG.O tooth  
 'My tooth hurts.' [R208.275]
- (67) *Kai e'a tū nu'u era ki haho; ko tataŋi 'ana.*  
 NEG.PFV go\_out DEM people DIST to outside PRF PL:CRY CONT  
 'Those people did not go outside; they cried.' [R229.329]
- (68) *He mana'u e Puakiva ko ha'uru 'ana.*  
 NTR think AG Puakiva PRF sleep CONT  
 'Puakiva thought that (Kava) was asleep.' [R229.292]

Secondly: verbs of volition.

- (69) *A au ko pohe rivariva 'ana mo ha'uru.*  
 PROP 1SG PRF desire good:RED CONT for sleep  
 'I really want to sleep.' [R229.246]
- (70) *Ko haŋa 'ā a ia mo oho mo hāpī.*  
 PRF want CONT PROP 3SG for go for learn  
 'She wants to go to study.' [R210.066]

Thirdly: verbs of perception (esp. *ŋaro'a* 'to hear/perceive') and cognition.

- (71) *Ko ŋaro'a mai 'ana 'ō e au te hau'a huru kē o te kai nei.*  
 PRF perceive hither CONT really AG 1SG ART smell manner different of ART food  
 PROX  
 'I smell a strange smell of this food.' [R236.026]

## 7 The verb phrase

- (72) *E nua, 'i te hora nei ko 'ite 'ana a au i te parauti'a.*  
 VOC Mum at ART time PROX PRF know CONT PROP 1SG ACC ART truth  
 'Mum, now I know the truth.' [R229.495]

Examples (70–72) show, that the use of the perfect aspect with a present sense is not limited to prototypical stative verbs. Verbs like *'ite*, *ηaro'a* and *haηa* are clearly active: they are transitive verbs, the subject of which can be marked with the agent marker *e* (§8.3.2), yet they tend to have the perfect aspect marker.

### 7.2.7.3 *Ko V era 'ā*: 'well and truly finished'

The verb phrase marked by *ko V 'ā* may contain the demonstrative particle *era*. As discussed in §7.6.4, this particle indicates spatial or temporal distance. When used in a perfect aspect clause, *era* underlines the temporal and conceptual distance between the time of reference and the time at which the event took place: the action is well and truly finished, possibly a considerably time ago.<sup>28</sup> Often 'already' is an appropriate translation.

- (73) *...he haro mai te kahi, he e'a ki ruηa, ku mate era 'ā.*  
 NTR pull hither ART tuna NTR go\_out to above PRF die DIST CONT  
 '...he pulled up the tuna, it came up, it had already died.' [Ley-6-44.041]
- (74) *'I Colombia e ai rō 'ana e tahi motu ko e'a era 'ā 'i te*  
 at Colombia IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM one island PRF go\_out DIST CONT at ART  
*matahiti 1991 te rāua rei o ruηa i te inmigración.*  
 year 1991 ART 3PL law of above at ART immigration  
 'In Colombia there is an island where a law on immigration came out in 1991 already.' [R649.231]

### 7.2.7.4 Perfect *ko V 'ā* versus perfective *i*

As discussed in §7.2.7.1 above, *ko V 'ā* marks anterior events leading to a present state. Now it is worthwhile to compare the use of perfect *ko V 'ā* and perfective *i*. Both are used to mark events in the (recent) past; to repeat two examples with *i* from §7.2.4.1:

- (75) *A au i oho mai nei ki a koe mo noho o'oku 'i nei.*  
 PROP 1SG PFV go hither PROX to PROP 2SG for stay POSS.1SG.O at PROX  
 'I have come to you to live here.' [R245.072]
- (76) *Ko koe i rē.*  
 PROM 2SG PFV win  
 'You have won.' [R210.071]

<sup>28</sup> This does not mean that *ko V era 'ā* indicates a pluperfect, though it can be used in pluperfect sense (§7.2.7.1 above gives examples where *ko V 'ā* marks pluperfect events).

These examples illustrate a typical use of *i*: in many cases, *i*-marked clauses express not just a past event, but an event which has a bearing on the present: the event has led to a state which is relevant right now. For example, in (75), the subject has just arrived, leading to a situation in the present; ‘I came’ results in ‘I am here now’. And in (76), ‘you won’ means as much as ‘OK, I give in, you win’, i.e. it describes a current situation, not just something which happened in the past. In other words, *i* is used in situations which seem to be similar to (57–59) in the previous section, where perfect aspect *ko V 'ā* is used.

Now there is considerable variation between languages in the extent to which the perfect is used (Comrie 1976: 52–56). Examples such as the ones above suggest that in Rapa Nui the perfect aspect is not used in all cases where a past event has resulted in a current state of affairs. A tentative explanation is, that *ko V 'ā* is used when the emphasis is on the current STATE resulting from the event, while *i* is used whenever the emphasis is on the EVENT itself.

In this respect it is telling that the *i*-marked verb is often preceded by a subject (as in (75–76)), while *ko V 'ā* with event/action verbs<sup>29</sup> either has a subject after the verb or no subject at all; only very rarely is *ko V 'ā* preceded by a subject. As the default constituent order in Rapa Nui is verb–subject, initial subjects are more prominent than subjects following the verb. If *ko V 'ā* is more state-oriented while *i* is more event-oriented, it is not unexpected that the agent of an *i*-marked verb tends to be more prominent than the agent of a *ko V 'ā* marked verb.

### 7.2.7.5 Summary

*Ko* (var. *ku*) is always accompanied by postverbal *'ā* (var. *'ana*). *Ko V 'ā* marks perfect aspect: it indicates a situation holding at the time of reference, which has come about in some way. A comparison with *i*-marked verbs shows, that *ko V 'ā* is state-oriented, while *i* is event-oriented.

This is confirmed by the fact that *ko V 'ā* is used with a wide range of verbs which can be characterised as stative.

## 7.2.8 Aspectuals and constituent order

There is a correlation between the use of aspectuals and constituent order. As a general rule, when the clause contains a preverbal constituent, the range of aspectuals tends to be limited to perfective *i* and imperfective *e*: *i* is used with past reference; *e* (followed by a postverbal demonstrative (PVD) after the verb) is used when the reference is non-past. The other aspectuals (*he*, *ka* and *ko V 'ā*) are uncommon.<sup>30</sup>

This tendency is very strong with preverbal non-subjects (1–5 below); in some constructions (such as content questions and the actor-emphatic) it is even an absolute rule. It is less strong with preverbal subjects (6 below).

<sup>29</sup> With stative verbs, *ko V 'ā* does occur with preposed subjects. Using *i* with these verbs would rule out a stative interpretation. *Ko V 'ā* also occurs with preverbal subjects after the deictic particle *'ī* (§4.5.4.1.1).

<sup>30</sup> See Footnote 40 on p. 403 about other phenomena affecting clauses with preverbal constituents.

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1. Initial locative phrases; even when the clause expresses an event which is part of the main story line, *i* is used rather than *he*.<sup>31</sup>
- (77) [Mai Hanga Roa] *i iri ai ki 'Ōroŋo.*  
 from Hanga Roa PFV ascend PFV to Orongo  
 'From Hanga Roa he went up to Orongo.' [Ley-2-02.054]
2. Noun phrases containing a numeral have a strong tendency to be sentence-initial, regardless their semantic relation to the verb; for example, they may be subject as in (78), or adjunct as in (79). After such a preverbal constituent the verb tends to be marked with *i* or *e*.
- (78) [E rua nō hānau 'e'epe taŋata] *i rere mai.*  
 NUM two just race corpulent man PFV fly hither  
 'Only two men from the 'corpulent race' jumped.' [Mtx-3-02.038]
- (79) [E tahi mahana ta'ato'a] *i aŋa ai mo 'auhau o tū ūtu'a era*  
 NUM one day all PFV work PVP for pay of DEM punishment DIST  
 ō'ona.  
 POSS.3SG.O  
 'One whole day he worked to pay his punishment.' [R250.026]
3. After adverbial clause connectors like 'o *ira* 'therefore',<sup>32</sup> *pē nei* 'like this' and *pē ira* 'like that':
- (80) ['O ira] *i kī ai ko Nā Ihu More 'a Pua Katike.*  
 because\_of ANA PFV say PVP PROM I]ā Ihu More 'a Pua Katike  
 'Therefore they were called I]ā Ihu More 'a Pua Katike' [R310.253]
4. After question words like 'a 'ai 'who' and *he aha* 'what, why':
- (81) ¿[A 'ai] *rā ia i u'i haka'ou rō atu?*  
 of.A who INTENS then PFV look again EMPH away  
 'Who would have seen them again?' [R361.019]
- (82) ¿[He aha] *koe e taŋi ena?*  
 PRED what 2SG IPFV cry MED  
 'Why are you crying?' [Mtx-7-12.024]

<sup>31</sup> Temporal phrases, on the other hand, are commonly followed by *he*:

- (i) 'I te rua ra'ā **he** u'i atu te hānau momoko...  
 at ART two day NTR look away ART race slender  
 'The next day, the 'slender race' saw...' [Ley-3-06.028]

<sup>32</sup> 'o *ira* is sometimes followed by *he*, but other clause connectors are not.



5. In the actor-emphatic construction, in which the verb is preceded by a possessive expressing the Agent (§8.6.3):

(83) [O *tō'ona matu'a*] *i aŋa i te hare nei mo Puakiva.*  
 of POSS.3SG.O parent PFV make ACC ART house PROX for Puakiva  
 'It was her father who made this house for Puakiva.' [R229.269]

(84) [*Mā'au*] *e māuruuru ki a Pea hai 'iŋoa ō'oku.*  
 BEN.1SG.A IPFV thank to PROP Pea with name POSS.1SG.O  
 'You will thank Pea in my name.' [R229.086]

6. Preverbal subjects show a certain tendency to be followed by *i* or *e*:

(85) [*A au*] *i oho mai nei ki a koe mo noho ō'oku 'i nei.*  
 PROP 1SG PFV go hither PROX to PROP 2SG for stay POSS.1SG.O at PROX  
 'I have come to you to live here.' [R245.072]

However, preverbal subjects followed by *he* are by no means uncommon. For examples, see (73) and (72) on p. 404.

The only preverbal constituent which does not show a correlation with *i* and *e*, is the negator '*ina*'; as shown in §10.5.1, the verb in a clause negated with '*ina*' is usually marked with the neutral aspectual *he*.

## 7.3 Preverbal particles

### 7.3.1 *Rava* 'given to'

*Rava*<sup>33</sup> always precedes the verb. It indicates either that the action is performed on a regular basis, or that the subject is inclined to perform the action. *Rava* has a variant *vara*; there is little – if any – difference between the two.

*Rava* may occur in a verb phrase which serves as clause predicate:

(86) *ʔ'Ina 'ō te hoko toru era e rava e'a era ananake?*  
 NEG really ART NUM.PERS three DIST IPFV given\_to go\_out DIST together  
 'Don't those three always go out together?' [R366.044]

However, this is not very common: usually *rava* + verb occurs after a noun, in a bare relative clause. In these constructions, *rava* + V indicates an action which is not performed at a certain point in time, but which characterises the preceding noun. The expression has therefore a relatively time-stable character. A few examples:<sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> < PPN \**lawā* 'sufficient, abundant, completed'; cognates in other languages are used as predicate, not as premodifier. Some languages have a postmodifier < PNP \**lawā*, which has an intensifying sense 'very, completely'.

<sup>34</sup> In (89), the noun is implied: '(the ones) given to sleeping'.

## 7 The verb phrase

- (87) *He tu'u mai te pahī rava ma'u mai i te me'e mo roto i te hare toa.*  
NTR arrive hither ART ship given\_to carry hither ACC ART thing for inside at ART  
house store  
'The ship arrived which used to bring things for the store.' [R250.094]
- (88) *Te me'e rava aŋa o tātou 'i rā mahana he porotē.*  
ART thing given\_to do of 1PL.INCL at DIST day PRED parade  
'What we always do on that day (=18 September, the national holiday) is parading.' [R334.309]
- (89) *¡Ka 'ara, rava ha'uru kē, kōrua!*  
IMP wake\_up given\_to sleep different 2PL  
'Wake up, you sleepyheads!' [Ley-4-05.008]

### 7.3.2 Degree modifiers

'*Apa* and '*ata* are degree modifiers, which precede the verb root.

7.3.2.1 '*Apa* '*Apa* (which is also a noun meaning 'part, portion, piece') indicates a moderate degree: 'somewhat, kind of'.<sup>35</sup> It is often used with stative predicates, but found with actions as well.

- (90) *Ko 'apa ora 'iti 'ā a au.*  
PRF part live little CONT PROP 1SG  
'I am somewhat recovered.' [R231.325]
- (91) *Te ti'ara'a nei he 'r' e 'apa huru kē rō 'ā te kī iŋa*  
ART letter PROX PRED r IPFV part manner different EMPH CONT ART say NMLZ  
'i te ŋā 'arero nei ararua.  
at ART PL tongue PROX the\_two  
'This letter 'r', its pronunciation is a little different in these two languages.'  
[R616.145]

In (92), '*apa* semantically quantifies the object: 'we somewhat obtained X' = 'we obtained a few X' (cf. (96–97) for a similar use of '*ata*).

- (92) *Ko 'apa rova'a mai 'ā te me'e pāreherehe matā.*  
PRF part obtain hither CONT ART thing piece:RED obsidian  
'We obtained a few pieces of obsidian.' [R629.030]

<sup>35</sup> '*Apa* may be borrowed from Tahitian '*apa* 'half of a fish or animal, cut lengthwise' (Pa'umotu *kapa*). Fischer (2001a: 315) suggests it was borrowed from Tahitian '*afa* 'half' (which was itself borrowed from English).

7.3.2.2 **'Ata** *'Ata* indicates a high degree, either comparative ('more'), superlative ('most') or absolute ('very; thoroughly').<sup>36</sup> It is used in comparative constructions with adjectives (§3.5.1.1); with event verbs it is also used in a comparative sense, comparing the intensity of the event to a previous situation: 'more than before'.

- (93) *He 'ata taŋi a Puakiva.*  
 NTR more cry PROP Puakiva  
 'Puakiva cried even more (than before).' [R229.183]
- (94) *Ka 'ata hāpī, 'ina ko hakarē.*  
 IMP more learn NEG NEG.IPFV leave  
 'Learn more, don't neglect it.' [R242.093]

The comparison may also be with respect to another entity as standard of comparison, though this rarely happens. Below is an example; as with adjectives, the standard of comparison is expressed with *ki*:

- (95) *;E Māria, 'ata ha'amaitai koe e te 'Atua ki te ta'ato'a ŋā vi'e.*  
 VOC Mary more bless 2SG AG ART God to ART all PL woman  
 'Mary, you are more blessed by God than all women.' [Luke 1:42]

One could wonder if the verb has been adjectivised here; notice however that the Agent phrase *e te 'Atua* is introduced by *e*, which suggests that *ha'amaitai* retains its status of an agentive verb.

With transitive verbs, *'ata* may indicate a multiplication of the object. For example, in (96) *'ata* semantically modifies *tāropa*: 'more baskets'.<sup>37</sup>

- (96) *E 'ata ma'u te tāropa ana oho koe.*  
 EXH more carry ART basket IRR go 2SG  
 'Take more baskets when you go.' [MsE-064.013]
- (97) *;Ēē, ka 'ata ao mai ki a au!*  
 yes IMP more serve\_food hither to PROP 1SG  
 'Yes please, serve me some more.' [R535.098]

*'Ata* may also be used in a superlative sense:

- (98) *Te artículo 'ata pāpa'i o tātou he 'he' 'e he 'te'.*  
 ART article more write of IPL.INCL PRED *he* and PRED *te*  
 'The articles we write most, are *he* and *te*.' [R616.719]

<sup>36</sup> Cognates occur in several EP languages. These are preverbal as in Rapa Nui, but only have an absolute sense: 'carefully, slowly' (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011; Elbert & Pukui 1979: 74 for Hawaiian *aka*, Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 92 for Māori *aata*). Possibly it occurs in SO languages as well: Besnier (2000: 188) mentions a preverbal particle *ata* 'properly, in moderation' in Tuvaluan, though only one example is provided, where it is part of an idiom.

<sup>37</sup> Cf. the use of *tahi* and *rahi* in the verb phrase, sec. §4.4.9 and §4.4.7.2.

## 7 The verb phrase

**7.3.2.3 Placement** The exact position of *'ata* and *'apa* in relation to other preverbal elements varies, depending on their respective scope.

With causative verbs, the degree modifier usually occurs before the causative prefix *haka*, as in (99): ‘more [cause to be strong]’. However, it may also occur after *haka*, in which case *haka* has scope over the degree modifier. This is illustrated in (100): ‘cause to be [more intelligent]’.

- (99) *Ko 'ata haka pūai 'ana te re'o o Rongotakahiu e pāta'uta'u era.*  
PRF more CAUS strong CONT ART voice of Rongotakahiu IPFV recite DIST  
‘Rongotakahiu sang louder (lit. strengthened his voice more when singing).’  
[R476.014]

- (100) *...te tire e haŋa rō 'ā mo haka 'ata māmarama i a*  
ART Chilean IPFV want EMPH CONT for CAUS more intelligent ACC PROP  
*rāua.*  
3PL  
‘...Chileans who want to pass themselves off as smarter (lit. to cause them to be smarter).’ [R428.006]

With the constituent negator *ta'e*, either the negator or the degree particle may come first. In (101) the negator comes first and has scope over *'ata*: ‘not [more high]’. In (102), *'apa* has scope over the negation: ‘somewhat [not listening]’.

- (101) *Te tāvini ta'e 'ata hau ki te tanjata haka aŋa i a ia.*  
ART servant CONNEG more exceed to ART man CAUS work ACC PROP 3SG  
‘A servant is not higher than his master (lit. the man who makes him work).’  
[Mat. 10:24]

- (102) *Te māmoe nei māmoe vara kori 'e 'apa ta'e hakarōŋo.*  
ART sheep PROX sheep usually play and part CONNEG listen  
‘This lamb used to play and was somewhat disobedient.’ [R536.009]

## 7.4 Evaluative markers

The evaluative markers *nō* and *rō* occur in the same position in the verb phrase; they are mutually exclusive.

### 7.4.1 The limitative marker *nō*

*Nō* originates in PPN *\*noa*, which occurs as a postverbal marker in a number of languages throughout Polynesia. Rapa Nui is the only language in which the vowel sequence *oa* assimilated to *ō*, apart from Hawaiian (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 100).

*Nō* is a limitative marker; its basic sense is ‘nothing else’.<sup>38</sup> The particle has several uses, which can all be related to this basic sense: ‘simply, just’ (nothing more), ‘still’ (a lack of change), ‘even so, yet’ (something happens, despite expectations to the contrary).

In this section, the use of *nō* in the verb phrase is discussed. *Nō* also occurs after other parts of speech, which are discussed elsewhere: nouns (§5.8.2), numerals (§4.3.2.4) and quantifiers (§4.4.10).

*Nō* may indicate that something just happens, without anything more. The implication is that something else or something more could happen, but does not actually happen. The context tells what this ‘something else’ would be:

(103) *'Ina a Tiare kai mate; ko rerehu nō 'ā.*  
NEG PROP Tiare NEG.PFV die PRF faint just CONT  
‘Tiare was not dead; she had just fainted.’ [R481.086]

(104) *Mā'aku 'ā e aŋa tahi; ka oho nō kōrua.*  
BEN.1SG.A IDENT IPFV do all IMP go just 2PL  
‘I myself will do everything; you guys just go.’ [R236.010]

*Nō* in this sense ‘just’ may have the connotation ‘without further ado, without thinking, without taking other considerations into account’.

(105) *¿Kai ha'amā koe i to'o nō koe i te mauku mo ta'o i*  
NEG.PFV ashamed 2SG PFV take just 2SG ACC ART grass for cook ACC  
*ta'a 'umu?*  
POSS.2SG.A earth\_oven

‘Weren’t you ashamed, that you just took the grass to (as fuel) to cook your earth oven (without asking, even though the grass was mine)?’ [R231.186]

(106) *Te me'e nō, ku oho nō 'ā ki tai hī.*  
ART thing just PRF go just CONT to sea to\_fish

‘(Nowadays people don’t consider the moon and the wind.) On the contrary, they just go out to sea to fish.’ [R354.026]

In the previous examples, a contrast is implied between what happens and what could have happened. Sometimes this sense of contrast is more prominent; the clause has a connotation of counterexpectation: ‘even so, no matter, still’.<sup>39</sup>

(107) *...e māuiui nō 'ana te ŋā poki.*  
IPFV sick just CONT ART PL child

‘(Nowadays there are all kinds of things to take care of children,) but even so, children get sick.’ [R380.138]

<sup>38</sup> Cf. Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 146) on Tahitian *noa*: their basic gloss is ‘ne faire que’, from which they derive the different uses of *noa*, which largely parallel those of Rapa Nui *nō*.

<sup>39</sup> A contrastive sense of *nō* is also found in expressions like *Te me'e nō* ‘however’ (see (153) on p. 268) and in the conjunction *nōatu* (§11.6.7).

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- (108) *Ka rahi atu tā'aku poki, e hāpa'o nō e au 'ā.*  
 CNTG many away POSS.1SG.A child IPFV care\_for just AG 1SG IDENT  
 'Even if I have many children, I will still take care of them myself.' [R229.023]

*Nō* may be used in a continuous clause, emphasising that the action is still going on. In this sense, it is often used with the imperfective *e*.

- (109) *He u'i i a Vaha, e oho nō mai era, e 'amo nō mai era*  
 NTR look ACC PROP Vaha IPFV go just hither DIST IPFV carry just hither DIST  
*i te poki tiŋa'i era.*  
 ACC ART child kill DIST  
 'He saw Vaha, who was still going and carrying the killed child.' [Mtx-3-01.144]

- (110) *'I te pō'ā e oho era ki tā'ana aŋa e ha'uru nō 'ā a*  
 at ART morning IPFV go DIST to POSS.3SG.A work IPFV sleep just CONT PROP  
*Eva.*  
 Eva  
 'In the morning he went to his work, when Eva was still sleeping.' [R210.025]

An action marked with *nō* is often unremarkable, routine, expected: something is simply going on, nothing significant has happened (yet). Often, the verb phrase expresses a lack of change with respect to a previous situation: the same thing described earlier is still going on. In this sense, *nō* is common in progressive cohesive clauses (see (214) on p. 558):

- (111) *E iri nō 'ā he take'a e Te Manu e tahi hōŋa'a māmari.*  
 IPFV ascend just CONT NTR see AG Te Manu NUM one nest eggs  
 '(The two went up and looked for eggs...) While they were still going up, Manu saw a nest with eggs.' [R245.202–203]

As discussed in §5.8.2, *nō* in the noun phrase often serves to limit the reference of a noun phrase. Occasionally, *nō* in the verb phrase has the same effect.<sup>40</sup> In (112), *nō* occurs after the (nominalised) verb *kai*, signalling that the object noun phrase has limited reference.

- (112) *Ko ha'umani 'ana 'i te kai iŋa nō i te moa.*  
 PRF bored CONT at ART eat NMLZ just ACC ART chicken  
 'I'm tired of eating only chicken.' [R229.123]

After certain adjectival predicates, *nō* signals that the object described has only the property in question, implicitly excluding other properties: 'just, altogether'. So while being fundamentally limitative in nature, *nō* in these cases underlines and emphasises the property expressed by the adjective: the object is entirely characterised by this property, to the exclusion of anything else. This use is only found with adjectives expressing

<sup>40</sup> Cf. the use of *tahi* 'all', which occurs in the verb phrase but determines the reference of a noun phrase in the clause (§4.4.9).

a positive evaluation, like *rivariva* ‘good’, *nene* ‘sweet, delicious’, *tau* ‘pretty’. The adjective is preceded by the aspectual *he*.

(113) *'Ina he maneo, he nene nō.*  
 NEG NTR sour NTR sweet just  
 ‘(The orange) was not sour, just sweet.’ [Egt-02.135]

(114) *Te pahī nei, he nehenehe nō.*  
 ART ship PROX NTR beautiful just  
 ‘This ship was just beautiful.’ [R239.022]

Notice that English ‘just’ can be used in the same way, as the translation of (114) shows.

### 7.4.2 The asseverative marker *rō*

*Rō* is an asseverative particle. It serves to underline the reality of the event and/or its significance in the course of events. (See also Weber 2003b: 41.) While *nō* underlines the expected, routine nature of the event (for example, because the situation has not changed), *rō* underlines its significance, newsworthiness. In pragmatic terms: while *nō* indicates a low information load, *rō* indicates a high information load. In view of the diversity of its uses, *rō* is glossed EMPH(atic).<sup>41</sup>

Like *nō*, *rō* is the result of vowel assimilation: it is derived from PNP \**loa*. Unlike *nō*, *rō* is not used in the noun phrase, but it does occur occasionally in numeral phrases (see (29) on p. 153).

In the verb phrase, *rō* is used in certain well-defined contexts, which are discussed elsewhere in this grammar:

- *he V rō 'ai* (§7.2.3.3), a construction which marks pivotal or climactic events in a narrative and events with a certain emotional intensity.
- *e V rō*, which marks future events (§7.2.5.3). One could say that by using *e V rō*, the speaker stresses the real, non-hypothetical character of the future event.
- *ka V rō* (§11.6.2.5), a construction indicating the upper limit of an event (‘until’).
- the existential *e ai rō 'ā* (§9.3.1), which states the existence of a person or object which is new in the discourse, and therefore carries a high information load.
- after ‘o ‘lest’ (§11.5.4).

<sup>41</sup> Du Feu (1996: 37) characterises *rō* as a realis particle, glossed as [+REA]; contrasted with *rā* [-REA]. She points out that *rā* is for example used in imperatives, when the speaker has no control over the outcome; *rō*, on the other hand, is for example used in 1<sup>st</sup> person imperatives (= hortatives) where speaker has greater control over the realisation of the event. While this is only part of the picture, and while *rō* is actually not in a paradigmatic relation with the intensifier *rā* (§4.5.4.4), this correctly underlines the asseverative character of *rō*.

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But *rō* is not limited to these constructions. Generally speaking, *rō* marks events which are significant in discourse, for example because they are the culmination of a series of events, or because they change the course of events. This happens in the *he V rō 'ai* construction mentioned above; it is also found with *i V ai* (§7.6.5). In the following example, Kainga produces a spear point which will play an important role in the events to follow.

- (115) *I rā pō 'ā a Kaiŋa... i aŋa rō ai e tahi matā*  
 at DIST night IDENT PROP Kainga PFV make EMPH PVP NUM one obsidian  
*rivariva.*  
 good:RED  
 'In that night Kainga made a good obsidian spearpoint.' [R304.015]

Events may also be significant by way of contrast:

- (116) *A Pea e ko rivariva mo hāpa'o i a Puakiva; e oho*  
 PROP Pea IPFV NEG.IPFV good:RED for care\_for ACC PROP Puakiva IPFV go  
*rō 'ā ki te aŋa.*  
 EMPH CONT to ART work  
 'Pea was not able to take care of Puakiva; (rather,) he used to go to work.'  
 [R229.005]

*rō* may emphasise the reality of a situation: 'really'.<sup>42</sup>

- (117) *Te parauti'a, e haŋa rō 'ā a au ki a kōrua ko koro.*  
 ART truth IPFV love EMPH CONT PROP 1SG to PROP 2PL PROM Dad  
 'The truth is, I do love you and Dad.' [R229.498]
- (118) *A nua e koa rō 'ā 'i tū poki era 'ā'ana.*  
 PROP Mum IPFV happy EMPH CONT at DEM child DIST POSS.3SG.A  
 'Mum was really happy with her child.' [R250.055]

When *rō* emphasises the reality of the clause, there may be a connotation of counter-expectation. In (119) this happens in a question, in (120) as reply to a question.

- (119) *¿E haŋa rō koe mo oho ki hiva mo hāpī?*  
 IPFV want EMPH 2SG for go to continent for learn  
 'Do you (really) want to go to the continent to study?' [R210.010]
- (120) *¿'Ina 'ō pēaha kai ŋaro'a e te nu'u hūrio i te roŋo*  
 NEG really perhaps NEG.PFV perceive AG ART people Jew ACC ART message  
*rivariva o te 'Atua? I ŋaro'a rō.*  
 good:RED of ART God PFV perceive EMPH  
 'Have the Jews perhaps not heard the good news about God? They have heard it.' [Rom. 10:18]

<sup>42</sup> Examples such as (117) might suggest that *rō* means 'very'. However, *rō* (unlike Tahitian *roa*) is not a common way to express a high degree; rather, this is expressed using *hope'a* 'last' or *ri'ari'a* 'terribly'.



In several of the examples above, *rō* occurs in the common construction *e V rō 'ā*, which expresses an ongoing event or situation (§7.2.5.4). In this construction, the asseverative sense of *rō* is not always clear. Sometimes the clause does convey new, unexpected or even surprising information, as in the following example, where the subject does a somewhat unexpected discovery:

- (121) *I 'ara mai ai, 'i rote piha e tahi e moe rō 'ā...*  
 PFV wake\_up hither PVP at inside\_ART room NUM one IPFV lie EMPH CONT  
 ‘When she woke up, she was lying in a room...’ [R210.090]

But in other cases the information load of the *e V rō 'ā* clause does not seem to be particularly high:

- (122) *Mo u'i atu o te ηā poki ki a Taparahi e ha'ere rō 'ā a te*  
 if look away of ART PL child to PROP Taparahi IPFV walk EMPH CONT by ART  
*ara he ri'ari'a.*  
 road NTR afraid  
 ‘When the children saw Taparahi walking by the road, they were afraid.’  
 [R250.190]

Possibly, the sense of *rō* in this construction is weakened, and *e V rō 'ā* has been developing into a fossilised construction expressing the ongoing duration of a situation.

### 7.4.3 Conclusion

To give a general characterisation of *rō* and *nō*, one could say that they indicate the cognitive status of the information given in the clause: *nō* indicates that the clause expresses something unchanged, which is often expected or even routine; *rō* indicates that the clause expresses something new and unexpected, which may even be surprising. *Rō* is reminiscent of a “mirative” marker (Payne 1997: 255), though it may not be as strong as elements that have been identified as miratives in other languages.

Even though *rō* and *nō* are in a way opposites, both may involve counterexpectation. That *rō* would express counterexpectation is no surprise, but *nō* may involve a hint of counterexpectation as well: a situation continues to be true or an expected event still happens, despite factors to the contrary. When *nō* involves counterexpectation, this is because of an (unexpected) continuity; *rō* expresses counterexpectation because of a discontinuity.

## 7.5 Directionals

The directionals *mai* and *atu* indicate direction with respect to a certain deictic centre or locus:

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- *Mai* indicates movement towards the deictic centre, hence the gloss ‘hither’;
- *Atu* indicates movement away from the deictic centre, hence the gloss ‘away’.

*Mai* and *atu* are the only reflexes in Rapa Nui of a somewhat larger system of directionals in Proto-Polynesian.<sup>43</sup>

The movement indicated by directionals may be of different kinds. Three common types are:

- movement of the Agent, with motion verbs like *oho* ‘go’;
- movement of the Patient or another participant, with transfer verbs like *va'ai* ‘give’, *to'o* ‘take’, or verbs of carrying like *ma'u* ‘carry’.
- flow of information from one participant to another, with speech verbs like *kī* ‘say’.

The last type of movement is a metaphorical extension of the idea of movement. Other metaphorical extensions are possible, as will be shown below.

In §7.5.1, the main uses of directionals are discussed, mainly based on three narrative texts (all of which include a considerable amount of direct speech). In §7.5.2, statistics are presented for the use of directionals with certain categories of verbs in the text corpus as a whole. Finally, §7.5.3 raises the question which factors prompt the use of a directional.

### 7.5.1 Use of directionals

#### 7.5.1.1 In direct speech

As indicated in the previous section, directionals signal movement with respect to a deictic centre. In direct speech, the deictic centre is usually the speaker. This means that in a conversation, *mai* usually indicates a movement towards the speaker as in (123) below, while *atu* indicates a movement away from the speaker. The latter movement may be towards the addressee as in (124), or away from the speaker in another direction as in (125).

(123) *¿Ko ai koe e eke mai ena?*  
PROM who 2SG IPFV go\_up hither MED  
‘Who are you (who are) coming up?’ [R304.084]

(124) *Ī au he oho atu.*  
IMM 1SG NTR go away  
‘I am coming (towards you) right now.’ [R152.010]

<sup>43</sup> Clark (1976: 34) identifies five directionals in PPN: \**mai* ‘toward speaker’, \**atu* ‘away from speaker’, \**hake* ‘upward’, \**hifo* ‘downward’, \**ange* ‘along, obliquely’. Most languages preserved at least three of these, Rapa Nui only two. \**hifo* was retained as *iho*; however, this developed into an adverb meaning ‘just then’ (§4.5.3.1). Ultimately, *mai* and *atu* stem from a set of directional verbs in POc, which were used as the final verb in a serial verb construction (Ross 2004: 194).

- (125) *He e'a atu a au 'i te hora nei.*  
 NTR go\_out away PROP 1SG at ART time now  
 'I am going away now.' [R245.017]

In the next examples, it is the direct object which moves: towards the speaker in (126), away from the speaker towards the addressee in (127).

- (126) *¡Ka hoa mai a nei!*  
 IMP throw hither by PROX  
 'Throw (the body) here!' [R304.060]
- (127) *¡Ka haro atu!*  
 IMP pull away  
 'Pull (the net, from here) towards you!' [R304.135]

In the following examples, there is no physical movement of a participant or object, but a flow of information from the speaker to the addressee. In (128) the speaker is the subject, so the information moves away from the speaker; hence the use of *atu*. In (129) the speaker is addressed by the subject of the clause, so the flow of information is directed towards the speaker; hence the use of *mai*.

- (128) *'O ira e haka 'ite atu ena i te roŋo rivariva nei.*  
 because\_of ANA IPFV CAUS know away MED ACC ART message good:RED PROX  
 'Therefore (I) make this good news known (to you).' [Acts 13:32]
- (129) *¿He aha rā nei o te me'e nei a koro ka kī mai nei?*  
 PRED what INTENS PROX of ART thing PROX PROP Dad CNTG say hither PROX  
 'What is this thing that Dad is saying (to us)?' [R313.007]

The movement may also be more implicit. The following example is spoken by fishermen, who tell what often happens to them: a tuna will come up towards them (i.e. towards the speaker, *mai*), but then it will cut the line. The last verb 'to cut' is not a motion verb, yet the verb is followed by *atu*: the action implies that the tuna swims away from the fishermen, i.e. away from the deictic centre.

- (130) *...te kahi era 'i raro 'ā, e iri mai era, he motu rō atu*  
 ART tuna DIST at below IDENT IPFV ascend hither DIST NTR cut EMPH away  
*'ai te kahi.*  
 SUBS ART tuna  
 '...the tuna deep below, which when it comes up, the tuna cuts (the line).'  
 [R368.024]

As directionals indicate the direction of movement of a participant, object, or information, a directional may be sufficient to indicate the recipient, addressee or goal of an

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event: *kī mai* ‘say toward’ indicates that something was said to me (or us). Therefore, the recipient, addressee or goal does not need to be stated separately.<sup>44</sup> This is the case in (129) above and in (131) below:

- (131) —<sub>i</sub>A *Te Manu ho'i i kī mai mo turu o māua! —<sub>i</sub>'Ēē, a*  
 PROP Te Manu indeed PFV say hither for go\_down of 1DU.EXCL yes PROP  
*Te Manu ho'i i kī atu!*  
 Te Manu indeed PFV say away  
 ‘—Te Manu said (to me) that we (=he and I) should go down! —OK, so Te Manu told (you)!’ [R245.221]

When the subject is also left implicit, the directional *mai* or *atu* may be the only clue for participant reference. In (132), the subject is not expressed. *Atu* indicates that the request was directed from the speaker (‘we’) to Meherio, while the help requested went from Meherio to the speaker.<sup>45</sup>

- (132) 'Āmui i a Meherio e kī atu era... mo hā'ū'ū mai, 'ina he  
 moreover at PROP Meherio IPFV say away DIST for help hither NEG NTR  
*hā'ū'ū rō mai.*  
 help EMPH hither  
 ‘Moreover, when (we) told Meherio to help (us), (she) didn’t help (us).’ [R315.031]

In the examples so far, *atu* indicates either a movement from speaker to addressee, or a movement away from speaker and hearer in an unspecified direction as in (125).<sup>46</sup> However, *atu* does not always imply a movement away from the speaker: it may indicate a movement from another place or participant towards the addressee. The following examples illustrate this.

- (133) *Mo haŋa ō'ou mo haŋa atu o tētahi manu era, e haŋa ra'e e koe.*  
 if want POSS.2SG.O for love away of other bird DIST EXH love first AG 2SG  
 ‘If you want other birds to love (you), you should love (them) first.’ [R213.050]
- (134) *E tu'u haka'ou atu 'ā a Hoto Vari, e haka poreko haka'ou atu*  
 IPFV arrive again away CONT PROP Hoto Vari IPFV stick\_out again away  
*'ā hai 'arero...*  
 CONT INS tongue  
 ‘When Hoto Vari comes again (to you), and sticks out his tongue (to you)...’  
 [R304.020]

<sup>44</sup> For this reason, Wittenstein (1978: 4) calls *mai* and *atu* in Rapa Nui “directional pronouns”.

<sup>45</sup> The start of the sentence is syntactically unusual. The syntax of ‘*āmui* (a borrowing from Tahitian, where it is a verb ‘to get together, be united’) is very flexible in Rapa Nui. In this case, a Tahitian construction seems to be used, in which *i N VP* (‘to/at me said’) may function as a temporal clause (‘when I said’); this construction is not attested otherwise in Rapa Nui.

<sup>46</sup> As mentioned above, according to Clark (1976: 34), \**atu* in PPN means ‘away from the speaker’.

An example like (134) is striking, because it is not at all clear how the location of origin can be considered the deictic centre: the place where Hoto Vari comes from, is not relevant at all in the story; it is not even mentioned. In other words, the use of *atu* seems to be motivated entirely by its destination (the second person), not by a deictic centre. This may thus be an exception to the rule (formulated e.g. by Hooper 2002: 285 for Tokelauan) that the use of directionals always implies the existence of a deictic centre.

These example also show that the sense of *atu* cannot be captured in a single definition: *atu* does not always express movement away from the speaker (see (133–134)), but neither does it always express movement towards the addressee (see (125)). Either one is a sufficient criterion for using *atu*; neither is a necessary criterion.

### 7.5.1.2 In third-person contexts

The previous section discussed contexts where a speaker and/or addressee is involved and where movement takes place with respect to the speaker or addressee. As we saw, in these cases *mai* indicates movement towards the speaker, while *atu* indicates movement away from the speaker and/or towards the addressee.

Directionals are also used in third-person contexts, where no speaker or addressee is involved. In such cases, movement does not take place from the perspective of the speaker; rather, the deictic centre is a participant or location in the text. The speaker positions himself (and the hearers) at a certain location or near a certain participant, and events are regarded from the point of view of that location or participant.

There are no fixed rules for determining the deictic centre: it is to a certain extent up to the narrator to choose the perspective from which the text world is regarded.<sup>47</sup> The deictic centre may be fairly constant throughout the story, or it may shift with each scene or even from sentence to sentence. Speakers may have a preference to identify the deictic centre with one central participant, or to vary the point of view. Speakers may also show a preference for *mai* or *atu* with certain verbs or classes of verbs, regardless the context and the subject of the verb.

In other words, there are no hard and fast rules for the use of directionals. However, certain clear tendencies can be observed. In this section some of these tendencies are discussed from individual stories, while §7.5.2 gives statistical data from the whole text corpus. These statistics reveal a number of general tendencies and also show a number of diachronic shifts in the use of directionals.

**7.5.1.2.1 Example 1: a stable deictic centre** The story *Nuahine Rima Roa*, ‘The old lady with the long arms’ (R368), tells about an old woman with enormous arms, who terrorises the village by stealing food, but who is eventually tricked into defeat by a group of fishermen. In this story, there is one central participant, the old lady; the other participants are hardly mentioned as individuals (they mostly act as a group), let alone mentioned by name. It is not surprising, therefore, that the deictic centre in most of the story is the old

<sup>47</sup> Tchekhoff (1990: 105) likewise stresses optionality and subjectivity for the use of directional particles in Tongan.

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lady. Events are regarded from the perspective of wherever the old lady is. Numerous examples could be given, such as the following:

(135) *He ra'e ma'u mai era i te kai...*

PRED first carry hither DIST ACC ART food

‘They first brought food (to her)...’ [R368.006]

(136) *I te 'ao era 'ā o tū ra'ā era, he oho mai he tu'u mai ki*

at ART dawn DIST IDENT of DEM day DIST NTR go hither NTR arrive hither to

*tū rū'au era.*

DEM old\_woman DIST

‘In the morning of that day, they came and arrived at that old lady.’ [R368.063]

In direct speeches in the story the situation is different: here the deictic centre is the speaker, whether this is the old lady or another participant. But even outside direct speech, not all directionals in this story presuppose the old lady as deictic centre. In the following example, the men come out of the house of the old lady, i.e. they move away from her; yet *mai* is used:

(137) *I e'a haka'ou mai era tū nānata era mai te hare era o tū*

PFV go\_out again hither DIST DEM men DIST from ART house DIST of DEM

*rū'au era...*

old\_woman DIST

‘When those men came out again of the house of that old woman...’ [R368.056]

This apparent exception to the rule may have to do with a general tendency of the verb *e'a* ‘go out’ to be followed by *mai* rather than *atu*. As discussed in §7.5.2 below, *e'a* commonly takes *mai* while it rarely takes *atu*; a similar tendency is discernible for other motion verbs. This means that the directional after *e'a* tends to point to the destination, the place where the subject is going to, as the centre of attention. In this way it provides the reader/hearer with a subtle signal that this location is significant as the location where the next events are going to happen. Notice that in (137) above, *e'a mai* occurs in a cohesive clause, which provides a bridge between the previous scene (in the house) and the next one (in the village). *Mai* contributes to paving the way for the change of location and the next scene.

Such examples show that even in a narrative with one protagonist around whom the action revolves, the narrator may use directionals as a device to focus the hearer’s attention on locations relevant in the development of the story.

**7.5.1.2.2 Example 2: a shifting deictic centre** The story *He via o te Tūpāhotu* ‘The life of the Tupahotu’ (R304) tells about wars between two major tribes on the island, the Miru and the Tupahotu. There are various protagonists: Huri a Vai and his father Kainga of the Miru tribe, Hoto Vari and his father Poio of the Tupahotu tribe. These protagonists,

as well as a few other characters, alternate in prominence in different parts of the story, and the deictic centre shifts accordingly.

In the first part of the story, the focus is on Huri a Vai. Not only is he mentioned more than other characters, the directionals point towards him as the deictic centre:

- (138) *He take'a i a Hoto Vari ka pū mai.*  
 NTR see ACC PROP Hoto Vari CNTG approach hither  
 '(Huri a Vai) saw Hoto Vari coming towards him.' [R304.004]

Now what if the movement concerns the protagonist himself, i.e. when Huri a Vai himself moves to a different location? Levinsohn (2007: 142–143) points out that in such cases, languages tend to use one of two strategies: the deictic centre is either a fixed geographical location or it is the next location, i.e. the destination of the movement. As it turns out, in Rapa Nui narrative the second strategy is predominant: when the protagonist moves, *mai* is used to point to the location where the next events are going to happen.<sup>48</sup> The following example illustrates this:

- (139) *I ahiahi era he hoki mai a Huri 'a Vai ki te kona hare era.*  
 PFV afternoon DIST NTR return hither PROP Huri a Vai to ART place house DIST  
 'In the afternoon, Huri a Vai returned home.' [R304.009]

This corresponds to a general tendency in Rapa Nui: motion verbs are much more commonly followed by *mai* than by *atu*, as shown in §7.5.2 below.

In the remainder of the story, the deictic centre shifts between various participants and locations. Sometimes one of the major participants is the deictic centre for a while; in the following example, four consecutive verbs are all followed by a directional pointing towards Kainga, one of the protagonists, as deictic centre:

- (140) *Ī ka u'i atu ena ko te 'ata o te tanata ka kohu mai 'i*  
 IMM CNTG look away MED PROM ART shadow of ART man CNTG shade hither at  
*mu'a i a ia. I hāhine mai era ki muri i a ia, he 'ui atu...*  
 front at PROP 3SG PFV near hither DIST to near at PROP 3SG NTR ask away  
 'Then (Kainga) saw the shadow of a man falling in front of him. When (that man) was close to him, (Kainga) asked...' [R304.095–096]

The deictic centre may also be a minor participant, provided this participant is significant in the scene in question. See (141) in the next section for an example.

### 7.5.1.3 Directionals with speech verbs

Directionals in Rapa Nui are commonly used in clauses introducing direct speech ('he said: ...'). In such clauses, various strategies are possible:

<sup>48</sup> In the preceding section, the same tendency was observed in the story *Nuahine Rima Roa*; see example (137) and discussion.

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1. do not use a directional;
2. use *mai*, designating the addressee as deictic centre;
3. use *atu*, designating the speaker as deictic centre;
4. in a dialogue, use *mai* with one speaker and *atu* with the other, i.e. one speaker is the deictic centre throughout.

All these strategies are used to various degrees in Rapa Nui discourse. Strategy 1 is dominant overall: as the statistics in the next section will show, about 70% of all speech verbs in the corpus do not have a directional. In this section, the other strategies are illustrated from a couple of texts.

In the story *He via* (R304), discussed in the previous section, a mix of strategies is used. In the following short conversation, the directionals all point towards Oho Takatore as deictic centre (strategy 4). Oho Takatore is not a central participant in the story as a whole, but his presence is crucial at this point.

- (141) *He raŋi atu ia e 'Oho Takatore... Terā ia ka pāhono mai e Poio...*  
 NTR call away then AG Oho Takatore then then CNTG answer hither AG Poio  
*I raŋi mai era e Poio pē ira...*  
 PFV call hither DIST AG Poio like ANA  
 ‘Oho Takatore shouted... Then Poio answered... When Poio had called out like that...’ [R304.058-063]

In the following conversation, the deictic centre shifts halfway: in the first two clauses, Kainga is the deictic centre, but then it shifts to Vaha (strategies 2+4).

- (142) *He 'ui atu... Terā, ka pāhono mai e Vaha... He pāhono mai ia e Kāiŋa...*  
 NTR ask away then CNTG answer hither AG Vaha NTR answer hither then AG  
 Kāiŋa...  
 Kainga  
 ‘(Kainga) asked... Vaha replied... Kainga then replied...’ [R304.096]

These examples show that the speaker has the choice from a variety of strategies.

In another story, *Rā'au o te rū'au ko Mitimiti* ‘Medicine of the old woman Mitimiti’ (R313), the narrator has a general preference for *atu*, both with speech verbs and other verbs (though not without exceptions). The general pattern in this story is for the first turn in a conversation to be unmarked or marked with *mai*, whereas the following turns are marked with *atu* (strategy 3).

- (143) *He kī o koro... 'E he kī tako'a atu te re'o o nua... He pāhono*  
 NTR say of Dad and NTR say also away ART voice of Mum NTR answer  
*atu ia te re'o o tū ŋā repa era... He kī haka'ou atu ia*  
 away then ART voice of DEM PL young\_man DIST NTR say again away then



*te re'o o koro...*

ART voice of Dad

'Dad said... And Mum's voice also said... The voice of those youngsters replied...

Dad's voice said again...' [R313.009–015]

In this text, then, *atu* functions as a sort of continuance marker, marking the next step in a series of speech turns.<sup>49</sup>

#### 7.5.1.4 Lack of movement: more metaphorical uses

So far, various uses of directionals have been discussed in which some kind of physical or metaphorical movement takes place: movement of a participant or object, or a flow of speech. This section deals with the use of directionals in cases where no movement seems to be involved. In these cases the use of directionals is extended even further than the metaphorical senses discussed so far. Various metaphorical extensions are possible, depending on the verb involved and subject to speaker preference. The examples discussed here do not cover all possibilities, but serve to illustrate the wide range of metaphorical uses of directionals.

Directionals may occur with verbs that do not indicate any movement, nor a transitive action, but rather the absence of movement. In the story *He via* (R304), a directional is used twice with the verb *piko* 'to hide (intr.)', once *mai* and once *atu*:

- (144) ...*tū pū era o Huri 'a Vai e piko mai era 'i roto.*  
 DEM hole DIST of Huri a Vai IPFV hide hither DIST at inside  
 '...the hole where Huri a Vai was hiding.' [R304.044]

- (145) *He e'a he oho mai a tū ara era 'i ira a Kāiŋa e piko*  
 NTR go\_out NTR go hither by DEM way DIST at ANA PROP Kainga IPFV hide  
*atu era.*  
 away DIST  
 '(Vaha) came out by that road where Kainga was hiding.' [R304.094]

There is a clear difference between these two examples: in (144), Huri a Vai is hiding from his enemies, he is lying low to avoid being detected. In (145), Kainga is not just hiding away; he is lying in ambush, waiting for Vaha to come by. In other words, the hiding in (144) is self-directed, oriented inwards, while the hiding in (145) is outward-looking, with the attention away from the person hiding. It is no coincidence that in the first case *mai* is used, indicating orientation towards the subject as deictic centre, while in the second case *atu* is used, pointing away from the subject. In other texts as well, *piko mai* is commonly used when people hide from others, while *piko atu* is used of people lying in ambush, spying on someone else (cf. Fuller 1980: 12). While there is

<sup>49</sup> This use may be influenced by Tahitian, where *atu ra* and *mai ra* are extremely common to mark the next event in a narrative (see e.g. Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 134).

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no movement involved, the directionals indicate ORIENTATION with respect to the deictic centre.<sup>50</sup>

Directionals are also found with the verb *noho* ‘to sit, stay’, a verb which would seem to epitomise lack of movement. At least some of these occurrences can be explained as indicating orientation: with *mai* the participant faces inward, is self-oriented; with *atu* the focus is outward. The following two examples illustrate the difference:

- (146) *E noho nō mai 'ā tū taŋata era, 'ī ka hakarono atu ena...*  
IPFV stay just hither CONT DEM man DIST IMM CNTG listen away MED  
‘When that man was just staying (inside), suddenly he heard (a noise)...’  
[R372.103]

- (147) *Te vārua mo noho atu ō'ou mo u'i a ruŋa i a rāua... he u'i*  
ART spirit if sit away POSS.2SG.O if look by above at PROP 3PL NTR look  
*kē.*  
different  
‘The spirits, when you sit down and look at them, will look away.’ [R310.082]

Orientation may also have to do with physical distance from the deictic centre, so that *mai* is similar to ‘here’ and *atu* is similar to ‘away’:

- (148) *E māmārū'au, ka noho mai koe.*  
voc grandmother IMP stay hither 2SG  
‘Grandmother, stay here.’ [R313.177]
- (149) *He oho atu he piri ki tētahi ŋā poki, he noho atu ananake.*  
NTR go away NTR join to other PL child NTR stay away together  
‘He went off (instead of going to school) and met other boys, and they stayed (away) together.’ [R250.034]

### 7.5.1.5 *Atu* indicating extent

Another metaphorical use concerns only *atu*. With stative verbs, *atu* may indicate the extent of a state or characteristic:

- (150) *Me'e pararaha atu te oru era.*  
thing fat away ART pig DIST  
‘That pig is very fat.’ [Notes]

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<sup>50</sup> Hooper (2004: 1751) discusses a similar function of directionals in Tokelauan. She points out (with reference to Jackendoff 1983) that a path (i.e. a directional movement) may play various roles: an object may traverse a path, but it may also be oriented along a path, facing an entity (in this case, the deictic centre).

- (151) *E huri rō 'ā te 'āriŋa o Heru a ruŋa 'e ko tetea atu 'ā*  
 IPFV turn EMPH CONT ART face of Heru by above and PRF PL:white away CONT  
*te mata.*  
 ART eye

‘Heru’s face was turned upwards and his eyes were very white.’ [R313.043]

These examples suggest that in some cases *atu* indicates a (light) degree of emphasis. It is not difficult to see how this use could arise: the basic meaning ‘away from a deictic centre’ may naturally develop into ‘away from a point of reference, beyond what is common or expected’.<sup>51</sup>

The sense of an extent is also seen when *atu* is used after the quantifiers *tētahi* ‘some/ others’, *me'e rahi* ‘many’ and *rauhuru* ‘diverse’; in these cases, *atu* emphasises the extent of a quantity (see discussion and examples in §4.4.10.)

Finally, the sense of extent may also explain why *atu* is common – at least for some speakers – in the construction *he V rō 'ai*, which indicates final or climactic events (§7.2.3.3).<sup>52</sup> *atu* simply makes the construction a little heavier, thereby adding to its prominence.

- (152) *He mate rō atu 'ai tū rū'au era 'i te tanjī.*  
 NTR die EMPH away SUBS DEM old\_woman DIST AT ART cry  
 ‘The old lady burst out in tears (lit. died with crying).’ [R313.104]

## 7.5.2 Directionals with motion, speech, and perception verbs

In the previous sections, the use of directionals was analysed by looking at individual occurrences. One conclusion that could be drawn is that, while the basic meaning of the directionals is clear, the speaker has a certain freedom, both in choosing the deictic centre and in applying directionals in extended uses.

Another method to analyse the use of directionals, is to count the overall use of directionals with different (classes of) verbs in the text corpus. As it turns out, statistical data shed additional light on the use of directionals, revealing a number of general tendencies. These tendencies cannot be discovered by analysing individual texts, but only come to the surface when large numbers of occurrences (and non-occurrences) are taken into account.

This section discusses the use of directionals with three classes of verbs that commonly take directionals: motion verbs, speech verbs and perception verbs. Data are based on the whole corpus of old and new texts.

<sup>51</sup> Hooper (2002: 291) signals a somewhat similar extension of the meaning of *atu* in Tokelauan, where it may signal a point in time beyond the time of reference (e.g. *ananafi* ‘yesterday’, *ananafi atu* ‘the day before yesterday’ – the same expression is found in Tahitian).

<sup>52</sup> In the corpus as a whole, *rō atu 'ai* occurs 186 times, *rō mai 'ai* only 60 times. Note that directionals are by no means obligatory in this construction: *rō 'ai* without directional occurs 321 times.

## 7 The verb phrase

**7.5.2.1 Motion verbs** One class of verbs which often takes a directional, is the class of motion verbs. Table 7.6 gives statistics for the use and non-use of directionals with a number of common motion verbs.<sup>53</sup> Separate figures are given for old texts and newer texts. The most common directional in each corpus is in bold.

Table 7.6: Directionals with motion verbs

	old		new	
<i>mai</i>	24.3%	<b>(863)</b>	26.8%	<b>(2001)</b>
<i>atu</i>	4.1%	(145)	4.6%	(340)
no directional	71.6%	(2546)	68.7%	(5131)
total		(3554)		(7472)

As these figures show, *mai* is much more common than *atu* with these verbs. In other words, when the direction of movement is indicated, in most cases the subject moves towards the deictic centre. Put differently, directionals after motion verbs tend to point toward the location where the subject is heading as the deictic centre, subtly signalling that this new location is – or becomes – significant to the action.

This tendency is strong in both older and newer texts. It is strongest for *e'a* ‘go out’, which is followed by *mai* in a total of 415 cases and by *atu* in only 32 cases. One could wonder if *e'a mai* is to a degree lexicalised, though we have to keep in mind that in two thirds of all occurrences, *e'a* does not have a directional at all.

**7.5.2.2 Speech verbs** As indicated in the previous section, directionals are also commonly used with verbs of speaking. These verbs imply a flow of information from the speaker<sup>54</sup> to the addressee. The use of directionals with speech verbs points to one of the participants as the deictic centre of the speech act: *mai* indicates a movement towards the addressee as deictic centre, *atu* indicates a movement away from the speaker as the deictic centre.

Total occurrences for a number of common speech verbs<sup>55</sup> are given in Table 7.7. This table shows a clear shift over time in the use of directionals. Whereas in old texts *mai* is by far the most common directional and *atu* is rare, in new texts *atu* has become more frequent (though *mai* is by no means uncommon). In other words, in older stories the speaking act is usually considered from the perspective of the addressee, whereas in newer stories it is more commonly seen from the perspective of the speaker (i.e. the subject).

<sup>53</sup> This table includes counts for *oho* ‘go’, *tu’u* ‘arrive’, *e’a* ‘go out’, *туру* ‘go down’, *iri* ‘go up’, *uru* ‘go in’, *tomo* ‘go ashore’.

<sup>54</sup> “Speaker” is here taken in the sense of “the person uttering the speech referred to by the speech verb”, not the speaker/narrator of the text as a whole.

<sup>55</sup> *Kī* ‘say’, *raŋi* ‘call’, *pāhono* ‘answer’ (only in modern Rapa Nui), *’ui* ‘ask’.

Table 7.7: Directionals with speech verbs

	old		new	
<i>mai</i>	23.5%	(397)	12.6%	(468)
<i>atu</i>	4.1%	(70)	17.7%	(656)
no directional	72.4%	(1224)	69.7%	(2582)
total		(1691)		(3706)

While the relative proportion of *mai* and *atu* has changed, the table also shows that the total use of directionals has not changed much: in both corpora, roughly 30% of the speech verbs under consideration are accompanied by a directional.

**7.5.2.3 Perception verbs** The most common verbs of perception in Rapa Nui are the following: for visual perception, *take'a* or *tike'a*<sup>56</sup> ‘to see’ and *u'i* ‘to look, to watch’; for aural perception *ηaro'a* ‘to hear, to perceive’ and *hakarono* ‘to listen’. All these verbs have two arguments: an experiencer (the perceiving entity) and a stimulus (the perceived entity). The experiencer is expressed as subject, the stimulus as direct object or as an oblique marked with *ki*.

The first verb of each pair (*take'a* ‘see’ and *ηaro'a* ‘hear’) indicates uncontrolled perception, i.e. the registration of a perceptual stimulus by one of the senses. The other two verbs (*u'i* ‘look’ and *hakarono* ‘listen’) express controlled perception, i.e. focused attention on the part of the subject (cf. Dixon 2010b: 144). In other words, whereas the subject of *take'a* and *ηaro'a* is merely registering a visual stimulus, the subject of *u'i* and *hakarono* is actively involved in the act of perception.<sup>57</sup>

This difference can be correlated to the direction of movement involved in the act of perception. Concentrating first on visual verbs: *take'a* ‘see’ indicates that a signal, originating from the stimulus, is perceived by the experiencer: there is a movement from the stimulus (the perceived object) to the experiencer (the subject). *U'i* ‘look’, on the other hand, indicates that the experiencer directs his/her attention towards the stimulus: there is a movement from the subject to the object.<sup>58</sup>

This has consequences for the use of directionals with these verbs. When a directional is used with *u'i*, this directional tends to indicate a movement from the subject (the experiencer) to the object (the stimulus), whereas with *take'a* the directional tends to indicate a movement from the object towards the subject.

Now it is safe to assume that there is a tendency for the subject of the clause to act as the deictic centre, at least in first-person and third-person contexts: as discussed above,

<sup>56</sup> Besides *take'a* and *tike'a*, there are also the less common variants *tikera* and *takera*. All four are synonymous.

<sup>57</sup> Osmond & Pawley (2009) use the terms “sensing” and “attending”, respectively. In Rapa Nui, the two pairs of verb also show differences in subject marking (§8.3.2).

<sup>58</sup> See Hooper (2004: 1745) for a similar description of the two possible trajectories.

the deictic centre is usually either the speaker or a central participant in the discourse, both of which tend to be the subject of the clause. This leads us to expect that the controlled perception verb *u'i* 'look' will predominantly take the directional *atu*: when the subject is the deictic centre, there is an outgoing movement from the subject/experiencer towards the object/stimulus. On the other hand, the uncontrolled perception verb *take'a* 'see' will predominantly take the directional *mai*: when the subject is the deictic centre, there is a movement from the stimulus towards the subject/experiencer.

This expectation is borne out in newer texts, as shown in Table 7.8: *u'i* is followed by *atu* in 339 cases and by *mai* in only 118 cases; by contrast, *take'a* is followed by *mai* in 91 cases and by *atu* in just 4 cases.

In older texts, the difference is not as clear: with *take'a*, only *mai* is used (though only in 18 cases), but with *u'i*, both directionals are used with similar frequency. This corresponds to the phenomenon observed above with speech verbs: in older texts there is a general preference for *mai*, while in newer texts *atu* is more common.<sup>59</sup>

Table 7.8: Directionals with verbs of seeing

	<i>u'i</i> 'look, watch'		<i>take'a, tike'a</i> 'see'	
	old	new	old	new
<i>mai</i>	17.6% (88)	9.2% (118)	9.7% (18)	13.9% (91)
<i>atu</i>	14.8% (74)	26.3% (339)	0.0% (0)	0.6% (4)
no directional	67.7% (339)	64.5% (830)	90.3% (168)	85.5% (561)
total	(501)	(1287)	(186)	(656)

Verbs of hearing show the same distinction in newer texts, as shown in Table 7.9: the controlled *hakarono* 'to listen' tends to take *atu*, indicating outgoing attention from the subject as deictic centre, while the uncontrolled *narova* 'perceive' usually takes *mai*, indicating incoming perception towards the subject as deictic centre. Again, in older texts this tendency does not show up, though in the case of *narova* data are scarce overall.

These tables also show that directionals *as such* are more common with the controlled perception verbs *u'i* and *hakarono* than with *take'a* and *narova*: *u'i* takes a directional in about 35% of all occurrences, *hakarono* even over 45%; on the other hand, *take'a* and *narova* are followed by a directional in less than 15% of all occurrences. This is true in both older and newer texts.

In individual instances, the choice for *mai* or *atu* may be governed by other considerations: with any perception verb, the speaker may choose either the Experiencer or the Stimulus as deictic centre, depending on the dynamics of the discourse. But over the whole of the corpus, there is a clear correlation between verb type (controlled or uncontrolled perception) and the choice of directional.

<sup>59</sup> Notice, however, that for motion verbs there is no such shift: *mai* is predominant both in older and newer material.

<sup>60</sup> Both *hakarono* and *narova* are predominantly used for aural perception, though *narova* (and occasionally *hakarono*) may be used for perception in general ('to feel, perceive') as well.

Table 7.9: Directionals with verbs of hearing

	<i>hakarongo</i> ‘listen’				<i>ηaro'a</i> ‘hear, perceive’ <sup>60</sup>			
	old		new		old		new	
<i>mai</i>	28.7%	(25)	18.0%	(52)	7.4%	(2)	10.8%	(27)
<i>atu</i>	16.1%	(14)	29.4%	(85)	0.0%	(0)	2.0%	(5)
no directional	55.2%	(48)	52.6%	(152)	92.6%	(25)	87.2%	(218)
total		(87)		(289)		(27)		(250)

### 7.5.3 To use or not to use a directional

In §7.5.1 and subsections, the use of directionals has been discussed as a binary choice: a speaker may use either *mai* or *atu*. However, the statistics in §7.5.2 show that verbs which take directionals only do so in a minority of all cases. For example, only about 30% of all motion verbs in the corpus are followed by a directional. The speaker is thus faced with a ternary choice: *mai*, *atu*, or no directional at all. One more question must therefore be addressed: which factors influence the choice between using a directional and using no directional at all?

Some of the factors which may play a role are the following:

**Directionality** Directionals are used when a movement (physical or metaphorical) is clearly directional and when the speaker wishes to state so. In the following example, Eva first looks into a general direction; then she looks to a more precise location. Only the second verb is followed by a directional.

- (153) *He u'i a ruηa i te henua...E u'i mai era a tū kona kī era*  
 NTR look by above at ART land IPFV look hither DIST by DEM place say DIST  
*e nua pē nei ē: 'I 'Ohovehi mātou ka noho nei'.*  
 AG Mum like PROX thus at Ohovehi 1PL.EXCL CNTG stay PROX  
 ‘She looked towards the land... She kept looking towards the place about which  
 Mum had said: ‘We will stay in Ohovehi’? [R210.082–083]

**Highlighting** Directionals subtly highlight the deictic centre of the text. The speaker may therefore choose to use directionals to point to the deictic centre, whether this is constant or shifting. For example, the story *Nuahine rima roa* (§7.5.1.2.1) contains numerous occurrences of *mai* which point to the central participant, the old lady.<sup>61</sup>

**Participant reference** As discussed in §7.5.1.1, ex. (131–132), directionals may play a role in participant reference: directionals indicate whether a participant is at the origin

<sup>61</sup> This may explain why *mai* is more frequent overall than *atu*, see the statistics in the previous sections. Hooper (2004: 1742) mentions a 60/40 proportion for *mai* and *atu* in Tokelauan discourse.

or the goal of the movement, so they may be used instead of an overt subject or object. This accounts for many occurrences of directionals, for example with speech verbs in direct discourse, as in (131).

**Distance** Possibly, directionals tend to be used when there is a significant distance between the origin and the goal of movement, e.g. between the speaker and the addressee. I have not found many instances where this is the only factor involved, but there are examples which can plausibly be explained this way. In (154), *e'a* ‘go out (of the house)’ is not marked by a directional, while *oho* ‘go’ is; the latter involves movement over a considerable distance, while the former does not.

(154) *Ka e'a koe ka haka rivariva i te poki, ka oho atu kōrua ki Hanga Piko.*  
 IMP go\_out 2SG IMP CAUS good:RED ACC ART child IMP go away 2PL to Hanga Piko.

‘Go outside and prepare the child, and go to Hanga Piko.’ [R210.036]

This list is not exhaustive, if only because it does not explain all occurrences of *mai* and *atu*. Moreover, many instances can be explained in more than one way. These factors are no more than possible considerations which may play a role; they influence rather than determine the choice for a directional.

## 7.6 Postverbal demonstratives

### 7.6.1 Introduction

The postverbal demonstratives (PVDs) *nei*, *ena* and *era* indicate spatial or temporal distance of the event with respect to a place and/or time of reference. The same forms also occur in the noun phrase (§4.6.3). Both in the noun phrase and in the verb phrase they have the following sense:

<i>nei</i>	proximity, close to the speaker
<i>ena</i>	medial distance, close to the hearer
<i>era</i>	default PVD; farther distance, removed from both speaker and hearer

PVDs cannot be added to just any verb phrase: as the discussion of aspectuals in §7.2 shows, PVDs occur in certain syntactic contexts and convey certain syntactic nuances.

- PVDs are common after imperfective *e* to express a progressive or habitual action (§7.2.5.4).
- The contiguous marker *ka* is often followed by a PVD, both in main and subordinate clauses (§7.2.6.2–7.2.6.3).



- With the perfect *ko V 'ā*, *era* is occasionally used to express an action which is well and truly finished (§7.2.7.3).

In addition, PVD's are used in relative clauses (§11.4.5; see also (162) below).

The neutral aspectual *he* is rarely followed by a PVD. PVDs do not occur after the imperative markers *ka* and *e*. Neither are they found after negators *kai* and *e ko*, and after subordinators like *mo* 'in order to' and *ana* 'irrealis'.

The use of PVDs after perfective *i* warrants separate treatment. After *i*, the verb is often followed by a PVD; the list of PVDs after *i* also includes a fourth PVD: *ai*, which is not used after other aspectuals. In fact, *ai* is the default PVD after *i*, except in cohesive clauses. This will be discussed in §7.6.5.

Table 7.10: Frequencies of postverbal demonstratives

	old texts		new texts		total	
<i>era</i>	69%	(455)	72%	(3,728)	72%	(4,183)
<i>ena</i>	10%	(67)	17%	(874)	16%	(941)
<i>nei</i>	21%	(142)	11%	(568)	12%	(710)

In the following subsections, the four PVDs will be discussed in turn. First a statistical note. Table 7.10 shows frequencies for the *era*, *ena* and *nei* in all verb phrases in the text corpus. As this table shows, *era* is far more frequent than *ena* and *nei*: 72% of all PVDs in the text corpus are *era*. This suggests that *era* is the default PVD; it is used whenever a PVD is called for and there is no reason to use *nei* or *ena*. For this reason, the use of *era* will only be discussed as it relates to *nei* and *ena*.

### 7.6.2 Proximal *nei*

*Nei* marks actions which are either performed by the speaker, take place close to the speaker, or happen at a time close to the time of speech. Any of these is sufficient to warrant the use of *nei*; neither is a necessary condition.

*Nei* often marks an action performed by the speaker, i.e. in the first person, as in (155).

- (155) 'O        *ira a au i iri mai nei ki a koe.*  
 because\_of ANA PROP 1SG PFV ascend hither PROX to PROP 2SG  
 'Therefore I have come up to you.' [R229.208]

Alternatively, the event may take place near the speaker as in (156), or is directed towards the location of the speaker as in (157):

- (156) *Pē nei e kī nei e te nu'u nei: ko mate 'ana koe.*  
 like PROX IPFV say PROX AG ART people PROX PRF die CONT 2SG  
 'This is what these people say: you have died.' [R229.316]

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- (157) ¿I hē rā a Vaha e ta'e tu'u mai nei?  
at CQ INTENS PROP Vaha IPFV CONNEG arrive hither PROX  
'Where is Vaha, that he doesn't arrive?' [R229.131]

Occasionally *nei* has a temporal rather than a spatial function. In (158), the speaker talks about something habitually taking place in the present.

- (158) Te vaka o te hora nei, e haha'o nei te aroaro 'i ruŋa o te  
ART boat of ART time PROX IPFV insert PROX ART lining at above of ART  
kavakava mau 'ana.  
rib really IDENT  
'The boats of nowadays, they put the lining on top of the ribs.' [R200.068]

In narrative contexts, events usually do not take place close to the speaker, nor in the present. Even so, *nei* occurs in narrative as well. By using *nei*, the speaker indicates that the action is spatially close to the locus of discourse, or takes place near the time of reference:

- (159) Mahana nei i iri nei ki te māmoē mo toke he ma'urima o  
day PROX PFV ascend PFV to ART sheep for steal NTR catch of  
tō'ona pāpātio.  
POSS.3SG.O uncle  
'This day when he went to the sheep to steal, his uncle caught him.' [R250.222]
- (160) I e'a nei te taŋata nei 'i tū ra'ā era he oho mai ē...  
PFV go\_out PROX ART man PROX at DEM day DIST NTR go hither on\_and\_on  
'When this man had gone out that day, he kept going...' [R310.136]

As these examples show, *nei* in the verb phrase may co-occur with *nei* in the subject or another noun phrase in the clause (cf. also (156) above).

### 7.6.3 Medial *ena*

*Ena* usually indicates an action performed by the addressee, an event taking place close to the addressee, or an event at a medial distance (i.e. not near the speaker, but not very far either). Either of these factors may trigger the use of *ena*.

Often *ena* marks an action performed by the addressee:

- (161) ¿He aha koe e taŋi ena?  
PRED what 2SG IPFV cry MED  
'Why are you crying?' [R229.185]

Sometimes the action takes place near the addressee, as in (162), or at a little distance from both speaker and addressee, as in (163).

- (162) *tā'ana vānaŋa kī atu ena ki a koe*  
 POSS.3SG.A word say away MED to PROP 2SG  
 ‘the words he spoke to you’ [R229.079]
- (163) *Mo kōrua ho'i e u'i, ana tu'u mai a Hare mai tō'ona kona*  
 for 2PL indeed IPFV look IRR arrive hither PROP Hare from POSS.3SG.O place  
*ena e ŋaro mai ena.*  
 MED IPFV disappear hither MED  
 ‘You will see whether Hare comes from the place where he has disappeared.’  
 [R229.276]

Notice that in (163), postverbal *ena* is paralleled by *ena* in the preceding noun phrase. *Ena* may also have a temporal function: it refers to a moment somewhat removed from the present. This may be the near past as in (164), or the near future as in (165):

- (164) *te ŋā me'e nei au i tatau i oho atu ena*  
 ART PL thing PROX 1SG PFV tell PFV go away MED  
 ‘the things I have (just) been telling about’ [R360.037]
- (165) *He mana'u nō te me'e nei ō'oku ka kī atu ena.*  
 PRED thought just ART thing PROX POSS.1SG.O CNTG say away MED  
 ‘What I am about to say, is just a thought.’ [R361.015]

In narrative, *ena* is especially used after the deictic particle 'i (§4.5.4.1.1), which signals a shift to the point of view of a participant in the story (often with a verb of perception). The use of *ena* in this construction may be metaphorical, indicating that the reader is conceptually closer to the events in the story than usual, looking as it were through the eyes of the participant.

- (166) *Ī ka u'i atu ena ko te 'ata o te taŋata...*  
 IMM CNTG look away MED PROM ART shadow of ART man  
 ‘Then he saw the shadow of a man...’ [R304.095]

#### 7.6.4 Neutral/distal *era*

*Era* is the default PVD. It is especially common in narrative contexts, where proximity to speaker and hearer does not play a role. *Era* occurs in numerous examples in the discussion of aspectuals in §7.2.

Other PVDs are only used when there is a specific reason to do so. As discussed above, *nei* is used when the action is performed by the speaker, takes place close to the speaker, takes place in the present, or is metaphorically proximate in discourse. Likewise, *ena* can be used when the action is performed by or near to the hearer, takes place at a moderate distance, or at a time somewhat close to the present. This does not mean that

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*nei* or *ena* is always used whenever one of these conditions is fulfilled. *Era*, being the default PVD, can be used for an action performed by the speaker as in (167–168), or an action performed by the hearer as in (169–170). In all these cases, however, distance is involved: in (168–170) the event takes place in the past; in (167) the event is hypothetical, and therefore also removed from the here and now.

- (167) ...'ai au e u'i mai era mai ruŋa ki a koe.  
there 1SG IPFV look hither DIST from above to PROP 2SG  
'(If I were that bird,) I would look at you from above.' [R245.155]
- (168) A au ho'i i raŋi atu era ki a koe...  
PROP 1SG indeed PFV call away DIST to PROP 2SG  
'Indeed, I called out to you...' [R229.499]
- (169) Pē nei koe i kī mai era ki a au: he tu'u mai a Vaha  
like PROX 2SG PFV say hither DIST to PROP 1SG NTR arrive hither PROP Vaha  
'arīnā.  
later\_today  
'You said to me that Vaha would arrive today.' [R229.147]
- (170) ;Pē hē kōrua e vānaŋa era?  
like CQ 2PL IPFV talk DIST  
'What were you(pl) talking about?' [Ley-2-02.062]

To summarise: PVDs are used in combination with aspectuals to convey certain aspectual nuances. The default PVD is *era* (except in certain contexts with the perfective marker *i*, where *ai* is more common, see §7.6.5). *Nei* and *ena* may be used to convey proximity and medial distance respectively; distance is usually defined in spatial terms with respect to a participant or locus of discourse, but may also have a temporal sense.

### 7.6.5 Postverbal demonstratives with perfective *i*

The perfective marker *i* was discussed in §7.2.4. The examples in that section show, that an *i*-marked verb is usually followed by a postverbal demonstrative (PVD). Besides *era*, *nei* and *ena*, *i* (unlike other aspectuals) allows a fourth PVD, *ai*. In fact, *ai* is by far the most common PVD after *i*. Only in cohesive clauses (§11.6.2.1) is the verb usually followed by *era*, while *ai* is rare.

This raises the question what the function of *ai* could be. Now the particle *ai* is common in Polynesian languages. Rapa Nui is different from other languages in that *ai* is not used after all aspectuals; apart from perfective *i*, it is only found after the purpose marker *ki* (§11.5.3). There is also a functional difference. Chapin (1974) shows that in all languages except Rapa Nui, *ai* is anaphoric: it occurs when the verb is preceded by any constituent other than a nominative subject; it serves as a substitute for the proposed constituent. This does not hold in Rapa Nui: in many cases *ai* occurs in verb-initial clauses,

or in clauses where the verb is preceded by a subject. Even so, there is a correlation between the occurrence of preverbal constituents and the use of *ai*. Table 7.11 shows the occurrence of *ai* and other PVDs in *i*-marked clauses (cohesive clauses excepted), differentiated for preverbal constituents: either a core argument (subject or direct object), an oblique constituent (locative or temporal phrase, connective adverb, or question word), or none at all (verb-initial clauses):

Table 7.11: Postverbal demonstratives with *i*-marked verbs

preverbal constituent	<i>ai</i>		other PVD		no PVD	
core argument(s)	21%	(11)	19%	(10)	60%	(31)
oblique constituent	80%	(73)	18%	(16)	2%	(2)
∅ (verb-initial)	72%	(55)	7%	(5)	21%	(16)
total		(139)		(31)		(49)

As this table shows, when the verb is preceded by an oblique constituent, it is followed by *ai* in 80% of the cases. By contrast, when the verb is preceded by a core argument, *ai* is relatively rare (21%), while 60% of the cases have no PVD at all. These statistics show a similarity in the use of *ai* between Rapa Nui and other Polynesian languages: *ai* tends to be used after oblique constituents, but not after NP arguments.<sup>62</sup> Still, the situation is much fuzzier than in other languages: *ai* does occur after NP arguments, while after oblique constituents other PVDs occur as well as *ai*.

In verb-initial clauses, *ai* is almost as common as with oblique preverbal constituents (72%), a situation not found in other languages. Possibly the use of *ai* in these clauses can be explained to some extent in terms of inter-clausal (rather than intra-clausal) anaphora. For example, in (171) *ai* could be explained as providing an anaphoric link with the preceding clause.

- (171) *¿I mamae rō koe i hiʻa ai?*  
 PFV pain EMPH 2SG PFV fall PVP  
 ‘Did you get hurt when you fell down?’ [R481.131]

On the other hand, many examples of *ai* cannot be explained in this way.

Turning now to the other PVDs *nei*, *ena* and *era*, these are relatively rare with *i*-marked verbs (except in cohesive clauses, see §11.6.2.1). As Table 7.11 shows, out of 219 verbs, only 31 (14%) are followed by one of these. Of these 31 cases, 13 have *nei*, 10 have *ena*, 8 have *era*. These proportions are remarkable, as *era* is much more frequent in general than *nei*

<sup>62</sup> Notice that, different from what Chapin (1974) found in other languages, in Rapa Nui any NP argument, whether subject or object, disfavours the use of *ai*.

In fact, Chapin (1974: 299) found a similar correlation: counting occurrences of *era* and *ai* in Englert’s stories (Egt), concludes: “of the 26 cases discovered of verbs in *i* tense with no PVD, all but three or possibly four contain patterns which would lead one on comparative grounds not to expect *ai*. Of the nearly 100 cases of post-verbal *ai*, all but about a dozen appear according to comparative expectations.”

and *ena*: as the statistics in §7.6.1 show, *era* accounts for 72% of all occurrences of these three PVDs overall, but in the constructions considered here, *era* represents only 26% of all three PVDs. Even though the sample is small and therefore liable to skewing by a few aberrant examples, the difference is significant.

In other contexts, *era* is the default PVD; *nei* and *ena* are only used when there is a specific reason to use them, to indicate close distance (*nei*) or medial distance (*ena*) (§7.6). By contrast, with *i*-marked verbs, *ai* is the default PVD. *Nei* and *ena* may be used to indicate close and medial distance; *era* may either be a free (but relatively rare) alternative to *ai*, or used only when the speaker wishes to emphasise distance.

## 7.7 Serial verb constructions

### 7.7.1 Introduction

Serial verb constructions (SVCs) are constructions in which two or more verbs occur in a single clause, without being so closely linked that they form a verbal compound.<sup>63</sup> Verbs within an SVC have the same specification for tense/aspect/mood and they usually share one or more arguments. They are not separated by a conjunction or by anything marking a clause boundary. The events expressed within an SVC are closely linked: SVCs tend to express a single event, or a set of events considered to be part of a single “macro-event”.<sup>64</sup> Certain verb combinations may be lexicalised in a language, but SVCs tend to be productive.

Serialisation is common in Austronesian languages, including Oceanic languages (see Crowley 2002; Senft 2008; Durie 1988), but rare in Polynesian.<sup>65</sup>

### 7.7.2 The syntax of SVCs in Rapa Nui

Rapa Nui is unusual among Polynesian languages in that SVCs are fairly common.<sup>66</sup> Moreover, it is – to my knowledge – the only Polynesian language in which all verbs in

<sup>63</sup> On SVCs in general see Durie (1988; 1997); Aikhenvald & Dixon (2006); Sebba (1987). On SVCs in Oceanic languages, see Crowley (2002) (+ reviews by Owens (2002) and Bradshaw (2004)); Senft (2008). These studies do not agree on a precise definition of SVCs (it is even uncertain if such a definition is possible, given the crosslinguistic variation in syntax and semantics of SVCs (Crowley 2002: 19)). They differ for example on the question whether SVCs necessarily constitute a single predicate. However, they do agree on the characteristics mentioned here.

<sup>64</sup> The term *macro-event* is discussed by Aikhenvald (2006).

<sup>65</sup> Both in Māori (Harlow 2007a: 150) and Tahitian (Académie Tahitienne (1986: 203)), the only traces of SVCs are motion verbs such as *haere* ‘go’ modifying another verb: Māori *i tangi haere* ‘went weeping’. In Marquesan, this modifying construction also occurs (Cablitz 2006: 205–206). Cablitz also mentions bare complement clauses and clause chaining as examples of serialisation; however, clause chaining constructions are not monoclausal, hence they do not qualify as an SVC as defined above. The only reason to classify clause chaining constructions as SVCs is the absence of an A/M marker on the second verb. Mosel & Hovdhaugen (1992: 397), using the same criterion, identify the same three constructions as SVCs in Samoan. Finally, in Tuvaluan (Besnier 2000: 538) SVCs occur on a limited scale; again, the second verb is not A/M-marked.

<sup>66</sup> SVCs in Rapa Nui are discussed in Weber (2003b: 67–75); Weber uses the term *verb nesting* (anidación de verbos) and especially discusses criteria to distinguish SVCs from clause conjunction.

an SVC have an aspect/mood (A/M) marker; the A/M markers within an SVC are always identical.<sup>67</sup>

Apart from the A/M marker, nothing can occur between the verbs in an SVC. Postverbal particles – including obligatory particles – only occur after the last verb. Arguments of both verbs are placed after the last verb; preposed arguments occur before the first verb. The structure of a clause with serialisation is thus as follows:

(172) (constituent) [A/M<sub>i</sub> V1 A/M<sub>i</sub> V2 (particles)]<sub>VP</sub> (constituents)

Most SVCs have two verbs, but longer series occur. The verbs in an SVC usually share their S/A argument. In fact, the SVC as a whole has a single argument structure, which is determined by the verb with the highest valency: if both verbs are intransitive, the SVC as a whole is intransitive; if one verb is transitive, the SVC is transitive.

Below are a number of examples which illustrate the characteristics of SVCs.

(173) *'Ēē, ko ma'u ko hoki 'ā ki tō'ona kona.*  
 YES PRF carry PRF return CONT to POSS.3SG.O place  
 'Yes, they carried it back to its place.' [R413.844]

(174) *I hoki i turu mai era ararua a rā 'ā...*  
 PFV return PFV go\_down hither DIST the\_two by DIST IDENT  
 'When they returned together (with downwards movement) by that place...'  
 [R245.210]

(175) *He ma'u he iri he oho i tū manu era ki te hare pure.*  
 NTR carry NTR ascend NTR go ACC DEM animal DIST to ART house pray  
 'They carried the animal up to the church.' [R178.053]

(176) *... 'o pe'e 'o oho te māuiui ki tētahi nu'u sano ena e noho mai*  
 lest infect lest go ART sick to other people healthy MED IPFV stay hither  
*ena.*  
 MED  
 '...lest the disease keeps infecting other people who are still healthy.' [R398.017]

Aspectuals – *ko* in (173), *i* in (174), *he* in (175) – are repeated before each verb. Postverbal *'ā* (173) and *era* (174) occur only after the second verb.<sup>68</sup> In (175) – a tripartite SVC – *i tū manu era* is the direct object of the first verb *ma'u*, yet it occurs after the SVC construction as a whole. (176) shows that subordinators like *'o* are repeated in the same way as aspectuals.

<sup>67</sup> While bare verbs can modify nouns (§5.7.1), they never modify other verbs without a preceding A/M marker. Some Polynesian languages have a V + V construction (see Footnote 65 above), but this does not occur in Rapa Nui.

<sup>68</sup> Both are obligatory, given the construction: perfect *ko* is always accompanied by *'ā* (§7.2.7), while *i V era* in (174) marks a cohesive clause (§11.6.2.1).

## 7 The verb phrase

These examples also show how SVCs can be distinguished from coordinated clauses. As verb arguments are often omitted in discourse, a string of verbal clauses may consist of just *A/M V A/M V..* (see e.g. (3) on p. 317); such a string may at first sight be indistinguishable from an SVC. Diagnostics for SVCs are: the omission of postverbal particles after the first verb, and the placement of the direct object of a verb after the next verb (even when the latter is intransitive). SVCs can also be recognised by semantic criteria, as they often express a single event; this will be discussed in the next section.

In nominalised SVCs, the determiner is repeated. Any preposition preceding the nominalised verb is repeated as well, e.g. *pe* in (178):<sup>69</sup>

- (177) *O te naonao toretore te haka pe'e te oho te māuiui he renke.*  
of ART mosquito stripe ART CAUS infect CAUS go ART sick PRED dengue  
'It is the striped mosquito which keeps spreading dengue disease.' [R535.051]
- (178) *Te pūai, pa'i, o rāua pe te ŋaro pe te oho nō.*  
ART strong in\_fact of 3PL toward ART disappear toward ART go just  
'Their power will gradually disappear.' [1 Cor. 2:6]

There is only one situation in which V2 is unmarked: when the SVC functions as a bare relative clause (§11.4.5), in which case neither verb in the SVC has an A/M marker.

- (179) *I te hora turu oho nei ō'oku ki Hanga Roa o Tai..*  
at ART time go\_down go PROX POSS.1SG.O to Hanga Roa o Tai  
'When I went down to Hanga Roa o Tai...' [R230.059]

### 7.7.3 Semantics of SVCs

Most SVCs refer to a single event, which is expressed by one verb (usually the first in the series) and modified in some way by the other verb(s) (categories 1–3 below).<sup>70</sup> Other SVCs express a series of closely connected events which are conceived as one macro-event (category 4).

**7.7.3.1 Aspect** V2 may express an aspectual specification of the event. Only two verbs are used in this way.

*Oho* 'go' is by far the most common V2 in SVCs. It often expresses extended duration, indicating that the action expressed by V1 goes on for a while. As (182) shows, when V1 is an adjective, the SVC expresses an ongoing process.

- (180) *Pē rā nō e kai e oho era.*  
like DIST just IPFV eat IPFV go DIST  
'In that way he kept eating.' [R310.225]

<sup>69</sup> (177) is an habitual actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3).

<sup>70</sup> The same is true crosslinguistically: directional and aspectual SVCs are very common (Aikhenvald 2006, who also mentions all the other categories found in Rapa Nui: manner, synonymy, sequential events)



- (181) *I ta'o i oho nō i ta'o i oho nō.*  
 PFV cook PFV go just PFV cook PFV go just  
 'He just kept cooking and cooking.' [R352.077]
- (182) *He rahi te ta'u 'e he nuinui he oho tū manu era.*  
 NTR many ART year and NTR big:RED NTR go DEM bird DIST  
 'Many years passed and the bird grew up (got bigger and bigger).' [R447.012]

*Oti* 'finish' is usually constructed with a complement clause (§11.3.2.2), but it may also function as V2 of an SVC, indicating that an action or process is completely carried out:

- (183) *I tuha'a i oti era e Kaiņa i tū kai era...*  
 PRF distribute PFV finish DIST AG Kaiņa ACC DEM food DIST  
 'When Kaiņa had finished distributing (=completely distributed) the food...'  
 [R304.116]
- (184) *'I te toru mahana ko para ko oti 'ana.*  
 at ART three day PRF ripe PRF finish CONT  
 'On the third day (the bananas) are completely ripe.' [R539-2.071]

7.7.3.2 **Direction** V2 may be a motion verb specifying the direction in which the action expressed by V1 takes place. The motion verb may be *iri* 'go up', *туру* 'go down' or *hoki* 'go back, return'. The idea of movement itself may be expressed by V1 (e.g. *haro* in (185)), but in other cases such as (186), V1 by itself does not express movement.

- (185) *I haro i iri era he tu'u ki ruņa.*  
 PFV pull PFV ascend DIST NTR arrive to above  
 'When they had pulled (the net) up, it arrived on top.' [R304.136]
- (186) *He kai he turu i tā'ana tūava.*  
 NTR eat NTR go\_down ACC POSS.3SG.A goyava  
 'He went down, eating his goyavas.' [R245.024]
- (187) *Mo haņa o kōrua, he ma'u he hoki kōrua e au ki Tahiti.*  
 if want of 2PL NTR carry NTR return 2PL AG 1SG to Tahiti  
 'If you (pl) want, I'll take you back to Tahiti.' [R231.102]

*Oho* 'go' is mostly used in SVCs to express duration (see 1 above); however, it may also express motion in a certain direction, without specifying the direction itself.<sup>71</sup> In these cases, no extensive duration is implied.

<sup>71</sup> These examples are somewhat similar to category 3, in which the V1 specifies the manner in which V2 is performed. The difference is, that *kau* and *nekeneke* are themselves motion verbs, while the modifying verbs in category 3 are statives.

## 7 The verb phrase

- (188) *Hora nei ho'i ku kau ku oho mai 'ana ananake ki 'uta.*  
 time PROX indeed PRF swim PRF go hither CONT together to inland  
 ‘Now they had swum to the shore together.’ [R361.032]
- (189) *I nekeneke i oho mai era a tu'a, he tito e tū 'uha era.*  
 PFV crawl:RED PFV go hither DIST by back NTR peck AG DEM chicken DIST  
 ‘When he crawled backwards, the chicken pecked him.’ [R250.160]

7.7.3.3 **Manner** One verb in the SVC may be a stative verb indicating the manner in which the action expressed by the other verb is carried out. Usually the stative verb comes first, while the event itself is expressed by V2.

- (190) *...i ke'oke'o i topa mai ai mai ruŋa i tū tumu era.*  
 PFV hurry:RED PFV descend hither PVP from above at DEM tree DIST  
 ‘...she hurried down from the tree.’ [R496.045]
- (191) *E hekaheka e eke e oho nō 'ana te ika i haka hōriŋa rō*  
 IPFV soft:RED IPFV ascend IPFV go just CONT ART fish PFV CAUS weary EMPH  
*ai.*  
 PVP  
 ‘The fish kept coming up easily, until it got tired of it.’ [R361.053]

7.7.3.4 **Other** In other cases, both verbs describe an event. The verbs may be closely related or near-synonyms as in (192), both expressing the same event under different angles; they may also describe different aspects of the same event as in (193) (‘ask in writing’ or ‘write to ask’). Alternatively, they express sequential events considered to be part of the same macro-event, as in (194).

- (192) *Ko veveri ko 'ara 'ana a au 'i te kona nei 'ana.*  
 PRF startled PRF wake\_up CONT PROP 1SG at ART place PROX IDENT  
 ‘I woke up with a start in this same place.’ [R539-1.764]
- (193) *Hora nei he pāhono atu au i te me'e pāpa'i 'ui mai era e kōrua.*  
 time PROX NTR answer away 1SG ACC ART thing write ask hither DIST AG 2PL  
 ‘Now I will answer the things you wrote (and) asked me.’ [1 Cor. 7:1]
- (194) *Ko te kimi ko te ohu a nua.*  
 PROM ART search PROM ART shout PROP Mum  
 ‘Mum searched (the child), shouting.’ [R236.082]

## 7.8 Conclusions

Verbs are preceded and followed by a range of particles which specify the event for aspect, mood, distance and direction.

Aspect is primarily indicated by a set of five preverbal markers; the use of these markers is obligatory, unless the verb is preceded by a different marker (such as mood and negation) occurring in the same position. The aspectual markers are as follows: neutral *he*, perfective *i*, imperfective *e*, contiguity *ka* and perfect *ko V 'ā*. The neutral marker *he* is by far the most common one. It marks events which receive their aspectual value from the context in some way; in the absence of other contextual clues, a string of *he*-clauses expresses sequential events in discourse.

The relationship between perfective *i* and perfect *ko V 'ā* calls for an explanation. Comparison of both markers in similar contexts suggest that *ko V 'ā* is state-oriented, while *i* is event-oriented. The state-oriented character of *ko V 'ā* also shows up in its widespread use to mark a state which pertains at a time of reference (usually the present). This happens with typically stative verbs such as 'be hot, big, poor, mad...', but also with verbs of volition and cognition.

Finer aspectual distinctions are indicated by postverbal particles; different classes of particles play a role with different aspectuals:

- the evaluative marker *rō*: *e V rō* marks future, *ka V rō* marks a temporal boundary 'until', etc.
- postverbal demonstratives: *i V era* marks perfective temporal clauses; *e V era* marks habitual or continuous clauses;
- the continuity marker *'ā*: *e V 'ā* marks continuous or stative clauses.

One pair of postverbal particles operates entirely independently from aspect marking: the directional markers *mai* and *atu*. In direct speech, *mai* indicates movement towards the speaker, while the use of *atu* is varied: movement from the speaker towards the hearer, away from speaker and hearer, or from an unspecified source towards the hearer.

In third-person discourse, the use of *mai* and *atu* marks a deictic centre. The speaker has a high degree of freedom in defining the deictic centre: it may be relatively fixed (often depending on the location of one or more protagonists in the story) or shift rapidly between different locations. Statistics show some general trends, though: with motion verbs, directionals tend to point to the destination of movement as the deictic centre. With perception verbs, there is a difference between controlled perception ('to look, listen') and uncontrolled perception ('to see, hear'): with the former, directionals indicate a movement from the experiencer to the stimulus, i.e. directed attention; with the latter the direction is reversed, i.e. directionals signal the movement from the stimulus towards the experiencer.

Finally, Rapa Nui is the only Polynesian language having a serial verb construction in which the preverbal marker is repeated. Apart from the preverbal marker, nothing may occur between the verbs in this construction. Serial verb constructions form a single predicate with a single argument structure; they often express a single event.



## 8 The verbal clause

A verbal clause consists of a verb phrase and optional nominal arguments and adjuncts. The number of arguments depends on the verb; different classes of verbs are discussed in §3.4.1.

The verb phrase has been discussed in Chapter 7; the present chapter focuses on the other core constituents of verbal clauses: the arguments of the verb. The chapter is dominated by two main topics: constituent order and argument marking. These two are inextricably linked – the way arguments are marked, depends on their position in the clause – so they will be discussed together; the discussion will focus on the factors determining the marking of subject and object.

Constituent order and argument marking are discussed in sections §8.1–8.7. §8.1 provides a brief introduction and discusses basic and marked constituent orders. §8.2 introduces the topic of case-marking, comparing the situation in Rapa Nui with other Polynesian languages. The next sections deal with S/A marking (§8.3) and O marking (§8.4), respectively. §8.5 discusses passivisation and passive-like constructions. §8.6 discusses a variety of constructions involving non-standard constituent orders and/or non-canonical marking of arguments, e.g. topicalisation and instrumental marking. §8.7 deals with case marking in nominalised clauses.

The last sections deal with miscellaneous constituents, some of which are not restricted to verbal clauses, but which are nevertheless included in this chapter: oblique arguments (§8.8), reflexives and reciprocals (§8.9), comitative constructions (§8.10) and vocatives (§8.11).

Finally, §8.12 discusses causativisation, a process which affects the argument structure of the verb and the expression of arguments.

### 8.1 Introduction; constituent order

As pointed out above, most of this chapter will be concerned with the order of constituents and the marking of S, A and O arguments.<sup>1</sup> A preliminary question concerns the expression of these arguments as such. The verb phrase is the only obligatory element in the verbal clause: any argument can be omitted if its identity is understood from the context. In discourse, both S/A and O are usually left implicit when they are identical

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<sup>1</sup> See Footnote 24 on p. 91 on the terms S, A and O. In this grammar, any clause in which an O argument is either expressed or implied, is counted as transitive (regardless other arguments); a clause without an expressed or implied O is considered intransitive (cf. (85–87) on p. 106). Verbs with a nominalised verb as complement are counted as transitive; verbs with a subordinate clause as complement are counted as intransitive.

## 8 The verbal clause

to a constituent in the previous clause. An example in which both A and O are implied, is the following:

- (1) *He moko ki muri i tū vi'e era ko Māhina he ha'i.*  
 NTR rush to near at DEM woman DIST PROM Mahina NTR embrace  
 'He rushed toward that woman Mahina and (he) embraced (her).' [R399.191]

Table 8.1 shows how often arguments are expressed or not expressed in a corpus of selected texts.<sup>2</sup> The top part gives figures for intransitive clauses (i.e. clauses in which only one core argument is expressed or implied), the bottom part for transitive clauses (i.e. clauses in which both an A and an O argument are expressed or implied).

This table shows that in 47.8% of all intransitive clauses, the argument is expressed. Of the transitive clauses, only 7.7+15.4=23.1% have an overt A, while 47.1+15.4=62.5% have an overt O. In only 15.4% of all clauses are both arguments expressed, while in 29.8% of the clauses neither argument is expressed.

The default constituent order is VS/VAO. This order is by far the most common one and pragmatically unmarked. Other orders are not uncommon, though. Table 8.2 gives frequencies for all possible constituent orders. Part 1 represents clauses only containing an S/A argument; part 2 represents transitive clauses only containing an O argument; part 3 represents transitive clauses with two overt arguments.

As this table shows, there is a strong preference for verb-initial clauses,<sup>3</sup> but it is not uncommon for S/A to precede the verb (S/AV, AVO, AOV, OAV). It is less common for the object to precede the subject (VOA, OVA, OAV), while clauses in which the object precedes the verb (OV, OVA, AOV, OAV) are rare.<sup>4</sup>

Constituent order can be formulated as a set of three constraints:

1. V–S/A: the verb precedes the subject;
2. A–O: the subject precedes the object;
3. V–O: the verb precedes the object.

<sup>2</sup> For the analysis of clause structure and case marking, I used a subcorpus of 15 older texts (pre-1940) and 14 newer texts (post-1970). This corpus contains 7807 verbal clauses (2373 in old texts, 5434 in new texts): 2686 transitive (including three-argument verbs), 4879 intransitive and 242 with zero valency.

<sup>3</sup> These data do not confirm Fischer's suggestion (Fischer 2001a: 323 that SVO is becoming the new unmarked word order (under influence of Spanish). It is true that new texts show a higher proportion of SV(O) clauses than old texts; however, it is also true that OV has become more common in new texts. The former may be under Spanish influence, but these shifts also suggest a move towards a more flexible syntax, in which a greater variety of constructions becomes common.

<sup>4</sup> The following example, an actor-emphatic construction with preposed object, is an example of OAV order (other orders will be exemplified in detail in the following sections):

- (i) *¿Mo aha [te 'uha]<sub>O</sub> ['ā'au]<sub>A</sub> i tianj ai?*  
 for what ART chicken POSS.2SG.A PFV kill PVP  
 'Why did you kill the chicken?' (R250.164)

Table 8.1: Expression and non-expression of arguments

	old texts		new texts		total	
intransitive		(1468)		(3411)		(4879)
no S	52.1%	(765)	52.2%	(1780)	52.2%	(2545)
S	47.9%	(703)	47.8%	(1631)	47.8%	(2345)
transitive		(852)		(1834)		(2686)
no A, no O	31.8%	(271)	28.9%	(530)	29.8%	(801)
A only	4.6%	(39)	9.1%	(167)	7.7%	(206)
O only	51.6%	(440)	45.0%	(826)	47.1%	(1266)
A + O	12.0%	(102)	17.0%	(311)	15.4%	(413)

Table 8.2: Frequencies of constituent orders

		old texts		new texts		total	
1	V S/A	93.4%	(693)	82.9%	(1491)	86.0%	(2184)
	S/A V	6.6%	(49)	17.1%	(307)	14.0%	(356)
2	V O	98.2%	(432)	95.8%	(791)	96.6%	(1221)
	O V	1.8%	(8)	4.2%	(35)	3.4%	(43)
3	V A O	69.6%	(71)	65.3%	(203)	66.3%	(274)
	A V O	16.7%	(17)	21.9%	(68)	20.6%	(85)
	V O A	10.8%	(11)	4.8%	(15)	6.3%	(26)
	O V A	2.9%	(3)	4.8%	(15)	4.4%	(18)
	A O V	0.0%	(0)	1.9%	(6)	1.5%	(6)
	O A V	0.0%	(0)	1.3%	(4)	1.0%	(4)

Constituent orders which violate only one constraint (like AVO) are more common than orders violating two or three constraints (like OAV). The statistics above also show that constraint 3 is strongest, while 1 is weakest: in clauses with both arguments expressed (413 total), constraint 1 is violated 95x, constraint 2 is violated 48x, constraint 3 is violated 28x.

There are various motivations for non-VAO constituent orders. S/A and O may be preposed as clause topic or because they are thematic (§8.6.1–8.6.2); S/A may be preposed in focus in the actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3). Preverbal S/A also occurs after various clause-initial elements (§8.6.1.1).

Motivations for the reversal of A and O (i.e. VOA) are also diverse. Some VOA clauses are cases of passivisation (§8.5.1), in other cases the reasons for the marked order are less clear.

## 8.2 Case marking: introduction

### 8.2.1 Case in Polynesian

In Polynesian languages, nouns are not inflected for case. As far as case is marked, it is marked by prepositions. The subject of an intransitive clause is usually unmarked, i.e. not preceded by a case-marking preposition. For transitive verbs, three patterns are commonly distinguished (see e.g. Clark 1976: 67):

- (2) Pattern I.    V        A        *i/ki* O  
 (3) Pattern II.   V-*Cia*   *e* A        O  
 (4) Pattern III.  V        *e* A        O

Certain languages (among which all the Central-Eastern Polynesian languages<sup>5</sup>) exhibit ACCUSATIVE syntax:<sup>6</sup> the default pattern for all transitive verbs is I, in which A is unmarked like S, while O has an accusative marker. The choice of accusative marker depends on the semantics of the verb: for canonical transitive verbs, it is *i*; for middle verbs (§8.6.4.2), either *i* or *ki* is used. Pattern II is derived by passivisation: the Patient becomes the unmarked case (i.e. the syntactic subject); the Agent becomes an oblique and is marked by agentive *e*; the verb is followed by the passive suffix *-Cia* (where C is a consonant, the identity of which is lexically determined).

Most Tongic and Samoic-Outlier languages exhibit ERGATIVE syntax, at least for canonical transitive verbs: the unmarked pattern for these verbs is III, in which O is unmarked (like S) and A is marked with ergative *e*. The suffix *-Cia* may be added, resulting in pattern II; the difference in meaning between II and III is hard to pin down (Clark 1976:

<sup>5</sup> Some linguists have argued that Māori, an EP language, is ergative (see Harlow 2007a: 25, Pucilowsky 2006: 26–36 and refs. there); in this analysis, construction II (which is more common in Māori discourse than I) is considered the normal transitive construction, while the “active” construction I is an antipassive.

<sup>6</sup> On accusative and ergative languages, see e.g. Comrie (1978); Dixon (1994).



71). Middle verbs in these languages occur in constructions I and II, just as in accusative languages.<sup>7</sup>

### 8.2.2 Case in Rapa Nui

In a number of respects, Rapa Nui is like other Polynesian languages:

1. A is either unmarked or preceded by *e*. The following two clauses both occur in the same text:

(5) *He hakarōno mai tū taŋata era i tū vehi era.*  
 NTR listen hither DEM man DIST ACC DEM song DIST  
 ‘The man listened to that song.’ [R310.189]

(6) *He hakarōno atu e tū taŋata era i tū vehi era.*  
 NTR listen away AG DEM man DIST ACC DEM song DIST  
 ‘The man listened to that song.’ [R310.196]

2. O either has the accusative marker *i* or is unmarked.

(7) *He ma'oa i te 'umu.*  
 NTR open\_earth\_oven ACC ART earth\_oven  
 ‘They opened the earth oven.’ [Mtx-3-01.168]

(8) *He ma'oa Ø tau 'umu era.*  
 NTR open\_earth\_oven DEM earth\_oven DIST  
 ‘They opened the/that earth oven.’ [Mtx-3-11.062]

3. The object of middle verbs is marked with either *i* or *ki* (§8.6.4.2).

Despite these similarities, Rapa Nui seems not to fit either the accusative or the ergative group of languages, as it exhibits a number of differences with respect to both groups:

4. There is no suffix *-Cia*, i.e. pattern II does not occur.
5. Transitive verbs – both canonical and middle verbs – occur both in pattern I as in (5) above, and in pattern III as in (9) below (in this example, the order is V O eA).

<sup>7</sup> Whether Proto-Polynesian was an ergative or an accusative language has been debated for decades. Clark (1976) argued that PPN was ergative, a position defended more recently by Kikusawa (2002; 2003) and Otsuka (2011). Hohepa (1969b), Chung (1978) and Ball (2007) argue that PPN was accusative.

As most non-EP languages are ergative and all EP languages apart from Rapa Nui are accusative, an interesting question is whether PEP was ergative or accusative. As Rapa Nui is clearly accusative (see Weber 2003a: 85, as well as the discussion in the following sections), the most natural account is that PEP was accusative as well.

## 8 The verbal clause

- (9) *He mātaki mai Ø te ivi o Ure o Hei e te taŋata.*  
NTR open hither ART bone of Ure o Hei AG ART man  
'The man unpacked the bones of Ure o Hei.' [Blx-2-01.028]

In other languages, a given verb occurs either in patterns I and II, or in patterns II and III.

6. Besides patterns I and III, transitive verbs also occur in yet another pattern, in which both A and O are case-marked:

- (10) Pattern IV. V e A i O

This pattern is illustrated in (6) above.

7. The agentive marker *e* occurs in intransitive as well as transitive clauses, i.e. S may be *e*-marked:

- (11) *I te pō e iri era e te Miru.*  
at ART night IPFV ascend DIST AG ART Miru  
'During the night, the Miru (tribe) went up.' [R304.050]

The occurrence of pattern III may give the impression that Rapa Nui is to some degree an ergative language.<sup>8</sup> However, 5, 6 and 7 show that *e* is different from an ergative marker: it occurs with both canonical and middle verbs, it co-occurs with an accusative marker (pattern IV), and it occurs in intransitive clauses. Moreover, as will be shown below, pattern IV is far more common in Rapa Nui discourse than pattern III.<sup>9</sup>

These observations suggest that, rather than looking for accusative or ergative patterns, it is more promising to consider case marking of subjects and objects separately:

- Under what conditions is S/A marked with the agentive marker *e*?
- Under what conditions is O marked with the accusative marker *i*?

Sections §8.3 and §8.4.1 will deal with these questions, respectively.

<sup>8</sup> For example, Otsuka (2011: 296) considers Rapa Nui a transitional language (between the two types), as it exhibits both V S iO and V eS O. See also Mosel (1997: 182).

<sup>9</sup> It is no surprise that the Rapa Nui case system may seem baffling. According to Clark (1973: 575), it is unclear under which conditions case markers in Rapa Nui can be omitted, while Chapin (1978: 168) admits not having found any regularity in the Rapa Nui case system. Alexander (1981a,b) formulates rules for the occurrence of case markers, an approach which yields valuable insights, though it is based on limited (and occasionally erroneous) data. Weber (1988a; 2003a) researches the issue on the basis of more extensive data; her approach, which is informed by discourse analysis, explains many of the patterns found in modern Rapa Nui texts.

### 8.2.3 Preliminaries to the analysis of case marking

In order to trace patterns of case marking, I analysed and tabulated the occurrence, order and marking of core arguments in the corpus mentioned in §8.1 (Footnote 2). Now I pointed out in §5.3.2.1 that most prepositions – including agentive *e* and the accusative marker *i* – are obligatorily followed by a determiner. However, prenominal numerals and certain quantifiers preclude the use of determiners, and as a consequence, noun phrases starting with one of these elements cannot be marked by either *e* or *i*. Including these noun phrases in the counts would lead to a skewed picture with a high proportion of unmarked subjects and objects.<sup>10</sup>

Therefore, whenever frequencies of ØS/A and eS/A or frequencies of ØO and iO are compared,<sup>11</sup> noun phrases constructions containing a prenominal numeral or quantifier are disregarded. Also disregarded are other constructions where case marking prepositions are excluded:

- arguments with possessive marking (e.g. in nominalised phrases);
- S/A marked with the benefactive *mo-/ma-*, in the imperfective actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3);
- O marked with instrumental *hai* (§8.6.4.3);
- O marked with the prominence marker *ko* (§8.6.4.5);
- incorporated O (§8.6.4.5).

All of these are included in the total number of arguments, but disregarded as far as case marking is concerned.

## 8.3 Marking of S/A: the agentive marker *e*

The default S/A marker is Ø: the S/A argument is unmarked, unless there is a reason for using *e*. The use of *e* depends on syntactic, lexical/semantic, and discourse factors. These will be discussed in turn in the following sections.

### 8.3.1 Syntactic factors

The use of *e* partly depends on the position of the S/A argument in the clause. Table 8.3 and Table 8.4 show how S/A arguments are marked in clauses with different constituent orders: Table 8.3 gives data for clauses containing only S or A, Table 8.4 gives data for transitive clauses containing both A and O.

<sup>10</sup> This point is also raised by Weber (2003a: 43), who also points out that the ACC marker is impossible before complement clauses. As my analysis only considers NP objects, complement clauses are a priori disregarded.

<sup>11</sup> ØS/A = S or A without case marker; eS/A = S or A marked with *e*; ØO = O without case marker; iO = O marked with *i* or (with middle verbs) *ki*.

Table 8.3: Marking of S/A in one-argument clauses

	Ø S/A	e S/A	other S/A	total
V S (intransitive)	1644	185	183	2012
V A (transitive)	30	129	13	172
Total V S/A	1674	314	196	2184
S V (intransitive)	295	0	27	322
A V (transitive)	23	5	6	34
Total S/A V	318	5	33	356

Table 8.4: Marking of S/A in two-argument clauses

	Ø A	e A	other A	total
VAO	190	55	29	274
AVO	69	1	15	85
VOA	3	22	1	26
OVA	1	16	1	18
AOV	0	0	6	6
OAV	3	0	1	4
Total	266	94	53	413

From these figures, a number of conclusions can be drawn.

In the first place: as a rule, preverbal S/A is not marked by *e*; it is either unmarked or has different marking. Of the few exceptions to this rule (1x AVO, 5x AV), most are object relative clauses (§11.4.2.2), such as the following:

- (12) *Kai nei [e au ka na'a nei 'i raro i a koe] e ma'u hiohio.*  
 food PROX AG 1SG CNTG hide PROX at below at PROP 2SG EXH carry strong:RED  
 'This food which I hide below you, hold it tight.' [R310.074]

Secondly: final A in a clause with two expressed arguments (i.e. VOA or OVA) is almost always marked by *e*; the following examples illustrate this:

- (13) *He tu'u he haka uru i te 'uha e Njumi ki roto ki te hare ki*  
 NTR arrive NTR CAUS enter ACC ART chicken AG Ngumi to inside to ART house to  
*a Oti.*  
 PROP Oti  
 'Ngumi arrived and put the chicken in the house for Oti.' [MsE-105b.004]

- (14) 'O            *ira au i haka 'ariki ai e to tāua matu'a.*  
 because\_of ANA 1SG PFV CAUS king PVP AG ART:of 1DU.INCL parent  
 'Therefore our father made me king.' [Ley-2-06.03]

In the third place: *e*-marked arguments occur in both VS- and VA-clauses (i.e. both in intransitive clauses and in transitive clauses without an expressed O), but in very different proportions. In VA-clauses, 129 subjects are *e*-marked, while 30 are unmarked; in VS-clauses, 185 are *e*-marked, while 1643 are unmarked. That is, 81% of all potentially case-marked A are *e*-marked, against 10% of all potentially case-marked S.<sup>12</sup>

The intransitive examples will be further discussed in §8.3.4 below. Concerning transitive clauses, Weber (2003a) formulates the rule that A is obligatory case-marked when O is not expressed, as in the following examples:

- (15) *He hakarere e te hānau momoko.*  
 NTR leave AG ART race slender  
 'The 'slender race' left them.' [Ley-3-06.044]
- (16) *I poreko era te poki nei, he hānai e te rū'au nei ararua*  
 PFV born DIST ART child PROX NTR feed AG ART old\_woman PROX the\_two  
*ko tā'ana kenu.*  
 PROM POSS.3SG.A husband  
 'When this child was born, the old woman raised it with her husband.' [R352.005]

In some cases *e*-marking can be explained as disambiguation, as omission of the case marker would lead to ambiguity: in (15) the *hānau momoko* could also be interpreted as O, were it not for the case marker. But in other cases the sentence is unambiguous: in (16), the verb *hānai* 'feed, raise up' is used, which always has the parent as Agent and the child as Patient; even so, *e* is used.

The rule that VA-clauses must have *e* is not without exception: in 30 cases, *e* is omitted. No less than 18 of these occur in older texts.<sup>13</sup> In general, *e* is much less common in older texts than in newer texts (§8.3.5 below); out of 36 VA-clauses in older texts, only 18 are *e*-marked. This suggests that *e*-marking in these clauses was optional in older Rapa

<sup>12</sup> Weber (2003a: 39) concludes that intransitive subjects marked with *e* are very infrequent. NB In these counts, serial verb constructions consisting of a transitive + intransitive verb have been considered as a single transitive verb phrase. (See Weber 2003a: 39 for examples.)

<sup>13</sup> For example, seven occur in the construction *to'o* 'take' + transitive clause, a sort of clause-chaining construction in which the object of *to'o* is expressed in the next clause. *To'o* seems to indicate an initiative on the part of the subject. An example:

- (i) *He to'o mai Kaiŋa matu'a, he tiŋa'i i a Kaiŋa poki.*  
 NTR take hither Kaiŋa father NTR kill ACC ART Kaiŋa child  
 'Father Kaiŋa took (and) killed (his) son Kaiŋa.' (Mtx-3-01.027)

This construction also occurs in new texts, but always with an *e*-marked subject. Possibly *to'o* in this construction was conceived as intransitive in the past.

Nui; possibly *e*-marking was mainly used to avoid ambiguity, in cases where the only argument could also be misinterpreted as O.

In modern texts, only 12 VA-clauses have an unmarked A, while 111 are *e*-marked.<sup>14</sup> Weber's rule that A-marking in single-argument transitive clauses is obligatory, thus holds in newer texts with relatively few exceptions.

This rule also implies that A is *e*-marked in relative clauses with object relativisation (§11.4.2.2).

Finally, there is one more syntactic condition on the use of *e*: *e* is obligatory when a subject pronoun is followed by the identity marker '*ā* or '*ana* (§5.9).

(17) *He mātaki e ia mau 'ā.*

NTR open AG 3SG really IDENT

'(His knock was not answered so) he opened [the door] himself.' [R399.189]

This is even true when the subject is preverbal, even though preverbal subjects are normally not *e*-marked:

(18) *E rāua mau 'ana ka 'a'amu nei i te rāua 'ati.*

AG 3PL really IDENT CNTG tell PROX ACC ART 3PL problem

'They themselves told (about) their misfortune.' [R361.035]

### 8.3.2 Semantic patterns

As discussed above, in other Polynesian languages the use of agentive *e* is restricted to transitive verbs: either canonical transitives only (in ergative languages), or any transitive verb in the passive (in accusative languages). The figures in the previous section show, that *e* in Rapa Nui is also used in intransitive clauses. Alexander (1981a: 143) suggests that *e* can be used with active intransitive verbs, those involving volition on the part of the subject.<sup>15</sup>

A more refined analysis shows, that there is a correlation between the use of *e* and the type of verb. In Table 8.5, all verbs in the corpus have been assigned to a semantic

<sup>14</sup> Concerning the 12 occurrences of transitive V ØS in newer texts, some may have been conceived as intransitive rather than transitive, i.e. the speaker may not have implied a direct object.

Four examples occur (somewhat unexpectedly) in object relative clauses, such as the following:

(i) *He mana'u tahi i te me'e ta'ato'a era [e aŋa era a Kava ararua ko Vaha].*

NTR think all ACC ART thing all DIST IPFV do DIST PROP Kava the\_two PROM Vaha

'He thought of all the things that Kava and Vaha did.' (R229.349)

<sup>15</sup> Alexander (1981a: 145) further suggests that Rapa Nui is an "active language", in which intransitive verbs are split along the following lines: Agent subjects can be marked like transitive Agents (i.e. with *e*), while Patient subjects – for example the subject of 'to fall' – can be marked like Patients (i.e. with the ACC marker *i*). However, as Weber (2003a: 40) shows, the idea that subjects can be *i*-marked is based on an erroneous interpretation of the data.

category, and the number of ØS/A and eS/A counted.<sup>16</sup> The verb categories are roughly ordered by agentivity. (Percentages should be read horizontally, e.g.: with prototypical transitive verbs with markable subjects, 67% has zero marking, while 33% has *e*.)

Table 8.5: Verb classes and the use of *e*

	Ø S/A		e S/A		(total)
prototypical transitive	67%	(293)	33%	(145)	(438)
controlled perception, attention	88%	(99)	12%	(14)	(113)
uncontrolled perception	9%	(4)	91%	(41)	(45)
<i>rova'a/rava'a</i> 'to obtain'	12.5%	(2)	87.5%	(14)	(16)
cognitive	74%	(60)	26%	(21)	(81)
affection, emotion	95%	(58)	5%	(3)	(61)
speech	62%	(256)	38%	(155)	(411)
motion & position	98%	(815)	2%	(17)	(832)
other agentive intransitive	92%	(23)	4%	(1)	(25)
non-agentive: aspectual; adjective; process; existential	100%	(636)	0%	(2)	(638)
Total	84%	(2246)	16%	(413)	(2659)

This table shows, first of all, that *e* is largely limited to active participants. It is common with prototypical transitive verbs; a prototypical transitive involves a deliberate action performed by a volitional Agent, which affects the patient,<sup>17</sup> e.g. *Kai* 'to eat' and *tiaŋi* 'to kill'. It is also common with cognitive verbs such as '*ite* 'to know', perception verbs such as *take'a* 'to see', and speech verbs such as *kī* 'to say'. It occurs occasionally with motion verbs such as *туру* 'to go down' and verbs of affection such as *haŋa* 'to love'. It is hardly – if ever – used with other agentive intransitives such as *piko* 'to hide oneself' and *ruruku* 'to dive', with adjectives/statives such as '*iti'iti* '(to be) small', with process verbs (verbs which have a Patient or Theme subject) such as *ha'uru* 'to sleep' and *hiŋa* 'to fall', with existential verbs such as *ai* 'to be', and with aspectual verbs such as *oti* 'to be finished'.

Even though the use of *e* is clearly correlated with agentivity, it cuts across the transitive/intransitive distinction. Speech verbs are usually intransitive (they may involve an addressee, but usually do not have a nominal object); even so, they commonly take an *e*-marked S. On the other hand, verbs of affection are often transitive, but rarely involve *e*-marking.

Remarkably, the highest proportion of *e*-marking is not found among prototypically transitive verbs. Prototypical transitive verbs do have a relatively high proportion of *e*-

<sup>16</sup> Other subjects, such as possessive subjects and NPs containing a prenominal numeral, have been disregarded. The right-hand column gives the totals of ØS and eS only.

<sup>17</sup> For discussion on prototypical transitivity, see Hopper & Thompson (1980) and more recently Ball (2007); Næss (2007).

marked Agents, but the same is true for cognitive verbs, which do not involve an affected patient. Moreover, there are two verb categories which are not prototypical transitives, yet which show an overwhelming preference for *e*-marking: (1) uncontrolled perception verbs; (2) *rova'a/rava'a* 'to obtain'.<sup>18</sup> For both, around 90% of all A arguments are *e*-marked.<sup>19</sup> These will now be discussed in some detail.

The difference between controlled and uncontrolled perception verbs is discussed in §7.5.2.3. Uncontrolled perception verbs indicate the mere registration of a stimulus by the experiencer (*tike'a/take'a* 'to see' and *ηaro'a* 'to hear, perceive'); controlled perception verbs involve deliberate attention on the part of the subject (*u'i* 'to look' and *hakarono* 'to listen'). Perception verbs in general are not canonically transitive (as the O is not affected), uncontrolled perception verbs even less so (as the act may be involuntary); even so, about 90% of their A arguments are *e*-marked. An example:

- (19) *He take'a e Eva tō'ona nua era 'i tū kona era.*  
 NTR see AG Eva POSS.3SG.O Mum DIST at DEM place DIST  
 'Eva saw her mother there.' [R210.086]

By contrast, controlled perception verbs take an unmarked A in almost 90% of all occurrences.

*Rova'a* 'to obtain' (var. *rava'a*, *vara'a*, *rovā*, redup. *rovarova'a*) also shows a strong preference for *e*-marking.<sup>20</sup> This verb usually involves a deliberate act, but the O is not affected to the same degree as with verbs like 'to eat' and 'to hit'. An example:

- (20) *He rava'a e rāua i te vārua era o tū repa era.*  
 NTR obtain AG 3PL ACC ART spirit DIST of ART young\_man DIST  
 'They obtained the spirit of that young man.' [R310.319]

These data make clear that *e* in Rapa Nui does not function as an ergative marker, as it does in Samoic and Tongic languages. It is not restricted to canonical transitives; there is even a tendency for it to be used more frequently with non-canonical transitives, verbs which have an O not affected by the action. *E* is not even restricted to transitives as such: it is used commonly with speech verbs and sometimes with motion verbs.

<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, both *tike'a* (< PPN \*kite + \*-a) and *ηaro'a* (< PPN \*roηo + \*-na) are historically passive forms, both of which underwent metathesis. This may well account for the predominance of "passive" syntax with an *e*-marked Experiencer and a Ø-marked Stimulus. The glottal in *tike'a* is secondary, while the glottal in *ηaro'a* is derived from *n* in Rapa Nui (possibly *-na* > *-ra* > *-'a*; the shift from *r* to glottal is not uncommon in Rapa Nui (§2.5.2; Davletshin 2015)).

<sup>19</sup> Of the few remaining cases, some involve a preverbal subject, which precludes *e*-marking (§8.3.1).

<sup>20</sup> The unusual syntax of *rova'a/rava'a* in Rapa Nui may have to do with its history. It was borrowed from Tahitian *roa'a* and is one of the few borrowings already well established in older texts (§1.4.1). In Tahitian, *roa'a* is a "patientive verb" (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 241), meaning 'to be obtained, caught'; its Patient is expressed as subject, while the Agent is marked with agentive *i* (§8.6.4.7). The same is true for Hawaiian *loa'a* (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 50). In Rapa Nui, *rava'a/rova'a* became an active and transitive verb, but the frequency of agentive *e*, together with the frequent absence of the ACC marker (§8.4.1 below) shows that it retained some of its "patientive", passive-like character, even though its argument structure was fundamentally changed.



The use of *e* is linked to agentivity, though: it almost exclusively occurs with verbs that involve a volitional agent. (One apparent counterexample is discussed in the following section.) The only exception to this generalisation is, that *e* is far more common with uncontrolled perception verbs than with controlled perception verbs.

However, the notion of agentivity as involving a volitional participant deliberately performing the action, may be too narrow. While Agents are typically animate, *e*-marked constituents sometimes refer to an inanimate entity causing an event; this semantic role can be labelled Force (Payne 1997: 47). This happens especially in passives (see (58) in §8.5.1 below) and pseudopassives (§8.5.2, ex. (65)). The fact that *e* is used with inanimate entities, may indicate a gradual widening of its use, whereby ‘agentivity’ is defined in a looser way.

### 8.3.3 *E* with statives?

Weber (2003a: 36–37) argues on the basis of an example from Englert (1978) that *e* may also be used with stative verbs. The example is as follows:

- (21) *E ora rō e ia.*  
 IPFV live EMPH AG 3SG  
 ‘He will live.’ (Englert 1978: 65)

While this is indeed an *e*-marked S with a non-agentive verb, it seems to be a slender basis to deny the agentivity of *e*. Notice that this is a single isolated example; it occurs without context in Englert’s grammar sketch as an example of the future tense marked with *e V rō*. Secondly, the same sentence does in fact occur in a text by Englert (a translated Bible story), but there *e* is absent: *e ora rō ia* (Egt-03.041). This raises the question if (21) is not erroneous, or at least anomalous.

Thirdly, in the corpus I analysed, only one out of 413 *e*-marked arguments involves a stative verb:

- (22) *Rohirohi e tā'aku poki i iri ai i here mai ai.*  
 tired:RED AG POSS.1SG.A child PFV ascend PVP PFV tie hither PVP  
 ‘My son tired himself out when he went up to tie up (the sun).’ [R352.099]

*E tā'aku poki* is the S of *rohirohi* ‘tired’. Now *rohirohi* is normally stative, but in this case it may have an active sense: ‘to work hard, to wear oneself out.’ (The Spanish translation reads ‘Se cansó mucho mi hijo al ir a amarrarlo’.)

We may conclude that the characterisation of *e* as an agentive marker remains valid; apart from a single example from Englert’s grammar, all occurrences of *e* involve agentive participants, though – as stated at the end of the previous section – the notion ‘agentivity’ itself tends to be widened.

### 8.3.4 Pragmatic/discourse factors

The preceding sections have shown that *e* is more or less obligatory in the following situations:

- in VOA and OVA clauses;
- in VA clauses;
- with uncontrolled perception verbs and *rova'a*.

On the other hand, *e* is not used:

- with non-agentive S;
- with preverbal S/A.

In the remaining situations, *e* is optional, i.e. in the following cases:

- in VAO-clauses;
- in VS-clauses with agentive S, especially with speech and motion verbs.

In contexts where *e*-marking is optional, the use of *e* is governed by discourse considerations: *e* marks Agents which are highly significant in the context. Usually this means that the participant has a high degree of AGENTIVITY.

*E* is used when a new participant is introduced in the Agent role. New participants in a story are usually introduced in a nominal clause or in a non-agentive role. In the following example, however, Kainga – who has not been mentioned before – is introduced as the Agent of the verb *hakaroŋo*, and *e*-marked:

- (23) *I oti era i te hakaroŋo e Kaiŋa, te matu'a tane o Huri 'a Vai,*  
 PFV finish DIST ACC ART listen AG Kainga ART parent male of Huri a Vai  
*he kī...*  
 NTR say  
 'When Kainga, the father of Huri a Vai, had finished listening, he said...'  
 [R304.011]

In the following example, the turtle (which will play an important role in the story) is introduced as Agent of *oho*:

- (24) *He oho e te honu 'iti'iti, he raŋi a Uho...*  
 NTR go AG ART turtle small:RED NTR call PROP Uho  
 'A small turtle came by, and Uho shouted...' [Mtx-7-12.007]

*E* is also used when a participant which has been mentioned before, takes the initiative and starts to act.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Levinsohn (2007: 61) uses the term *prominent entities* for entities which have a significant role to play in the subsequent discourse, and which may therefore be highlighted in some way.

- (25) *I 'ōtea era he e'a mai a Kaiŋa ararua ko Huri 'a Vai ki*  
 PFV dawn DIST NTR go\_out hither PROP Kaiŋa the\_two PROM Huri a Vai to  
*haho, he kī e Kaiŋa...*  
 outside NTR say AG Kaiŋa  
 'When dawn broke, Kaiŋa went outside with Huri a Vai; then Kaiŋa said...'  
 [R304.017]

More generally, *e* tends to be used in the case of subject shift, when a different participant becomes active. In some dialogues, for example, every turn of conversation is marked with *e*. This explains the large number of *e*-marked S with speech verbs in certain texts:

- (26) *He kī e Kuha ki a Pea... He 'ui e Pea ki a Kuha... He kī e*  
 NTR say AG Kuha to PROP Pea NTR ask AG Pea to PROP Kuha NTR say AG  
*Kuha ki a Pea...*  
 Kuha to PROP Pea  
 'Kuha said to Pea... Pea asked Kuha... Kuha said to Pea...' [R229.034–038]

Finally, *e* may be used when an Agent is emphatic because it is contrasted with other possible participants. This happens when it is singled out among a group (as in (25) above), when it is followed by 'ā'/ana 'identity marker' (see (17–18) above), and in examples like the following:

- (27) *E hāpa'o rō e au i tā'ana poki.*  
 IPFV care\_for EMPH AG 1SG ACC POSS.3SG.A child  
 'I will take care of her child.' [R229.081]

These pragmatically motivated uses of *e* confirm that *e* is an agentive marker: when case marking is not determined by the syntax of the clause or the semantics of the verb, *e* is used when the participant is high in agentivity.<sup>22</sup>

### 8.3.5 Diachronic developments in the use of *e*

Most of the examples in the previous section are from new texts. This is no accident: the use of *e* has significantly increased over time. Table 8.6 shows subject marking in old and new texts.<sup>23</sup> As this table shows, *e* is much more common in new texts than in old texts.<sup>24</sup> In old texts, 40 out of 739 potentially case-marked arguments are *e*-marked (5.4%), in new texts 368 out of 1608 (22.9%).

<sup>22</sup> Pragmatically motivated use of an agentive marker is not unique in Rapa Nui. Duranti (1990; 1994) gives examples from Samoan speeches where ergative *e* is used to emphasise agentivity and responsibility for an action, while other constructions are used to downplay a person's contribution towards an event.

<sup>23</sup> The column "other" includes all types of noun phrases which syntactically do not allow a case marker; see section §8.2.3.

<sup>24</sup> Pace Finney & Alexander (1998: 31), who assert that *e* is becoming less frequent under the influence of Tahitian.

In intransitive clauses, the difference is even more remarkable: in old texts, only 9 out of 610 intransitive clauses have *e*-marking (1.5%), in new texts 176 out of 1218 (14.4%).<sup>25</sup>

Table 8.6: Use of *e*: diachronic shifts in one- and two-argument clauses

	old texts				new texts			
	ØS/A	eS/A	other	total	ØS/A	eS/A	other	total
two-arg. clauses:								
VAO	64	3	4	71	126	52	25	203
VOA	3	7	1	11	0	15	0	15
other	13	3	4	20	60	14	19	93
subtotal	80	13	9	102	186	81	44	311
one-arg. clauses:								
VS (intransitive)	601	9	46	656	1042	176	137	1355
VA (transitive)	18	18	1	37	12	111	12	135
subtotal	619	27	47	693	1054	287	149	1490
Total	699	40	56	795	1240	368	193	1801

In VA-clauses, A arguments are almost obligatorily *e*-marked in modern Rapa Nui, while in older texts only half are *e*-marked. Most uses of *e* in older texts can be explained either syntactically (VOA clauses) or lexically (with *rova'a* ‘obtain’ or passive perception verbs); the pragmatically motivated uses described in the previous section are rare in old texts.

These data suggest that at an earlier stage *e* was only used in transitive clauses, in a limited number of contexts. Texts from the 1930s show the beginning of an extension of its use towards intransitive clauses, a use which is nowadays well established.

## 8.4 Marking of O

### 8.4.1 Use and non-use of the accusative marker

The O argument is normally preceded by the accusative marker *i*. With certain verbs, *ki* is used as well (§8.6.4.2).

The accusative marker is used whether A is expressed – postverbal as in (28) or preverbal as in (29) – or implicit as in (30–31):

<sup>25</sup> This partly confirms Finney’s assertion (Finney 2001: 409) that *e* (which he labels “ergative”) is becoming a marker for all subjects. Notice, however, that *e* is still largely limited to agentive verbs, as shown in sec. §8.3.2.

- (28) *E ma'u mai 'ā a mātou i te rēkaro nei mā'au.*  
 IPFV carry hither CONT PROP 1PL.EXCL ACC ART present DIST BEN.2SG.A  
 'We bring this present for you.' [R210.127]
- (29) *Te nā vi'e e uruuru rō 'ā i te kahu kākaka.*  
 ART PL woman IPFV put\_ON:RED EMPH CONT ACC ART clothes banana\_fibres  
 'The women wore banana fibre dresses.' [R210.132]
- (30) *He hānqai i te moa i te pua'a.*  
 NTR feed ACC ART chicken ACC ART pig  
 'They raised chickens and pigs.' [R229.112]
- (31) *He hakarē i te poki.*  
 NTR leave ACC ART child  
 'They left the child behind.' [R532-07.057]

These examples also illustrate that the accusative marker is used whether O is definite or indefinite (as in (29)), and whether it is human or non-human (as in (30)). Moreover, disambiguation does not play a role in the use of the accusative marker: in all these examples it is semantically clear that the underlined NP must be O, yet the accusative marker is used.

Under certain conditions the accusative marker is omitted, either obligatorily or optionally.<sup>26</sup> These conditions are as follows:<sup>27</sup>

**Preverbal** Preverbal O is unmarked, just like preverbal S/A. This happens both in OVA clauses (32) and in AOV clauses (33):

- (32) *'O ira au i haka 'ariki ai e to tāua matu'a.*  
 because\_of ANA 1SG PFV CAUS king PVP AG ART:of 1DU.INCL parent  
 'Therefore our father made me king.' [Ley-2-06.036]
- (33) *O te rūhia ia te hoho'a nei i to'o.*  
 of ART tourist then ART image PROX PFV take  
 '(It was) the tourists (who) took this photo.' [R415.735]

<sup>26</sup> Alexander (1981b: 165) claims that a noun phrase (whether subject or object) is case-marked to bring it into focus. Noticing that the object is marked with *i* more often than not, Alexander suggests that possibly the object is often in focus. I will argue below that, while the presence of the ACC marker does not signal focus or salience, its absence sometimes signals non-salience.

<sup>27</sup> As discussed in section §8.2.3, in certain noun phrases the use of a case marker is syntactically impossible. In order to analyse the use and non-use of the ACC marker, these noun phrases should be disregarded. Thus, the following example is not counted as a case of an omitted ACC marker, as a noun phrase starting with the numeral *e tahi* cannot contain a ACC marker at all:

- (i) *Ko māhani 'ā a au e tahi kona ...*  
 PRF accustomed CONT PROP 1SG NUM one place  
 'I know a certain place...' [R296.001]

## 8 The verbal clause

**Imperative** The accusative marker *i* is often omitted in the imperative mood (whether marked with *ka*, exhortative *e* or hortative *ki*):

- (34) *Ka hakarē ta'a        nā poki.*  
IMP leave POSS.2SG.A PL child  
'Leave your children behind.' [R245.224]
- (35) *E haka 'iti tā'au        'au 'umu.*  
EXH CAUS small POSS.2SG.A smoke earth\_oven  
'Reduce the smoke of your earth oven.' [Mtx-7-12.026]

The marker *ki* (used with middle verbs, see §8.6.4.2) is preserved, though:

- (36) *Ka haŋa ki ta'a        kenu ko Pāpu'e.*  
IMP love to POSS.2SG.A husband PROM Papu'e  
'Love your husband Papu'e.' [R372.034]

When the subject of an imperative clause is expressed, O is always marked:

- (37) *¡Ka 'a'aru mai koe i te poki!*  
IMP grab hither 2SG ACC ART child  
'Grab the child!' [R210.063]

Even when the subject is not expressed, the accusative marker may be used; this happens especially with pronominal objects:

- (38) *¡Ka ma'u i a au ki tō'oku kāiŋa!*  
IMP carry ACC PROP 1SG to POSS.1SG.O homeland  
'Carry me to my country!' [Ley-9-55.089]

**Nominalised verbs** Certain verbs take a nominalised verb complement, i.e. a verb preceded by a determiner. These complements may or may not have the accusative marker.

Complements of *'ite* 'know' and *hāpī* 'learn' usually have the accusative marker:

- (39) *¡Ko 'ite 'ā koe i te hī?*  
PRF KNOW CONT 2SG ACC ART to\_fish  
'Do you know how to fish?' [R245.101]

The complement of *oti* 'finish' may have the accusative marker, but only when the clause has a subject. This subject is the S/A argument of the complement verb, but is raised to the subject position of *oti* (§11.3.2.2). As the following pair of examples shows, after a raised subject the object marker is optional:

- (40) *I oti tahi era tū ŋā poki era i te hīmene...*  
 PFV finish all DIST DEM PL child DIST ACC ART sing  
 ‘When all the children had finished singing..’ [R315.353]
- (41) *I oti era a mātou te kai...*  
 PFV finish DIST PROP 1PL.EXCL ART eat  
 ‘When we had finished eating..’ [R157.032]

When the subject is not expressed, the complement is not marked.

- (42) *He oti te puke i te uhi...*  
 NTR finish ART heap\_up ACC ART yam  
 ‘(When) they finished heaping up (earth mounds for) the yams...’ [Mtx-2-01.010]

**Lexical factors** The verbs *rova'a* ‘obtain’, *take'a* ‘see’ and *ŋaro'a* ‘hear, perceive’, which usually have an *e*-marked A (§8.3.2), tend to take an unmarked O, especially when A is not expressed:

- (43) *Paurō te pō ka pere era he rova'a te tara.*  
 every ART night CNTG play DIST NTR obtain ART money  
 ‘Every night, when he played, he obtained/won money.’ [R250.146]

The accusative marker is sometimes used, but only when A is expressed (see (20) in §8.3.2).<sup>28</sup>

Constructions like (43) can be explained as passives (§8.5 below); this would mean that *rova'a* is constructed passively when the Agent is not expressed – something which is not surprising, given the fact that passives serve to downplay the Agent and to enable the Patient to function as subject.

Apart from the three verbs mentioned above, the presence or absence of the accusative marker is generally unrelated to the way the subject is marked. This is illustrated in Table 8.7, which gives total frequencies for A- and O-marking in VAO clauses.

Table 8.7: Argument marking in VAO clauses

	∅ O	<i>i/ki</i> O	other O	total
∅ A	20	157	13	190
<i>e</i> A	8	40	7	55
other A	1	23	5	29
total	29	220	25	274

<sup>28</sup> Another peculiarity of *rova'a* is its ability to take an incorporated object (§8.6.4.5).

As this table shows, omission of the accusative marker is relatively rare in VAO clauses (29 out of 249 possible cases, i.e. 11.6%), regardless whether A is *e*-marked or unmarked. As it happens, all but one of these unmarked O belong to categories 3 and 4 above. In other words: apart from the factors discussed so far, accusative marking in VAO clauses is obligatory.

Table 8.8: Object marking in VO clauses

	Ø O	<i>i/ki</i> O	other O	total
old texts	126	260	46	432
new texts	149	506	136	791
total	275	766	182	1223

On the other hand, in clauses without an overt A it is more common for the accusative marker to be omitted. Frequencies for VO-clauses are given in Table 8.8.<sup>29</sup> As this table shows, the accusative marker is omitted in 275 out of 1047 possible clauses (26.4%). The percentage is somewhat higher in old texts (32.6%, 126 out of 386) than in new texts (22.7%, 149 out of 655).

Now 138 of these can be explained by the factors above: these objects are nominalised verbs, occur with an imperative, or with one of the verbs in category 4. However, this leaves 137 cases unexplained in VO clauses, i.e. 13.1% of all potentially case-marked objects: 65 in old texts (19.4%), 72 in new texts (11.0%).<sup>30</sup> These will now be considered.

Turning to the 137 unexplained cases of omitted ACC markers in VO-clauses: the first observation that can be made, is that almost all of these arguments are non-human. Many of them concern common COLLOCATIONS, verb-object combinations which frequently occur together. The sense of these collocations may or may not be idiomatic, but in all cases the object is highly predictable. Some of these expressions hardly ever occur with an accusative marker. Examples are *hoa (i) te 'aka* 'let down (lit. throw) the anchor', *ma'oa (i) te 'umu* 'open the earth oven', *'amo te va'e* 'to lift up the feet = to stride':<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> OV-clauses are disregarded; as discussed under 1 above, preverbal objects are never marked.

<sup>30</sup> Weber (2003a: 50–51) mentions the possibility that the omission of the ACC-marker may be the result of a defective transcription: the transcriber may simply not have heard the particle *i*, especially after words ending in *i*. However, this does not explain why omission of *i* is common in VO-clauses, but rare in VAO-clauses (apart from the well-defined contexts described above). The difference is especially telling in older texts. Even though these were transcribed neither by professional linguists nor by native speakers, in VAO clauses only 3 out of 59 “markable” direct objects lack the ACC marker, and all of these concern a nominalised verb. We may conclude that the omission of the ACC marker cannot be attributed to defective transcription.

<sup>31</sup> Notice that not all common collocations allow omission of the ACC marker. For example, *haka te'e i te kōkoma* 'to remove the intestines, to gut' (a common step in food preparation) occurs 13x with ACC marker, 1x without.



- (44) *He tu'u, he hoa te 'aka o te miro.*  
 NTR arrive NTR throw ART anchor of ART ship  
 'They arrived and lowered the anchor of the ship.' [Egt-02.099]

More generally, the accusative marker is frequently omitted when the object is highly predictable. For example, *ao* 'serve food' in (45) is naturally used with food as object, and *haka hū* 'to light, kindle' in (46) has either a fire or an engine as direct object. With both verbs, the accusative marker tends to be omitted:

- (45) *I ao mai era te kai he 'ate māmoē.*  
 PFV serve\_food hither DIST ART food PRED liver sheep  
 'When the food was served, it was sheep liver.' [R245.232]
- (46) *He haka hū te ahi, he tunu he kakai.*  
 NTR CAUS burn ART fire NTR COOK NTR PL:eat  
 'They kindled the fire, cooked and ate.' [R245.209]

In other cases it is less clear why the accusative marker is omitted; the only thing that can be said is, that all of these involve a non-human object. Two examples:

- (47) *He ma'u atu tū kai era...*  
 NTR carry away DEM food DIST  
 'He carried that food...' [R245.067]
- (48) *He to'o mai, he haka pā te kūpeŋa.*  
 NTR take hither NTR CAUS double ART net  
 'He took the net and folded it.' [Mtx-3-01.171]

We may tentatively conclude that the accusative marker can be left out when the object is non-human and NON-SALIENT,<sup>32</sup> in clauses where the subject is not expressed.<sup>33</sup> This tendency may have weakened over time: new texts show fewer examples of unmarked objects than old texts.

Finally, some cases of unmarked objects are best explained as passive constructions. These are discussed in §8.5 below.

<sup>32</sup> "Non-salient" means that the importance of the ACC is downplayed. It does not necessarily mean that the object is nonthematic, i.e. does not play a significant role in the larger discourse. Weber (2003a: 50) suggests that in some cases the ACC marker may have been omitted because the ACC is indeterminate or non-referential. This may explain some cases; however, three of her examples involve the verbs *ŋaro'a* and *take'a*, which allow omission of the ACC marker anyway.

<sup>33</sup> Notice that this is somewhat the opposite of the conditions on the use of the agentive marker *e*: *e* is obligatory in transitive clauses when the object is not expressed, and optional when the object is expressed.

### 8.4.2 Conclusion: Rapa Nui is an accusative language

The preceding sections have shown that Rapa Nui is an accusative language: S and A arguments have identical marking (either  $\emptyset$  or *e*), while O is marked differently (either *i* or  $\emptyset$ ). S and A together can be called subject, while O is object.

Case marking of S, A and O is governed by the following rules:

1. In certain noun phrases (e.g. those starting with a numeral), case markers are excluded. These noun phrases are unmarked regardless their semantic role and regardless syntactic, semantic and pragmatic considerations.
2. Preverbal S, A and O are never case-marked.
3. S and A are unmarked by default. In the following situations they are marked with *e*:
  - a) in VOA and OVA clauses;
  - b) in VA clauses without explicit O;
  - c) with the verbs *rova'a* 'obtain', *take'a* 'see' and *ηaro'a* 'hear, perceive';
  - d) optionally with any agentive verb (whether transitive or intransitive), to signal a high degree of agentivity.
4. Postverbal O are normally marked with *i*. They are unmarked
  - a) in the imperative, if the subject is not expressed;
  - b) usually when the object of *oti* 'to finish' is a nominalised verb;
  - c) often with the verbs *rova'a* 'to obtain', *take'a* 'to sea' and *ηaro'a* 'to hear';
  - d) in VO clauses, when the object is non-salient.

## 8.5 The passive

### 8.5.1 Passivisation in Rapa Nui

In the previous sections, verb arguments have been referred to by their semantic roles, not by their syntactic role. Now in transitive clauses, the A argument (whether *e*-marked or unmarked) is often the subject of the clause, while Patient (whether *i*-marked or unmarked) is object. Alexander (1981a: 136–137) gives arguments to consider the *e*-marked noun phrase as the subject of the clause. For example, when two coordinated clauses have the same subject, one of these may be deleted under Equi-NP-deletion, even when the other is *e*-marked. In the following example, the deletion of the subject in the first clause indicates that *e tō'oku pāpā era* is the subject of the second clause.

- (49) *Ko oho mai 'ā Ø ko 'a'aru 'ā i tō'oku pū'oko e tō'oku*  
 PRF go hither CONT PRF grab CONT ACC POSS.1SG.O head AG POSS.1SG.O  
*pāpā era.*  
 father DIST  
 'My father came and touched my head.' (Alexander 1981a: 137; spelling corrected)

In other words, constructions with an *e*-marked Agent are accusative constructions, in which the Agent is subject and the Patient is object.

Other EP languages (such as Tahitian and Māori) have a passive construction, in which not A, but O is syntactically the subject of the clause. These constructions involve a fourfold transformation:<sup>34</sup>

1. The Patient (O) is not marked with the accusative marker *i*.
2. the Agent (A) is marked with *e*.
3. The verb takes the passive suffix *-(C)ia*.
4. The order of A and O is often reversed: while the default order for active clauses is VAO, passive clauses tend to have the order VOA.

Now Rapa Nui does not have the passive suffix (criterion 3); moreover, the accusative marker is omitted under certain conditions anyway (1), the Agent is *e*-marked under certain conditions (2), and constituent order is relatively free (4). It may thus seem that Rapa Nui cannot have a passive; or if it has a passive, it would be impossible to detect, as all three possible criteria already apply otherwise. It is therefore not surprising that Chapin (1978: 167) denies the existence of a passive in Rapa Nui.

However, Alexander (1981a) and Weber (2003a) show that it is possible to distinguish a passive in Rapa Nui. The passive occurs in clauses such as the following:

- (50) *Ko hiko 'ā tā'aku haraoa e Te Manu.*  
 PRF snatch CONT POSS.1SG.A bread AG Te Manu  
 'My bread has been snatched by Te Manu.' [R245.039]
- (51) *Ku ηau 'ana Kirireva e te niuhi.*  
 PRF bite CONT Kirireva AG ART shark  
 'Kirireva has been bitten by a shark.' [R361.065]

In these examples, the Patient is unmarked (criterion 1), the Agent is marked with *e* (2), and the constituent order is VOA (4). More importantly, Weber (2003a: 56–58) argues that in such constructions, the Patient is subject of the clause. This is demonstrated by two phenomena:

**EQUI-NP-DELETION.** In a subordinate clause introduced by *mo* 'in order to', the subject can be omitted if it is coreferential with the subject of the matrix clause. In other words,

<sup>34</sup> See e.g. Weber (2003a: 53); Clark (1976: 67); Harlow (2007a: 171); Harlow (2007b: 90).

if a noun phrase in such a clause is omitted, it must be the subject. The fact that in the following example the Patient is omitted under coreferentiality with the matrix clause subject, shows that the Patient is the subject, while the Agent phrase is an oblique:

- (52) *He haŋa a au<sub>i</sub> [mo hoŋi Ø<sub>i</sub> e te poki].*  
 NTR want PROP 1SG for kiss AG ART child  
 ‘I want to be kissed by the child.’ (Weber 2003a: 56, adapted from Alexander 1981a: 134)

This argument may not be as strong as it seems, though, as it is not certain that deletion in these clauses only operates on subjects. Patients (i.e. direct objects) are freely omitted in Rapa Nui, both in main clauses and in *mo*-clauses, without any evidence of passivisation. See for example (53), where the Agent is expressed as a possessor (as is usual in *mo*-clauses, §11.5.1.2), while in (54) the Agent is not expressed at all. In both cases the Patient is left unexpressed under coreferentiality with a constituent of the matrix clause, even though there is no evidence that the Patient is subject of the *mo*-clause.

- (53) *'Ina he vai<sub>i</sub> [mo unu o te taŋata Ø<sub>i</sub>].*  
 NEG PRED water for drink of ART man  
 ‘There is no water for the people to drink.’ [R372.013]
- (54) *He hipa ki ruŋa i a Mahatū ki te raupā niu<sub>i</sub> [mo hahati mai Ø<sub>i</sub>].*  
 NTR pass\_by to above at PROP Mahatu to ART leaf palm\_tree for RED:break  
 hither  
 ‘He passed by Mahatu, (looking) for palm leaves to break.’ [R304.111]

**SUBJECT RAISING.** The evidence from subject raising is more compelling. In many Polynesian languages, there is a rule which raises the subject of a subordinate clause to the subject position of the matrix clause. The constructions in which this rule operates, vary per language (see Chung 1978: 132; Weber 2003a: 57); in Rapa Nui, subjects are raised after the aspectual verbs *oti* ‘finish’ and *ha'amata* ‘begin’.<sup>35</sup>

Now it turns out that when the complement clause contains a transitive verb, the Patient of this verb can be raised to the subject position of the matrix clause. This suggests that the embedded clause is a passive construction with the Patient as subject. This suggestion is reinforced by the fact that the Agent in these constructions, if expressed, is always *e*-marked. Here is an example for each construction:

- (55) *Ku oti 'ā te nua<sub>i</sub> [te kaui Ø<sub>i</sub> e Nune rāua ko te vārua].*  
 PRF finish CONT ART cape ART sew AG Nune 3PL PROM ART spirit  
 ‘Nune had finished sewing the cape (or: the cape had finished being sewn by Nune), together with the spirit.’ [Mtx-7-09.051]

<sup>35</sup> See sec. §11.3.2.2 and §11.3.2.1, respectively. Weber mentions *ha'amata*, not *oti*; in addition, she mentions raising of the subject after the negation *'ina*; however, this argument depends on the analysis of *'ina* as a matrix predicate, an analysis not adopted in this grammar (§10.5.2).

- (56) *He ha'amata te hoi* [*he pu'apu'a Ø<sub>i</sub> e 'Orohe*].  
 NTR begin ART horse NTR beat:RED AG Orohe

'The horse started to be whipped by Orohe.' (Weber 2003a: 58)

We may conclude that Rapa Nui has a true passive construction, in which the unmarked Patient is subject, while the *e*-marked Agent is oblique.<sup>36</sup>

Pragmatically, passives are characterised by the fact that the Patient is the topic of the clause (Keenan & Dryer 2007: 326). The passive construction enables the Patient to function as subject. This is clear in the following sentence, which is part of a story about the arrival of the first airplane on Rapa Nui; the airplane is topical:

- (57) *Ko puru tahi 'ana tū 'avione era e te vi'e, e te taŋata, e te ŋā*  
 PRF close all CONT DEM airplane DIST AG ART woman AG ART man AG ART PL  
*poki hare hāpī.*  
 child house learn

'The plane was completely surrounded by women, men, and school children.'  
 [R379.012]

One situation in which the Patient tends to be topical, is when the Agent is non-animate and the Patient is animate. Animate entities tend to be more topical in discourse than non-animate entities; the passive construction may be used to reflect this syntactically. This leads to constructions such as the following, in which a non-animate Agent (more precisely: Force) is *e*-marked:

- (58) *A totoru ko haka vari tahi 'ana e te pūai 'ana'ana o te 'Atua.*  
 PROP RED:three PRF CAUS pass all CONT AG ART power splendour of ART God

'The three were completely surrounded by the glorious power of God.' [Luke 9:31]

In all languages that have passives, the Agent of a passive construction can be omitted (Keenan & Dryer 2007: 329). In Rapa Nui, agentless passives can be detected in Patient raising constructions: (59) and (60) are agentless counterparts of (55) and (56), respectively.

- (59) *Ki oti ho'i te tāua kāpē<sub>i</sub> [i te unu Ø<sub>i</sub> ]...*  
 when finish indeed ART 1DU.INCL coffee ACC ART drink

'When we have finished our coffee... (lit. when our coffee has finished being drunk).' [R301.043]

<sup>36</sup> Because *e* marks both Agent phrases that are subject and Agent phrases with oblique status, Weber (2003a: 60) distinguish two different particles *e*: a nominative particle, marking subjects (in Weber's view not necessarily agentive in active clauses, see sec. §8.3.3), and an agentive particle, marking oblique Agent noun phrases in passive clauses. In my analysis *e* is treated as a single particle, which always marks Agent noun phrases, whether in subject position or oblique. As the discussion in this section will show, it is not always possible to determine whether a clause is active or passive.

8 *The verbal clause*

- (60) 'Ai ho'i **te taŋata**<sub>i</sub> e ha'amata era [e tari era Ø<sub>i</sub> ki ruŋa  
 there indeed ART man IPFV begin DIST IPFV transport DIST to above  
 i te pahī].  
 at ART ship  
 'Then the people started to be transported aboard the ship.' [R210.040]

We would expect agentless passives to occur in simple clauses as well; however, these are harder to detect. An agentless simple passive clause will be a Verb–Patient clause with unmarked Patient, but there are no syntactic criteria to tell whether such a construction is active (Verb–Object<sub>Patient</sub>) or passive (Verb–Subject<sub>Patient</sub>): VO-clauses with an unmarked object are not uncommon (§8.4.1).

There are semantic/pragmatic clues, however. A possible indication is, whether or not the clause has an implied Agent. When the Agent is left out in active clauses, this is usually because it is already known; it is coreferential with a noun phrase in a previous clause. In (48) above, here repeated, the identity of the Agent is known, so we may presume that the sentence is active. Moreover, the Agent is topical, therefore likely to be the subject. In other words, this example is an active clause with implied Agent:

- (61) He to'o mai, he haka pā **te kūpeŋa**.  
 NTR take hither NTR fold ART net  
 'He took the net and (he) folded it.' [Mtx-3-01.171]

With agentless passive clauses, the Agent is not known from the preceding context; the identity of the Agent may simply be irrelevant. In the following example, the identity of the Agent is unknown, so a passive interpretation with the Patient as subject is plausible:

- (62) Hora iva ko tari 'ā **te taŋata** ki ruŋa ki te pahī.  
 hour nine PRF transport CONT ART man to above to ART ship  
 'At nine o'clock the people are transported aboard the ship.' [R210.037]

Besides this semantic criterion, there are also syntactic clues for passivity. Cross-linguistically, there is a correlation between passive voice and perfect aspect.<sup>37</sup> The perfect aspect focuses on the state resulting from the action, rather than the action itself; similarly, the passive tends to focus on the result of the activity and its effect on the patient. As it happens, quite a few examples of the passive in Rapa Nui are in the perfect aspect, like (50), (51) and (62) above.

Finally, a syntactic indication for passivisation in (62) is the fact that the Patient does not have accusative marking. In general, the accusative marker is obligatory in VO-clauses with human Patient.

<sup>37</sup> See e.g. Comrie (1976: 84); Foley (2007: 382); Keenan & Dryer (2007: 340); Dixon (2012: 219). Cf. Milner (1973), who argues that the difference between suffixed and unsuffixed verbs in Samoan (a distinction usually described as active versus passive) has to do with aspect, not voice.

In conclusion: there are several clues for passivisation:

- Raising of the Patient, in combination with an *e*-marked Agent.
- Topicality of the Patient.
- Irrelevance of the Agent, rather than an Agent implied from the context.
- Lack of accusative marking on the Agent.
- Use of the perfect aspect.

Simple VO clauses may be either active or passive. Use of the perfect aspect may be an indication of passivity, but often only the context will tell whether a clause is active or passive. In the first case, the Agent is implied from the context; in the second case, the Agent is unspecified and irrelevant.

### 8.5.2 The pseudopassive

A few intransitive verbs of motion or position (*uru* and *o'o* ‘to enter’, *eke* ‘to mount, embark, climb, fig. to dominate’, *noho* ‘to sit, stay’) exhibit a process very similar to passivisation. These verbs normally take an Agent subject, as well as an optional oblique constituent expressing the target of movement or position:

- (63) *He eke a Korikē ki ruŋa i te hoi.*  
 NTR go\_up PROP Korike to above at ART horse.  
 ‘Korike mounts the horse.’ [R616.059]

But there are also examples where the locative constituent becomes the subject and is unmarked or left unexpressed, while the Agent is expressed as an oblique *e*-marked phrase.<sup>38</sup> This construction can be characterised as a pseudopassive: the Agent is expressed as oblique, but unlike the regular passive, it is a locative phrase rather than a Patient which becomes the subject. A few examples:

- (64) *Poki era ko eke 'ā e te vārua.*  
 child DIST PRF go\_up CONT AG ART spirit  
 ‘The child is dominated/possessed by a spirit.’ [R310.268]
- (65) *∫E hia motu noho e te taŋata?*  
 NUM how\_many island stay AG ART man  
 ‘How many inhabited islands are there? (lit. How many islands lived by people)’  
 [R616.132]
- (66) *E o'o rō tō'ona hare e te tokerau.*  
 EXH enter EMPH POSS.3SG.O house AG ART wind  
 ‘Let his house be entered by the wind.’ [Acts 1:20]

<sup>38</sup> Hooper (1984b: 40) points out that in Māori, verbs of motion and posture can freely occur in the passive.

Like the regular passive, the pseudopassive tends to be used when the Patient is more topical than the Agent.

### 8.5.3 Two other uses of *e*

Apart from its use in the passive, *e* also functions as an oblique marker in two other situations.

8.5.3.1 The verb 'ī 'to be full' has two possible argument structures: the subject either expresses the filled entity (the Container) as in (67), or the filling entity (the Substance) as in (68).<sup>39</sup> When the Substance is subject, the Container may be expressed as a locative phrase ('i *rote vai* in (69)).

(67) *Ko 'ī 'ana tū vaka era.*  
 PRF full CONT DEM canoe DIST  
 'The canoe was full.' [R615.716]

(68) *Ko 'ī 'ana te taŋata 'i rote vai.*  
 PRF full CONT ART man at inside\_the water  
 'There were plenty of people in the water, the water was full of people.' [R210.166]

Now when the Container is subject, the Substance (whether animate or inanimate) may be expressed with an *e*-marked phrase. In the following example, this happens twice:

(69) *Hai oho iŋa nei ko 'ī 'ā te motu nei e te iŋoiŋo. 'E te vai,*  
 INS go NMLZ PROX PRF full CONT ART island PROX AG ART dirty and ART water  
*ko 'ī 'ā e te me'e 'i'ino.*  
 PRF full CONT AG ART thing PL:bad  
 'When this happens, this island will be full of pollution. And the water will be full of bad things.' [R649.119]

(69) can be considered as a kind of passivisation of the construction in (68): the Substance, in (68) expressed as subject, is demoted to an *e*-marked oblique noun phrase, while the Container becomes subject. The difference with regular passivisation is, that the Container subject is not the original direct object: in construction (68), the Container can only be expressed as an oblique, not as direct object. In this respect, (69) is very similar to the pseudopassive construction discussed in the previous section; the difference is, that unlike the pseudopassive examples, the *e*-marked noun phrase does not have an agentive role.

<sup>39</sup> While this alternating argument structure is not uncommon for verbs meaning 'full' in Polynesian (Ross Clark, p.c.), in Rapa Nui it represents an independent development: 'ī was borrowed from Tahitian, where the Container is always subject and the Substance is marked with the multifunctional preposition *i*.



8.5.3.2 *E* occasionally marks a noun phrase indicating something potentially harmful. I have found this mainly in the Bible translation with the verbs *hāpa'o* ‘to take care of’ and *u'i* ‘to watch, look’, which can both be used in the sense ‘to watch out for, to be on one’s guard against’.<sup>40</sup> However, (72) shows that this use of *e* is also found in other contexts.

- (70) *E u'i koe e te me'e haka hara i te nu'u 'āpī.*  
 EXH look 2SG AG ART thing CAUS sin ACC ART people new  
 ‘Watch out for the things that make young people sin.’ [2 Tim. 2:22]
- (71) *E hāpa'o kōrua e te nounou.*  
 EXH care\_for 2PL AG ART greed  
 ‘Be on your guard against greed.’ [Luke 12:15]
- (72) *Kona pava e te 'ua.*  
 place shelter AG ART rain  
 ‘(Ovahe is) a place sheltered from the rain.’ [R157.024]

## 8.6 Non-standard verbal clauses

Under this heading, clauses are discussed which have a non-standard constituent order, non-canonical marking of arguments, or both. §8.6.1 deals with clauses involving a non-standard constituent order, in which the arguments still have their usual markers ( $\emptyset$  or *e* for the subject, *i* or  $\emptyset$  for the direct object). §8.6.2 discusses topicalisation, in which a preposed subject has a special marker (either *ko* or *he*). §8.6.3 deals with the actor-emphatic construction, which serves to put an Agent in focus. Other constructions involving non-standard marking of arguments are discussed in §8.6.4.

### 8.6.1 Marked constituent orders

As discussed in §8.1, the default constituent order is VS/VAO, but all other possible orders occur in varying proportions. In this section, different constructions are discussed involving constituent orders other than VS/VAO.

#### 8.6.1.1 Preverbal subjects

Subjects are often placed before the verb. In certain situations, this is syntactically conditioned.

<sup>40</sup> The complement of these verbs (the negative thing one should watch out for) can also be introduced by *mai* ‘from’, or as a clause introduced by ‘o ‘lest’.

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8.6.1.1.1 Preverbal subjects are common after various clause-initial elements (obligatorily after 1-2, optionally after 3-4):<sup>41</sup>

1. the negator *'ina* (§10.5.1);
2. interrogative phrases with *ai* ‘who’ and *aha* ‘what’ (§10.3.2);
3. the conjunction *'āhani/'ani* ‘if only’ (§11.6.6);
4. the deictic particles *'i* ‘here, now, immediately’ and *'ai* ‘there, then, subsequently’ (§4.5.4.1).<sup>42</sup>

In fact, there is a general tendency for the subject to be preverbal after any oblique initial constituent, e.g. a prepositional phrase as in (73), or an adverb as in (74):<sup>43</sup>

- (73) *Mai tū hora era a Eva 'ina he taŋi haka'ou.*  
 from DEM time DIST PROP Eva NEG NTR cry again  
 ‘From that moment on Eva did not cry again.’ [R210.137]
- (74) *Āpō nō tāua ana vānaŋa.*  
 tomorrow just 1DU.INCL IRR talk  
 ‘Tomorrow we will talk.’ [R304.014]

<sup>41</sup> Subjects can also be raised from the complement of the aspectual verbs *oti* ‘finish’ and *ha'amata* ‘begin’ (§11.3.2), but as this places them in the postverbal subject position of the aspectual verbs, this in itself does not result in S V order. However, given the right context, the raised subject can be raised once more to a position before the aspectual verb. In the following example, the original and intermediate position of the subject is indicated by traces  $t_i$ :

(i)  $\bar{I}$  [*te vai*] <sub>$i$</sub>  [*ko ha'amata 'ana*  $t_i$  [*ko o'o mai 'ā*  $t_i$  ] ]...  
 IMM ART water PRF begin CONT PRF enter hither CONT  
 ‘Immediately the water started to enter (the ship)...’ (R210.162)

<sup>42</sup> It is interesting to note that certain clause-initial elements trigger a number of phenomena that make the clause differ from a standard main clause:

1. The subject tends to be preverbal.
2. After many of these elements, the aspectual *he* is avoided in favour of *i* or *e* (§7.2.8), a pattern characteristic of subordinate clauses.
3. In some cases, the constituent/subordinate negator *ta'e* is used (§10.5.6.6) rather than the main clause negators *'ina*, *kai* and *e ko*.

We may conclude that the proposed constituent takes on some characteristics of a predicate, followed by the subject + the rest of the clause as a subordinate clause.

Interestingly, the negator *'ina*, for which predicate status has sometimes been argued, is less predicate-like than initial locative and interrogative phrases: while the latter tend to trigger the use of *i* rather than *he*, this is not true for *'ina* (§10.5.1).

<sup>43</sup> The same tendency exists in Māori, see Harlow (2007b: 96).

8.6.1.1.2 Apart from these syntactically conditioned environments, subjects may be placed before the verb for pragmatic reasons. The frequency with which this happens depends on the speaker, and it is hard to pin down the exact conditions under which this is done (cf. Dryer 2007c: 77). A few generalisations can be made, though.

The preposed subject is often a HIGHLIGHTED TOPIC: preposing the subject signals that the clause is about the entity referred to by the subject.<sup>44</sup> Usually subject shift is involved: the subject is different from the subject of the preceding context. Appropriate paraphrases are ‘As for X...’ or ‘Concerning X...’.

- (75) *A nua he uru ki roto te hare.*  
 PROP Mum NTR enter to inside ART house  
 ‘(Orohe and Tiare peel corn and feed the chickens.) Mum enters into the house.’  
 [R184.071]
- (76) *A Tiare 'ina kai 'ite, he turu iho, pa'i, ki te hāpī.*  
 PROP Tiare NEG NEG.PFV know NTR go\_down just\_now in\_fact to ART learn  
 ‘(Orohe knows the national anthem.) As for Tiare, she doesn’t know it, as she goes to school for the first time.’ [R334.023]

This does not mean that every subject shift is marked by a preposed subject. A subject which is already thematic in the story (or in the current episode of the story) usually occurs in the default postverbal position, even when it is different from the subject of the preceding clause or sentence. In fact, most explicit subjects in discourse – whether pre- or postverbal – involve subject shift, as the subject is usually not expressed when it is identical to the subject of the preceding clause. Subjects are preposed especially when they are not thematic in the wider context, but are the topic of a single sentence or clause. An example:

- (77) *Te nā vi'e e uruuru rō 'ā i te kahu kākaka, 'e te*  
 ART PL woman IPFV dress:RED EMPH CONT ACC ART clothes banana\_leaf and ART  
*nānata he piripō tetea he kamita pāreu.*  
 men PRED trouser PL:white PRED shirt printed\_cloth  
 ‘The women wore banana leaf dresses, and the men (wore) white trousers and coloured shirts.’ [R210.132]

Preposed subjects may also mark the start of a discourse or a new episode in the discourse. In the following example the subject *Taparahi* is identical to the subject of the preceding clauses; no subject shift is involved. Even so, the subject is preposed, indicating that the story moves on to a new topic.

- (78) *A Taparahi e turu era ki te hāpī, kona kē e oho era.*  
 PROP Taparahi IPFV go\_down DIST to ART learn place different IPFV go DIST  
 ‘Taparahi, when he went to school, he would go somewhere else.’ [R250.033]

<sup>44</sup> Cf. Lambrecht (1994: 131): “A referent is interpreted as the topic of a proposition if in a given situation the proposition is construed as being about this referent”.

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To summarise: subjects are preposed

- after oblique clause-initial constituents;
- to mark the subject as highlighted topic, often in contrast to other participants;
- to mark a new episode in discourse.

### 8.6.1.2 Preverbal objects

Just like subjects, direct objects may also be placed before the verb, though this is relatively rare (see Table 8.1 in §8.1). The direct object is preverbal when it is highlighted as topic, often in combination with subject shift with respect to the preceding clause. When the subject is also expressed, the constituent order is usually OVS. As the subject in OVS-clauses is always *e*-marked (§8.3.1) and the preverbal object is unmarked (§8.4.1), these constructions may also be analysed as passives, in which the fronted Patient is actually the subject.

In (79) below, the Patient *au* is topical in the context (the speaker is talking about himself). Example (80) marks the start of a new section in a story, with a shift to a new topic; this topic is the object of the clause, hence it is fronted. (81) is the start of a direct speech, in which the Patient *a koe* is clearly topical.

(79) 'O            *ira au i haka 'ariki ai e to tāua matu'a.*  
because\_of ANA 1SG PFV CAUS king PVP AG ART:of 1DU.INCL parent

'Therefore our father made me king (or: I was made king by our father).'  
[Ley-2-06.036]

(80) *E tahi hānau momoko vi'e i to'o e te hānau 'e'epe.*  
NUM one race slender woman PFV take AG ART race corpulent

'One 'slender race' woman had been taken by the 'corpulent race'.' [Ley-3-06.020]

(81) *E repa ē, a koe ko toke mai 'ā e te vārua e rua.*  
VOC young\_man VOC PROP 2SG PRF steal hither CONT AG ART spirit NUM two

'Young man, you have been stolen by two spirits.' [R310.057]

### 8.6.1.3 Topic-comment constructions

In the examples in the previous section, the preposed constituent is subject or object of the clause. Rapa Nui also has a topic-comment construction, in which a topic noun phrase is followed by a complete clause providing information about this topic. The topic NP is left-dislocated: it is not part of the following clause and does not necessarily have a semantic role in relation to the predicate of the clause. The topic may be coreferential to an argument of the verb (as in (82) below, where it is coreferential to the A of *aŋa*), but it is not a verb argument itself; the comment is a complete clause in its own right. Below are a few examples.

- (82) [*Te matu'a tane o Taparahi*]<sub>TOP</sub> [*te aña iña 'i Mataveri.*]<sub>COM</sub>  
 ART parent male of Taparahi ART work NMLZ at Mataveri  
 'As for Taparahi's father, his work (lit. the working) was in Mataveri.' [R250.043]
- (83) 'E [*a Eva*]<sub>TOP</sub> [*ko nenenene 'ā te hakari 'i te ri'ari'a.*]<sub>COM</sub>  
 and PROP Eva PRF tremble:RED CONT ART body at ART afraid  
 'And Eva, her body trembled with fear.' [R210.031]
- (84) [*A koe,*]<sub>TOP</sub> *e Vai Ora ē,* [*e ko ai ta'a rua poki.*]<sub>COM</sub>  
 PROP 2SG VOC Vai Ora VOC IPFV NEG.IPFV exist POSS.2SG.A two child  
 'As for you, Vai Ora, you won't have a second child.' [R301.077]

Topic-comment constructions are also found in possessive clauses (§9.3.3).

## 8.6.2 Topicalisation

As discussed in §8.6.1.1, the subject of a verbal clause may be preposed without special marking. Preposed subjects may also be marked with *ko*, or (occasionally) *he*. These are discussed in the following sections.

### 8.6.2.1 Topicalisation with *ko*

Preverbal subjects marked with *ko* are TOPICALISED: they are highlighted as the topic of the sentence or of a longer stretch of discourse. Comparison of preposed subjects with and without *ko* suggests, that topicalisation with *ko* signals that the subject is PROMINENT in some way.<sup>45</sup>

There are various reasons why the topic of the clause may be prominent. Sometimes the participant referred to is contrasted with other participants:

- (85) *Ko nua he to'o i te huri mo hao... Ko Tiare i ma'u i*  
 PROM Mum NTR take ACC ART banana\_shoot for plant PROM Tiare PFV carry ACC  
*te karu mautini mo 'oka.*  
 ART seed pumpkin for plant  
 'Mum takes the banana shoots to plant... Tiare has brought the pumpkin seeds to plant.' [R184.055–056]
- (86) *Ko tū hoi era i e'a haka'ou ki ruña. Ko tū poki era i hiña*  
 PROM DEM horse DIST PFV go\_up again to above PROM DEM child DIST PFV fall  
*era ki raro he rerehu rō atu 'ai.*  
 DIST to below PRED faint EMPH away SUBS  
 '(The horse and the boy fell.) The horse stood up again. The boy who had fallen down fainted.' [R399.025–026]

<sup>45</sup> Cf. the definition of prominence by Callow (1974: 50): prominence is "any device whatever which gives certain events, participants, or objects more significance than others in the same context".

The noun phrase may also be THEMATIC over a longer stretch of speech: it is the theme of the section that follows. A few examples will illustrate this. In the following sentence, Anisia and Marina have been mentioned earlier in the text, but not very recently. They are now re-introduced as the theme of conversation of a new section: ‘As for Anisia and Marina...’

- (87) *’Ē, ko Anisia ararua ko Marina ’i te hare hāpī era ’ā o rāua*  
 thus PROM Anisia the\_two PROM Marina at ART house learn DIST IDENT of 3PL  
*e kai era.*  
 IPFV eat DIST  
 ‘Anisia and Marina eat in their school.’ [R103.191]

*Ko*-marking thus signals a shift to a new theme. This also happens in the following example. The preceding context is about a group of people; the sentence quoted here starts a new section, in which one of the group, Artillero, is the sole participant. To signal the switch to Artillero as theme, the subject is preposed and preceded by *ko*.

- (88) *Ko Artillero i hoki i iri ki tō’ona kona hare era.*  
 PROM Artillero PFV return PROM ascend to POSS.3SG.O place house DIST  
 ‘As for Artillero, he returned to his house.’ [R437.055]

Topicalisation tends to happen especially with proper nouns and pronouns; however, it also occurs with common nouns, as (86) above shows. What they all have in common, is that they bring a participant to the front which has been introduced earlier and is known to the hearers.<sup>46</sup> The participant in question is highlighted as the topic of a clause, sentence, or longer stretch of discourse.

*Ko* also serves to mark preverbal DIRECT OBJECTS. Just as with subjects, the prominence marker *ko* gives prominence to the preposed constituent, signalling that it is thematic in discourse.

- (89) *Ko te pāherahera ena e kī nei ’i ’aṅarīnā he haka nini ’i*  
 PROM ART sport MED IPFV say PROX at today.PAST PRED CAUS slide at  
*ruṅa i te vave.*  
 above at ART wave  
 ‘(Surfing is an old sport of our ancestors.) Today this sport is called ‘sliding on the waves.’ [R645.003]

<sup>46</sup> There are a few interesting exceptions, where topicalisation is used right at the start of a story. The following sentence is an example:

- (i) *Ko ’Orohe e tahi mahana he e’a ’i te pō’ā ararua ko koro.*  
 PROM Orohe NUM one day NTR go\_out at ART morning the\_two PROM Dad  
 ‘Orohe went out one day in the morning with Dad.’ (R154.001)

In such cases, the participant may still have been accessible in the original context of the story; for example, someone may have asked the speaker to tell about such and so. (This possibility was pointed out to me by Stephen Levinsohn.) In fact, R154 is part of a collection of stories, and Orohe has figured in the preceding stories as well – possibly the story should be considered as an episode in an ongoing narrative.

*Ko* may mark the LEFT-DISLOCATED noun phrase of topic-comment constructions (see §8.6.1.3).

- (90) *Ko te mākini era, e haro mai e tahi me'e a te mu'a... he*  
 PROM ART machine DIST IPFV pull hither NUM one thing by ART front NTR  
*roaroa mai mo puē mo to'o o te hoho'a.*  
 long:RED hither for can for take of ART picture  
 '(The captain showed up, carrying a camera.) This device, you had to pull something at the front to take a picture.' [R379.027]

TIME ADJUNCTS may also be introduced by *ko*.

- (91) *Ko te ahiahi 'ao i oho ai mātou ki Pamata'i.*  
 PROM ART afternoon day PFV go PFV 1PL.EXCL to Pamata'i  
 'In the late afternoon we went to Pamata'i.' [Egt-02.275]
- (92) *Ko te 'āva'e era o te evinio 'e ko te mahana maha ia, he*  
 PROM ART month DIST of ART fasting and PROM ART day four then NTR  
*e'a te nu'u hoko rua.*  
 go\_out ART people NUM.PERS two  
 'In the month of Lent, on a Thursday, two people went out.' [R357.001]

These time phrases serve as POINTS OF DEPARTURE (Levinsohn 2007: 39), signalling the shift to another time at the start of a new episode in the story.

Clark (1976: 37) discusses initial *ko*-marked subjects in Proto-Polynesian and analyses these as cleft constructions: the *ko*-marked noun phrase is the predicate of a nominal clause, the subject of which is a relative clause with an empty head:

- (93) [*ko N*]<sub>Pred</sub> [ Ø [ *A/M V ...* ]<sub>Rel</sub> ]<sub>S</sub>

This analysis is suggested by the formal similarities between verbal clauses with topicalisation and nominal clauses with a *ko*-marked predicate (§9.2.2), and enables a unified account of both.<sup>47</sup>

For Rapa Nui however, there is little ground for taking the topicalised constructions under discussion as clefts. Constructions which are unambiguously clefts in Rapa Nui always contain an anchor noun as head of the relative clause (§9.2.6), which suggests that headless relative clauses are not possible in Rapa Nui. Moreover, these clefts have quite a different function from the topicalisation constructions under discussion here: cleft constructions put the initial noun phrase in focus as new information, backgrounding the verb, while topicalisation signals that the initial noun phrase is thematic in discourse.

<sup>47</sup> Bauer (1991) applies the same analysis to Māori, arguing that topicalised *ko*-NPs are clefts in some cases, when the *ko*-NP is in focus and receives sentence stress.

Now it could be argued that Rapa Nui has two types of clefts with different functions:<sup>48</sup> a focus construction with head noun and a topicalisation construction without head noun. However, there are syntactic reasons not to analyse topicalising constructions as relative clauses. In relative clauses, the neutral aspect marker *he* is extremely rare (§11.4.3), while *he* is common in topicalisation constructions like (85) above.

Another characteristic of relative clauses in Rapa Nui is, that the verb tends to be followed by a postverbal demonstrative like *era*, whereas in many topicalisation constructions no PVD is used. And thirdly, while relative clauses often do not have an aspectual (§11.4.5), topicalisation clauses always contain an aspectual.

We may conclude that there are good reasons not to consider topicalisation constructions in Rapa Nui as clefts. Besides, even if such an analysis were adopted, it would not account for all occurrences of *ko* in verbal clauses; §8.6.4.5 discusses cases where the *ko*-marked noun phrase is even more clearly part of the main clause.

Finally, one more topicalisation construction deserves attention: occasionally a *ko*-marked topicalised subject is followed by a nominalised verb:

- (94) 'O            *ira ko tū ŋā taina rikiriki nō era ō'ona te oho ki te*  
 because\_of ANA PROM DEM PL sibling little    just DIST POSS.3SG.O ART go to ART  
*hāpī.*  
 school

'Therefore only her little brothers went to school.' [R441.011]

- (95) *Te taŋata e mate tahi rō 'ā; ko koe nō, te ora te oho.*  
 ART person IPFV die all EMPH CONT PROM 2SG just ART live ART go

'All people die, but you just keep on living.' [R445.016–017]

These constructions mostly have a habitual or continuous sense. They are very similar to the nominalised actor-emphatic construction (§8.6.3), which likewise has a preposed subject followed by a nominalised verb with habitual sense. They are also similar to constructions in which *ko* is followed by a nominalised verb (see (23–24) in §3.2.3.1).

### 8.6.2.2 Topicalisation with *he*

Occasionally, a preverbal subject is introduced by the nominal predicate marker *he*. This is somewhat surprising, as *he* normally introduces non-referential noun phrases and is limited to nominal predicates and other non-argument NPs (§5.3.4.1).

The sentence may state a general fact about a category as a whole as in (96), or refer to a specific entity or group as in (97):

<sup>48</sup> Clark (1976: 38) points out that in most Polynesian languages, clauses with a topicalised *ko*-marked NP are ambiguous: the *ko*-NP can be either predicate ('it was John who was chopping the yam') or topic ('as for John, he was chopping the yam'). Regardless the analysis of topicalised constructions, it is clear that the two are syntactically distinguished in Rapa Nui.



- (96) *He nu'u pa'ari 'ina e ko aŋa taŋa nō i a koe i te*  
 PRED people adult NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV do aimlessly just at PROP 2SG ACC ART  
*aŋa i mana'u.*  
 work PFV think  
 ‘Grown-ups don’t simply do<sup>49</sup> the work they think of (i.e. without preparation).’  
 [R363.145]
- (97) ...'e *he mataroa repahoa o koro ko ma'u mai 'ā ka rahi atu*  
 and PRED sailor friend of Dad PRF carry hither CONT CNTG many away  
*te pahu peti.*  
 ART can peach  
 ‘(When she entered there were many people,) and some sailors, friends of Dad,  
 brought many cans of peaches.’ [R210.125]

In both examples above, the *he*-marked noun phrase refers to an entity not mentioned before and therefore not yet known to the hearer. In other cases, the subject refers to someone or something whose existence the hearer may be presumed to know or infer from the context. The following examples illustrate this:

- (98) *He taŋata he oho he ruku i te ika mo te hora kai.*  
 PRED man NTR go NTR dive ACC ART fish for ART time eat  
 ‘(The women sat down to cook the food.) The men went diving for fish for lunch.’  
 [R183.019]
- (99) *Kai pū a Taparahi; he paratoa nō ō'ona i vera a te*  
 NEG.PFV perforate PROP Taparahi PRED jacket just POSS.3SG.O PFV burn by ART  
*kēke'u mata'u.*  
 shoulder right  
 ‘Taparahi was not hit (by the bullet); only his coat was scorched on the right  
 shoulder.’ (R250.225)
- (100) *He matahiapo i mate, he haŋupotu i ora.*  
 PRED firstborn PFV die PRED lastborn PFV live  
 ‘(Two boys were born.) The eldest died, the youngest survived.’ [Fel-1978.121]

What all these examples have in common, is that the *he*-marked subject is singled out from among other entities; in other words, the *he*-construction serves as topicalisation. This is particularly clear in (98), where the subject *he taŋata* is contrasted with other actors in the discourse, and in (100), where the two babies introduced in the preceding context are mentioned individually.

<sup>49</sup> The phrase *i a koe* ‘to/regarding you’ seems to be s a second person of personal involvement (§4.2.4.2), involving the addressee in the discourse in some way.

In fact, clauses with *he*-marked subjects are very similar to clauses with topicalised *ko*-marked subjects (§8.6.2.1). *Ko*-marked topicalisations refer to individuated entities (a single referent or a clearly defined group) which are accessible to the hearer; in other words, the exact referent of the *ko*-marked subject has been introduced in the preceding context. By contrast, the *he*-marked subjects in the examples above are not accessible as individuated entities. Even though the hearer can infer their existence from the context, they have not been mentioned as such. In (98), the context tells about a group of people – men, women and children – who go on an outing; prior to the sentence quoted here, the men have not been mentioned separately. Similarly, in (100), the preceding sentences tell about the birth of two boys; the hearer can infer the existence of an oldest and a youngest boy, but it is only in the sentence quoted here that each boy is singled out. In both cases, the referent of the *he*-marked noun phrase is not accessible as such, as it has only been introduced as undefined part of a larger group. By contrast, subjects topicalised with *ko*-marking are always accessible as individual referents; for example in (85) above, both mother and Tiare play a role in the preceding context.

It is not very surprising that topicalisation with *ko* often involves a pronoun or proper noun, noun types typically associated with accessible referents.

The difference between *ko* and *he* in marking topicalised subjects is reminiscent of the use of *ko* and *he* with nominal predicates (§9.2.1): in both cases, *ko* marks an accessible, individuated entity, while in other cases *he* is used.

### 8.6.3 The actor-emphatic construction

Many Polynesian languages have a construction commonly called the actor-emphatic (AE).<sup>50</sup> This construction is used when the Agent is in focus and shows the following characteristics:

- The Agent occurs before the verb and is expressed as a possessive.
- A few languages (e.g. Māori and Mangarevan) have two sets of possessive prepositions and pronouns: *n*- (realis) and *m*- (irrealis). These languages have two AE constructions: a perfective one (expressing realised possession) with *n*-marked Agent and an imperfective one (expressing unrealised/future possession) with *m*-marked Agent. In languages lacking *m*-possessive pronouns (such as Tahitian), only the *n*-marked AE construction occurs.
- The aspectual is either *i* (perfective) or *e* (imperfective).
- The Patient may be unmarked. In Māori, the Patient in AE constructions is never marked (hence it can be analysed as subject); in Tahitian, it is unmarked when preverbal and optionally marked when postverbal.

<sup>50</sup> See Harlow (2001: 196–197); Harlow (2007a: 175–176); Elbert & Pukui (1979: 147–148); Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 62–63). More extensive treatments are found in Clark (1976: 111–123) for PPN; Waite (1990) and Bauer (2004) for Māori; Potsdam & Polinsky (2012) for Tahitian. The construction is mainly found in EP languages, but Wilson (2012: 315) gives an example from Luangiua and suggests that the AE construction is an innovation in the Northern Outlier + EP subgroup he proposes.

- The construction tends to be limited to transitive verbs, or to (transitive or intransitive) agentive verbs.

The actor-emphatic construction also occurs in Rapa Nui.<sup>51</sup> As in other languages, it serves to put the Agent in focus and to background the action; the action is often presupposed. Different from other languages, there are three varieties, which are discussed in turn below.

**Perfective** In the perfective AE, the Agent is a possessive pronoun or noun phrase. For pronouns, this is a  $\emptyset$ -possessive, i.e. a pronoun without determiner (§4.2.2.2). As pointed out in §6.3.2, singular pronouns show a distinction between *a*- and *o*-possessives: '*ā'aku* versus *ō'oku*. The same distinction is made with proper nouns: preposition '*a* versus *o*.<sup>52</sup> In the AE construction, the *a*-possessive is used with singular pronouns and proper nouns. For plural pronouns and with common nouns, no *a*-forms exist, so the default *o* is used.

The verb in this construction is always marked with perfective *i*; the construction refers to actions prior to the time of reference, usually in the past. Two examples:

- (101) *O tō'ona matu'a i aña i te hare nei mo Puakiva.*  
 of POSS.3SG.O parent PFV make ACC ART house PROX for Puakiva  
 'It was her father who made this house for Puakiva.' [R229.269]

- (102) *¡Ā'au rō ta'a moeña nei o māua i toke!*  
 POSS.2SG.A EMPH POSS.2SG.A mat PROX of 1DU.EXCL PFV steal  
 'It was you who stole that mat of ours!' [R310.428]

As these examples show, the Patient either follows or precedes the verb. When it follows the verb as in (101), it is *i*-marked; when it precedes the verb as in (102), it is unmarked. This corresponds to the general pattern of object marking in Rapa Nui (§8.4.1), so there are good reasons to consider the Patient as direct object in either position.

It is remarkable that the object of an AE construction is often preverbal, while preverbal objects in general are rare (see Table 8.2 in §8.1). This may have to do with the

<sup>51</sup> Actor-emphatic constructions are also common in questions; these are discussed in section §10.3.2.1 and §10.3.2.2.

<sup>52</sup> As initial glottals are not contrastive, perfective AE's with proper nouns (marked with '*a*') are difficult to distinguish from a preposed topical subject construction with perfective aspect, in which the noun is marked with the proper article *a*. The following example is syntactically ambiguous:

- (i) *A/A Kuha i kī māi ki a au mo iri māi ki nei.*  
 PROP/of.A Kuha PFV say hither to PROP 1SG for go\_up hither to PROX  
 'Kuha told me to come up here.' (R229.105)

In the context it is more likely that the subject is in focus ('It was Kuha who said...') than that it is topical ('As for Kuha, she said...'), so that an AE reading is plausible. On the other hand, topicalised subjects sometimes occur at the start of a direct speech without further apparent reason, which may be the case here.

pragmatic status of Agent and Patient. The AE construction is used when the Agent is in focus: the Agent is presented as new information, an appropriate paraphrase is ‘It was X who...’ or ‘X was the one who...’. The rest of the sentence, including the Patient, is known information. The Patient will often be topical, and this may be the reason it is preverbal: there is a tendency in Rapa Nui to place topical constituents early in the clause (§8.5.1 on passives; §8.6.1.1 on preposed subjects and objects; cf. Potsdam & Polinsky (2012: 68) for a similar observation about Tahitian). Another example is the following:

- (103) *O te rūhia ia te hoho'a nei i to'o.*  
of ART tourist then ART image PROX PFV take  
‘(It was) the tourists (who) took this photo.’ [R415.735]

**Imperfective** In the imperfective AE, the verb has the IPFV marker *e* and the Agent is expressed as a benefactive pronoun or noun phrase (§4.2.3; §4.7.8). Again, *a*-forms are used when available: *mā'a*- in singular pronouns, *mā* in front of proper nouns. Plural pronouns and common nouns, which lack *a*-forms, are marked with the default *mo*.

The imperfective AE refers to an action posterior to the time of reference. Usually this is the future, but as (106) shows, this is not necessarily so:

- (104) *Mā'aku 'ā a koe e hāpa'o atu.*  
BEN.1SG.A IDENT PROP 2SG IPFV care\_for away  
‘I will take care of you myself.’ [R310.067]
- (105) *Mo kōrua e kī i tā'aku vānaŋa nei e kī atu nei ki a*  
for 2PL IPFV say ACC POSS.1SG.A word PROX IPFV say away PROX to PROP  
*kōrua ararua.*  
2PL the\_two  
‘You must tell my word, which I will say to you two.’ [R229.275]
- (106) *Mā'ana e haka nuinui haka'ou i a rāua i te itaraera.*  
BEN.3SG.A IPFV CAUS big:RED again ACC PROP 3PL ACC ART Israel  
‘He was the one who would make them, the Israelites, great again.’ [Mat. 1, intro]

As in the perfective AE, postverbal objects have the ACC marker, while preverbal objects are unmarked.

**Nominal** The third AE construction has a possessive Agent as in construction 1, but the verb is nominalised. This construction refers to habitual actions, regardless the time of action:

- (107) *'Ā'ana te haka tere i te henua.*  
POSS.3SG.A ART CAUS run ACC ART land  
‘He was the one who governed the country.’ [R370.005]

- (108) *O te ika nei te kai i te o'io'i o te naonao.*  
 of ART fish PROX ART eat ACC ART larva of ART mosquito  
 'This fish eats the larvae of the mosquito.' [R535.110]

The nominal AE construction is almost identical to a proprietary clause (§9.4.2), which equally consists of a possessive constituent (the predicate) + a noun phrase (the subject):

- (109) *'Ā'ana ho'i te vi'e era.*  
 POSS.3SG.A indeed ART woman DIST  
 'The woman is his.' [R416.1156]

The only difference is that the subject of the AE construction is a nominalised verb, which may have an object. As in other AE constructions, this object may be preverbal, in which case the ACC marker is omitted:

- (110) *'Ā'ana a au te hāpa'o mai te hāŋai mai.*  
 POSS.3SG.A PROP 1SG ART care\_for hither ART feed hither  
 'She was the one who took care of me and fed me.' [R310.480]

All examples of AE constructions so far involve a transitive verb. The AE also occurs with intransitive verbs, but only with agentive verbs, i.e. verbs with an Agent argument:

- (111) *Mo rāua, mo te ŋāŋata nei e rua, e uru ki roto ki te kūpeŋa.*  
 for 3PL for ART men PROX NUM two IPFV enter to inside to ART net  
 'They, these two men, entered into the net.' [R310.265]
- (112) *Mā'aku 'ā e e'a ki te manu.*  
 BEN.1SG.A IDENT IPFV go\_out to ART bird  
 'I myself will go up to the birds.' [Egt-01.014]

AE constructions are negated using the constituent negator *ta'e*, which precedes the Agent:

- (113) *Ta'e 'ā'aku i to'o mai i te parau nei.*  
 CONNEG POSS.1SG.A PFV take hither ACC ART document PROX  
 'It wasn't me who took the letter.' [Egt-02.336]
- (114) *Ta'e mā'ana e aŋa i te aŋa o nei.*  
 CONNEG BEN.3SG.A IPFV do ACC ART work of PROX  
 'He is not the one who does the work here.' [R229.462]

Finally: AE constructions are also used in 'who'-questions (§10.3.2.1).

To summarise: Rapa Nui has two actor-emphatic constructions which differ in aspect. The perfective AE uses the Ø-possessive, while in other languages a *n*-possessive

is used.<sup>53</sup> As in other languages, the imperfective AE has a *ma/mo*-marked Agent. A third construction, not found in other languages, uses a nominalised verb and expresses habitual actions.

As in other languages, the object may either precede or follow the verb. No special rules are needed to account for object marking in AE constructions.

### 8.6.4 Other non-canonical arguments

In the next subsections, constructions are discussed in which the S/A argument is marked differently from *e* or  $\emptyset$ , or in which O is marked differently from *i* or  $\emptyset$ . The last subsection (§8.6.4.7) discusses agentive phrases marked with *i*; these are not syntactic subjects or objects, but are discussed under this heading because agentive *i* is similar in function to the agentive subject marker *e*.

#### 8.6.4.1 Possessive S/A arguments

Sometimes the S/A argument is expressed as a possessive, using the preposition *o* or a possessive pronoun of the *o*-class. In two contexts this is the normal marking: with nominalised verbs (§8.6.4.7), and in subordinate clauses introduced by *mo* (§11.5.1.2). However, possessive S/A arguments are found in main clauses as well. They may occur when the following two conditions are met:

1. The referent is well established in the context, i.e. it is already a thematic participant.
2. The aspect marker is *he*.

Two examples:

(115) *He kī o tū rū'au era...*  
 NTR say of DEM old\_woman DIST  
 ‘The old woman said...’ [R313.171]

(116) *He u'i atu ō'oku i tō'oku pāpā era...*  
 NTR look away POSS.1SG.O ACC POSS.1SG.O father DIST  
 ‘Then I saw my father...’ [R101.012]

The use of possessives to express arguments in main clauses is largely speaker-dependent: this construction is frequent in some texts, but absent in others. Though the precise conditions are not clear, possessive marking appears to be a device to demote a non-salient Agent. The fact that this is only found with the neutral marker *he*, which is also the nominal predicate marker, suggests that these clauses have been nominalised: (115)

<sup>53</sup> On the relation between the Rapa Nui  $\emptyset$ -possessive and the *n*-possessive in other languages, see Footnote 9 on p. 290.

could tentatively be paraphrased as ‘(There was) the saying of that old woman...’. In that case, the verb is nominalised and *he* is the nominal predicate marker.<sup>54</sup>

#### 8.6.4.2 Middle verbs: *ki*-marked objects

Certain transitive verbs take *ki* as object marker rather than *i*. This happens with verbs of perception, knowledge, emotion, speech, as well as a few others. In Polynesian linguistics, these verbs are distinguished as a separate subclass, which has been labelled *middle verbs* or “experiential verbs”.

Generally speaking, *ki*-marked objects are not affected by the action. Rather, they are the Goal of the event: the focus of attention, the person or thing at which a feeling is directed, the content of knowledge or the addressee of a speech.<sup>55</sup>

Some verbs always take a *ki*-marked object, while other verbs allow both *i* and *ki*. With some verbs there is a clear difference in function between *i* and *ki*-marked objects; in other cases the difference is less clear. In this section, different semantic classes of verbs taking *ki*-complements are discussed.

**Perception verbs** The controlled perception verbs<sup>56</sup> *u'i* ‘look’ and *hakaroŋo* ‘listen’ take either *i* or *ki*, though *i* is more common.<sup>57</sup>

Generally speaking, *ki* tends to be used with more intensive or purposeful actions. *U'i i* and *u'i ki* both mean ‘to look at, to watch’, but *u'i ki* may indicate a more focused attention as in (118), or is used in the sense ‘to look for, to search’, as in (119):

- (117) *He noho he u'i i tū nu'u era e aha 'ana.*  
 NTR sit NTR look ACC DEM people DIST IPFV what CONT  
 ‘She sat and watched the people, what they were doing.’ [R229.332]
- (118) *He u'i ki te hare era i kā mai era te 'au o te 'umu.*  
 NTR look to ART house DIST PFV ignite hither DIST ART smoke of ART  
 earth\_oven  
 ‘She looked to the houses where the smoke of the earth oven rose (in order to snatch the food as soon as it was cooked).’ [R368.004]
- (119) *He u'i a roto i te vai ki tū ika era, 'ina kai take'a.*  
 NTR look by inside at ART water to DEM fish DIST NEG NEG.PFV see  
 ‘He looked for that fish in the water, but did not see it.’ [R301.232]

<sup>54</sup> The directional *atu* in (116) may suggest that the phrase is still a verb phrase, but notice that *atu* occasionally occurs with nominalised verbs (§3.2.3.3).

<sup>55</sup> Notice that *ki* also expresses the Goal of motion, as well as the Recipient of an act of giving.

<sup>56</sup> The object of uncontrolled perception verbs either takes *i* or zero marking (§8.4.1; see also §7.5.2 on the difference between active and passive perception).

<sup>57</sup> *i* may have become more popular over time, as the following rough count suggests: in old texts, *u'i (mai/atu) (ena/era)* is followed 51x by *i*, 28x by *ki* (proportion *i/ki* roughly 2:1); in new texts, it is followed 152x by *i*, 34x by *ki* (proportion *i/ki* roughly 5:1).

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*Hakarōjo i* means ‘to hear’ or ‘to listen’. *Hakarōjo ki* likewise means ‘to listen’, but is also used in a more intensive sense: ‘to pay attention’ or ‘to obey’, as in (121).

- (120) *¿He aha ia i ta'e hakarōjo ai i tā'ana vānaŋa?*  
 NTR what then PFV CONNEG listen PVP ACC POSS.3SG.A word  
 ‘Why didn’t you listen to his words?’ [Luke 20:5]

- (121) *A Tiare poki hakarōjo ki a nua.*  
 PROP Tiare child listen to PROP Mum  
 ‘Tiare is a child who listens to Mum.’ [R492.009]

**Emotive verbs** With verbs expressing emotion (feeling, attitude), object marking depends on the verb.

The object of *haŋa* ‘love, like, want’ is always marked with *ki*, never with *i*:

- (122) *Ko haŋa 'ā a au ki tō'oku koro.*  
 PRF love CONT PROP 1SG to POSS.1SG.O Dad  
 ‘I love my Dad.’ [R210.115]

With *'aroha*, there is a clear semantic difference: *'aroha i* means ‘to pity’, while *'aroha ki* means ‘to greet’.

*Riri* ‘to be angry’ can be followed by *i* or *ki*, without a clear difference in meaning:

- (123) *Ko riri rivariva mai 'ana a au i a koe.*  
 PRF angry good:RED hither CONT PROP 1SG ACC PROP 2SG  
 ‘I’m really angry at you.’ [R229.362]

- (124) *'Ina koe ko riri ki te ŋā nu'u era.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV angry to ART PL people DIST  
 ‘Don’t be angry at those people.’ [R229.331]

Other emotive verbs taking a *ki*-marked object are e.g. *koromaki* ‘to miss, long for’, *manava mate* ‘to be in love with’.

**Cognitive verbs** *Mana'u* ‘to think’ and *māhani* ‘to be accustomed to, acquainted with’ take either *ki* or *i*, without a clear difference in meaning. There may be a tendency for *ki* to be used with human objects and *i* with non-human objects, but see the following examples, which both have a non-human object:

- (125) *E mana'u nō 'ā a Te Manu i tou me'e ta'ato'a era.*  
 IPFV think just CONT PROP Te Manu ACC DEM thing all DIST  
 ‘Te Manu thought about all those things.’ [R245.011]



- (126) *He mana'u ki te hora era o'ona e noho era 'i muri i tō'ona*  
 NTR think to ART time DIST POSS.3SG.O IPFV stay DIST at near at POSS.3SG.O  
*nua era.*  
 Mum DIST

'He thought about the time when he lived with his mother.' [R245.003]

*Ite* 'to know', on the other hand, always takes an *i*-marked object.

**Speech verbs** Two types of speech verbs should be distinguished.

'SAY'-TYPE VERBS include *kī* 'say', *'a'amu* 'tell', *raŋi* 'call', *pāhono* 'answer', *pure* 'pray', *hā'aki* 'inform, make known'. These verbs are often followed by direct speech. Alternatively, they may have a direct object expressing the content of speech:<sup>58</sup>

- (127) *He kī ki a Kava i tū vānaŋa kī era e Pea.*  
 NTR say to PROP Kava ACC DEM word say DIST AG Pea  
 'She said to Kava the words said by Pea.' [R229.075]

'TALK'-TYPE VERBS include *hakame'eme'e* 'to mock', *ture* 'to scold' and *ha'ahanahana* 'to praise'. These verbs are usually not followed by direct speech<sup>59</sup> and do not take a direct object expressing the content of speech. The addressee may be expressed with a *ki*-marked noun phrase, but with some verbs *i* can be used as well. The latter would not be possible with a 'say'-type verb. Compare the two following examples:

- (128) *I tū hakame'eme'e era 'ā ki a Taparahi he riri rō 'ai.*  
 at DEM mock DIST IDENT to ACC Taparahi NTR angry EMPH SUBS  
 'Because they mocked Taparahi, he got angry.' [R250.012]
- (129) *I oti era i te hakame'eme'e i a Huri 'a Vai e Vaha...*  
 PFV finished DIST ACC ART mock ACC PROP Huri a Vai AG Vaha  
 'When Vaha had finished mocking Huri a Vai...' [R304.094]

**Other verbs** Various other verbs take either *ki* or *i*.

With *hā'ū'ū* 'help', the person helped is usually expressed with *ki* (though *i* is found as well), while *i* marks the activity. In (130), both are used together:

<sup>58</sup> As the example shows, the addressee of these verbs may be expressed by a *ki*-marked noun phrase, but this noun phrase is not the direct object.

<sup>59</sup> The following example shows that the speaker felt a second speech verb was needed to introduce the direct speech giving the content of the scolding:

- (i) *He ture e nua ki a Taparahi he kī...*  
 NTR scold AG mother to PROP Taparahi NTR say  
 'Mother scolded Taparahi and said...' (R250.018)

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- (130) *Ko Tiare i oho i hā'ū'ū ki a nua i tā'ana aŋa.*  
 PROM Tiare PFV go PFV help to PROP Mum ACC POSS.3SG.A work  
 'Tiare went and helped Mum with her work.' [R334.125]

*Kimi* 'search' is marked with either *ki* or *i*, though *i* is more common.

*Tiaki* 'wait' is usually marked with *ki*; *i* is used when the verb has the sense 'to guard':

- (131) *Ko au mo noho mo tiaki i te tātou hare.*  
 PROM 1SG for stay for guard ACC ART 1PL.INCL house  
 'I will stay (home) to guard our house.' [R399.130]

**Ki + NP is direct object** While *ki* often marks an oblique constituent (e.g. a Recipient, or the Goal of motion), there are several indications that the *ki*-marked object of middle verbs is the direct object of the clause.

Firstly, the *ki*-marked constituent can be relativised in the same way as object noun phrases (§11.4.2.2): the constituent is not expressed in the relative clause and the subject is *e*-marked:

- (132) *...Tahiti, henua<sub>i</sub> [haŋa Ø<sub>i</sub> e te ta'ato'a].*  
 Tahiti land love AG ART all  
 '...Tahiti, the island loved by all.' [R303.019]

By contrast, other constituents marked with *ki* use a different relativising strategy (§11.4.2.3).

Secondly, *ki*-marked constituents can be passivised. In the following example the Goal of *haŋa* is not expressed, but the fact that (a) it is topical in the context, and (b) the Agent is *e*-marked, suggests that it is the implicit subject of the clause.

- (133) *E haŋa rahi rō 'ā e te 'Atua 'e e te taŋata ta'ato'a.*  
 IPFV love much EMPH CONT AG ART God and AG ART man all  
 '(Jesus grew up...) He was loved much by God and by all the people.' [Luke 2:52]

Thirdly, in causative constructions, the causee (the S/A of the root verb) is expressed as direct object (DO). However, when the root verb is transitive, its Patient is often expressed as DO, in which case the DO position is not available for the causee; in that case the causee is expressed as an oblique, introduced by *ki* (§8.12.3). In the following example, the verb *mana'u* (which may take a *ki*-marked object, see (126) above) is causativised. The causee *ki a koe* 'you' is expressed with *ki*, not *i*, which suggests that the DO position is already occupied by the noun phrase *ki tū vānaŋa*...

- (134) *...mo haka mana'u atu ki a koe ki tū vānaŋa kī mai era e koe ki*  
 for CAUS think away to PROP 2SG to DEM word say hither DIST AG 2SG to  
*a au.*  
 PROP 1SG  
 '(We came) to remind you of the words you said to me.' [R229.207]

In other words, the presence of the oblique phrase *ki a koe* indicates that the other *ki*-marked noun phrase occupies the DO position.

#### 8.6.4.3 Patient marked as instrument

Sometimes a Patient or Theme is not expressed as direct object, but as an instrument phrase, marked with the instrumental preposition *hai*. This preposition (§4.7.10) is usually not followed by a determiner (§5.3.2.2) and marks a non-specific entity.<sup>60</sup>

This construction only occurs when the Patient is non-specific. The entity may be unknown (e.g. something which is being sought, bought or asked for) as in (136), but this is not necessarily so. Two pairs of examples: (135) and (137) show the usual construction with the Patient as DO, while in (136) and (138) the same argument is marked with *hai*.<sup>61</sup>

- (135) *He iri māua ki 'uta, he ho'o mai i te marena.*  
 NTR ascend 1DU.EXCL to inland NTR buy hither ACC ART watermelon  
 'We went inland and bought a watermelon.' [R121.070]
- (136) *He oho au he ho'o hai kūmara.*  
 NTR go 1SG NTR buy INS sweet\_potato  
 'I'm going to buy sweet potatoes.' [Notes]
- (137) *He noho ararua he kai i te haraoa, he unu i te ū.*  
 NTR sit the\_two NTR eat ACC ART bread NTR drink ACC ART milk  
 'They sat down together, ate bread and drank milk.' [R334.119]
- (138) *Hai tūava 'ana e kai era, hai vai o roto o te tāheta e*  
 INS guava IDENT IPFV eat DIST INS water of inside of ART rock\_basin IPFV  
*unu era.*  
 drink DIST  
 'He ate (or: fed himself with) guavas, he drank water from inside a rock pool.'  
 [R439.014]

Argument expression by means of *hai* is especially common with verbs that involve both a Theme (or Patient) and a Goal (or Recipient or Beneficiary), like *va'ai* 'to give' and *hoa* 'to throw'. The Theme of *va'ai* is usually expressed as DO, while the Goal is marked with *ki*, as in (139). In (140) however, the Goal is expressed as DO, while the Patient 'food'

<sup>60</sup> The *hai*-marked Patient in (136) could be considered a "demoted object", which would imply that the construction in (136) is derived from the one in (135). While this may seem plausible in some cases, in other cases it is not at all clear that the construction with Patient as DO is more basic than the instrumental construction (see the discussion on (142–146) below). Goldberg (1995) argues that it is unnecessary and often unwarranted to assume a transformational relationship between two constructions with alternative argument expression.

<sup>61</sup> Notice that non-specific objects can also be constructed with a ACC marker + determiner; see examples (34–36) in section §5.3.3.

is marked with *hai*. The motivation for this may be pragmatic: the Goal is more topical in discourse, hence expressed as a core argument.<sup>62</sup>

- (139) *He va'ai i te kūmā 'ō'otu ki a Eugenio.*  
 NTR give ACC ART sweet\_potato cooked to PROP Eugenio  
 'He gave cooked sweet potatoes to Eugenio.' [R231.132]
- (140) *'Ina he 'ava'i mai i a au hai kai.*  
 NEG NTR give hither ACC PROP 1SG INS food  
 'She doesn't give me food.' [R229.414]

Thus with three-argument verbs we encounter the following two patterns:

- (141) (i) verb *i* + Theme *ki* + Goal  
 (ii) verb *i* + Goal *hai* + Theme

With the verbs discussed so far, (i) is the rule, while the *hai*-Theme construction in (ii) only occurs occasionally. However, with a number of verbs, the *hai*-Theme construction is very common; all of these have two arguments, apart from the Agent.

**Throwing** The Patient of *tau* 'throw' may be expressed as DO, as in (142); alternatively, the Goal is expressed as DO as in (143), and the Patient is marked with *hai*.

- (142) *'I ira e hāpī era i te tau i te matā.*  
 at ANA IPFV learn DIST ACC ART throw ACC ART obsidian  
 'There he learned to throw obsidian spear points.' [R304.003]
- (143) *He toke i te rāua me'e, he tau i te hare hai mā'ea.*  
 NTR steal ACC ART 3PL thing NTR throw ACC ART house INS stone  
 'They stole their things and threw stones at the house.' [R231.278]

**Covering/filling** Verbs referring to covering or filling potentially have a Container argument (the object filled or covered) and a Substance argument (the stuff filling or covering the object). Either one can be expressed as a core argument. For intransitive verbs such as *'i* 'to be full', this can result in a passive-like construction, illustrated in (69) in §8.5.3, repeated here:

- (144) *Hai oho iŋa nei ko 'ī 'ā te motu nei e te iŋoiŋo. 'E te*  
 INS go NMLZ PROX PRF full CONT ART island PROX AG ART dirty and ART  
*vai, ko 'ī 'ā e te me'e 'i'ino.*  
 water PRF full CONT AG ART thing PL:bad  
 'When this happens, this island will be full of pollution. And the water will be full of bad things.' [R649.119]

<sup>62</sup> In the terminology of Haspelmath 2005 (quoted in Reesink 2013), the DO-Theme construction is "indirective", while the *hai*-Theme construction is "secundative". Reesink finds that in a sample of 72 Papuan languages, a large majority has a secundative construction as the only option. In languages that allow a choice between both constructions, the choice may be determined by a variety of pragmatic factors.

For transitive verbs, the following examples illustrate the two options. In (145), the Container is direct object, while the Substance is marked as instrument; in (146), the Substance is direct object, while the container is marked with a locative preposition.

- (145) *He e'a a 'Orohe ki haho he ha'a'ī i te pahu hai vai.*  
 NTR go\_out PROP Orohe to outside NTR fill ACC ART barrel INS water  
 'Orohe went outside and filled a barrel with water.' [R169.002]
- (146) *He ha'a'ī i te vai ki roto i te kaha.*  
 NTR fill ACC ART water to inside at ART gourd  
 'He filled a gourd with water, he put water into the gourd.' [Fel-97.035]

What unites the *hai*-Theme constructions, is that in most cases the Theme has a somewhat instrumental sense: it refers to an object used to perform the act (e.g. a stone thrown at somebody), or a means to reach a certain goal (e.g. food to alleviate hunger). This also means that the entity is usually non-human. However, the following example shows that it may be human as well:

- (147) *He kimi mai hai nu'u mo oho hai ika mo ruku mai.*  
 NTR search hither INS people for go INS fish to dive hither  
 'He looked for people to go looking for fish, to dive.' [R309.100]

#### 8.6.4.4 Variable argument assignment

The previous section showed that Patients may be expressed as instrument, allowing other arguments to be expressed as direct object. This is in fact part of a wider phenomenon: with many verbs, arguments can be expressed in different ways, depending on which arguments are relevant or topical in the context. An exhaustive treatment is beyond the scope of this grammar; a few examples show the types of variation involved.

First: *amo* 'to clean, to wipe'. The direct object may express either the object cleaned as in (148), or the substance removed as in (149).

- (148) *He amo i te 'āriŋa.*  
 NTR wipe/clean ACC ART face  
 'She wiped her face.' [Ley-9-55.030]
- (149) *...i ha'amata ai i te amo i te mā'ea era o te kona ena.*  
 PFV begin PVP ACC ART wipe/clean ACC ART stone DIST of ART place MED  
 '...they started to clear away the stones in that place.' [R539-2.213]

Another example is *oŋe* 'to lack, to be in need, to suffer shortage'. The subject may express either the person(s) in need as in (150), or the substance which is lacking as in (151).

## 8 The verbal clause

- (150) *Ku oŋe 'ā tātou.*  
PRF shortage CONT 1PL.INCL  
'We are in need.' [R352.118]
- (151) *Ku oŋe 'ā te kai, ko pakapaka 'ā ku mei 'ā.*  
PRF shortage CONT ART food PRF dry:RED CONT PRF wither CONT  
'The food was scarce, (the crops) were dry, they were withered.' [R352.112]

### 8.6.4.5 *Ko* with non-topicalised arguments

As discussed in §8.6.2.1, *ko* in verbal clauses marks topicalised subjects, preverbal subjects which are highlighted as topics. Occasionally, *ko* is used to mark postverbal arguments. In these cases, the argument is marked as prominent for a certain reason; different motivations can be distinguished.

***Poreko* 'to be born'** The subject of *poreko* is sometimes *ko*-marked. The noun phrase introduced by *ko* introduces a new participant ('new' in an absolute sense!); *ko* may indicate that the referent will be thematic in the text that follows.

- (152) *He tuki haka'ou he poreko ko Tikitiki 'e ko 'Ōroŋo.*  
NTR copulate again NTR born PROM Tikitiki and PROM Orongo  
'They slept together again, and Tikitiki and Orongo were born.' [R234.007]
- (153) *He poreko ko te heke 'Akaverio.*  
NTR born PROM ART octopus Akaverio  
'The octopus Akaverio was born.' [Mtx-7-14.003]

**Naming verbs** *Ko* is used in the complement of the naming verbs *kī* 'to call' and *nape* 'to name, convey a name to'.<sup>63</sup> The complement of these verbs can be analysed as an identifying clause with the *ko*-marked noun phrase as predicate. Its subject can be implicit as in (154), or expressed as *'iŋoa* (which is case-marked as direct object of *nape* or *kī*) as in (155).<sup>64</sup>

- (154) *He poreko te poki he nape ko Tikitiki 'a Ataranga.*  
NTR born ART child NTR name PROM Tikitiki a Ataranga  
'The child was born, they called it Tikitiki a Ataranga.' [R532-02.005]

<sup>63</sup> The same happens in Tongan and Samoan (Clark 1976: 45); in Tongan, *hoko* 'become' and *ui* 'call' both take a *ko*-marked complement.

<sup>64</sup> These constructions are sometimes characterised as "small clauses", a pair of constituents which are in a subject-predicate relation, but which may not be a single constituent syntactically (see Bowers 2001). Bauer (1991: 12) also analyses the same constructions in Māori as embedded equative (=identifying) clauses. See sec. §9.2.2 and §9.2.1 on identifying and classifying clauses, respectively.

- (155) *He nape i te 'īhoa ko Māhina Tea.*  
 NTR to\_name ACC ART name PROM Mahina Tea  
 ‘They called her (lit. her name) Mahina Tea.’ [R399.003]

With common nouns, the noun phrase is *he*-marked, and the complement can be analysed as a classifying clause; again, its subject is case-marked as direct object of the main verb.

- (156) *He nape i te rāua 'īhoa he hānau momoko.*  
 NTR to\_name ACC ART 3PL name PRED race slender  
 ‘They called them ‘slender race.’’ [R370.008]

Under this analysis, the noun phrase marked with *ko* or *he* as such is not a complement of the verb, but rather the predicate of a complement clause.

**Perception verbs** As a prominence marker, *ko* signals information that the speaker wishes to highlight in some way, for example because it is thematic. This may explain why *ko* can be used to mark the complement of perception verbs like *take'a* ‘see’, *u'i* ‘look’ and *ηaro'a* ‘perceive’. Normally, perception verbs take a direct object as in (157):<sup>65</sup>

- (157) *He u'i a Makemake i te kona rivariva, kona Kauhanga.*  
 NTR look PROP Makemake ACC ART place good:RED place Kauhanga  
 ‘Makemake saw a good place, the place Kauhanga.’ [Mtx-1-01.026]

But the perceived object may also be marked with *ko*, which highlights the significance of the object for the participant. The perceived object may be surprising and unexpected. This use of *ko* can be characterised as PARTICIPANT-ORIENTED.

- (158) *He u'i atu ō'oku ko te vave e tahi e oho nō mai 'ā.*  
 NTR look away POSS.1SG.O PROM ART wave NUM one IPFV go just hither CONT  
 ‘I saw a wave that was coming.’ [R406.040]
- (159) *I 'ao popohāna era he hakarōgo atu ia ō'oku ko te manu  
 ka kiukiu.*  
 CNTG chirp:RED  
 ‘In the early morning I heard an insect chirping.’ [R109.005]

If the complement involves an event or action, this is expressed as a clause following the *ko*-marked noun phrase, for example *e oho nō mai 'ā* ‘it was coming’ in (158) (§11.3.1.2).

<sup>65</sup> With passive perception verbs, the object may be unmarked – see (19) in sec. §8.3.2. With *u'i*, the object may be marked with *ki* – see (118) in sec. §8.6.4.2.

#### 8.6.4.6 Object incorporation with *rova'a*

Object incorporation is rare in Rapa Nui; it mainly occurs with modifying verbs in noun phrases (§5.7.2.3). On the clausal level, object incorporation does not occur, but there is one exception: the object of *rova'a/rava'a* ‘obtain’. As shown in §8.4.1 above, the object of *rova'a* is usually expressed as a regular noun phrase, though the accusative marker *i* is often omitted. However, when the object is something edible, it tends to be incorporated into the verb.<sup>66</sup> The incorporated object shows the following characteristics:

- it occurs immediately after the verb, without a preceding accusative marker or article;
- it is not followed by any other noun phrase element;
- postverbal particles, such as *'ā* in (160), occur after the object. This shows that the object has become part of the verb phrase.

(160) *Ko rova'a ika 'ā a ia.*  
 PRF obtain fish CONT PROP 3SG  
 ‘He has caught fish.’ [R416.112]

(161) *'Ī tātou ka rova' kai.*  
 IMM 1PL.INCL CNTG obtain food  
 ‘We’ll have food straightaway.’ [R352.067]

In the following example, the object noun *me'e* is incorporated into the verb phrase, but the relative clause *mo kai*, which modifies *me'e*, is left stranded at the end of the clause.

(162) *Māuruuru ki tū taŋata era i rova'a [me'e] ai rāua [mo kai].*  
 thank to DEM man DIST PFV obtain thing PVP 3PL for eat  
 ‘Thanks to that man they had obtained something to eat.’ [R349.021]

#### 8.6.4.7 Agentive use of *i*

As discussed in §8.3 above, the Agent is marked with *e* under certain conditions. Rapa Nui also has a second Agent marker: the locative preposition *i* (§4.7.2.2) is used to mark agents which are not an argument of the verb. Usually, *i*-marked Agents occur with intransitive verbs which have a non-agentive S, such as *motu* ‘break (intr.)’ and *'ō'otu* ‘be cooked’.<sup>67</sup> Agentive *i* is especially common with a few patientive verbs: *mate* ‘die’, *rehu* ‘be forgotten’ and *ŋaro* ‘to be lost; to be forgotten’; however, it may occur with any intransitive verb. A few examples:

<sup>66</sup> Object incorporation with *rova'a* only occurs in modern Rapa Nui; in older texts *rova'a* always takes a full NP object.

<sup>67</sup> Hooper (1984b) discusses the same construction in Māori, where agentive *i* is used with a closed class of verbs. Hooper characterises these verbs as inherently passive. In Māori, these verbs share certain syntactic characteristics: they do not occur in the imperative and cannot function as NP head or modifier. (See also



- (163) *'Ina a au e ko rehu i a koe.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG IPFV NEG.IPFV forgotten at PROP 2SG  
 'You won't forget me.' [R226.006]
- (164) *He mate koe i a au.*  
 NTR die 2SG at PROP 1SG  
 'You will die by me = I will kill you.' [Mtx-3-01.147]
- (165) *¡I a au tau honu ena ana ŋae'!*  
 at PROP 1SG DEM turtle MED IRR move  
 'By me that turtle will move! (=I will move that turtle)' [MsE-028.002]
- (166) *Kai 'ite mai a au pē nei ē: e tu'u mau rō koe i*  
 NEG.PFV know hither PROP 1SG like PROX thus IPFV arrive really EMPH 2SG at  
*a au.*  
 PROP 1SG  
 'I don't know if I'll manage to get you there (lit. if you will arrive by me).'  
 [R314.049]

(166) is remarkable because *tu'u* is an active verb; its subject is an Agent. Even so, an agentive *i*-phrase is added, expressing an external (higher order) Agent which causes the event to happen. A construction like this is semantically similar to causativisation of an agentive verb (§8.12.2).

In the examples so far, the Agent noun phrase is animate. This is to be expected, as prototypical agentivity implies that the action is done volitionally, something which is only possible with an animate agent. However, the event can also be caused by an animal, object, force or event. In the latter case, Rapa Nui orthography uses the preposition '*i* (with glottal); note however that *i* and '*i* are merely different spellings of the same preposition (§2.2.5; §4.7.2). Below are two examples; more examples are given in §4.7.3.

- (167) *He hati te ŋao o 'Oto 'Uta 'i te pureva.*  
 NTR break ART neck of Oto Uta at ART rock  
 'The neck of (the statue) Oto Uta broke by/from the rock.' [MsE-089.002]
- (168) *Ku ŋarepe 'ā te kahu 'i te 'ua.*  
 PRF wet CONT ART clothes at ART rain  
 'The clothes got soaked by the rain.' [Egt. lexicon]

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Pucilowsky 2006: 33.) Different from Māori, Rapa Nui allows agentive *i* with any intransitive verb, even active verbs, though it mostly occurs with verbs having a Patient subject.

Alexander (1981a: 135) claims that agentive *i* in Rapa Nui only occurs with inanimate subjects, while *e* is only used with animate subjects. Neither claim is correct: see the examples in this section and in §8.5.2. Finney & Alexander (1998: 21) characterise the agentive *i* construction as a "lexical passive": a passive without a corresponding active form. The subject expresses a Patient, while the Agent is expressed as an oblique, just as in passive constructions. Notice, however, that the Agent is not part of the case frame of the verb; the inherent meaning of the verb is not such that the action is carried out by the Agent on the Patient; rather, the Patient undergoes the event, without an Agent being in view.

## 8.7 Case marking in nominalised clauses

With nominalised verbs and verbal nouns (§3.2.3), case marking is governed by the same rules as with verbs in general, with one important difference: arguments that would be unmarked in a verbal clause, are expressed as possessives when the verb is nominalised. Agents may be either *a-* or *o-*possessed; Patients are *o-*possessed (§6.3.3.4).

This results in the following situation:

1. The Agent is usually possessive, as in (169–170).
 

(169) *Ku ŋaro'a 'ā te honu te kī 'a Ku'uku'u.*  
 PRF perceive CONT ART turtle ART say of.A Ku'uku'u  
 'The turtle heard what Ku'uku'u said (lit. heard the saying of Ku'uku'u).'  
 [Ley-2-02.034]

(170) *I te kī nō o Puakiva ki a Pea i tā'ana vānaŋa...*  
 at ART say just of Puakiva to PROP Pea ACC POSS.3SG.A word  
 'When Puakiva was still saying (lit. in the saying of Puakiva) his words to Pea...'  
 [R229.489]
2. The Agent is *e-*marked in the situations listed in §8.4.2, for example in VOA clauses as in (171), and in transitive clauses with implied O as in (172):
 

(171) *I oti era i te hakame'eme'e i a Huri 'a Vai e Vaha...*  
 PFV finish DIST ACC ART mock ACC PROP Huri a Vai AG Vaha  
 'When Vaha had finished mocking Huri a Vai...'  
 [R304.094]

(172) *'Ina he taŋata toe, ku oti 'ā te va'ai e Vaha ki ruŋa ki te vaka.*  
 NEG PRED man remain PRF finish CONT ART give AG Vaha to above to ART  
 canoe  
 'There were no men left, they had all been handed over by Vaha (lit. the giving by Vaha had finished) to (the people in) the canoe.'  
 [Mtx-3-01.122]
3. The Patient usually has the accusative marker, regardless whether the Agent is expressed or not; cf. (170) above and (173) below:
 

(173) *He oti te keri i tau rua era...*  
 NTR finish ART dig ACC DEM hole DIST  
 'When they had finished digging that hole...'  
 [Mtx-3-02.010]
4. Sometimes the Patient is expressed as possessive; this may indicate passivisation, i.e. the Patient has become subject.
 

(174) *Ka toru mahana o te tanu o Kava...*  
 CNTG three day of ART bury of Kava  
 'Three days after Kava's burial...'  
 [R229.358]

It never happens that both subject and object are expressed as possessive.

## 8.8 Obliques

### 8.8.1 Indirect object?

Apart from the subject and the direct object, verbs may have various other arguments, expressing roles such as Goal (of movement or action), Beneficiary and Recipient. This includes semantic roles traditionally labelled as “indirect object”, e.g. the Recipient of *va'ai* ‘give’. In Rapa Nui, these constituents are syntactically not different from any other oblique role; they do not share the characteristics of the core grammatical relations, subject and direct object, but behave like other obliques, as the following evidence shows.

1. While subjects and direct objects are unmarked when they are preverbal (§8.3.1; §8.4.1), other constituents keep their preposition, including Recipients:

(175) *Ki a koe a au i oho mai nei.*  
 to PROP 2SG PROP 1SG PFV go hither PROX  
 ‘To you I have come.’ [R617.181]

(176) *Ki a ia e va'ai era e Tū.*  
 to PROP 3SG IPFV give DIST AG Tu  
 ‘To him Tu gives it.’ [R416.080]

2. Patients can be expressed as subject in passivisation (§8.5.1), but arguments such as recipients and beneficiaries cannot; the following construction is impossible:

(177) \**He va'ai au e tahi puka e tō'oku pāpā.*  
 NTR give 1SG NUM one book AG POSS.1SG.O father  
 ‘I was given a book by my father.’

3. In relative clauses, relativised subjects and direct objects can be omitted; other constituents (including recipients) need to be expressed (§11.4.2).
4. This also has consequences for content questions with the interrogative pronoun *ai* ‘who’. Interrogative subjects and objects are constructed as clefts, nominal clauses containing a relative clause (§10.3.2.1–10.3.2.2). As a consequence, an interrogative direct object is not marked with the accusative marker *i*, but as a nominal predicate. By contrast, interrogative obliques are always preceded by the appropriate preposition; this includes recipients, as in (179):

(178) *¿I muri i a ai a Eva ka noho era 'i a Tire?*  
 at near at PROP who PROP Eva CNTG stay DIST at PROP Chile  
 ‘With whom will Eva stay in Chile?’ [R615.660]

- (179) ¿*Ki a ai ki a ai i kī ai mo hā'ū'ū mai 'i tō'ona*  
 to PROP who to PROP who PFV say PVP for help hither at POSS.3SG.O  
 'ati?  
 problem  
 'Whom and whom did he ask to help him in his problem?' [R615.145]

We may conclude that all constituents other than subject and direct object are obliques, none of which has a special status as “indirect object”.

### 8.8.2 Marking of obliques

Any preposition may serve to mark an oblique constituent. Examples are given in the sections discussing these prepositions (subsections of §4.7). Two prepositions which are particularly common with obliques, are the directional preposition *ki* ‘to’ (§4.7.4) and, to a lesser extent, *mo* ‘for’. Because of their wide range of uses, both will be discussed in some detail here.

#### 8.8.2.1 *Ki* ‘to’

*Ki* marks the object of middle verbs (§8.6.4.2 above). In addition, it marks semantic roles such as Recipient, Addressee and Goal:

- (180) *He va'ai a nua i te kai ki a koro.*  
 NTR give PROP Mum ACC ART food to PROP Dad  
 ‘Mum gave the food to Dad.’ [R236.078]
- (181) *He kī e Kuha ki a Pea...*  
 NTR say AG Kuha to PROP Pea  
 ‘Kuha said to Peha...’ [R229.034]

*Ki* marks the oblique argument of a diverse group of verbs, including for example *nono'i* ‘ask for’, *moe* ‘sleep with’, *tau'a* ‘to fight against’, *māhani* ‘get to know’ and *koro-maki* ‘to miss, long for’:

- (182) *'Ā'aku 'ana i nono'i ki te ika.*  
 POSS.1SG.A IDENT PFV request to ART fish  
 ‘I myself asked for fish.’ [Mtx-7-04.061]
- (183) *He moe ki te vi'e, he tupu te poki.*  
 NTR sleep to ART woman NTR grow ART child  
 ‘He slept with his wife, she got pregnant.’ [Mtx-7-20.002]
- (184) *Ko koromaki 'ā a au ki a koe.*  
 PRF miss CONT PROP 1SG to PROP 2SG  
 ‘I miss you.’ [R208.203]

Finally, *ki* expresses the causee in causative constructions based on a transitive verb (§8.12.3).

### 8.8.2.2 *Mo* ‘for’

Some verbs take a Goal complement marked with the benefactive preposition *mo*. The complement of *riri* ‘to be angry’ may be marked with *i* or *ki* (see (123–124) on p. 418), but also by *mo*:

- (185) *'Ina koe ko riri mo tu'u māmā era.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV angry for POSS.2SG.O mother DIST  
 ‘Don’t be angry with your mother.’ [R103.071]

With other verbs both *ki* and *mo* are possible. With verbs of giving, benefactive *mo/mā* may be used instead of the more usual *ki*. The choice between *mo* and *mā* depends on the semantic relationship between the Recipient and the given object (§6.3.3).

- (186) *Ka va'ai mai te ika hiku meamea ena mā'aku.*  
 IMP give hither ART fish tail red:RED MED BEN.1SG.A  
 ‘Give me the red-tailed fish (to eat).’ [Mtx-5-04.014]
- (187) *E ma'u mai 'ā a mātou i te rēkaro nei mā'au.*  
 IPFV carry hither CONT PROP 1PL.EXCL ACC ART present PROX BEN.2SG.A  
 ‘We are bringing this present for you.’ [R210.127]

As a benefactive preposition (expressing intended possession), *mo* emphasises possession of the object by the Recipient which results from the act of giving. By contrast, a *ki*-marked Recipient is not necessarily the possessor of the given object. In the following example, Tiare is not the (ultimate) possessor of the given object. In this case, benefactive *mo* may not be appropriate.

- (188) *He to'o mai he va'ai i tou marenī era ki a Tiare...*  
 NTR take hither NTR give ACC DEM watermelon DIST to PROP Tiare  
 ‘She took the watermelon and gave it to Tiare (and told her to give it to Merahi).’ [R309.072]

*Mo* may mark the object of a feeling (like *ki*), or the topic of an utterance (‘about’):

- (189) *He 'aroha a Vai Ora mo Tahoŋa 'o te taŋi mo rā ika.*  
 NTR compassion PROP Vai Ora for Tahoŋa because\_of ART cry for DIST fish  
 ‘Vai Ora had pity with Tahoŋa, because of his crying for the fish.’ [R301.249]
- (190) *He taŋi a Tahoŋa 'i tū vānaŋa era 'a Hotu mo tū ika era*  
 NTR cry PROP Tahoŋa at DEM word DIST of.A hotu for DEM fish DIST  
 'ā'ana.  
 POSS.3SG.A  
 ‘Tahonga cried because of the words Hotu said about his fish.’ [R301.295]

Nowadays, ‘about’ tends to be expressed by *o ruŋa* (see (153) on p. 128).

### 8.8.2.3 Order of constituents

As the examples above show, oblique constituents usually come after the subject. They may also be preposed as in (175–176) above. If there is also a direct object, the oblique constituent usually comes last as in (180), though the reverse order also occurs:

- (191) *He tuhi e Vaha [ki a Kava]<sub>OBL</sub> [i te kona mo titi o te hare.]<sub>DO</sub>*  
 NTR point\_out AG Vaha to PROP Kava ACC ART place for stack of ART  
 house  
 ‘Vaha pointed out to Kava a place to build the house.’ [R229.110]

This happens when the oblique is more topical than the direct object, or when the oblique is lighter (i.e. shorter and structurally simpler) than the direct object. In (191) the oblique is short, while the direct object is a complex noun phrase.

## 8.9 Reflexive and reciprocal

Reflexivity occurs when two constituents in a clause are coreferential, in most cases subject and object. Reciprocity involves two participants which are mutually involved in an action. Rapa Nui does not have specific pronouns or other forms to express these categories; various strategies are used, which are discussed below.

### 8.9.1 Reflexive

Reflexivity can be expressed by a personal pronoun in the appropriate person and with the appropriate preposition.<sup>68</sup>

- (192) *He haka riro i a ia pa he pikea.*  
 NTR CAUS become ACC PROP 3SG like PRED crab  
 ‘She turned herself into a crab.’ [R310.050]
- (193) *¿Ko haŋa 'ā koe mo hore atu i a koe?*  
 PRF want CONT 2SG for cut away ACC PROP 2SG  
 ‘Do you want to cut yourself?’ [R428.009]

Reflexive reference may be made more explicit by the identity particle 'ā or 'ana (§5.9):

- (194) *Ko ri'ari'a 'ana 'i tū māuiui era ō'ona e ma'u era 'i roto i a ia 'ā.*  
 PRF afraid CONT at DEM sick DIST POSS.3SG.O IPFV carry DIST at inside at  
 PROP 3SG IDENT  
 ‘She was afraid of the sickness she carried inside herself’ [R301.091]

<sup>68</sup> According to Anderson & Keenan (1985: 265), there “appears to be a universal constraint against using ordinary pronouns and noun phrases for referring to the same individual twice within a single clause”. This constraint does not operate in Rapa Nui.

- (195) *He noho 'i ruḡa i te mā'ea e tahi, he kī ki a ia 'ā...*  
 NTR sit at above at ART stone NUM one NTR say to PROP 3SG IDENT  
 ‘He sat down on a stone and said to himself...’ [R229.365]

A reflexive action, which the subject performs on itself, can also be expressed by a causative verb with unexpressed object (§8.12.2).

### 8.9.2 Reciprocal

Like reflexivity, reciprocity may be expressed by a pronoun + identity marker ‘ā/ana as in (196), or left implicit as in (197):

- (196) *He hēḡu'iḡu'i rō atu 'ai tū ḡā rū'au era ki a rāua*  
 NTR murmur:RED EMPH away SUBS DEM PL old\_woman DIST to PROP 3PL  
 'ā.  
 IDENT  
 ‘Then the old women began to murmur to each other (among themselves).’  
 [R347.045]

- (197) *Te taḡata 'e te vi'e e ai ena mo hā'ū'ū ki a rāua.*  
 ART person and ART woman IPFV exist MED for help to PROP 3PL  
 ‘Man and woman are there to help each other.’ [1 Cor. 11:11]

## 8.10 Comitative constructions: ‘with’

### 8.10.1 Introduction

A comitative relationship (‘X with Y’) is expressed by the following construction:

- (198) NP<sub>1</sub> comitative marker *ko* NP<sub>2</sub>

An example:

- (199) *He hoki Makemake<sub>1</sub> rāua<sub>COM</sub> ko Haua<sub>2</sub>.*  
 NTR return Makemake 3PL PROM Haua  
 ‘Makemake and Haua returned.’ [Mtx-1-01.029]

The comitative marker can be realised in several ways:

1. a pronoun, as in the example above
2. *ararua* ‘the two’ or *ananake* ‘together’
3. *koia*
4. Ø

1 is specified for number and person, 2 for number. Both 1 and 2 are used in an inclusory sense: they denote the total set of referents of NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub>. In other words, when both NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub> are singular, the comitative marker is dual if a dual form is available (i.e. in the 1<sup>st</sup> person) and plural otherwise; when either NP<sub>1</sub> or NP<sub>2</sub> is dual or plural, the comitative marker is plural. This is illustrated in (199) above, where the plural *rāua* connects two singular noun phrases.

All four constructions are used commonly in both older and newer texts. They will be discussed in turn in sections §8.10.2–8.10.5. §8.10.6–8.10.7 discuss issues concerning pronouns, especially the inclusory pronoun construction, which is a truncated variant of comitative constructions.

The particle *ko* in these constructions is best considered as the prominence marking *ko*, rather than a separate lexeme meaning ‘with’. As §4.7.12 shows, *ko* has a wide variety of uses; in §4.7.12.4 I suggest that *ko* is a default preposition, marking any noun phrases without a thematic role assigned by a verb or preposition. The second noun phrase in a comitative construction is exactly that: it is not governed by a verb or preposition, and therefore gets the default preposition *ko*.<sup>69</sup>

The noun phrase as a whole is plural, even when NP<sub>1</sub> is singular. This is shown by the fact that a plural verb can be used with a singular NP<sub>1</sub> (whether the latter is explicit or implied). In the example below, the implied NP<sub>1</sub> is singular ‘he’, yet the verb is plural.

- (200) *He nonoho* Ø<sub>1</sub> *ararua ko* [*tū repa era 'ā'ana*]<sub>2</sub>.  
 NTR PL:sit the\_two PROM DEM young\_man DIST POSS.3SG.A  
 ‘He sat down together with his son.’ [R310.020]

### 8.10.2 Pronouns as comitative markers

When the comitative marker is a pronoun, this pronoun is inclusory: it refers to the total group of NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub>. In other words, dual/plural *rāua* is used regardless whether NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub> are singular or plural. An example:

- (201) *He matakū Rapu 'i te hatutiri rāua ko te 'uira*.  
 NTR fear Rapu at ART thunder 3PL PROM ART lightning  
 ‘Rapu feared the thunder and the lightning.’ [Fel-40-028]

<sup>69</sup> Additional confirmation that the sense ‘with’ is not expressed by *ko* as such but by the construction as a whole, comes from the following example from the Bible translation. Here *ararua* ‘the two’ (§8.10.3 below) is used in an inclusory sense in a relative clause; in this construction, *ko* is not used: due to the gapping strategy, there is no constituent to be marked with *ko*.

(i) *...mo haka ūtu'a i te kope [ararua i ture ai]*.  
 for CAUS punish ACC ART person the\_two PFV quarrel PVP  
 ‘to condemn the person with whom she had a conflict (lit. ...the person the two quarrelled)’ (Luke 18:3)



In practice, *rāua ko* is mostly used to connect pairs of single participants, just like *ararua ko* (§8.10.3 below); larger sets are usually expressed by *ananake ko* (§8.10.3).

First and second person pronouns can also be used as comitative markers, and they are inclusory as well. First person pronouns make a distinction between dual and plural. Dual pronouns are used when NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub> are both singular as in (202); when NP<sub>1</sub> and/or NP<sub>2</sub> is plural as in (203), the pronoun is plural.

- (202) *Ī au he iri māua ko Taria ki te māua ketekete.*  
 IMM 1SG NTR ascend 1DU.EXCL PROM Taria to ART 1DU.EXCL ketekete  
 ‘I’m going up with Taria to find *ketekete* (a kind of plant).’ [R153.021]

- (203) *He hoki koe kōrua ko te matu'a ko Iporito Roussel.*  
 NTR return 2SG 2PL PROM ART parent PROM Hippolyte Roussel  
 ‘(spoken to one man:) You will return with father Hippolyte Roussel.’ [R231.258]

These constructions are similar to the inclusory pronoun construction, discussed in §8.10.7 below.

### 8.10.3 *Ararua* and *ananake* ‘together’ as comitative markers

*Ararua* is a definite numeral meaning ‘the two’ (§4.3.4). *Ananake* means ‘together’ in modern Rapa Nui; in older texts has the more general sense ‘all’ (§4.4.4). Both words indicate a collectivity or group: *ararua* refers to a group of two, *ananake* to a group larger than two.

Just like pronouns, *ararua* and *ananake* as comitative markers are used in an inclusory way. *Ararua* is used when the total set denoted by NP<sub>1</sub> + NP<sub>2</sub> is two; it is thus similar in use to *rāua ko*, which usually connects two singular noun phrases. Though both constructions are common, the use of *ararua ko* has increased over time, while the use of *rāua ko* has decreased. An example:

- (204) *He eeke a Rāvī ararua ko Hotu ki ruŋa i te hoi.*  
 NTR PL:go\_up PROP Ravi the\_two PROM Hotu to above at ART horse  
 ‘Ravi mounts the horse with Hotu.’ [R616.736]

*Ananake* is used for sets larger than two, in which NP<sub>1</sub> and/or NP<sub>2</sub> is plural. In (205) NP<sub>1</sub> ‘the people’ is plural, while NP<sub>2</sub> is singular. In (206), NP<sub>1</sub> is singular while NP<sub>2</sub> is plural.

- (205) *He takataka he oho te tajata 'i rote hare pure ki te hāpī*  
 NTR gather:RED NTR go ART man at inside\_ART house prayer to ART learn  
*ananake ko te matu'a.*  
 together PROM ART parent  
 ‘The people gathered in the church to learn together with the priest.’ [R231.288]

## 8 The verbal clause

- (206) *He noho a Uho ananake ko te matu'a, ko te taina.*  
NTR stay PROP Uho together PROM ART parent PROM ART sibling  
'Uho lived together with her parents and siblings.' [Mtx-7-12.055]

In the examples so far, the comitative construction is a constituent in a clause, usually the subject. The comitative construction can also be a (nonverbal) clause by itself, meaning 'A is with B.' In that case, its construction is as follows:

- (207) *ararua/ananake NP<sub>1</sub> ko NP<sub>2</sub>*

Here are two examples. In these constructions, both the comitative marker (*ararua/ananake*) and the NP<sub>1</sub> pronoun are inclusory, denoting the total set of referents of NP<sub>1</sub> and NP<sub>2</sub>: plural in (208), dual in (209).

- (208) *'Āhani 'ō ananake mātou ko tō'oku hua'ai era.*  
if\_only really together 1PL.EXCL PROM POSS.1SG.O family DIST  
'I wish I were together with my family.' [R210.134]

- (209) *Ararua kōrua ko te 'Atua.*  
the\_two 2PL PROM ART God  
'(the angel said to Mary:) God is with you.' [R339.005]

### 8.10.4 *Koia ko* 'with'

*Koia* is originally the third person singular pronoun *ia* preceded by the prominence marker *ko*. However, when used as a connector it has lost the character of a pronoun and is written as one word.

*Koia ko* marks attendant circumstances. As such it may introduce both noun phrases and circumstantial clauses: the following noun phrase or clause indicates an action, state of mind, person or object which in some way accompanies the main clause or a participant in the main clause.

#### 8.10.4.1 *Koia ko* + noun

Like *rāua ko* and *ananake/ararua ko*, *koia ko* may serve as a comitative marker connecting two noun phrases which are closely associated:

- (210) *Te hua'ai nei a Paio koia ko tā'ana vi'e ko Uka 'a Nei*  
ART family PROX PROP Paio COM PROM POSS.3SG.A woman PROM Uka a Nei  
*Ariro.*  
'This family (consisted of) Paio with his wife Uka a Nei Ariro.' [R439.003]

However, *koia ko* + noun phrase usually indicates a looser connection to the preceding context than other comitative markers. The following example, in which *rāua ko* and *koia ko* are both used, is illustrative. The first set of referents, ‘he’ (implied) and ‘his two brothers’, is connected by *rāua ko*. Another entity, ‘the warriors’ is added to this first set.

- (211) *He hoki mai rāua ko tō'ona ηā taina e rua, koia ko te*  
 NTR return hither 3PL PROM POSS.3SG.O PL sibling NUM two COM PROM ART  
*nu'u pāoa.*  
 people warrior  
 ‘He returned together with his two brothers, and with the warriors.’ [Fel-64.107]

Often *koia ko* + NP is not directly connected to a preceding noun phrase, but introduces an additional item to the clause as a whole. In the following example, *rēkaro* ‘present’ is not linked to a specific noun phrase, but adds an additional circumstance to the clause: ‘they gathered around Eva with (=while carrying) gifts.’

- (212) *Ko takataka tahi 'ana te rapa nui 'i muri koia ko te rēkaro e*  
 PRF gather:RED all CONT ART Rapa Nui at near COM PROM ART present IPFV  
*va'ai era ki a Eva.*  
 give DIST to PROP Eva  
 ‘All the Rapa Nui people gathered next to (her) with presents they gave to Eva.’  
 [R210.218]

Notice that there are a few other expressions in which *ko* is not followed by a determiner (§5.5.2).

#### 8.10.4.2 *Koia ko* + verb

*Koia ko* followed by a verb phrase or adjective indicates a secondary circumstance under which the main clause takes place (§11.6.8). This circumstance can be expressed by anything ranging from a single word to a full clause:

- (213) *He hoki mai a Kāiηa koia ko taji.*  
 NTR return hither PROP Kāiηa COM PROM cry  
 ‘Kainga returned crying.’ [R243.173]
- (214) *He mate rō atu 'ai 'i te taji koia ko 'ui pē hē hū 'ati era*  
 NTR die EMPH away SUBS at ART cry COM PROM ask like CQ DEM problem DIST  
*pa'i.*  
 in\_fact  
 ‘She cried bitterly (lit. she died from crying), while asking how that accident had happened.’ [R437.101]

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In modern Rapa Nui, the verb is sometimes preceded by the article *te*; this does not seem to make much difference in meaning.

- (215) *He kī atu a nua koia ko te taŋi...*  
NTR say away PROP Mum COM PROM ART cry  
'Mum said crying...' [R237.014]

### 8.10.5 *Ko* without comitative marker

Occasionally *ko* on its own, without comitative marker, is used to connect two noun phrases. As with *koia ko*, the determiner before the noun may be left out.

- (216) *I te pō varu tō'ou miro ko aka ko raurau.*  
at ART night eight POSS.2SG.O tree PROM root PROM branch:RED  
'On the eighth day your tree (will arrive), with roots and branches.'  
[Mtx-7-18.003]

This construction is used both in older and newer texts, but is not common in either corpus.

*Ko* on its own is somewhat more common in comitative constructions containing three or more elements: the first two nouns are linked by one of the comitative markers; after that, only *ko* is used without repeating the comitative marker. An example:

- (217) *He noho Rano rāua ko tā'ana poki, ko te vi'e.*  
NTR stay Rano 3PL PROM POSS.3SG.A child PROM ART woman  
'Rano lived with his child and his wife.' [Mtx-7-18.001]

This construction reminds of the use of *ko* in lists: in a list of items every item may be preceded by *ko*, regardless its syntactic function in the clause (§4.7.12.1).

### 8.10.6 Pronouns as NP<sub>1</sub>: inclusory and exclusory use

When NP<sub>1</sub> in a comitative construction is a pronoun, it may either include or exclude the referent(s) of NP<sub>2</sub>; in other words, it may be either inclusory or exclusory.<sup>70</sup> In (218), the dual pronoun *māua* is inclusory: its reference includes NP<sub>2</sub> *Peŋipeŋi*: 'me and Peŋipeŋi'.

- (218) *E tahi mahana māua ararua ko Peŋipeŋi e noho era 'i Tu'u*  
NUM one day 1DU.EXCL the\_two PROM Peŋipeŋi IPFV stay DIST at Tu'u  
*Tapu.*  
Tapu  
'One day, Peŋipeŋi and I were staying in Tu'u Tapu.' [R133.001]

<sup>70</sup> Other examples are found in the previous sections. Inclusory use of a pronoun as NP<sub>1</sub> is found in (208–209) above, exclusory use in (202–203). Notice that in the last two examples, an exclusory pronoun as NP<sub>1</sub> is followed by an inclusory pronoun as comitative marker.

In (219), NP<sub>1</sub> is exclusory: the pronoun is singular and does not include NP<sub>2</sub> ‘a person of your house’.

- (219) *¿I 'aŋahē te mahana hope'a i noho i vānaŋa rivariva koe ararua*  
 at when.PAST ART day last PFV sit PFV talk good:RED 2SG the\_two  
*ko te kope e tahi o tu'u hare?*  
 PROM ART person NUM one of POSS.2SG.O house  
 ‘When was the last day you sat down and talked well with a person of your house?’ [R209.032]

### 8.10.7 The inclusory pronoun construction

The inclusory<sup>71</sup> pronoun construction consists of a dual or plural pronoun denoting a set of referents, followed by a noun phrase denoting a subset of these referents.<sup>72</sup> The referents indicated by the noun phrase are included in the set indicated by the pronoun. Here is an example:

- (220) *Te parauti'a, e haŋa rō 'ā a au ki a kōrua ko koro.*  
 ART truth IPFV love EMPH CONT PROP 1SG to PROP 2PL PROM Dad  
 ‘The truth is, I love you and Dad very much.’ [R229.498]

This sentence is spoken by a child to her mother. The dual/plural pronoun *kōrua* refers to mother and father (even though the father is not directly addressed); the father, indicated by the noun *koro*, is a subset of this group. The noun *koro* is marked with the default preposition *ko*.<sup>73</sup> The phrase as a whole could be paraphrased ‘you, including father’.

Two more examples:

- (221) *Ko turu mai 'ā māua ko te poki mai 'uta ki Haŋa Roa.*  
 PRF go\_down hither CONT 1DU.EXCL PROM ART child from inland to Hanga Roa  
 ‘The child and I have come from inland to Hanga Roa.’ [R229.209]
- (222) *E u'i atu era e mātou ko tū ŋā poki era o muri i a au.*  
 IPFV look away DIST AG 1PL.EXCL PROM DEM PL child DIST of near at PROP 1SG  
 ‘I and the children near me were watching.’ [R379.023]

<sup>71</sup> I use the term *inclusory* following Lichtenberk (2000) for pronouns which denote the complete set of referents of the noun phrase; by analogy, *exclusory* means that a pronoun denotes a subset of referents, excluding another subset. Dixon (2010b: 207) uses the term *pronoun elaboration*: the noun phrase elaborates on the reference of the pronoun.

<sup>72</sup> Anderson & Keenan (1985: 267), consider the pronoun in such cases to be semantically singular. Schwartz (1988) takes the same approach. However, it seems more straightforward to take the pronoun as the head of the construction with plural reference.

<sup>73</sup> Schwartz (1988: 241) points out that connectors used in inclusory pronoun constructions are generally not the same connectors used in coordination, but rather elements also used to indicate accompaniment. This is also true in Rapa Nui, where *ko* without any further marker can be used in comitative constructions (§8.10.5).

The inclusory construction is a concise or truncated variety of the comitative construction: where other comitative constructions have a NP<sub>1</sub> + comitative marker, in the inclusory pronoun construction there is only a pronoun. The latter can be analysed in several ways:

1. The comitative marker is omitted; NP<sub>1</sub> is an inclusory pronoun. This analysis is plausible, as there are other cases where the comitative marker is  $\emptyset$  (§8.10.5), as well as cases where NP<sub>1</sub> is an inclusory pronoun (§8.10.6).
2. NP<sub>1</sub> is omitted; instead, the comitative marker itself – which is a plural pronoun as in §8.10.2 – indicates that the set of referents is larger than NP<sub>2</sub>. This analysis is less plausible, as there are no other cases where NP<sub>1</sub> is empty, except when it is implied from the context.
3. Underlyingly, both NP<sub>1</sub> and the comitative marker are an inclusory pronoun, and one of these identical pronouns gets deleted. This analysis would explain an otherwise unexplained gap in the list of comitative constructions. There are cases where NP<sub>1</sub> is an inclusory pronoun and the comitative marker is a different inclusory form (such as *ananake*, see (208–208) on p. 436); there are also cases where NP<sub>1</sub> is a full noun phrase and the comitative marker is an inclusory pronoun (§8.10.2); but there are no cases where both NP<sub>1</sub> and the comitative marker are a pronoun. A deletion strategy would explain why the latter do not occur.<sup>74</sup>

## 8.11 The vocative

Vocative phrases occur in various positions in the sentence: initial as in (223), after the first phrase or clause as in (224), and final as in (225).

(223) *E Eva, e Eva, ka 'ara koe.*  
 VOC Eva VOC Eva IPFV wake\_up 2SG  
 'Eva, Eva, wake up.' [R210.187]

(224) *¿He obispo rā, e koro ē, e tu'ura'arima 'ā i te ŋā poki?*  
 NTR bishop DIST VOC Dad VOC IPFV confirmation CONT ACC ART PL child  
 'Is that the bishop, uncle, confirming the children?' [R413.591]

(225) *¿Ko ŋaro'a 'ana e koe, e Hana ē?*  
 PRF perceive CONT AG 2SG VOC Hana VOC  
 'Did you hear that, Hana?' [R485.016]

<sup>74</sup> The reasons for this deletion could be pragmatic: a repeated pronoun can be perceived as redundant or stylistically awkward.

As (224) and (225) show, the end of a vocative phrase is often marked by  $\bar{e}$ .<sup>75</sup> This particle is always used when the vocative occurs in the middle or at the end of a clause, but rarely with initial vocatives.

These examples also illustrate that names and proper nouns like *koro* ‘father’ in the vocative are not preceded by the proper article *a*.

When common nouns occur in the vocative, they occur with or without article *te*. In modern Rapa Nui the following tendencies can be observed regarding the use of the article:

1. Kinship terms which can be used as personal nouns, do not have the article. For example, *māmārū'au* may function either as common noun or as personal noun, but in the vocative it never has the article.

(226)  $\zeta N\bar{a}$  'ō koe, e māmārū'au ē?  
 MED really 2SG VOC grandmother VOC  
 ‘Is that you, grandmother?’ [R313.119]

2. Nouns preceded by the plural marker  $\eta\bar{a}$  do not have the article.

(227)  $\zeta P\bar{e}$  hē kōrua, e  $\eta\bar{a}$  poki ē?  
 like CQ 2PL VOC PL child VOC  
 ‘How are you, children?’ [R359.007]

3. In other situations, the article tends to be used. This includes familial terms never used as personal nouns, as well as other common nouns.

(228) *Ka oho rivariva koe, e te poki ē.*  
 IPFV go good:RED 2SG VOC ART child VOC  
 ‘Farewell (lit. go well), child.’ [R210.047]

## 8.12 The causative

### 8.12.1 Introduction

The preverbal particle *haka* (< PPN \**faka*) expresses causation. When *haka* is placed before a verb, the valency of the verb is increased by one: an Agent-subject is added expressing an entity which causes the event to happen; the S/A of the root verb is demoted to direct object.

*Haka* is used with intransitive verbs, transitive verbs, adjectives and nouns; examples will be given in the following sections. Furthermore, it is used with copula verbs (see

<sup>75</sup> This particle is glossed voc, but it may be compared to two other particles  $\bar{e}$  which occur before a pause:  $\bar{e}$  in the expression *pē nei ē* ‘thus’, which occurs before an indirect speech (§4.6.5.1), and  $\bar{e}$  indicating an ongoing event (found e.g. in (160) on p. 364).

(248) below)<sup>76</sup> and with adverbs (see (260)). There are no examples in the corpus where it is used with locationals.

*Haka* is fully productive, though in certain cases the meaning of *haka* + root is lexicalised (§8.12.5 below).

Regarding the morphological status of *haka*: in many analyses of Polynesian languages, *haka* is considered a prefix and written together with the root. Semantic motivations may play a role here: *haka* + root forms a derived verb with its own argument structure, often with a lexicalised (i.e. non-predictable) meaning. However, phonologically and morphologically *haka* is no different from preverbal particles. There is no phonological integration with the root: *haka* does not affect the root phonologically any more than particles do. Moreover, *haka* may be separated from the root by preverbal particles, both degree modifiers (see (261) below) and the constituent negator *ta'e*:

- (229) *te nu'u haka ta'e au 'o tō'ona rē i tū 'ā'ati*  
 ART people CAUS CONNEG pleased because\_of POSS.3SG.O win ACC DEM contest  
*era*  
 DIST  
 'the people who were not pleased because of her winning the contest'  
 [R347.036]

### 8.12.2 Causativisation of intransitive predicates

In many cases *haka* expresses direct causation, as illustrated by the following pair of examples. In (230) the Theme argument 'the fire' is the subject; in (231), an (implicit) Agent has been added, expressing the persons causing the fire to burn; the Theme argument is now expressed as direct object.

- (230) *I totomo era ki 'uta, e hū rō 'ā te ahi.*  
 PFV PL:go\_ashore DIST to inland IPFV burn EMPH IDENT ART fire  
 'When they came ashore, a fire was burning.' [R359.019]
- (231) *He noho he haka hū i te ahi.*  
 NTR sit NTR CAUS burn ACC ART fire  
 'They sat down and lighted (made burn) the fire.' [R178.016]

This example involves an inanimate argument and a non-agentive verb. With agentive verbs, the Agent of the root (the causee) is often actively involved in the event, despite the presence of additional Agent (the causer). In (233) the children are just as much the Agent of going as in (232), even though another Agent has been added.

- (232) *I te ahiahi he oho te nā poki ki Mataveri.*  
 at ART afternoon NTR go ART PL child to Mataveri  
 'In the afternoon, the children went to Mataveri.' [R159.015]

<sup>76</sup> According to Dixon (2012: 251), this is crosslinguistically unusual.



- (233) *He haka oho i te nā poki ki haho mo kokori.*  
 NTR CAUS go ACC ART PL child to outside for PL:play  
 ‘She made the children go outside to play.’ [R236.013]

The degree to which the causee is actively involved in the event, may vary. The following example can mean either that the subject lifts Poreone up and puts him on the horse, or that he helps him to mount the horse. (The latter is more likely, as Poreone happens to be about ten years old.)

- (234) *He haka eke ki ruŋa i te hoi i tū poki era ko Poreone.*  
 NTR CAUS go\_up to above at ART horse ACC DEM child DIST FROM Poreone  
 ‘He made the child Poreone mount the horse.’ [R105.095]

Non-agentive verbs – which have a Theme as subject – become agentive by causativisation, as the following pair of examples shows. In (235), the subject *koe* is Theme, while *i* marks the Agent (§8.6.4.7 on non-argument Agents). In (236), the subject *koe* is Agent, while *i* marks the direct object.

- (235) *E ko rehu koe i a au.*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV forgotten 2SG at PROP 1SG  
 ‘I won’t forget you (lit. you won’t be forgotten to/by me).’ [R216.020]
- (236) *‘Ina koe ko haka rehu i a au.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV CAUS forgotten ACC PROP 1SG  
 ‘Don’t forget me.’ [R224.016]

When adjectives are causativised, the property expressed by the adjective is brought about by an Agent; the person or thing having the property is expressed as direct object, *i te pista* in (237), *te tātou mahana* in (238).

- (237) *Rā pau era mo haka roaroa i te pista mo rāua ‘ā e aŋa.*  
 DIST cost DIST for CAUS long:RED ACC ART airstrip for 3PL IDENT IPFV do  
 ‘The cost for lengthening the airstrip, they will pay it themselves.’ [R201.035]
- (238) *‘Ina ko haka rakerake te tātou mahana.*  
 NEG NEG.IPFV CAUS bad:RED ART 1PL.INCL day  
 ‘Don’t spoil our day.’ [R649.184]

*Haka* may also express indirect causation (cf. Dixon 2012: 274). In this case, the Agent does not actively bring about the event, but facilitates the event in some way. This may involve letting a natural process run its course as in (239), giving permission as in (240), or waiting for something to happen as in (241):

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- (239) *He haha'o ki roto te vai... mo haka piro haka kōpiro 'i roto i te vai.*  
NTR insert to inside ART water for CAUS rotten CAUS ferment at inside at ART  
vai.  
water  
'He put the fibres in the water to let them rot and ferment in the water.'  
[R352.030]
- (240) *Ka haka noho nō atu koe i a au 'i nei.*  
IMP CAUS stay just away 2SG ACC PROP 1SG at PROX  
'Let me stay here (allow me to stay here).'
- (241) *He noho he haka ahiahi, 'ai ka turu ki tai.*  
NTR stay NTR CAUS afternoon there CNTG go\_down to sea  
'We stay until the (late) afternoon, then we go down to the sea.' [R356.008]

### 8.12.3 Causativisation of transitive verbs

All the examples so far involve intransitive predicates; with these predicates, the original subject (the causee) is demoted to direct object (DO), while the causative Agent occupies the subject position. Now when the root is a transitive verb, the DO position is already occupied.<sup>77</sup> In that case, the original direct object remains the direct object; the causee is expressed as oblique, marked with the preposition *ki*. This happens whether the DO is expressed as in (242–243),<sup>78</sup> or implied as in (244).

- (242) *Ta'ato'a me'e rakerake e haka aŋa era ki a Puakiva.*  
all thing bad:RED IPFV CAUS do DIST to PROP Puakiva  
'He made Puakiva do all bad jobs.' [R229.397]
- (243) *He haka tike'a ki a Tuhi Ira i tō'ona kahu huruhuru.*  
NTR CAUS see to PROP Tuhi Ira ACC POSS.3SG.O clothes feather  
'He showed (=caused to see) Tuhi Ira his feather coat.' [Fel-33-011]
- (244) *He to'o mai te matu'a i te raŋo... He haka 'amo ki te taŋata.*  
NTR take hither ART parent ACC ART support NTR CAUS carry to ART man  
'The father took the stretcher... He made the men carry (it).'

The same happens when the root is a middle verb which takes a direct object introduced by *ki*; see the discussion about (134) in §8.6.4.2.

When no Patient is implied, the verb is intransitive and the causee is expressed as DO. The verb *'a'amu* 'to tell' is often transitive (with a story as DO), but in the following example it is used intransitively, which means that the DO position is available for the causee 'her grandmother':

<sup>77</sup> Languages employ various strategies in this case; Dixon (2012: 256–263) lists five.

<sup>78</sup> In (242) the object is preverbal, therefore it does not have the ACC marker (§8.4.1).

- (245) *He haka 'a'amu te aŋa i tō'ona māmārū'au era ko Kena.*  
 PRED CAUS tell ART do ACC POSS.3SG.O grandmother DIST PROM Kena  
 'She always made her grandmother Kena tell (stories).' [R380.015]

The DO position is also available for the causee when the Patient is realised as instrument (§8.6.4.3). This is what happens in the following phrase: the Patient *moni* 'money' is realised not as DO but as instrument; the DO position is available for the causee *te taŋata* 'the people'.

- (246) *te nu'u haka 'auhau i te taŋata hai moni mo te rōmano*  
 ART people CAUS pay ACC ART man INS money for the Roman  
 'those who made the people pay money for the Romans (= the tax collectors)'  
 [Luke 7:34]

### 8.12.4 Reflexive and implicit causatives

Causatives of intransitive predicates may be used reflexively: the causee is a pronoun which is coreferential with the Agent. The causative verb *haka paka* (lit. 'cause to be conspicuous') means 'to honour, praise'; in (247) it is used reflexively in the sense 'to praise oneself, to brag', and the object *i a ia* is coreferential to the implied subject.

- (247) *Ku mate atu 'ā a au 'i te kata 'i tū haka paka era i*  
 PRF die away CONT PROP 1SG at ART laugh at DEM CAUS conspicuous DIST ACC  
*a ia.*  
 PROP 3SG  
 'I laughed my head off from his bragging.' [R230.172]

Another example is the following causative of the copula verb *riro*:

- (248) *He haka riro i a ia pa he pīkea.*  
 NTR CAUS become ACC PROP 3SG like PRED crab  
 'She made herself like a crab.' [R310.050]

More commonly, the reflexive object is not expressed. This means that the clause is on the surface no different in argument structure from a clause with the corresponding simple verb: the subject/causer is coreferential with the implied object, which is identical to the subject of the original verb.

- (249) simple verb:                     $S_i$                     V  
 reflexive causative:                 $S_i$                     V                     $(O_i)$
- 

This is illustrated in the following two pairs of examples, first with *riro* 'become', then with *takataka* 'gather':

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- (250) *Ko riro 'ā pē he vārua 'ā.*  
 PRF become CONT like PRED spirit IDENT  
 'He had become like a spirit.' [R310.268]
- (251) *He uru Tangaroa ki roto i te vai, he haka riro pa he kahi.*  
 NTR enter Tangaroa to inside at ART water NTR CAUS become like PRED tuna  
 'Tangaroa entered into the water and turned himself into a tuna.' [Fel-046.020]
- (252) *He oho mai he takataka 'i te hare o te hānautama.*  
 NTR go hither NTR gather:RED at ART house of ART pregnant  
 'They came and gathered in the house of the mother-to-be.' [Ley-9-55.024]
- (253) *He haka takataka 'i tū hare era o tū taŋata era.*  
 NTR CAUS gather:RED at DEM house DIST of DEM man DIST  
 'They gathered in the house of that man.' [R352.079]

These 'implicit reflexives' are part of a larger phenomenon: in many cases, causatives do not add a new argument to the verb, so the argument structure of the root is not modified. What addition of *haka* does in such cases, is adding a semantic element, usually an element of agentivity, activity or intensity. For example, while '*ui* means 'to ask', *haka 'ui* is used in the sense 'to ask persistently and/or repeatedly, to inquire'. Both verbs have the same argument structure, but the causative verb is more intensive.

- (254) *He haka 'ui mai te aŋa e te ŋā poki repahoa ō'oku pē nei*  
 PRED CAUS ask hither ART do AG ART PL child friend POSS.1SG.O like PROX  
 ē...  
 thus  
 'My friends kept asking me as follows...' [R380.042]

'*Ava'ava* means 'to be at a distance' or 'to move away, to withdraw'; *haka 'ava'ava* also has the latter sense, but underlines that the act of withdrawing is volitional. Compare the following pair of examples:

- (255) *Te naonao 'ina he 'ava'ava rahi mai tō'ona kona poreko.*  
 ART mosquito NEG NTR distance\_oneself much from POSS.3SG.O place born  
 'The mosquito does not go far from its breeding place.' [R535.065]
- (256) *'Ina koe ko haka 'ava'ava.*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.IPVV CAUS distance\_oneself  
 'Don't go away.' [R482.045]

The same phenomenon can be observed with adjectives. While *haka* + adjective may be a true causative, expressing that the property is brought about by an external Agent (see (237–238) above), it may also express that the subject reaches a state or acquires a property through intentional action. A few examples:

- (257) *hāhine* ‘to be/draw near’    *haka hāhine* ‘to approach (volitionally)’  
*aŋiaŋi* ‘to be sure’                *haka aŋiaŋi* ‘to make sure, verify’  
*rohirohi* ‘to be tired’                *haka rohirohi* ‘to tire oneself out’
- (258) *He haka hāhine atu o Hotu ki te ‘ōpani o tū piha era.*  
 NTR CAUS near away of Hotu to ART door of DEM room DIST  
 ‘Hotu approached the door of the room.’ [R301.121]
- (259) *Ko haka tiu ‘ā te repa mai ‘uta ki te vaikava mo haka*  
 PRF watch CONT ART young\_man from inland to ART sea for CAUS  
*aŋiaŋi ana ai ko tano ‘ā mo hakahonu.*  
 certain:RED IRR exist PRF correct CONT for bodysurf  
 ‘The young men observe the sea to make sure whether the conditions are fit for surfing.’ [R431.001]

*Haka* + adjective or adverb may also indicate that the subject acts in a way characterised by the root. As (261) shows, this may involve simulating a certain characteristic.<sup>79</sup>

- (260) *E haka koro‘iti koe ana vānaŋa mai.*  
 EXH CAUS softly 2SG IRR speak hither  
 ‘Speak softly (lit. make softly when you speak)!’ [R408.046]
- (261) *Te tire e haŋa rō ‘ā mo haka ‘ata māramarama i a rāua.*  
 ART Chile IPFV want EMPH IDENT for CAUS more intelligent ACC PROP 3PL  
 ‘The Chileans want to pass themselves off as smarter.’ [R428.006]

### 8.12.5 Lexicalised causatives

A number of *haka* forms have a meaning which cannot quite be predicted from the meaning of the root. Some examples:

- (262) *pāpa‘i* ‘to write’                *haka pāpa‘i* ‘to enrol’  
*‘omo‘omo* ‘to suck’                *haka ‘omo‘omo* ‘to breastfeed’  
*rivariva* ‘good’                *haka rivariva* ‘to improve; to prepare’  
*roŋo* ‘message’                *hakaroŋo* ‘to listen; to perceive’

Another example is found in (259) above: *haka honu* ‘bodysurfing’ is a lexicalised causative from *honu* ‘turtle’. The same sentence also contains the verb *hakatiu* ‘to watch’; even though this is formally a causative, there is no word *tiu* in the Rapa Nui lexicon. There are a few more *haka* forms for which the root as such is not a Rapa Nui word. This includes two very common words: *haka‘ou* ‘again’, *hakarē* ‘to leave (abandon; permit)’.

<sup>79</sup> Cf. Moyle (2011: 14) about “simulative use” of the causative prefix in Takuu.

### 8.12.6 The causative prefix with nouns

When the root of the *haka* construction is a noun, the causative expresses an action which is in some way characterised by the noun. The noun may be the product of the action: *haka N* = ‘to cause the object to be N, to make something into N’, or more generally ‘to make/create N’:

(263) *He tītīji i te ivi ra'e, he haka parehe.*

NTR PL:crush ACC ART bone first NTR CAUS piece

‘He crushed the first bone into pieces.’ [Mtx-3-01.199]

(264) *'I te mahana maha i haka kāuŋa tahi era te ŋā poki.*

at ART day four PFV CAUS line all DIST ART PL child

‘On Thursday all the children lined up (formed a line).’ [R334.139]

Other relationships to the noun are possible, whether conventional or creative. In (265) the noun refers to something used in the action, or something characterising the direct object as a result of the action. In (266) the noun is used in a figurative way (cf. English ‘cheeky’).

(265) *E haka tiare rō 'ana i a rāua.*

IPFV CAUS flower EMPH CONT ACC PROP 3PL

‘They have adorned themselves with flowers.’ [R416.415]

(266) *'Ina ho'i koe ko haka 'āriŋa ki tu'u māmā ena.*

NEG indeed 2SG NEG.IPFV CAUS face to POSS.2SG.O mother MED

‘Don’t be insolent to your mother.’ [R103.065]

### 8.12.7 Lexical causatives

The term *lexical causative* refers to a situation where there are two lexemes, unrelated in form, one of which is semantically the causative of the other. (Dixon 2012: 248.)

There are very few lexical causatives in Rapa Nui; the following two are possible candidates.

8.12.7.1 *Hāŋai* ‘to feed’ can be considered a causative of *kai* ‘to eat’. Apart from the obvious semantic relationship between the two, there are two reasons to assume a causative relationship between the two:

1. The morphological causative *haka kai* does not occur; whenever a causative of *kai* is called for, *hāŋai* is used.
2. The arguments of *hāŋai* show the same patterns of case-marking as morphological causatives. When the object of eating (the food) is not expressed or implied, the causee (the eater) is expressed as direct object:

- (267) *I tu'u era he hāñai i a Ure ka oti rō.*  
 PFV arrive DIST NTR feed ACC PROP Ure CNTG finish EMPH  
 'When she arrived, she fed Ure completely.' [R310.291]

But when the object of eating is implied, the causee is marked with *ki*.<sup>80</sup>

- (268) *He to'o mai tū kai era, he hāñai ki tū ñā matu'a era o Tiare.*  
 NTR take hither DEM food DIST NTR feed to DEM PL parent DIST of Tiare  
 'They took the food and fed (it) to Tiare's parents.' [R238.009]

Not all instances of *hāñai* can be considered as lexical causatives, though: the verb is also used in the sense 'to raise/tend (animals); to raise/rear (children)'.

8.12.7.2 Another possible lexical causative is *tīñai*'i (var. *tīñi*) 'to kill', causative of *mate* 'to die':

- (269) *He tīñai i te tañata, i te vi'e, i te poki.*  
 NTR kill ACC ART man ACC ART woman ACC ART child  
 'They killed men, women and children.' [Mtx-3-01.250]

Apart from the sense 'to kill', *tīñai*'i also has a different (though obviously related) sense: 'to strike, hit'. Note also that the sense 'to kill' is also expressed occasionally by the morphological causative *haka mate*.

8.12.7.3 A number of causative verbs were borrowed as a whole from Tahitian. These are clearly recognizable as borrowings, as they start with *ha'a-* (< Tah. *fa'a-*) rather than *haka*. Most of these are isolated lexical items, the root of which does not occur on its own in Rapa Nui: *ha'atura* 'to obey, respect' (Tah. *tura* 'respect.N'); *ha'ati'a* 'to permit' (Tah. *ti'a* 'to stand'). For most of these words, it is not at all obvious that *ha'a-* has a causative sense in Rapa Nui.

For a few *ha'a-* forms, however, the root as such was also borrowed into Rapa Nui: *'i* 'to be full', *ha'a'i* 'to fill'. As *ha'a-* is not a productive prefix in Rapa Nui, *ha'a'i* can be considered as a lexical causative of *'i*, rather than a form derived through prefixation of *ha'a-*.

## 8.13 Conclusions

This chapter has explored the expression of core constituents of verbal clauses.

Rapa Nui patterns with other Polynesian languages in that the S/A argument is marked with *e* or unmarked, while the O argument is marked with *i* or unmarked. However, the resulting case marking patterns are different from those in other languages. At first sight Rapa Nui may seem to have ergative traits, but a close analysis shows that the language is unambiguously accusative. The case marking patterns which seem to deviate from regular accusativity can be explained by the following features:

<sup>80</sup> There are no examples in the corpus where the causee and the object of eating are both expressed.

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- obligatory omission of case markers in certain noun phrases, e.g. those containing a prenominal numeral;
- extensive use of the agentive marker *e*, both in transitive and intransitive clauses;
- omission of the object marker *i* in certain clause types;
- a passive construction which is somewhat inconspicuous because of the absence of passive morphology.

Agent marking is determined by an interplay of heterogenous factors: syntactic (preverbal subjects are always unmarked), lexico-semantic (some verbs show a strong preference for *e*-marked Agents) and pragmatic (Agents which start to act, tend to be *e*-marked). The same is true for object marking: the object marker is omitted under certain conditions, which may be syntactic (OV clauses), lexico-semantic (with certain verbs) or pragmatic (non-salient objects).

Rapa Nui has a passive construction, in which the Patient is expressed as subject while the Agent is an optional oblique (but without morphological changes in the verb). In fact, passivisation in Rapa Nui is part of a wider phenomenon: several (groups of) verbs exhibit variation in argument assignment. For example, the verb 'ī 'to be full' has two argument structures, with the Container and the Substance as subject, respectively. Variable argument structure can also be observed with transfer verbs like 'to feed' and 'to throw': with these verbs, either the Patient or the Goal/Recipient is expressed as direct object; the other argument is expressed as an oblique. When the Patient is oblique, it is marked as an instrument ('he threw the enemy with a spear').

Another argument-related operation is the addition of an external Agent to intransitive verbs; this Agent is marked with the preposition *i*.

Rapa Nui has a number of different comitative constructions ('A with B'). In most of these, a comitative marker is used, followed by the prominence *ko*; this marker is often a plural pronoun ('Makemake they *ko* Haua') or collective marker ('the people together *ko* the priest'). These comitative markers are used in an inclusory way: their number corresponds the total set of referents of both noun phrases. Similar are constructions with comitative sense – but without a comitative marker – in which the first noun phrase is an inclusory pronoun: 'we *ko* the child', meaning 'the child and I'.

The final topic of this chapter is causativisation. Causativisation is very common in Rapa Nui; moreover, it is very versatile:

- it can be applied to any verbal predicate and is occasionally applied to nouns as well;
- it indicates varying types of causation, both direct ('he made me do it') and indirect ('he let me do it, helped me to do it');
- while a prototypical causative adds an external Agent to the event, some causatives in Rapa Nui do not change the argument structure of the verb, but add an element of intensity or agentivity.



# 9 Nonverbal and copular clauses

## 9.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with clauses which do not have a lexical verb as predicate. These clauses contain either no verb, an existential verb, or a copula verb.

The following types can be distinguished and will be discussed in turn:

- NP NP clauses, i.e. clauses in which both the subject and the predicate are noun phrases (§9.2);
- existential clauses, both verbal and non-verbal (§9.3);
- clauses with a prepositional predicate (§9.4);
- numerical clauses (§9.5);
- clauses containing a copula verb (§9.6).

## 9.2 NP NP clauses

When a nominal clause consists of two noun phrases, one of them is the subject; for the other noun phrase, there are two possibilities: it may either be referential or non-referential. When the noun phrase is non-referential, it is a true predicate, which gives new information about the subject, expressing that the subject belongs to a certain class. When the non-subject noun phrase is a referential noun phrase, the clause establishes a relation of identity between the two noun phrases, expressing that both are descriptions of the same referent. In this grammar, these two constructions are labelled CLASSIFYING and IDENTIFYING clauses, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

In Rapa Nui, these two types of clauses are distinguished by the use of the predicate marker *he* in classifying clauses and the preposition *ko* in identifying clauses.

A third type of NP NP clauses, attributive clauses, is characterised by the absence of any pronominal marker and the presence of an adjective in the predicate NP.

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<sup>1</sup> Various terms are used in the literature. Dryer (2007a: 233) distinguishes between “equational clauses” and “true nominal predicate clauses”. The distinction is fundamental in some Polynesian languages; terms used in Polynesian linguistics include: classifying and equative predicates (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 78), predicational and identificational NPs (Chung, Mason & Milroy 1995: 430), predicate nominals and equatives (De Lacy 1999), class-inclusion and equational sentences (Cook 1999: 45).

### 9.2.1 Classifying clauses

In classifying clauses, a nominal predicate provides information about the subject by expressing that the subject belongs to a certain class of entities. The predicate is introduced with *he*, which indicates non-referentiality (§5.3.4).

The unmarked order in these clauses is Subject–Predicate.

- (1) *A Thor Heyerdahl he científico e tahi.*  
 PROP Thor Heyerdahl NTR scientist NUM one  
 ‘Thor Heyerdahl was a scientist.’ [R376.007]
- (2) *Te toromiro he tumu hauha'a e tahi.*  
 ART toromiro PRED tree importan NUM one  
 ‘The toromiro is an important tree.’ [R478.053]
- (3) *Rā me'e era pē he tiare he mōrī.*  
 DIST thing DIST like PRED flower PRED light  
 ‘Those things (that look) like flowers are lights.’ [R210.199]

The predicate may also come first. This happens only when the subject is well-established, i.e. topical in discourse; it tends to be expressed by a pronoun as in (4), or a generic noun phrase as in (5). In this construction, the predicate is prominent. In (5), for example, the predicate conveys unexpected, surprising information.

- (4) *E ai rō 'ā e tahi tañata tire, he piroto 'avione a ia.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH IDENT NUM one person Chile PRED pilot airplane PROP 3SG  
 ‘There was one Chilean, he was an airplane pilot.’ [R378.013]
- (5) *He tañata tau manu era, he poki 'a Uho tau manu era.*  
 PRED person DEM bird DIST PRED child of.A Uho DEM bird DIST  
 ‘That bird was a human being, that bird was Uho’s child.’ [Mtx-7-12.069]

In (6), Tangaroa (who has transformed himself into a seal, and is mistaken for a seal by the people) wants to emphasise that he is the king, not a real seal as the people think. The predicate *he 'ariki* is counterexpectative and occurs before the subject.<sup>2</sup>

- (6) *He rañi mai te re'o o te pakia: 'He 'ariki au ko Tañarōa'.*  
 NTR call hither ART voice of ART seal PRED king 1SG PROM Tangarōa  
 ‘The voice of the seal cried: I am king Tangarōa.’ [Mtx-1-05.008]

Just as in verbal clauses, the subject of classifying clauses may be left out:

<sup>2</sup> Notice that *ko Tañarōa*, which is an apposition to the predicate, is not fronted but remains in its post-subject position; see sec. §9.2.5 for more examples of split predicates.

- (7) *He aji mau 'ā pē nei ē: he 'ariki.*  
 NTR true really IDENT like PROX thus PRED king  
 'It is true: he is a king.' [Fel-46.053]
- (8) *Ta'e he taŋata, he 'aku'aku, pē ira 'ā au.*  
 CONNEG PRED person PRED spirit like ANA IDENT 1SG  
 'That is not a man, it is a spirit, and so am I.' [Mtx-7-04.058]

### 9.2.2 Identifying clauses

Identifying clauses serve to identify the referent of one noun phrase with the referent of the other noun phrase in the clause. Both NPs are preceded by a *t*-determiner (§5.3.2) such as the article *te*, indicating that they are referential. In all identifying clauses, one noun phrase is preceded by the prominence marker *ko* (§4.7.12).

A few examples:

- (9) *Te me'e ena o te pā'eja 'uta ko tō'oku māmā era.*  
 ART thing MED of ART side inland PROM POSS.1SG.O mother DIST  
 'That (person) on the inland side is my mother.' [R411.057]
- (10) *Pero ko au te suereka o te hora nei.*  
 but PROM 1SG ART governor of ART time PROX  
 'But I am the governor now (or: the governor now is me).' [R201.007]
- (11) *Te nāyata mātāmu'a o Rapa Nui ko te 'ariki era ko Hotu Matu'a*  
 ART men first of Rapa Nui PROM ART king DIST PROM Hotu Matu'a  
*ananake ko tō'ona hua'ai.*  
 together PROM POSS.3SG.O family  
 'The first people of Rapa Nui were king Hotu Matu'a with his family.' [R350.015]

Notice that the *ko*-marked NP, in the case of a common noun, is always followed by a postnominal demonstrative *nei*, *ena* or *era*; the combination of the article *te* with one of these demonstratives indicates definiteness (§4.6.3.1).

As both noun phrases are referential and definite, and both refer to the same entity, it is not always clear which NP is subject and which is predicate. Constituent order cannot be used as the sole criterion, as both subject and predicate of a nominal clause may come first.<sup>3</sup> It is even questionable whether the term *predicate* is appropriate at all in identifying clauses (see Anderson 2004: 440): as both noun phrases are referential expressions, they are fundamentally different from predicates, which designate properties or events rather than referring to entities.

<sup>3</sup> See examples (1–6) in classifying clauses; the same is true in other types of nominal clauses, e.g. locative clauses (§9.4.1).

Even so, the terms *subject* and *predicate* may be used in identifying clauses in a loose way, in the sense that the subject is the entity to be identified, and the predicate is the identifying expression. In some cases it is clear which NP is the subject, as this NP functions as discourse topic. In other cases, however, it is difficult to identify subject and predicate – unless we adopt a simple syntactic definition. As indicated above, in every identifying clause one noun phrase is marked with *ko*, while the other is an unmarked NP. Taking the *ko*-marked NP as predicate provides a simple criterion. Moreover, this analysis coincides with the intuitive assignment of subject and predicate in those cases where the distinction is clear: in examples like (11), it is clear that the unmarked NP is subject, while the *ko*-marked NP serves to identify this subject.

In the examples so far, the identifying clause consists of two common noun phrases. When the clause contains a pronoun or proper noun, the use of *ko* is described by the following two rules:

1. If the clause contains a proper noun, this is always *ko*-marked.
2. If the clause contains a pronoun, this is usually *ko*-marked,<sup>4</sup> unless the other constituent is a proper noun.

This is illustrated in the following examples.

Common NP + proper noun:

- (12) *Te kona hope'a o te nehenehe ko 'Anakena.*  
 ART place last of ART beautiful PROM Anakena  
 'The most beautiful place (of the island) is Anakena.' [R350.013]

Pronoun + common NP:

- (13) *Pero ko au te suerekao o te hora nei.*  
 but PROM 1SG ART governor of ART time PROX  
 'But I am the governor now (or: the governor now is me).' [R201.007]

Pronoun + proper noun:

- (14) *A au ko Omoanga.*  
 PROP 1SG PROM Omoanga  
 'I am Omoanga.' [R314.101]

These patterns make sense if we assume that *ko* always marks the predicate. Proper names are inherently highly identifiable (their reference is always unique and unambiguous in a given context), so it is not surprising that they serve as an identifying expression (predicate) rather than as a referent to be identified (subject). The same is true for pronouns. Between proper nouns and pronouns, the former are identifiable to a higher

<sup>4</sup> I have not found any exceptions to this rule in the text corpus, though there are a few exceptions in the New Testament translation.

degree: within a given context, a proper noun has unambiguous unique reference; for a pronoun, more contextual clues may be needed to establish its reference. This can be represented in a *hierarchy of identifiability*:

- (15) proper nouns > pronouns > common nouns

The idea that *ko* marks the predicate is also confirmed by the fact that an identifying clause may consist of a *ko*-phrase only; this follows from the general rule in Rapa Nui that the predicate is obligatory, while the subject can be omitted:

- (16) —*ǰKo ai koe? —Ko au 'ana.*  
PROM who 2SG PROM 1SG IDENT  
 ‘—Who are you? —It’s me.’ [Mtx-7-04.071–072]
- (17) —*Me'e era ko Tito. —Ēē. Ko ia.*  
thing DIST PROM Tito yes PROM 3SG  
 ‘—That one (in the picture) is Tito. —Yes. It’s him.’ [R414.163–165]

In (14) above, the pronoun is not marked with *ko* when the other constituent is a proper noun. There are also a few cases in the corpus where a pronoun and a proper noun are both *ko*-marked. Two examples are provided below:

- (18) *Ko au ko Totimo.*  
PROM 1SG PROM Totimo  
 ‘I am Totimo.’ [R399.193]
- (19) —*ǰKo ai koe? —Ko au ko Huri 'Avai.*  
PROM who 2SG PROM 1SG PROM Huri Avai  
 ‘—Who are you? —I am Huri Avai.’ [Mtx-3-01.127–128]

If the pronoun is taken as the subject, these clauses are counterexamples to the claim that only the predicate is marked with *ko*. However, a different analysis is also possible: the pronoun can be analysed as the predicate (with implicit subject), with the proper noun added as apposition, ‘It’s me, Totimo’. In both examples above this analysis is plausible. In (18), for example, the situation is as follows: there is a blind girl, Mahina Tea, who knows a boy called Totimo. Totimo walks up to her, embraces her and utters the clause quoted here. An analysis as predicate + apposition is appropriate here.<sup>5</sup>

In other cases this analysis is less plausible, as in the following exchange:

<sup>5</sup> This analysis is reinforced by the fact that in some cases the two constituents are separated by a comma:

- (i) *Ko au, ko Hotu 'Iti te Mata'iti 'a Hotu Matu'a.*  
PROM 1SG PROM Hotu Iti te Mata'iti of.A Hotu Matu'a  
 ‘It’s me, Hotu Iti te Mata’iti, son of Hotu Matu’a.’ (Ley-2-08.025)

- (20) *—iKo ai koe? ... —iKo au nei ko Vaha ko to'o i a Huri 'a*  
 PROM who 2SG PROM 1SG PROX PROM Vaha PROM take ACC PROP huri a  
*Vai! ... —i'E ko au nei ko Kaiŋa ko to'o i a Vaha!*  
 Vai and PROM 1SG PROX PROM Kaiŋa PROM take ACC PROP Vaha  
 ‘—Who are you? —I am Vaha, who takes (=kills) Huri a Vai! —And I am Kaiŋa,  
 who takes Vaha!’ [R304.97-101]

Especially in the last clause, an appositional analysis doesn't appear to be appropriate. Possibly, these constructions can be analysed as topic + comment constructions (§8.6.1.3): ‘(As for) me, I'm Kaiŋa.’<sup>6</sup>

### 9.2.3 Comparing classifying and identifying clauses

In the examples of classifying clauses in §9.2.1 above, the predicate NP clearly indicates that the subject belongs to a certain class of entities; the subject is part of a category described by the predicate.

In some cases however, the class of entities described by the predicate has only one member, i.e. this class coincides with the referent of the subject. This is illustrated in the following examples:

- (21) *A Tiki he poki o te ra'ā 'e he 'atua rahi o rāua.*  
 PROP Tiki PRED child of ART sun and PRED god great of 3PL  
 ‘Tiki was the son of the sun and their high God.’ [R376.027]
- (22) *A au he pū'oko o Rapa Nui 'i te ao ta'ato'a.*  
 PROP 1SG PRED head of Rapa Nui at ART world all  
 ‘I am the head (leader) of Rapa Nui in the whole world.’ [R648.290]
- (23) *A ia he matu'a tane o tō'oku matu'a vahine.*  
 PROP 3SG PRED parent male of POSS.1SG.o parent female  
 ‘He is the father of my mother.’ [R487.040]

These clauses are very similar in sense to identifying clauses, which express that two noun phrases have identical reference (§9.2.2). In fact, in most examples above, the predicate is translated with a definite noun phrase in English, which is characteristic of an identifying clause. Some examples of identifying clauses are very similar to the classifying clauses above:

<sup>6</sup> De Lacy (1999: 47) discusses cases in Māori where both constituents are *ko*-marked; these are different in that both constituents are a (long) common noun phrase. This enables De Lacy to analyse these as clefts, i.e. biclausal constructions.

- (24) *He 'ite ia Tu'u Koihu 'i tū hora era tū ŋā nu'u era ko tū ŋā*  
 NTR know then Tu'u Koihu at DEM time DIST DEM PL people DIST PROM DEM PL  
*tahutahu era.*  
 witch DIST  
 'At that moment Tu'u Koihu knew that those people (whom he saw) were those  
 witches.' [R233.023]
- (25) *Te hau era, ho'i, e hī era ko te ŋā hau hiro era e toru*  
 ART cord DIST indeed IPFV to\_fish DIST PROM ART PL cord braid DIST NUM three  
*kave.*  
 fibre  
 '(in a description of fishing techniques:) The lines they fished with, were those  
 lines braided with three strands.' [R539-1.218]

These examples show that the choice between the two constructions in Rapa Nui is not determined by the criterion of uniqueness, that is, whether or not the predicate defines a single unique entity.<sup>7</sup> Rather, classifying constructions serve to *describe* the subject by giving new information about it, while identifying clauses serve to *identify* a referent with an entity already known to the hearer. The referent of the identifying noun phrase must be accessible to the hearer, otherwise a classifying construction with *he* is used.

To give an example, in the context preceding (21) above, there has been no mention of the son of the sun and the high God, so the hearer does not necessarily know that there is such a person as the child of the sun, or that the people in the story had a high God at all. Therefore, this person is not accessible to the hearer. By contrast, in (24), 'those witches' refers to witches who have been mentioned earlier in the story; the identifying clause enables the hearer to identify this known entity with the subject 'those people'. Similarly, in (25) the speaker refers to a type of fishing line which he assumes to be known by the hearer (even though it has not been mentioned in the text itself).

The referent of a noun phrase in an identifying clause must not only be unique and accessible, it also needs to be a specific, bounded entity. In the following two examples, the predicate noun phrase could be considered as unique and accessible; nevertheless, it is marked with *he*, i.e. the construction is a classifying clause. In (26), the noun phrase refers to priests in general, not to any specific priest. Likewise, in (27), the reference is to adults in general.<sup>8</sup>

- (26) *He ivi'atua nō te kope era e puā era 'i te ta'u era i a ia*  
 PRED priest just ART person DIST IPFV touch DIST at ART year DIST at PROP 3SG  
*te 'ao.*  
 ART reign  
 'The priest was the only person (lit. only the priest was the person) who would  
 touch him (te bird man) in the year in which he reigned.' [R641.008]

<sup>7</sup> Lyons (1999) mentions uniqueness as one of the necessary conditions for definiteness. Uniqueness is defined as: "there is only one entity satisfying the description used, relative to the context."

<sup>8</sup> These examples are cleft constructions, which are discussed in more detail in sec. §9.2.6 below.

- (27) *Te ηā poki ko 'ite 'ana o ruŋa i te me'e ta'ato'a o te naonao 'e*  
 ART PL child PRF know CONT of above at ART thing all of ART mosquito and  
*he pa'ari te me'e i ta'e 'ite.*  
 PRED adult ART thing PFV CONNEG know  
 'The children know everything about the mosquitoes, and the adults are the ones  
 who don't know.' [R535.159]

We may conclude that a nominal predicate designating an accessible, individuated, bounded entity is marked with *ko*; in all other cases, a classifying construction with *he* is used. A similar difference between *ko* and *he* can be observed with topicalisation in verbal clauses (§8.6.2).

As the examples above show, classifying predicates always consist of a common noun phrase. Proper nouns and pronouns never serve as a classifying predicate; in fact, they are never preceded by *he*. This is to be expected, as proper nouns and pronouns by definition qualify as identifying predicates: they have unique reference, are accessible in the context, and refer to a specific, bounded entity. On the other hand, they do not designate a class of entities, hence are not suitable as classifying predicates.

#### 9.2.4 Constituent order in identifying clauses

The order of constituents in an identifying clause depends to some extent on the type of noun phrases involved. When both constituents are common noun phrases, the predicate usually occurs after the subject, as illustrated in (24–25) and (11) above. The predicate may come first when it conveys significant and possibly surprising information as in (28), or when it is a discourse topic established in the preceding context as in (29).<sup>9</sup>

- (28) *Ta'e he 'atua tau me'e era, he taŋata; ko te ηā io era*  
 CONNEG PRED god DEM thing DIST PRED person PROM ART PL youngster DIST  
*'Āmai tau me'e era.*  
 Amai DEM thing DIST  
 'These beings are not gods, they are men; these beings are the Amai guys.'  
 [Mtx-7-37.029]

- (29) *Ko te me'e nei te me'e u'i rahi o te mu'a 'ā.*  
 PROM ART thing PROX ART thing see much of ART front IDENT  
 'This (= the difficulties mentioned in the previous clause) was something often  
 seen in the past.' [R107.009]

When the identifying clause contains a pronoun (whether subject or predicate), this is always in an initial position, as illustrated in (13–14) above.

When the clause consists of a proper noun and a common noun phrase, they may occur in either order, as the following examples show. Putting the predicate before the subject

<sup>9</sup> Cf. Levinsohn (2007): prominence may involve both new information (focal prominence) and established information (thematic prominence).



gives it more prominence. In (32), for example, the predicate *ko Korikē* is contrasted with other persons. In (33), Anakena is singled out between other places on the island.

- (30) *Te kona hope'a o te nehenehe ko 'Anakena.*  
 ART place last of ART beautiful PROM Anakena  
 'The most beautiful place is Anakena.' [R350.013]
- (31) *Te matu'a o Hotu Matu'a ko Ta'ane Arai.*  
 ART parent of Hotu Matu'a PROM Ta'ane Arai  
 'The father of Hotu Matu'a was Ta'ane Arai.' [Ley-2-01.003]
- (32) *¿Ko Korikē te me'e nei 'o ko Titata? ... ¿Ko Titata te me'e nei?*  
 PROM Korike ART thing PROX or PROM Titata PROM Titata ART thing PROX  
 '(pointing at someone in a picture:) Is this Korike or Titata? Is it Titata?'  
 [R415.568–572]
- (33) *Ko 'Anakena mau nō te kona kai māuiui 'ā e noho mai*  
 PROM Anakena really just ART place NEG.PFV sick CONT IPFV stay hither  
*ena.*  
 MED  
 'Anakena was the only place where the people who lived there did not get sick.'  
 [R231.098]

### 9.2.5 Split predicates

When a clause has a pronominal subject and the predicate comes first, certain postnominal modifiers of the predicate are placed after the subject. In (34), *ō'ou* is a postnominal possessive modifying the predicate *repahoa*; it is separated from the nucleus by the subject *au*.

- (34) *He repahoa nō au ō'ou.*  
 PRED friend just 1SG POSS.2SG.O  
 'I am just your friend.' [R308.032]

This predicate split is obligatory; clauses like the following do not occur:

- (35) \**He repahoa nō ō'ou au.*

As discussed in §4.6.6, this process also takes place when the subject is a demonstrative pronoun; this is illustrated in (36–37) below. The stranded element is often a possessive as in (34); it may also be a numeral as in (36), or a relative clause as in (37). While in (37) the relative clause as a whole is separated from the head noun *famiria*, in (38) the relative clause itself is split up: the verb phrase (*ana mau 'ā*) moves along with the head noun, while the direct object is stranded after the subject (§11.4.5 on raising of relative clause verbs).

## 9 Nonverbal and copular clauses

- (36) *He 'a'amu nō nei e tahi...*  
PRED story just PROX NUM one  
'This (what follows) is a story...' [Luke 11:5]
- (37) *Famiria hope'a rā oho mai mai kampō, mai 'Anakena.*  
family last DIST go hither from countryside from Anakena  
'This was the last family who came from the countryside, from Anakena.'  
[R413.889]
- (38) *He vi'e [aṅa mau 'ā] a ia [i te me'e haṅa o te 'Atua].*  
PRED woman do really IDENT PROP 3SG ACC ART thing want of ART God  
'She is a woman who really does the things God wants.' [1 Tim. 5:10]

Split constituents also occur around the particle *ia* 'then' (§4.5.4.1), which occurs after the first constituent of the clause; postnuclear elements occur after *ia*:

- (39) *Te matu'a vahine ia o Hēmi he ha'amata he mana'u...*  
ART parent female then of Hemi NTR begin NTR think  
'Then Hemi's mother started to think...' [R476.042]
- (40) *'I tu'a ia o Kālia e tahi io 'ā'ana i ohu atu...*  
at back then of Kalia NUM one young\_man POSS.3SG.A PFV shout away  
'Behind Kalia, one young man of her (family) shouted...' [R345.084]

Clark (1976: 119–120) analyses this process as extraposition of the second constituent of the predicate over the subject. Alternatively, the split can be described as movement of the predicate with stranding of the postnominal modifier; fronting of a constituent is a common process (both crosslinguistically and in Rapa Nui), while it is difficult to see why a modifier would be moved to the right.

### 9.2.6 Clefts

A cleft construction consists of two noun phrases, one of which is a simple noun phrase, while the other contains a relative clause, often without head noun (Payne 1997: 278). Clefts are formally identifying clauses – their main constituents are two coreferential NPs – but they express an event or action; the latter is relegated to the relative clause. The effect of a cleft construction is to put the simple NP in focus.

In Rapa Nui cleft constructions, the simple NP comes first and is marked with *ko*, as is expected with predicates of identifying clauses (§9.2.2). The second noun phrase contains an anchor noun functioning as head of the relative clause; this is either a repetition of the noun in focus, or a generic noun like *me'e* 'thing'. The cleft construction is thus similar to the English construction 'Mary was the one who won',<sup>10</sup> though a noun is used instead

<sup>10</sup> Cleft constructions of the type 'X was the one who...' are often called pseudo-clefts (Payne 1997: 279; Bauer 1991: 9 for Māori). On the question whether Rapa Nui also has "real" clefts, i.e. without anchor noun, see sec. §8.6.2.1.

of ‘one’ and there is no copula verb. As in all relative clauses, the verb is usually marked with *i*, *e* or unmarked (§11.4.3).

A few examples:

- (41) *Ko te nūna'a era 'a 'Ōrare [te nūna'a i rē].*  
 PROM ART group DIST of.A Orare ART group PFV win  
 ‘(in a report about a music contest:) Orare’s group was the group that won.’  
 [R539-3.313]
- (42) *Ko te nā me'e nei [te me'e mo ai o te tanata mo oho mo ruku o te hora nei].*  
 PROM ART PL thing PROX ART thing for exist of ART person for go for dive of  
 ART time PROX  
 ‘These things (which have just been listed) are the things that people need to go diving nowadays.’ [R360.002]
- (43) *Ko mātou nō [te me'e noho o nei].*  
 PROM 1PL.EXCL only ART thing stay of PROX  
 ‘(in the description of a house:) We are the only ones living here.’ [R404.050]
- (44) *Ko Timo [te me'e 'ori tako'a o roto nei].*  
 PROM Timo ART thing dance also of inside PROX  
 ‘Timo is the one who is also dancing inside (= in this picture).’ [R414.129]

The effect of relegating the verb to a relative clause is that the initial noun phrase is in focus, while the event or action is backgrounded. Clefts are used when the event or action as such is presupposed; it has already been mentioned as in (42), or can be inferred from the context: in (41), the context of a musical contest presupposes that there is a winner, while the important new information is the identity of the winner. The act of winning is therefore backgrounded, while the noun phrase referring to the winner is put in focus.

The examples so far represent the most common construction, in which clefts are constructed as identifying clauses with a *ko*-marked predicate. Clefts may also be classifying clauses, with a *he*-marked predicate. As discussed in §9.2.1, identifying clauses are used when the predicate refers to a unique individual which is accessible to the hearer; in other cases, classifying clauses are used. This happens for example when the noun phrase is generic:

- (45) *Te nā poki ko 'ite 'ana o ruŋa i te me'e ta'ato'a o te naonao 'e he pa'ari [te me'e i ta'e 'ite].*  
 ART PL child PRF know CONT of above at ART thing all of ART mosquito and  
 PRED adult ART thing PFV CONNEG know  
 ‘The children know everything about the mosquitoes, and the adults are the ones who don’t know.’ [R535.159]

Classifying cleft constructions are especially common with the verb *haŋa* ‘want’ and other expressions of volition/desire (§3.2.3.1.1 on the nominal tendency of volition verbs). With these verbs, the noun phrase does not contain a full relative clause, but a bare modifying verb, such as *haŋa* in (46); if the subject of this verb is expressed, it is a possessive pronoun (*tā'aku* in (46)) or a genitive phrase (§11.4.4):

- (46) *He kāpē tā'aku me'e haŋa.*  
 PRED coffee POSS.1SG.A thing want  
 ‘Coffee is what I want (lit. my thing want).’ [R221.024]
- (47) *Mō'ona te me'e manava mate he hoi eke...*  
 BEN.3SG.O ART thing stomach die<sup>11</sup> PRED horse climb  
 ‘For him, the thing (he) liked most was climbing his horse (and going around the island).’ [R439.008]

Clefts also occur in questions, when a verb argument is questioned: identifying clefts with *ko ai* ‘who’ (§10.3.2.1), classifying clefts with *he aha* ‘what’ (§10.3.2.2).

As discussed in §8.6.3, the actor-emphatic (AE) construction also serves to put a noun phrase in focus. It is not entirely clear which conditions determine the choice between an AE construction and a cleft. However, AE’s are only used to put agentive subjects in focus; in order to put non-agentive subjects in focus as in (42) or non-subjects as in (46), only clefts can be used.

### 9.2.7 Attributive clauses

In an attributive clause, an inherent – and usually permanent – property is attributed to the subject.<sup>12</sup> This property is in most cases expressed as an adjective. Now an adjective as such cannot serve as a nominal predicate in Rapa Nui, and therefore an anchor noun is needed to fit the adjective into the syntactic structure. This anchor noun is either identical to the subject noun or a generic noun like *me'e* ‘thing’.<sup>13</sup>

The predicate may be marked with *he* as in (48), in which case the clause is a classifying clause (§9.2.1). This is rare, though; usually the predicate is a bare noun phrase, lacking any determiner.

Below are some examples, with the anchor noun emphasised.

With repetition of the subject noun:

- (48) *Te 'ati ena o te kahu 'i rā noho iŋa he 'ati nuinui e*  
 ART problem MED of ART clothes at DIST stay NMLZ PRED problem big:RED NUM  
*tahi.*  
 one  
 ‘The problem of clothing at the time was a big one.’ [R380.093]

<sup>11</sup> *Manava mate* is an idiom expressing love or endearment.

<sup>12</sup> Non-permanent properties are expressed as verbal predicates, see sec. §3.5.1.5.

<sup>13</sup> In related languages, cognates of *me'e* also serve as anchor noun for adjectival or verbal predicates; see e.g. Lazard & Peltzer (2000: 38) on Tahitian.

- (49) *Tajata 'uri'uri te tajata nei 'e tajata rakerake.*  
 person black:RED ART person PROX and person bad:RED  
 'This man is dark and ugly.' [R372.133]

With a generic noun:

- (50) *Māuiui nei me'e rakerake, me'e pe'e.*  
 sick PROX thing bad:RED thing infect  
 'This disease was serious, it was contagious.' [R231.318]
- (51) *Me'e 'iti'iti koe 'i roto i te vaikava. Me'e nuinui koe mō'oku...*  
 thing small:RED 2SG at inside at ART ocean thing big:RED 2SG BEN.1SG.O  
 'You are a little thing in the ocean. You are big to me...' [R474.007]

These examples show that, as in other nominal clauses, either the subject may come first as in (48) and (50), or the predicate as in (49) and (51).

In the examples above, the property is an adjective. It may also be another type of noun modifier: a verbal clause as in (52–53), or a modifying noun as in (54).

- (52) *Me'e ta'e kai kōkoma moa māua.*  
 thing CONNEG eat intestines chicken 1DU.EXCL  
 'We (are people who) don't eat chicken intestines.' [Ley-8-53.008]
- (53) *Toko'a, a Manutara, me'e vara unu i te 'ava.*  
 also PROP Manutara thing usually drink ACC ART liquor  
 'Also, Manutara was (someone who was) given to drinking liquor.' [R309.055]
- (54) *'E henua nei, henua ma'uŋa rahi.*  
 and land PROX land mountain many  
 'And this land is a land of many mountains.' [R348.004]

As (52–53) show, the modifying verb may be preceded by preverbal particles, including the negator *ta'e*.

As in other clause types, the subject of attributive clauses may be omitted:

- (55) *'I nei te 'ariki ana noho, kona rivariva.*  
 at PROX ART king IRR stay place good:RED  
 'Here the king would live, it was a good place.' [Mtx-2-01.031]
- (56) *Kai ta'e piropiro, kai rivariva.*  
 food CONNEG rotten:RED food good:RED  
 'It is not rotten food, it is good food.' [R310.382]

Finally, Rapa Nui has a somewhat peculiar construction consisting of a bare noun phrase headed by *me'e* or another generic noun, followed by a *he*-marked NP. This construction is not very common, but entirely grammatical. It is especially used to express general truths.

- (57) *Me'e mate he taŋata.*  
 thing die PRED person  
 'Man is mortal.' [R210.073]
- (58) *Me'e rakerake he taŋi ŋā matu'a.*  
 thing bad:RED PRED cry PL parent  
 'It's a bad thing, crying for one's parents.' [Ley-9-55.073]
- (59) *Kona hī kahi pa'i he hakanonoŋa.*  
 place to\_fish tuna in\_fact PRED fishing\_zone  
 'The *hakanonoŋa* (= certain zones of the sea) are places to fish for tuna.'  
 [R200.030]

This construction is unusual in that both noun phrases seem to be marked as a nominal predicate. However, a more plausible analysis is also possible: the construction may be a subjectless attributive clause, in which the predicate *me'e X* is followed by an apposition introduced by *he*. (57) could be paraphrased as 'It's (a) mortal (thing), man is.' This appositional analysis is suggested by the use of *he* (see §5.12.1 for the use of *he* in appositions), and by the fact that the *he*-marked NP always occurs after the *me'e* phrase.

### 9.3 Existential clauses

Existential clauses state the existence of a person or thing. In Rapa Nui, they are either constructed as a verbless clause or with the existential verb *ai*.<sup>14</sup>

#### 9.3.1 Verbless and verbal existential clauses

Verbless existential clauses contain only one core constituent, which is introduced by *he*; the use of *he* shows that this constituent is predicate rather than subject.<sup>15</sup> This means that existential clauses conform to the general rule that the predicate is the only obligatory constituent.

- (60) *He taŋata ko Eŋo.*  
 PRED man PROM Engo  
 'There was a man (called) Engo.' [Mtx-7-28.001]

<sup>14</sup> In this respect, Rapa Nui shows characteristics of both EP languages (where existential clauses are verbless, with a *he*-marked Existee as in Rapa Nui), and non-EP languages (where existential clauses are constructed with the verb *ai/iai* (Clark 1976; 1997: 101).

<sup>15</sup> According to Dryer (2007a: 241), it is in many languages unclear whether the theme of an existential clause should be considered a subject. In many languages, it is clear that the theme is not subject, e.g. in European languages like Dutch ('Er is een hond in de tuin' = there is a dog in the garden, rather than 'Een hond is in de tuin') and French ('Il y a un chien dans le jardin' = there is a dog in the garden).

- (61) *He repa e rua te 'iŋoa ko Makita ko Roke'aua.*  
 NTR young\_man NUM two ART name PROM Makita PROM Roke'aua  
 'There were two young men, named Makita and Roke'aua.' [R243.001]

The noun phrase may contain a prenominal numeral; as discussed in §5.3.5, prenominal numerals are in determiner position, hence they replace the predicate marker *he*:

- (62) *E tahi poki te 'iŋoa ko Eva ka ho'e 'ahuru matahiti.*  
 NUM one child ART name PROM Eva CNTG one ten year  
 'There was a child called Eva, ten years old.' [R210.001]

Existential clauses can also be expressed with the verb *ai* 'to exist', with the Theme or EXISTEE as subject of the clause. This construction is rare in older texts, but in modern Rapa Nui it is more common than the verbless construction.

Usually *ai* has continuous aspect marking *e V 'ā/'ana* (§7.2.5.4), while the verb phrase also has the emphatic particle *rō*. *E ai rō 'ā/'ana* is such a common combination that it almost seems to be a frozen expression.

- (63) *E ai rō 'ā e tahi poki nei te 'iŋoa ko Mariki.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM one child PROX ART name PROM Mariki  
 'There was a child called Mariki.' [R380.001]
- (64) *¿E ai rō 'ā te ika o roto?*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART fish of inside  
 'Are there fish inside (the net)?' [R241.058]

However, *ai* is used with other aspectuals as well, for example neutral *he* (65) and exhortative *e* (66):

- (65) *I tō'ona mahana he ai mai te aŋa he 'āua titi, 'o he rau*  
 at POSS.3SG.O day NTR exist hither ART work PRED fence build or PRED leaf  
*kato...*  
 pick  
 'On some days there was work: building fences or picking leaves...' [R380.084]
- (66) *Mo oho e tahi taŋata ki tai, e ai te me'e ta'ato'a o te hī.*  
 if go NUM one person to sea EXH exist ART thing all of ART to\_fish  
 'If someone goes to the sea, he needs all the fishing gear (lit. there should be all the things of fishing).' [R354.002]

### 9.3.2 Existential-locative clauses

Many existential clauses do not just state the existence of something, but rather its existence in a certain place: ‘There is water here’. These clauses can be labelled ‘existential-locative’.<sup>16</sup>

Just like plain existential clauses, existential-locative clauses may be either verbless as in (67–68) or verbal as in (69–70). In older texts, they are always verbless.

- (67) *He taote e tahi 'i muri i a ia.*  
 PRED doctor NUM one at near at PROP 3SG  
 ‘There was a doctor with her.’ [R210.090]
- (68) *He tanata to nei... Nāta Vake te 'iŋoa.*  
 PRED person ART:of PROX Ngata Vake ART name  
 ‘There was a man here, called Ngata Vake.’ [Ley-3-02.002]
- (69) *¿E ai rō 'ā te ika o roto?*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART fish of inside  
 ‘Are there fish inside (the net)?’ [R241.058]
- (70) *¡'Āhani 'ō e ai rō 'ā te hare hāpī mā'ohi o nei!*  
 if\_only really IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART house school indigenous of PROX  
 ‘If only there were an indigenous school here!’ [R242.061]

As the examples above show, the locative adjunct in these constructions is often introduced by *to* (in older Rapa Nui) or *o* (in modern Rapa Nui).<sup>17</sup> The possessive preposition *o*, when used in a locative construction, often indicates that a referent belongs to a certain place, i.e. comes from that place or is located there permanently. It may, however, also indicate the location of a referent at a given moment, and therefore be similar in sense to *'i* (see (44–46 in §6.3.1).

### 9.3.3 Possessive clauses

Possessive clauses establish a relationship of possession between two entities:<sup>18</sup> ‘John has a book’ expresses that John is the possessor of a book. In Rapa Nui, this relation is expressed by an existential clause,<sup>19</sup> in which the possessee noun phrase is modified by a possessor; the construction can be paraphrased as ‘John’s book exists’ or ‘There is John’s book.’

<sup>16</sup> These are different from locative clauses, which predicate the location of a certain referent: ‘The water is here.’ Rapa Nui, like many other languages, employs different constructions for these two clause types. See Dryer (2007a: 241) for general discussion.

<sup>17</sup> *To* is a contraction of the article *te* + the genitive preposition *o* (§6.2).

<sup>18</sup> Possessive clauses (‘John has a book’) are different from proprietary clauses (‘The book is John’s’, §9.4.2). See Clark (1969).

<sup>19</sup> This is common in many languages, see Dryer (2007a: 244).



In modern Rapa Nui, possessive clauses are constructed as verbal existential clauses, in which the existential verb *ai* takes the possessee as subject. (71) is literally ‘His house in Hanga Roa existed’, (72) is ‘Two their children existed’.

- (71) *E ai rō 'ā tō'ona hare 'i Haŋa Roa.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT POSS.3SG.O house at Hanga Roa  
 ‘He had a house in Hanga Roa.’ [R250.249]
- (72) *He ai e rua rāua ŋā poki.*  
 NTR exist NUM two 3PL PL child  
 ‘They had two children.’ [R211.002]
- (73) *E ai rō 'ā te kona 'oka mahute 'a Kekepuē ko tetu.*  
 IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART place plant mulberry of.A Kekepue PROM huge  
 ‘Kekepue had a huge plantation of mulberries.’ [Fel-1978.008]

As these examples show, the possessor is expressed in the subject noun phrase: it is either a possessive pronoun as in (71–72), or a possessive noun phrase as in (73). (For more details, see §6.2.1 on possessives in the noun phrase, §6.3.1 on the semantic range of possessive constructions, and §6.3.2 on the choice between *o* and *'a*.)

The clause may be preceded by a noun phrase coreferential to the possessor; this happens especially when the possessor is a full noun phrase. This noun phrase is left-dislocated and is syntactically not a constituent of the clause that follows; the clause as a whole is a topic-comment construction (§8.6.1.3). (74) can be translated literally as ‘All the tribes, their leaders existed.’

- (74) [*Ta'ato'a mata*]<sub>i</sub> *e ai rō 'ana te rāua<sub>i</sub> taŋata pū'oko.*  
 all tribe IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART 3PL person head  
 ‘All the tribes had their leaders.’ [R371.006]
- (75) [*E tahi vaka 'āpī*]<sub>i</sub> *e ai tako'a tō'ona<sub>i</sub> taura.*  
 NUM one boat new EXH exist also POSS.3SG.O rope  
 ‘A new boat also needs its ropes.’ [R200.083]

In these topic-comment constructions, the possessor is often not expressed again in the subject NP. (76) is literally: ‘We, money exists’; (77) is ‘This woman, there were two daughters.’

- (76) [*A mātou*] *e ai nei te moni.*  
 PROP 1PL.EXCL IPFV exist PROX ART money  
 ‘We have money.’ [R621.027]
- (77) [*Vi'e nei*] *e ai rō 'ā e rua poki vahine.*  
 woman PROX IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM two child female  
 ‘This woman had two daughters.’ [R491.008]

## 9 Nonverbal and copular clauses

In older texts, possessive clauses may also be constructed as a verbless existential clause. Instead of the verb *ai* with its subject, these have a *he*-marked nominal predicate. The possessor is expressed as *to* + NP or a *t*-possessive pronoun.

- (78) *He 'oka nō to te hare.*  
PRED pole just ART:of ART house  
'The house had only rafters (no supporting poles).' [Ley-2-12.007]
- (79) *He poki tā'ana e tahi, poki tamāroa.*  
PRED child POSS.3SG.A NUM one child male  
'He had a child, a boy.' [Ley-9-56.002]

In modern Rapa Nui, verbless possessive clauses only occur in the following circumstances:

When the predicate noun phrase contains a numeral:

- (80) *E tahi ō'oku hoa repa ko Hoahine te 'iŋoa.*  
NUM one POSS.1SG.O friend friend PROM Hoahine ART name  
'I have a friend whose name is Hoahine.' [R213.014]

When the clause is negated, using *'ina* (§10.5.1):

- (81) *'Ina pa'i o māua kona mo noho.*  
NEG in\_fact of 1DU.EXCL place for stay  
'For we do not have a place to live.' [R229.210]

As these examples show, in these cases the possessor is a  $\emptyset$ -possessive pronoun within the predicate noun phrase. These clauses are different from the old constructions illustrated in (78–79), where the possessor is a separate constituent.<sup>20</sup>

### 9.3.4 Conclusion

Whether an existential clause is verbless or verbal, depends on the type of clause: simple existential, existential-locative, or possessive. However, there is a general development over time in which verbless constructions are replaced by verbal ones. This is summarised in Table 9.1:

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<sup>20</sup> If the possessives in (78–79) were part of the predicate noun phrase, the possessor would be marked with the preposition *o* in (78), and a  $\emptyset$ -possessive pronoun in (79).

Table 9.1: Types of existential clauses

	old texts		new texts	
	verbless ( <i>he N</i> )	verbal ( <i>ai</i> )	verbless ( <i>he N</i> )	verbal ( <i>ai</i> )
existential	x	(x)	x	x
existential-locative	x	–	x	x
possessive	x	–	(x)	x

## 9.4 Prepositional predicates

Various types of prepositional phrases may serve as predicate of a nonverbal clause.

### 9.4.1 Locative clauses

Locative clauses consist of a subject noun phrase and a prepositional phrase with locative sense as predicate. Either phrase may come first. The locative phrase is often introduced by *'i*, marking stationary location, possibly followed by a locational as in (82). Other prepositions may also be used, as (84) shows.

- (82) *A nua 'i roto i te hare.*  
 PROP Mum at inside at ART house  
 ‘Mum is in the house.’ [R333.284]

- (83) *'I 'Anakena te hare noho o Matakaroa...*  
 at Anakena ART house stay of Matakaroa  
 ‘In Anakena was the house where Matakaroa lived...’ [Mtx-3-09.003]

- (84) *–<sub>i</sub>Mai hē rā koe? –Mai tai nei.*  
 from CQ INTENS 2SG from sea PROX  
 ‘–Where are you (coming) from? –From the seaside.’ [R245.084]

### 9.4.2 Proprietary clauses

Proprietary clauses (also known as “genitive predicates”, Dryer 2007a: 248) consist of a subject noun phrase and a predicate expressing a possessor. In Rapa Nui, the latter is either a noun phrase marked with genitive *o* or *'a*, or a  $\emptyset$ -possessive pronoun. (§6.3.1 on the semantic range of possessive constructions, §6.3.2 on the choice between *o* and *'a*.)

- (85) *Te hare nei, ta'e ō'oku; o tā'aku mā'aŋa ena ko*  
 ART house PROX CONNEG POSS.1SG.O of POSS.1SG.A adopted\_child MED PROM  
*Puakiva.*  
 Puakiva  
 'This house is not mine; it belongs to my adopted child Puakiva.' [R229.268]
- (86) *A 'Ārahu o te mata era o te Tūpāhotu.*  
 PROP Arahu of ART tribe DIST of ART Tupahotu  
 'Arahu was of the Tupahotu tribe.' [R432.002]
- (87) *'Ā'ana ho'i te uka era, 'a Métraux.*  
 POSS.3SG.A indeed ART girl DIST of.A Métraux  
 'That girl belongs to him, Métraux.' [R416.813]
- (88) *Ō'oku mau 'ana te hape.*  
 POSS.1SG.O really IDENT ART fault  
 'The fault is really mine.' [R236.095]

As these examples show, the predicate may come after the subject as in (85–86), or before the subject as in (87–88).

Occasionally, proprietary clauses are constructed with the locative preposition *i*, which may have a possessive sense (§4.7.2.2). *I* in proprietary clauses tends to indicate possession in an abstract sense, e.g. possession of qualities or attributes; however, as (90) shows, it is also used with concrete entities.

- (89) *I a tātou mau 'ā te pūai mo haka ma'itaki i te kāiŋa.*  
 at PROP 1PL.INCL really IDENT ART power for CAUS clean ACC ART homeland  
 'Ours is the power to clean the island.' [R535.240]
- (90) *I a mātou te kai ko piropiro 'ā.*  
 at PROP 1PL.EXCL ART food PRF rotten:RED CONT  
 'Ours is the rotten food.' [R310.263]

The proprietary clause construction also serves to form nominalised actor-emphatic clauses (§8.6.3).

### 9.4.3 Other prepositional predicates

Any prepositional phrase may serve as the predicate of a nominal clause. This results in clauses that could be labelled “benefactive” (91), “instrumental” (92) or “comparative” (93); however, these labels should not obscure the fact that these clauses simply follow the general pattern of a NP PP clause.

- (91) *Te haŋa o te hānau 'e'epe mō'ona te kāiŋa nei.*  
 ART want of ART race corpulent BEN.3SG.O ART homeland PROX  
 'What the 'corpulent race' wanted was, that the island should be for them.'  
 [Ley-3-06.011]
- (92) *Tō'ona orara'a hai pura pere Tomatō.*  
 POSS.3SG.O living INS only play toma\_todo  
 'His living was (=he earned his living) merely by playing *toma todo* (a card game).' [R250.145]
- (93) *A kōrua ta'e mau 'ana pē Kava.*  
 PROP 2PL CONNEG really IDENT like Kava  
 'You are not really like Kava.' [R229.488]

As with all types of nominal clauses, the constituent order is not fixed, though the subject tends to come first, as (91–93) show.

## 9.5 Numerical clauses

In numerical clauses,<sup>21</sup> the predicate is a numeral phrase, consisting of a numeral with preceding particle (§4.3.2). The numeral predicate comes first; it is followed by the subject noun phrase.

- (94) [*E tahi*] [*te rāua poki vahine nehenehe*].  
 NUM one ART 3PL child female beautiful  
 'They had one beautiful daughter (lit. one [was] their beautiful daughter).'  
 [R338.001]

In this example, the numeral phrase *e tahi* is predicated of the subject *te rāua poki vahine nehenehe*. *E tahi* is not part of the noun phrase that follows, as is indicated by the determiner introducing that noun phrase; numerals within a noun phrase are never followed by a determiner (§5.4.1).

In the following example, the numeral is followed by a *t*-possessive pronoun, which occupies the determiner position in the noun phrase (§6.2.1); again, this indicates that the numeral is not part of the subject NP, but a separate constituent.

- (95) *He tu'u mai... e tahi paiheŋa, e rua tō'ona pū'oko.*  
 NTR arrive hither NUM one dog NUM two POSS.3SG.O head  
 'One day a dog came, which had two heads (lit. two its heads).' [R435.003]

The following sentence, which is superficially almost identical to (94), has a fundamentally different structure.

<sup>21</sup> See Clark (1969: 108) on this term.

(96) *E tahi rāua poki vahine nehenehe.*

NUM one 3PL child female beautiful

‘They had one beautiful daughter (lit. one their beautiful daughter).’

This is an existential clause, which consists of a single NP containing the numeral *e tahi*; the absence of a determiner after *tahi* indicates that the numeral is part of the noun phrase. This is confirmed by the fact that the noun phrase as a whole can be used as constituent of a larger clause, for example as subject of an existential verb:

(97) *E ai rō 'ana [e tahi rāua poki vahine].*

IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM one 3PL child female

‘They had one daughter (lit. there was one their daughter).’ [R338.001 revised]

Numerical clauses are not very common. It is more common for a numeral to be embedded within a noun phrase, as in (96) above. This is also illustrated in (61–63) in §9.3.1.

## 9.6 Copula verbs

Copula verbs serve to link a nominal subject to a nominal or otherwise non-verbal predicate. While copula verbs may have all the morphosyntactic trappings of a verb, they are semantically empty (Payne 1997: 115) or nearly empty. Copula verbs are unusual in Polynesian languages; the only example I am aware of concerns the contact-induced development of verbs ‘have’ and ‘be’ in Mele-Fila and Emae in Vanuatu (Clark 1986: 337; Clark 1994: 119), though there is a possible example in Hawaiian (see Footnote 24 on p. 475).<sup>22</sup> In Rapa Nui, the existential verb *ai* is used as a copula verb in some constructions. This use is absent in older texts; possibly it is developing under influence of Spanish, where copular clauses have *ser* or *estar* ‘to be’. Another recent introduction is *riro* ‘become’, which equally functions as a copula verb. In the following sections, these verbs will be discussed in turn.

### 9.6.1 *Ai* ‘to exist’ as a copula verb

*Ai* usually functions as an existential verb ‘to be, exist’ (§9.3.1). Existential constructions with *ai* can be analysed as intransitive verbal clause with the Existee as subject. However, *ai* is also used in a construction involving both a subject and a nonverbal predicate. This construction is uncommon, but it does occur. Examples in the text corpus are scarce; more examples are found in the Bible translation, probably due to the higher frequency of subordinate clause constructions in Biblical texts.

<sup>22</sup> Harlow (2007a: 154) mentions *ai* as a copula verb in older Māori; however, as this verb only takes a single argument, it seems to be an existential verb like Rapa Nui *ai* in existential clauses, rather than a copula. (The example *Kia ai he moenga...* is translated ‘Let there be a bed...’) As Dixon (2010b: 160) points out, “a defining feature for a copula verb is that it *must* be able to occur in a construction with two core arguments.”

At first sight, the following two examples involve a copula verb construction. The verb *ai* (preceded by the subordinators *mo* ‘if’ and *ana* ‘irrealis’, respectively) is followed by two noun phrases: a subject and a *he*-marked noun phrase. In both cases, *ai* appears to be a copula verb in a classifying clause.

- (98) *Mo ai koe he Kiritō...*  
 if exist 2SG PRED Christ  
 ‘If you are the Christ...’ [Mat. 26:63]
- (99) *'Ina te 'Atua he tapa atu ana ai koe he hūrio 'o ta'e he hūrio.*  
 NEG ART God PRED consider away IRR exist 2SG PRED Jew OF CONNEG PRED  
 Jew  
 ‘God does not consider whether you are a Jew or not a Jew.’ [Colossians, introduction]

However, on a closer look, *ai* may not be a copula verb here. As it turns out, *ai* in subordinate clauses can be followed by a complete verbal clause; the latter is no different in structure from a main clause. Below are two examples, again introduced by *mo* and *ana*:

- (100) *Mo ai [kai oho 'ā koe ki te kona roaroa...]*  
 if exist NEG.PFV go CONT 2SG to ART place far:RED  
 ‘If you haven’t been to distant places (lit. if it is you haven’t gone)...’ [R615.519]
- (101) *;E u'i he ra'e ana ai [e haŋa rō te taŋata]!*  
 EXH look NTR first IRR exist IPFV want EMPH ART person  
 ‘First you must see whether the people want it (lit. whether it is the people want).’ [R647.248]

In (100–101) it is clear that *ai* is not the predicate of the clause between brackets. Rather, *ai* is an (existential) verb followed by a complete (independent) clause.<sup>23</sup> The same analysis is possible for (98) above; in that case *koe he Kiritō* is a complete (nominal) clause, in which *ai* does not play a role. The same is true for (99). If this analysis is correct, *ai* in (98–99) is not a copula verb. A compelling reason to adopt this analysis of (98) is, that the subject of a verb marked with *mo* is normally expressed as a possessive (§11.5.1.2). The fact that the subject in (98) is nominative *koe*, makes it an unlikely candidate for the subject position of the *mo*-clause.

In other cases, however, the analysis above is implausible. First, the subject after *mo ai* may be expressed as a possessive, strongly suggesting that it is indeed the subject of the *mo*-clause, hence an argument of *ai*. This suggests that *ai* in (102) is bivalent (hence copular), taking two arguments just like the transitive verb ‘*ui* in (103).

<sup>23</sup> See further §11.5.1.1 (*mo*) §11.5.2.2 (*ana*) on the use of *ai* with subordinating markers.

## 9 Nonverbal and copular clauses

- (102) *Mo ai* [ō'ou] [he Kiritō], ka kī mai.  
 if exist POSS.2SG.O PRED Christ IMP say hither  
 'If you are the Christ, say so.' [Luk. 22:67]
- (103) *he kona mo 'ui* [ō'ou] [i ta'a me'e ta'e 'ite]  
 PRED place for ask POSS.2SG.O ACC POSS.2SG.A thing CONNEG know  
 'a place for you to ask the things you don't know' [R239.049]

Second, a copular analysis of *ai* is plausible when it occurs in a main clause. Although (104) below could be interpreted as existential *ai*, this is not very plausible, as there are no unambiguous examples of *ai* in main clauses followed by an independent clause expressing the Existee. A monovalent analysis is even less likely when the two noun phrases occur on either side of the verb, as in (105).

- (104) *E ai* [kōrua] [he nu'u 'ina e tahi hape].  
 EXH exist 2PL PRED people NEG NUM one fault  
 'You should be people without fault.' [Mat. 5:48]
- (105) [Tu'u nu'u ena] he ai [he nu'u ō'oku].  
 POSS.2SG.O people MED NTR exist PRED people POSS.1SG.O  
 'Your people will be my people.' [Ruth 1:16]

We may conclude that *ai* is occasionally used as a copula verb. Using *ai* enables a speaker to embed nominal clauses into constructions which only allow verbal clauses, for example subordinate clauses as in (102), and exhortations as in (104).

While all examples so far concern classifying clauses, other types of verbless clauses may have the copula as well. Here is an example of a locative clause. Again, the subject is possessive, as the verb *ai* is nominalised.

- (106) *He koa tō'ona matu'a 'o te ai haka'ou mai* [ō'ona]  
 PRED happy POSS.3SG.O parent because\_of ART exist again hither POSS.3SG.O  
 ['i nei].  
 at PROX  
 'Her parents were happy because she was here again.' [R441.018]

### 9.6.2 *Riro* 'to become'

*Riro* 'to become' expresses the transformation of an entity into something else. It was borrowed from Tahitian relatively recently: *riro* is not found in older texts, the oldest occurrences are in the stories collected in the early 1970s by Felbermayer (Felbermayer 1971; 1973; 1978).

*Riro* occurs in a few stories in which a person turns into an animal. In older versions of these stories, the process of transformation is implicit and the new identity is expressed by a non-verbal clause; in new versions, *riro* is used. The following examples are from



two versions of the same story, which tells about a child turning into a fish. In the old version in (107), no verb is used to describe the transformation; the new version in (108) employs the verb *riro*.

- (107) *He uru mai te e'a, he to'o i tau poki era. He ika tau poki era.*  
 NTR enter hither ART wave NTR take ACC DEM child DIST PRED fish DEM child  
 DIST

‘A wave came in and took the child. The child (became) a fish.’ [Mtx-7-10.019]

- (108) *He riro rō atu 'ai tū poki era he ika.*  
 NTR become EMPH away SUBS DEM child DIST PRED fish  
 ‘The child became a fish.’ [R338.006]

As (108) shows, the verb *riro* has two arguments: the subject *tū poki era* and a *he*-marked noun phrase expressing the class to which the subject belongs after the transformation. Apart from the verb, the clause has the same structure as the verbless classifying clause in (107). This shows that *riro* is a true copula verb, linking two noun phrases with an identity relation. Two more examples of the same construction:

- (109) *He riro te rima o Kāiŋa he toto.*  
 NTR become ART hand of Kainga PRED blood

‘Kainga’s hand became (all) blood(y).’ [R243.074]

- (110) *I pa'ari era i pohe rō a ia mo riro he oromatu'a.*  
 PFV adult DIST PFV desire EMPH PROP 3SG for become PRED priest

‘When he was grown up, he desired to become a priest.’ [R231.004]

While the form and meaning of *riro* were borrowed from Tahitian, its status as a copula verb is unique to Rapa Nui.<sup>24</sup> In Tahitian, the resulting entity after *riro* is marked with the preposition *'ei*.<sup>25</sup>

- (111) *'Ua riro tō 'oe tuahine 'ei pōti'i purotu.* (Tahitian)  
 PRF become ART:of 2SG sister to girl pretty

‘Your sister has become a beautiful girl.’ (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 272)

<sup>24</sup> There is one possible exception: for Hawaiian, Cook (1999: 63) gives an example from an old text (1918) where *he* (which is a nominal predicate marker, as in Rapa Nui) marks the resulting entity after the verb *lilo*, an argument normally marked with *i* (related to Tahitian *'ei* in (111)?). Apparently, this construction, which corresponds exactly to the Rapa Nui construction *riro he*, is unknown nowadays.

<sup>25</sup> Tahitian *'ei* has various uses, all of which have to do with a state not yet realised; see Académie Tahitienne (1986: 364–365).

## 9.7 Conclusions

This chapter has dealt with various types of clauses, all of which do not have a lexical verb as predicate. Many of these are verbless; others have either the existential verb *ai* or – occasionally – a copula verb.

Regarding clauses with a noun phrase predicate, two types can be distinguished. Classifying clauses contain a true predicate providing information about the subject by including it in a certain class; identifying clauses express an identity relation between two referents. In classifying clauses the predicate has the predicate marker *he*; in identifying clauses, it has the prominence marker *ko*. The identifying construction is only used if the predicate is already known to the hearer as an individual entity.

Rapa Nui has a cleft construction, which consists of an identifying or classifying predicate followed by a subject noun phrase containing a relative clause. Unlike other Polynesian languages, Rapa Nui requires the relative clause to contain a head noun, resulting in the construction sometimes called “pseudo-cleft”.

Like clefts, attributive clauses (those with an adjectival predicate expressing an inherent property) need a head noun in the predicate; in other words, rather than ‘This tomato [is] yellow’, Rapa Nui has ‘This tomato [is] a yellow tomato’. This makes attributive clauses very similar in structure to classifying clauses, but while the predicate marker is obligatory in classifying clauses, in attributive clauses it is usually omitted.

Existential clauses may be verbless (with the Existee as nominal predicate) or verbal (using the verb *ai*, with the Existee as subject). They may be expanded with a possessor to form possessive clauses; these are usually constructed with a verb: ‘His house existed’ = ‘He had a house’. Possession may also be expressed in a topic-comment construction: ‘As for him, there was a house.’

In recent years, Rapa Nui has seen the emergence of two copula verbs: *ai* ‘to be’ and *riro* ‘to become’. This development becomes clear by comparing old and new versions of stories in which a person transforms into an animal: in old versions the transformation is expressed in a nominal clause, in new versions *riro* is used. In copula constructions, the nominal predicate is marked with *he*, just as in nonverbal clauses. *Riro* was borrowed from Tahitian, but only in Rapa Nui did it develop into a copula verb.

# 10 Mood and negation

## 10.1 Introduction

Mood concerns the pragmatic status of a sentence, the speech act performed by uttering the sentence: a sentence can either be a statement (declarative mood), command (imperative mood) or question (interrogative mood) (Dixon 2010a: 95; Payne 1997: 294). A fourth (minor) speech act is the exclamative, in which the speaker gives an affective response to a fact presumed to be known by the hearer (König & Siemund 2007: 316).

This chapter deals with mood; sections §10.2–10.4 discuss imperative, interrogative and exclamative constructions, respectively. Furthermore, this chapter discusses negation (§10.5).

## 10.2 Imperative mood

### 10.2.1 The imperative

Imperatives are expressed by two preverbal markers, which also have an aspectual value: the contiguity marker *ka* (§7.2.6) and the imperfective marker *e* (§7.2.5). *Ka* is used for actions which are to be performed immediately; *ka* with imperative function is glossed IMP(erative). *E* is used for actions which are to be performed in the future or which are to be performed repeatedly or habitually, as well as for general instructions; *e* with imperative function is glossed EXH(ortative). *Ka* and *e* can be characterised as marking DIRECT and INDIRECT injunctions, respectively. A few examples of both markers:

- (1) *Ka e'a ki haho ka to'o mai hai vai mā'aku mo unu.*  
IMP go\_out to outside IMP take hither INS water BEN.1SG.A for drink  
'Go outside and bring water for me to drink.' [R229.231]
- (2) *Ka uru mai kōrua ki roto.*  
IMP enter hither 2PL to inside  
'Come in (said to two people).' [R229.261]
- (3) *Ka 'ara mai koe, e nua ē.*  
IMP wake\_up hither 2SG VOC Mum VOC  
'Wake up, Mum.' [R229.315]

## 10 Mood and negation

- (4) *Ana tomo kōrua ki 'uta, e u'i atu kōrua ki te motu.*  
 IRR go\_ashore 2PL to inland EXH look away 2PL to ART islet  
 'When you go ashore, watch towards the islet.' [Ley-2-02.005]
- (5) *E hāpa'o kōrua i a Puakiva.*  
 EXH care\_for 2PL ACC PROP Puakiva  
 'Take care of Puakiva.' [R229.420–421]

As these examples show, the subject can be either omitted (1) or expressed (2–5). If expressed, it is a 2<sup>nd</sup> person pronoun placed after the verb. Unlike other subject pronouns, it is not preceded by the proper article *a* (§5.13.2.1).

In a series of commands, only the first imperative tends to have an expressed subject:

- (6) *Ka 'ara mai koe, ka kai tā'au o te kai.*  
 IMP wake\_up hither 2SG IMP eat POSS.2SG.A of ART food  
 'Wake up, eat some food (lit. your [part] of the food).' [R310.104]

As discussed in §8.4.1, the direct object has the accusative marker *i* when the subject is expressed (as in 5); when the subject is not expressed, the accusative marker is omitted.

There are clear functional similarities between the imperative use of the markers *ka* and *e* and their aspectual uses.

- Imperative *ka* indicates immediate commands, which are temporally and situationally close to the moment of speech; similarly, *ka* in non-imperative clauses indicates temporal contiguity (§7.2.6). The main difference is that, while *ka* in general expresses temporal contiguity to another event in the discourse, imperative *ka* is linked to the extratextual context, i.e. the speech situation.
- *E* in imperative clauses marks future and habitual events, something to be expected of an imperfective marker (§7.2.5).<sup>1</sup>

While *ka* and *e* can be followed by any postverbal particle (depending on the function of the clause), in imperatives the range of postverbal particles with both aspectuals is limited. As the following example shows, the verb can be followed by evaluatives (*nō* and *rō*) and directionals (*mai* and *atu*); postverbal demonstratives and the continuity marker *'ā/ana* are excluded.

- (7) *Ka haka noho nō atu koe i a au 'i nei.*  
 IMP CAUS stay just away 2SG ACC PROP 1SG at PROX  
 'Let me just stay here.' [R229.013]

<sup>1</sup> *Ka* is used as an imperative marker in various EP languages. In most descriptions, all uses of *ka* are subsumed under a single particle. Imperative or subjunctive *e* is found for example in Māori (Waite 1990: 403; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 30), Tahitian (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 28) and Hawaiian (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 61). Weber (2003b) describes imperative *ka* and aspectual *ka* as distinctive particles; he also distinguishes exhortative *e* from imperfective *e*.

The imperative can be used with any verb. It is rarely used with adjectives, but this may have pragmatic rather than syntactic reasons: there are simply not many situations in which it is appropriate to order someone to have a certain property. For an example of an imperative-marked adjective, see (91) on p. 108.

As the examples above show, the imperative has a wide range of pragmatic usages, including commands, requests, invitations and permissions. It is used between persons of equal or of different status; it is not inappropriate to address a higher-status person with an imperative. In the Bible translation, the imperative is commonly used in prayer; in the following example from the corpus, a chief is addressed in the imperative:

- (8) *E te 'ariki ē, e Tu'u Kōihu ē, ka va'ai mai koe i to mātou*  
 VOC ART king VOC VOC Tu'u Koihu VOC IMP give hither 2SG ACC ART:of 1PL.EXCL  
*mōai.*  
 statue  
 'O king Tu'u Koihu, give us a statue (lit. our statue).' [Mtx-4-01.048]

Very occasionally, the imperative marker is omitted; this happens especially before the causative marker *haka*, possibly for euphonic reasons, to prevent the sequence *ka haka*.

- (9) **Haka rito** *koe, e nua ē, mo kā i to tātou 'umu*  
 CAUS ready 2SG VOC Mum VOC for kindle ACC ART:of 1PL.INCL earth\_oven  
*āpō.*  
 tomorrow  
 'Get ready, Mum, to light our earth oven tomorrow.' [R352.041]

### 10.2.2 Third-person injunctions (jussives)

*Ka* or *e* are also used to express instructions or advice to be carried out by a third-person Agent. This happens for example in procedural texts, which describe how something is done or should be done.

As the following examples show, the subject may occur either before or after the verb, as in declarative clauses.

- (10) *Te taŋata ta'ato'a ka oho tahi ka uruuru i te kahu 'uri'uri.*  
 ART person all IMP go all IMP dress:RED ACC ART clothes black:RED  
 'All the people must go and put on black clothes.' [R210.164]
- (11) *Te me'e nei he ruku e ai te ŋā me'e nei: he pātia, he*  
 ART thing PROX PRED dive IPFV exist ART PL thing PROX PRED harpoon PRED  
*hi'o, he raperape...*  
 glass PRED swim\_fin  
 'For underwater fishing, you need (lit. there should be) the following things: a harpoon, glasses, fins...' [R360.001]

### 10.2.3 First-person injunctions (hortatives)

First-person injunctions (hortatives)<sup>2</sup> are marked with *ki*, the marker also used in certain purpose clauses (§11.5.3). As with imperatives, the subject is optional; if expressed, it is a pronoun which occurs after the verb and which is not preceded by the proper article *a*.

- (12) *Ki noho tātou ki mana'u pē hē te huru o te vaikava.*  
 HORT sit 1PL.INCL HORT think like CQ ART manner of ART sea  
 'Let's sit down and think about what the sea is like.' [R334.173]
- (13) *Ki iri, e nua ē, ki ruŋa ki te vaka.*  
 HORT go\_up VOC Mum VOC to above to ART boat  
 'Let's go out (to sea), Mum, by boat.' [R368.024]
- (14) *¿Ki aŋa te 'āriŋa ora mo to mātou korohu'a?*  
 HORT make ART face live for ART:of 1PL.EXCL old\_man  
 'Shall we make a memento (lit. living face) for our father?' [Ley-4-06.004]

As (14) shows, *ki* is also used to mark proposals in question form.

The hortative may be introduced by *matu* 'come on, let's do it', an interjection which also occurs in isolation. It can also be introduced by the directional *mai*. Note that this is an atypical use of the directional, which normally occurs postverbally (§7.5).

- (15) *Matu, e koro ē, ki e'a ki haho.*  
 come\_on VOC Dad VOC HORT go\_out to outside  
 'Come on, Dad, let's go outside.' [R229.107]
- (16) *Mai ki turu rō tāua ki tai.*  
 hither HORT go\_down EMPH 1DU.INCL to sea  
 'Come, let's go to the seaside.' [R245.112]

## 10.3 Interrogatives

### 10.3.1 Polar questions

Polar questions (also known as yes/no questions) usually do not have a special marker, though the particle *hoki* may be used (see below); nor do they differ from statements in word order. The only difference between polar questions and statements is intonational: whereas in statements the final phrase of the sentence is normally pronounced in a low tone, polar questions have a high rise on the final stressed syllable (§2.4.2; cf. Du Feu 1995: 27). Here are a few examples of polar questions:

<sup>2</sup> On the term 'hortative', see König & Siemund (2007: 305, 313) and Andrews (2007b: 207).

- (17) *¿Ko 'ite 'ā koe i te hī?*  
 PRF know CONT 2SG ACC ART to\_fish  
 'Do you know how to fish?' [R245.101]
- (18) *¿'Ina 'ō koe he oho ki te hāpī?*  
 NEG really 2SG NTR go to ART learn  
 'Don't you go to school?' [R245.086]
- (19) *¿E tano rō hō te me'e mana'u era e Tuki mo aña?*  
 IPFV correct EMPH DUB ART thing think DIST AG Tuki for do  
 'Is it correct what Tuki plans to do?' [R535.211]
- (20) *¿Hai kai piropiro 'ō ana va'ai mai ki a māua?*  
 INS food rotten:RED really IRR give hither to PROP 1DU.EXCL  
 'Are you giving us rotten food?' [R310.260]

As these examples show, various particles can be added after the first constituent:

- 'Ō in (18) and (20) indicates counterexpectation (§4.5.4.5); it is used in rhetorical questions to which a negative answer is expected, or in negative rhetorical questions to which a positive answer is expected.
- Hō in (19) indicates doubt (§4.5.4.6).

When a constituent within the clause is questioned, it is in focus position: it is fronted as in (20).

Polar questions may be marked with *hoki* (glossed PQ = polar question), which is placed at the start of the sentence. *Hoki* is less common in modern Rapa Nui than in older texts, but it does occur. It is used especially when the speaker expects a certain answer to the question, whether affirmative as in (21–22) or negative as in (23–24). For example, in (22) the context makes clear that the speaker assumes that the hearer has indeed heard the dream; on the other hand, in (23), the speaker does not believe that the hearer has ever seen a devil.

- (21) *¿Hoki e ai rō 'ā te famiria?*  
 PQ IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART family  
 'You have a family (don't you)?' [R103.093]
- (22) *¿Hoki ko ŋaro'a 'ā e koe te vārua nei 'a Hina?*  
 PQ PRF perceive CONT AG 2SG ART spirit PROX of.A Hina  
 'Did you hear Hina's dream?' [R313.087]
- (23) *¿Hoki ko tike'a 'ā e koe te tātane ra'e?*  
 PQ PRF see CONT AG 2SG ART devil first  
 'Have you ever seen a devil?' [R215.029]

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- (24) *¿Hoki e ketu rō koe i te hare o te tanata ki raro?*  
 PQ IPFV raise EMPH 2SG ACC ART house of ART man to below  
 ‘(one wind to another:) Could you destroy someone’s house (lit. raise down a house of a man)?!’ [R314.121]

When a question contains a negation, it depends on the underlying presupposition which answering strategy (‘yes’ or ‘no’) is appropriate. In the following examples, the person asking the question presupposes that the underlying proposition is true; in (25) for example, the speaker expects that the person pointed out is indeed Vivika. The positive reply ‘yes’ confirms this expectation. In (26), the asker expects the addressee to want to have him as father; negative response ‘no’ refutes this expectation.

- (25) *—¿Ta'e ko Vivika? —Ēē. Ko ia.*  
 CONNEG PROM Vivika yes PROM 3SG  
 ‘—Isn’t that Vivika? —Yes, it’s her.’ [R415.947]
- (26) *—¿Kai hana 'ō koe ko au 'ā tō'ou matu'a? —'Ina, tō'oku mau 'ā.*  
 NEG.PFV want really 2SG PROM 1SG IDENT POSS.2SG.O parent NEG POSS.1SG.O  
 really IDENT  
 ‘—Don’t you want me to be your father? —No, I want my own (father).’  
 [Mtx-7-26.036–037]

On the other hand, when the speaker presupposes that the underlying proposition is not true, this negative expectation can be confirmed with a positive answer:

- (27) *—¿'Ina he pepe? —Ēē. E nohonoho nō 'ā 'i raro.*  
 NEG PRED chair yes IPFV sit:RED just CONT at below  
 ‘—There were no chairs? —Indeed. They sat on the floor.’ [R413.635]

### 10.3.2 Content questions

Content questions are formed with one of the following question words: *ai* ‘who’, *aha* ‘what’, *hē* ‘where, when, which’, or *hia* ‘how many, how much’. These are always the nucleus of the first constituent of the clause. Each question word belongs to a different word class, as can be seen from the elements preceding them. For example, *ai* is a pronoun, while *aha* is best categorised as a common noun. In the following sections, these question words will be discussed in turn.



10.3.2.1 *Ai*/'*ai* 'who'

The question word 'who' has two forms: *ai* and '*ai*'.<sup>3</sup> *Ai* occurs after prepositions and after the proper article *a*, while '*ai*' occurs in possessive and benefactive forms. Syntactically, *ai*/'*ai*' is a pronoun: like personal pronouns, it is preceded by the proper article *a* after the prepositions '*i*' and *ki* (*ki a ai*), it follows immediately after other prepositions (*ko ai*), and is never preceded by a determiner.

*Ai* is always in focus. In NOMINAL clauses, this means that *ai* is preposed and receives the main clause stress. It is marked with *ko*, just like all pronouns used as identifying predicate (§9.2.2). Two examples:

- (28) *ǀKo ai koe?*  
 PROM who 2SG  
 'Who are you?' [R304.097]
- (29) *ǀKo ai te rū'au era o tu'a 'ai?*  
 PROM who ART old\_woman DIST of back there  
 'Who is the old woman there in the back?' [R416.1092]

In a verbal clause, when *ai* is a CORE ARGUMENT (S, A or O), it is not only preposed and stressed, but the clause takes a focus construction. Just as in declarative clauses, two constructions are possible: the actor-emphatic or a cleft.

When *ai* is Agent, an actor-emphatic construction can be used (§8.6.3). In this construction, the Agent is marked as possessive (if the clause is perfective) or benefactive (if the clause is imperfective); this means that the interrogative is '*a 'ai*' or *mā 'ai*', respectively. The object is often placed before the verb and tends to be unmarked.

- (30) *ǀ'A 'ai i aŋa te korone nei?*  
 of.A who PFV make ART necklace PROX  
 'Who made this necklace?' [R208.263]
- (31) *ǀMā 'ai koe e hāpa'o?*  
 for.A who 2SG IPFV care\_for  
 'Who will take care of you?' [R438.011]
- (32) *ǀ'A 'ai kōrua te tautoru atu hai moni...?*  
 of.A who 2PL ART help away INS money  
 'Who helped you with money...?' [R621.024]

<sup>3</sup> Reflexes of *ai* occurs in most or all Polynesian languages. In Tongic the form is *hai*, which suggests that the PPN form was *\*hai*. In some EP languages (Tahitian, Māori, Hawaiian), the form is *vai/wai*. No other language has a form '*ai*' except Rarotongan, where the glottal is the regular reflex of PEP *\*h*, *\*f* or *\*s* (§2.5.2).

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When *ai* is any core argument (regardless of its semantic role), a cleft construction can be used (§9.2.6).<sup>4</sup> In this construction, *ko ai* is a nominal predicate, followed by a subject containing a relative clause. The subject noun is usually the generic *me'e*, though other nouns are also used. A few examples:

S/A questioned:

- (33) *¿Ko ai te me'e ηau era i te kiko 'ai?*  
 PROM who ART thing bite DIST ACC ART meat there  
 'Who is the one biting the meat there?' [R416.1310]
- (34) *¿Ko ai te nu'u ra'e i tu'u ki ira...?*  
 PROM who ART people first PFV arrive to ANA  
 'Who were the first people who arrived there...?' [R616.390]

O questioned:

- (35) *¿Ko ai te me'e ena e kōrua ka haka tere ena?*  
 PROM who ART thing MED AG 2PL CNTG CAUS run MED  
 '(If everybody wants to govern the island,) whom will you govern?' [R647.370]

Only very occasionally is *ko ai* immediately followed by a verb; this happens especially in older texts. It is impossible to tell whether this is a simple clause, or a cleft with headless relative clause (a construction not attested otherwise, §8.6.2.1).

- (36) *¿Ko ai i mate?*  
 PROM who PFV die  
 'Who died?' [MsE-046.009]

When a POSSESSOR is questioned, the form *'ai* is used, preceded by *o* or *'a*: like all singular pronouns, *'ai* is subject to the *o/a* distinction (§6.3.2). The clause is a proprietary clause (§9.4.2) with fronted predicate. Two examples:

- (37) *¿O 'ai te hare nei?*  
 of who ART house PROX  
 'Whose house is this (lit. whose is this house)?' [R208.194]
- (38) *¿'A 'ai te vi'e era e kī era ko Campana?*  
 of.A who ART woman DIST IPFV say DIST PROM Campana  
 'Whose (wife) is the woman called Campana?' [R416.1164]

<sup>4</sup> Potsdam & Polinsky (2011) distinguish three questioning strategies in Polynesian: displacement (= preposing the Wh-constituent), clefts, and pseudo-clefts (=clefts in which the relative clause has a head noun; in Rapa Nui, this is the only cleft strategy possible, see sec. §9.2.6 and §8.6.2.1). They tentatively analyse Rapa Nui as using the displacement strategy, but admit that data are scarce. One example is given of a construction as in (36), as well as a number of oblique examples (which indeed have a displacement structure), and one example of *he aha* in the sense of 'why' (which is also an oblique with displacement). However, in Rapa Nui texts, pseudo-clefts abound in questions, both with *ai* 'who' (such as in (33–35)) and with *aha* 'what' (such as (44) in the next section).

When *ai* questions an OBLIQUE constituent, this constituent is simply fronted.<sup>5</sup>

- (39) *¿Ki a ai a Omoaŋa i māhani ai 'i 'Ōroŋo?*  
 to PROP who PROP Omoaŋa PFV accustomed PVP at Orongo  
 'Who did Omoaŋa get to know in Orongo?' [R616.017]
- (40) *¿'Imuri i a ai a Eva ka noho era 'i a Tire?*  
 at near at PROP who PROP Eva CNTG stay DIST at PROP Chile  
 'With whom would Eva stay in Chile?' [R615.660]

*Ai* asks about persons, while *aha* 'what' asks about things. To ask about names, *ai* is used. This applies even when the name asked for is the name of an inanimate entity:

- (41) *¿Ko ai te 'iŋoa o rā kona?*  
 PROM who ART name of DIST place  
 'What is the name of that place?' [R124.014]

### 10.3.2.2 *Aha* 'what, why'

Unlike *ai* 'who', *aha* 'what'<sup>6</sup> is a common noun: it is preceded by the predicate marker *he* or the article *te*, never by the proper article *a*. Apart from this, it is also used as noun modifier. Like *ai*, *aha* is in focus: it always occurs initially and is stressed.

As a NOMINAL predicate, *aha* is preceded by *he*; the construction is a simple classifying clause (§9.2.1).

- (42) *¿He aha te me'e era pē he tiare 'ā?*  
 PRED what ART thing DIST like PRED flower IDENT  
 'What are those things (that look) like flowers?' [R210.195]
- (43) *¿He aha kōrua?*  
 PRED what 2PL  
 'What (kind of people) are you?' [Egt-02.137]

When questioning arguments in a VERBAL clause, a cleft construction is used: *aha* is marked as nominal predicate, while the subject noun phrase consists of an anchor noun (usually *me'e*) followed by a relative clause.

Sometimes the S/A argument is questioned; as *aha* questions non-human entities, this is not very common:

<sup>5</sup> As (39–40) show, if the clause also has a subject, it is usually preverbal. This is usual after most preverbal constituents (§8.6.1.1).

<sup>6</sup> Cognates of *aha* (< PPN \**hafa*, going back to PAN) occur throughout Polynesian languages, but especially in Eastern Polynesian (outside EP e.g. in Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro). Most Tongic and Samoic languages have a reflex of PPN \**haa* instead (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011).

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- (44) *¿He aha te me'e i topa ki a koro?*  
 PRED who ART thing PFV happen to PROP Dad  
 'What happened to Dad?' [R615.594]

More commonly, the O argument is questioned. As in all object relative clauses (§11.4.2), the subject is either marked with *e* as in (45), or the possessive-relative construction is used (§11.4.4) as in (46).

- (45) *¿He aha te me'e i kī atu e Kihi?*  
 PRED what ART thing PFV say away AG Kihi  
 'What did Kihi say?' [R615.738]
- (46) *¿He aha te kōrua me'e i aŋa i 'Apina?*  
 PRED what ART 2PL thing PFV do at Apina  
 'What did you do in Apina?' [R301.197]

When *aha* has an OBLIQUE role, it is simply preposed as constituent of the verbal clause. As with *ai* 'who', the subject is usually preverbal. After prepositions, *aha* is preceded by the article *te* (like all common nouns), with the exception of the instrumental preposition *hai* (which is never followed by a determiner) and benefactive *mo*. *Mo aha* is used to ask about the purpose of an event.

- (47) *¿'O te aha a Mako'i i oho mai ai ki a Paepae?*  
 because\_of ART what PROP Mako'i PFV go hither PVP to PROP Paepae  
 'Why did Mako'i go to Paepae?' [R615.699]
- (48) *¿A runga i te aha koe i oho mai ai?*  
 by above at ART what 2SG PFV go hither PVP  
 'By/on what (means of transport) did you come?' [R245.178]
- (49) *¿Hai aha a au ka rēkaro nei ki a Ravira?*  
 INS what PROP 1SG CNTG gift PROX to PROP Ravira  
 'What (lit. with what) will I give as a present to Ravira?' [R175.002]
- (50) *E haŋu ē, ¿mo aha koe e 'ui mai ena?*  
 voc dear\_child voc for what 2SG IPFV ask hither MED  
 'Dear child, for what (purpose) are you asking (this)?' [R250.114]

*He aha* is also used in the sense 'why'. In this case, it is an oblique, which is part of a simple verbal clause with preverbal subject: *he aha* S V. The structure of the sentence is thus different from *he aha* as subject or object, which have a cleft structure *he aha* [NP Rel]; compare (51) with (45–46) above:

- (51) *¿He aha koe e taŋi ena?*  
 PRED what 2SG IPFV cry MED  
 'Why are you crying?' [Ley-9-55.064]

*Aha* is used as an adjective ‘what, which’, especially after time nouns. The noun phrase containing *aha* is clause-initial:

- (52) *¿Hora aha te manurere ka tu'u mai?*  
 time what ART airplane CNTG arrive hither  
 ‘What time does the plane arrive?’ [R208.214]
- (53) *¿Mahana aha a koe ka oho ki Santiago?*  
 day what PROP 2SG CNTG go to Santiago  
 ‘What day are you going to Santiago?’ [R208.226]

As these examples show, the noun is not preceded by a determiner. Cf. the use of *hē* as an adjective (§10.3.2.3).

### 10.3.2.3 *Hē* ‘where, when, how, which’

*Hē* is used to ask about places, times and situations.<sup>7</sup> Because of its wide range of functions, it is glossed ‘CQ’ (content question). Syntactically, it is a locational (§3.6): it is immediately preceded by prepositions, without any determiner. Like all question words, it is in focus and always occurs as the first constituent of the clause.

**Location** When preceded by a locative preposition (*i* ‘at’ *ki* ‘to’, *mai* ‘from’, *a* ‘by, towards’) or *o* ‘of’, *hē* has a locative sense ‘where’. As the examples show, *hē* may be the predicate of a verbless clause as in (54–55), or an oblique in a verbal clause as in (56–58). In verbal clauses, the subject is usually preverbal.

- (54) *¿I hē koe i te nā tiempo nei i a'a?*  
 at CQ 2SG at ART PL time PROX IMM DEIC  
 ‘Where were you in these times?’ [R415.349]
- (55) *¿O hē te tanata era?*  
 of CQ ART man DIST  
 ‘Where is that man from?’ [Ley-3-06.003]
- (56) *¿I hē a koe e noho ena?*  
 at CQ PROP 2SG IPFV stay MED  
 ‘Where do you live?’ [R399.052]
- (57) *¿A hē nei rā i nāro ai?*  
 by CQ PROX INTENS PFV disappear PVP  
 ‘In what direction did (the fish) disappear?’ [R301.179]

<sup>7</sup> According to Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011), *hē* is a reflex of PPN \**fē* ‘where’, which occurs in a number of Samoic and Tongic languages. However, it is more plausible that *hē* reflects PNP \**fea* ‘where’, which is widespread both in Samoic and EP languages (e.g. Tahitian, Hawaiian, Marquesan *hea*, Māori *whea*, Rarotongan, Mangarevan *ea*). Cf. §2.5.2 on monophthongisation of particles.

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- (58) *¿Ki hē kōrua ko te poki i iri mai ena?*  
 to CQ 2PL PROM ART child PFV ascend hither MED  
 ‘Where did you and the child go up to?’ [R229.205]

In nominal clauses, *hē* is also used without a preceding preposition. Its sense is similar to ‘*i hē* ‘where’, but it is only used to ask about things that are situationally close; often, the addressee is directly involved. Compare (59–60) with (54) and (56) above:

- (59) *¿Hē koe, e vovo ē?*  
 CQ 2SG VOC dear\_girl VOC  
 ‘Where are you, my girl?’ [R372.030]
- (60) *¿Hē te kona mamae atu?*  
 CQ ART place pain away  
 ‘Where is the place (=body part) that hurts?’ [R481.100]

**Situation** *Pē hē* ‘like what, how’ asks about a situation; it is the interrogative counterpart of *pē ira* ‘like that’ (§4.6.5.2). It occurs for example in the common greeting *Pē hē koe* ‘how are you’. As with other prepositions, in a verbal clause the subject is usually preverbal.

- (61) *¿Pē hē koe, e hoa ē?*  
 like CQ 2SG VOC friend VOC  
 ‘How are you, my friend?’ [R237.116]
- (62) *¿Pē hē koe i 'ite ai mo tarai i te mōai?*  
 like CQ 2SG PFV know PVP for carve ACC ART statue  
 ‘How did you know how to carve statues?’ [R647.063]

**Time** To ask about time, *hē* is preceded by ‘*ʻaŋa-* (past) or *a* (future). ‘*Aŋahē* is written as one word; *a hē* is written as two words and is homophonic to *a hē* ‘by what place’ (see (57) above). The particles ‘*ʻaŋa-* and *a* also occur with other roots (§3.6.4). As (64) shows, ‘*aŋahe* is preceded by locative prepositions.

- (63) *¿A hē tātou ka iri haka'ou mai mo piroto?*  
 FUT CQ 1PL.INCL CNTG ascend again hither for soccer  
 ‘When will we go up again to play soccer?’ [R155.007]
- (64) *¿Mai 'aŋahē 'ā a Rapa Nui i topa rō ai ki te tire?*  
 from when.PAST IDENT PROP Rapa Nui PFV happen EMPH PVP TO ART Chile  
 ‘From when did Rapa Nui go over to the Chileans?’ [R616.673]

**Adjectival use** Finally, *hē* is used as an adjective ‘which’. As the examples below show, the questioned noun is preceded by the appropriate preposition marking its semantic role, but does not have a determiner. For example, the questioned NP in (65) is *o hua'ai hē*, not \**o te hua'ai hē*, even though the preposition *o* must normally be followed by a determiner (§5.3.2.1).

- (65) *¿O hua'ai hē te rū'au era 'ai?*  
 of family CQ ART old\_woman DIST DEIC  
 ‘From which family is that woman over there?’ [R413.305]
- (66) *—¿Ko poki hē rā poki hiko era i ta'a me'e?—Poki tane.*  
 PROM child CQ DIST child snatch DIST ACC POSS.2SG.A thing child male  
 ‘—Which child [was the child who] snatched your things? —A boy.’  
 [R172.012–014]

There is no sharp difference in meaning between *hē* and *aha* used as adjective (see (52–53) above), except that the latter only occurs with time nouns, while *hē* occurs with any type of noun. Possibly *hē* implies a choice from a closed range, though (66) above appears to be a counterexample.

#### 10.3.2.4 *Hia* ‘how much, how many’

*Hia* ‘how much, how many’ (< PPN \**fīha*, with reflexes throughout Polynesia) is a numeral: it is always preceded by one of the numeral particles *e*, *ka* and *hoko* (§4.3.2). *Hia* may occur in a noun phrase as in (67–68), or as a separate constituent as in (69–70). In either case, it is placed at the start of the sentence.

- (67) *¿E hia māmari o roto te hakaupā?*  
 NUM how\_many egg of inside ART nest  
 ‘How many eggs are there inside the nest?’ [R173.019]
- (68) *¿Ka hia matahiti ō'ou, e pāpātio ē?*  
 CNTG how\_many year POSS.2SG.O VOC uncle VOC  
 ‘How old are you (lit. how many years are yours), uncle?’ [R416.843]
- (69) *¿E hia tō'oku tārahu mō'ou?*  
 NUM how\_much POSS.1SG.O debt BEN.2SG.O  
 ‘How much do I owe you (lit. how much [is] my debt for you)?’ [R208.200]
- (70) *¿Hoko hia kōrua i oho ai?*  
 NUM.PERS how\_many 2PL PVP go PVP  
 ‘(With) how many did you go?’ [R124.008]

### 10.3.3 Dependent questions

Dependent questions, i.e. questions in subordinate clauses, occur mainly after speech verbs and cognitive verbs.

**Polar questions** Dependent polar questions are optionally introduced by *hoki* as in (71). In (72), *hoki* is not used, but here the question has a tag 'o 'ina.

- (71) *He kī ki te 'auario o tū kona era [hoki e puē rō mo tari rō*  
 NTR say to ART guard of DEM place DIST PQ IPFV can EMPH for carry EMPH  
*'ai i tō'ona me'e].*  
 SUBS ACC POSS.3SG.O thing

'She asked the guard of the place if he could carry her stuff.' [R210.205]

- (72) *Kai 'ite mai au [e take'a haka'ou rō mai koe 'o 'ina].*  
 NEG.PFV know hither 1SG IPFV see again EMPH hither 2SG OR NEG

'I don't know if you will see me again or not.' [R210.072]

Alternatively, the question is marked with the irrealis marker *ana* (§11.5.2.2):

- (73) 'O ira a au i 'ui atu ena [*ana* haŋa koe mo turu mai  
 because\_of ANA PROP 1SG PFV ask away MED IRR want 2SG for go\_down hither  
*ki nei...]*  
 to PROX

'Therefore I asked you if you wanted to come here...' [R315.269]

**Content questions** Dependent content questions are marked with one of the question words discussed in the previous sections. Just as in main clause questions, the questioned constituent is placed at the start of the clause.

- (74) *Kai 'ite a au [ko ai a ia].*  
 NEG.PFV know PROP 1SG PROM who PROP 3SG

'I don't know who she is.' [R413.356]

- (75) *Ka u'i a Haŋa Roa [he aha e ta'e tu'u mai nei].*  
 IMP look by Hanga Roa PRED what IPFV CONNEG arrive hither PROX

'Look towards Hanga Roa why he is not coming.' [R229.137]

- (76) ...'i te ta'e 'ite [*i hē a ia ka noho era].*  
 at ART CONNEG know at CQ PROP 3SG CNTG stay DIST

'(He was afraid) because he didn't know where he would stay.' [R314.016]



## 10.4 Exclamatives

There are three constructions in Rapa Nui specifically used for exclamations. They are marked with the aspectual *ka*, the preposition *ko* and the deictic particle *'ai*, respectively. These constructions will be discussed in turn in the next subsections.

### 10.4.1 *Ka* in exclamations

With certain adjectives the contiguity marker *ka* (§7.2.6) is used in an emphatic sense, often in exclamations. In this construction, the quality expressed by the adjective is emphasised. This construction is only used with a limited number of adjectives, all of which express a positive evaluation: *riva* ‘good’, *reka* ‘pleasant’, *tau* ‘beautiful, handsome’, in older texts also *ma'itaki* ‘clean; beautiful’. A few examples:

- (77) *¡Ka riva 'ō!*  
 CNTG good really  
 ‘Very good!’ [R334.319]
- (78) *¡Ka tau te mahana nei 'i te ra'ā!*  
 CNTG pretty ART day PROX at ART sun  
 ‘What a nice sunny day!’ [Notes]
- (79) *'Ai te nuinui o te pū'oko ko tetu, ¡ka ma'itaki te pū'oko!*  
 there ART big:RED of ART head PROM enormous CNTG handsome ART head  
 ‘The skull was this big, it was enormous, and how beautiful it was!’ [Ley-2-10.010]

This construction is similar in function to *'ai te* preceding an adjective (§10.4.3 below); in fact, in (79) above the two constructions are used side by side. The choice between the two is lexically determined: while *ka* is only used with adjectives denoting a positive evaluation, *'ai te* is used with adjectives of size.

The origin of this use of *ka* may lay in the tendency of *ka* to denote an extent, a use which is for example seen in the construction *ka V rō* ‘until’ (§11.6.2.5) and in the use of *ka* with numerals (§4.3.2.2).

### 10.4.2 *Ko* in exclamations

In modern Rapa Nui, *ko te X* is used in exclamations to convey a strong emotion about something.<sup>8</sup> This usage does not occur in older texts. Sometimes it involves a noun as in (80), but more commonly, exclamative *ko te* is followed by an adjective as in (81). The speaker expresses his or her emotion about the quality expressed, implying that the quality is true to a high degree: ‘How beautiful!’.

<sup>8</sup> Moysse-Faurie (2011: 149) points out, that predicate (i.e. *ko*-marked) noun phrases in Polynesian languages often have an exclamative function.

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(80) *¡Ko te manu hope'a o te tau!*  
PROM ART animal last of ART pretty  
'What an extremely pretty animal!' [R345.072]

(81) *¡Ko te tau!*  
PROM ART pretty  
'How beautiful!' [R412.384]

The person or thing possessing the quality in question is marked with the preposition *i* 'corresponding to' (§4.7.2):

(82) *¡Ko te nene i te kiko, i te tātou kai!*  
PROM ART sweet at ART meat at ART 1PL.INCL food  
'How tasty is the meat, our food!' [R333.543]

(83) *¡Ko te 'aroha i te rū'au era!*  
PROM ART pity at ART old\_woman DIST  
'Poor old woman!' [R413.103]

A similar construction is *ko te aha* 'what', followed by a noun phrase:

(84) *¡Ko te aha te pōhāhā! ¡Ko te aha te 'ua!*  
PROM ART what ART dark PROM ART what ART rain  
'What a darkness! What a rain!' [R241.035–036]

(85) *¡Ko te aha te haka 'āriŋa!*  
PROM ART what ART CAUS face  
'What an insolence!' [R208.083]

### 10.4.3 'Ai in exclamations

Adjectives of size, such as *nuinui* 'big' and *kumi* 'big, long', occur in a nominal construction in which they are preceded by the deictic particle *'ai* (§4.5.4.1.2).

(86) *E ai rō 'ā e rua hare toa, 'ai te nuinui tetu.*  
IPFV exist EMPH CONT NUM two house store there ART big:RED enormous  
'There were two stores, they were enormous.' [R239.072]

(87) *'I roto te hare manupātia. ¡'Ai te kumi!*  
at inside ART house wasp there ART big  
'Inside was a wasps' nest. It was so big!' [R133.004]

## 10.5 Negation

Rapa Nui has three clausal negators:

<i>'ina</i>	neutral (discussed in §10.5.1–10.5.2)
<i>kai</i>	perfective (§10.5.3)
<i>(e) ko</i>	imperfective (§10.5.4–10.5.5)

The neutral character of *'ina* is shown by the fact that it occurs in a variety of contexts, is always followed by the neutral aspectual *he*, and can be combined in a single clause with one of the other negators.

While *'ina* is a phrase head, *(e) ko* and *kai* are preverbal particles which occur in the same position as – and thus replace – the aspectual marker (§7.1). This means that there are fewer aspectual distinctions in negative clauses than in positive ones (cf. Dixon 2012: 129).

Apart from the three clausal negators, Rapa Nui has a constituent negator *ta'e* (§10.5.6) and an existential/noun negator *kore* (§10.5.7).

The verb phrase particle *hia/ia* ‘not yet’, which occurs in combination with different negators, is discussed in §10.5.8.

### 10.5.1 The neutral negator *'ina*

*'Ina* is the most neutral negator; of all the negators, it has the widest range of use.

#### 10.5.1.1 Verbal clauses

*'ina* is a common negator in verbal clauses, as the following examples show:

- (88) *'Ina a Heru he u'i rō mai hai mata.*  
 NEG PROP Heru NTR watch EMPH hither INS eye  
 ‘Heru did not watch (her) with his eyes.’ [R313.165]
- (89) *'Ina a au he ha'amā haka'ou'i te hora nei.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG NTR ashamed again at ART time PROX  
 ‘Now I am not ashamed any more.’ [R334.069]
- (90) *'Ina mau 'ā koe he haŋa mai ki a au.*  
 NEG really IDENT 2SG NTR love hither to PROP 1SG  
 ‘You really don’t love me.’ [R229.468]
- (91) *'Ina, ho'i, he ho'o mau ena, te me'e nō, ko ai 'ana mo kai.*  
 NEG indeed NTR sell really MED ART thing just PRF exist CONT for eat  
 ‘They did not sell (the fish); but it was there to eat.’ [R539-1.365]

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- (92) *He ha'amata he riri, 'e 'ina he hakarongo ki tū vānaŋa era o tū*  
 NTR begin NTR angry and NEG NTR listen to DEM word DIST of DEM  
*hoa era ō'ona.*  
 friend DIST POSS.3SG.O  
 'He began to get angry, and did not listen to the words of his friend.' [R237.152]

These examples illustrate a number of characteristics of *'ina*:

- *'Ina* is almost always clause-initial.
- *'Ina* is neutral with respect to aspect; the verb is always marked with the neutral aspectual *he*. It occurs in narrative contexts and habitual clauses, and it is used both for actions and states. However, it is used mostly in imperfective contexts; negations of one-time events tend to be expressed with other negators, though (92) shows that this is not a strict rule.
- The subject of the clause occurs immediately after *'ina*, before the verb; in other words, the constituent order is SV/AVO.

For the sake of comparison: the unmarked positive counterpart of (88) would be:

- (93) *He u'i rō mai a Heru hai mata.*  
 NTR watch EMPH hither PROP Heru INS eye  
 'Heru watched (her) with his eyes.' [R313.165]

Only occasionally is the subject in postverbal position. Usually a postverbal subject is marked with the agentive marker *e*. In general, preverbal subjects are not *e*-marked (§8.3.1), which could be the reason why the *e*-marked subject is placed after the verb.

- (94) *'Ina he aniani e tū ŋā 'aku'aku era e aha 'ā te 'ariki.*  
 NEG NTR certain:RED AG DEM PL spirit DIST IPFV what CONT ART king  
 'Those spirits did not know what the king was doing.' [R532-06.018]

In (88–90) above, the subject is a proper noun or pronoun. When the subject is a common noun and preverbal, it is usually not preceded by the article *te*, but by the predicate marker *he*. This happens despite the fact that it refers to a definite entity, while *he* normally marks nonreferential noun phrases (§5.3.4.1).

- (95) *'Ina he rū'au nei he turu mai ki Hanga Roa.*  
 NEG PRED old\_woman PROX NTR go\_down hither to Hanga Roa  
 'This old women did not go down to Hanga Roa.' [R380.006]
- (96) *Te problema ho'i, 'ina he māmā o nā poki o nei.*  
 ART problem indeed NEG PRED mother of MED child of PROX  
 'The problem is, the mother of the child is not here.' [R403.051]

- (97) *ǀ'Ina 'ō he mata o Hotu 'Iti he tanjitaŋi ki te Tūpāhotu?*  
 NEG really PRED tribe of Hotu Iti PRED cry:RED to ART Tupahotu  
 'The tribe of Hotu Iti doesn't mourn for the Tupahotu, does it?' [R304.070]

'Ina may be followed by the article or another *t*-determiner, but this happens only occasionally:

- (98) *Te 'ati nō 'ina te ŋā poki he haŋa mo 'ite.*  
 ART problem just NEG ART PL child NTR want for know  
 'The problem is that the children don't want to know.' [R647.094]

In (95–97) above, the construction *'ina he N VP* is a verbal clause in which *he N* is the preverbal subject. However, the same sequence of elements may also be an existential clause, in which the verb phrase is part of a relative clause (see (108–110) below on the negation of existential clauses).

- (99) *'Ina he tētahi kona o te hakari [i 'ati].*  
 NEG PRED other place of ART body PFV problem  
 '(There is) no other part of the body (which) is in trouble.' [R481.091]
- (100) *'Ina he hua'ai rahi [vānaŋa ki te ŋā poki i te re'o henua].*  
 NEG PRED family many speak to ART PL child ACC ART voice land  
 '(There are) not many families (who) speak the language of the island to the children.' [R533.006]

Constructions like (99–100) are quite distinct from (95–97) above. Firstly, the noun phrase does not refer to a specific entity, but predicates the existence of the category as a whole: 'there is not...'. In the second place, the verb is marked in ways typical of relative clauses. While the verb in (95–97) has the neutral marker *he*, verbs in relative clauses are typically marked with the aspectuals *i* or *e* or with zero marking, but not by *he* (§11.4.3; §11.4.5).<sup>9</sup>

A third difference between verbal *'ina* clauses and existential constructions is, that in the latter the noun phrase after *'ina* is not always the S/A argument of the verb. This is illustrated in (101–102), where the noun phrase following *'ina* is the Patient. As (102) shows, the Agent may be expressed as a possessive, a construction common in relative clauses (§11.4.4).

- (101) *'Ina he me'e i rovā o tū pō era.*  
 NEG PRED thing PFV obtain of ART night DIST  
 'They did not catch anything (lit. there was no thing obtained) that night.'  
 [R359.005]

<sup>9</sup> That these two constructions are distinct is confirmed by the fact that *i*, *e* and zero marking never occur after *'ina* + proper noun or pronoun; they are limited to constructions with a common noun, which are open to an existential analysis.

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- (102) *ǀ'Ina 'ō he 'a'amu 'ā'au i ma'u mai mai Haŋa Roa?*  
 NEG really PRED story POSS.2SG.A PFV carry hither from Hanga Roa  
 'Haven't you brought any news (lit. are there no stories you brought) from Hanga Roa?' [R380.039]

Constructions as in (99–102) are relatively unusual. More commonly, the noun phrase in negative existential constructions is preceded by the numeral *e tahi* 'one'. *'Ina e tahi N* has become the usual way to express 'not one, no one, nobody':

- (103) *I oti era te 'ā'ati, 'ina e tahi kope i 'ite ko ai te*  
 PFV finish DIST ART contest NEG NUM one person PFV know PROM who ART  
*me'e i rē.*  
 thing PFV won  
 'When the contest was finished, no one (lit. not one person) knew who had won.' [R448.018]
- (104) *'Ina e tahi taŋata tere o ira; hoko rua mau nō.*  
 NEG NUM one person run of ANA NUM.PERS two really just  
 'Nobody was sailing there; just the two (of us).' [R230.410]

All examples so far involve *'ina* as sole negator in the clause. However, more often than not, *'ina* as verbal clause negator co-occurs with a second clausal negator, either perfective *kai* or imperfective (*e*) *ko*. Table 10.1 gives the number of occurrences of *'ina* in verbal clauses in the text corpus with and without a second negator.

Table 10.1: Frequencies of single and double negators

	<i>'ina ... kai V</i>	29.5%	(366)
	<i>'ina ... e ko V</i>	19.5%	(242)
	<i>'ina ... ko V</i>	21.4%	(265)
total with other negators:		70.5%	(873)
no other negator:	<i>'ina ... he V</i>	29.5%	(366)

A few examples of double negation:

- (105) *'Ina a au kai maruaki.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG NEG.PFV hungry  
 'I am not hungry.' [R208.250]
- (106) *ǀ'Ina mātou e ko hoa i a koe!*  
 NEG 1PL.EXCL IPFV NEG.IPFV abandon at PROP 2SG  
 'We will not leave you alone!' [MsE-028.012]

- (107) *'Ina e ko kai i te kahi o tō'ona vaka.*  
 NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV eat ACC ART tuna of POSS.3SG.O boat

'(The fisherman) would not eat the tuna (caught with) his boat.' [Ley-5-27.013]

*'Ina ... e ko* and *'ina ... kai* are multiple markings of a single negation. The effect of multiple marking may be a slight reinforcement or emphasis; notice however that multiple marking is so common, that it cannot be a highly marked form.<sup>10</sup> As the examples illustrate, the subject is usually preverbal, just like constructions where *'ina* is the only negator in the clause.

In one situation the use of the double negation is almost exceptionless: the imperative. This is discussed in §10.5.5.

### 10.5.1.2 Nonverbal clauses

Several types of nonverbal clauses are negated by *'ina*.

EXISTENTIAL clauses (§9.3) are negated by placing *'ina* in front of the nominal predicate as in (108). The same is true for subtypes of existential clauses: existential-locative clauses as in (109), possessive clauses as in (110).

- (108) *Matahiti nei 'ina he taŋata mo hāpī i te ŋā aŋa nei.*  
 year PROX NEG PRED person for teach ACC ART PL work PROX

'This year there is no one (lit. there is no man) to teach these matters.' [R640.016]

- (109) *He tike'a mātou e tahi kāiŋa 'iti'iti, 'ina he taŋata o ruŋa.*  
 NTR see 1PL.EXCL NUM one homeland small:RED NEG PRED person of above

'We saw a small island, there was nobody there.' [Egt-02.409]

- (110) *'Ina pa'i o māua kona mo noho.*  
 NEG in\_fact of 1DU.EXCL place for stay

'For we do not have a place to live.' [R229.210]

Notice that positive existential clauses are nowadays usually constructed with the existential verb *ai* (§9.3.1); negative clauses, however, are constructed without a verb, as these examples show.

LOCATIVE clauses (§9.4.1) can be negated with *'ina* in front of the subject. As in verbal clauses, the subject has the predicate marker *he*, even when it has definite reference (see (95–97) above).

- (111) *'Ina he māmā o nā poki o nei.*  
 NEG PRED mother of MED child of PROX

'The mother of that boy is not here.' [R403.051]

Alternatively, the locative phrase is negated by the constituent negator *ta'e* (see (144) on p. 505).

<sup>10</sup> See Dixon (2012: 91) on multiple marking. According to Payne (1985: 224), there is a strong crosslinguistic tendency for negatives to be reinforced by other elements in the clause.

### 10.5.1.3 Independent polarity item

Besides negating verbal and nominal clauses, *'ina* also functions as independent polarity item 'no':

- (112) —*E Reŋa, ka e'a mai ki haka hopu atu. —'Ina, ko hopu 'ā au.*  
 VOC Renga IMP go\_out hither to CAUS wash away NEG PRF wash CONT 1SG  
 '—Renga, come out so I can wash you. —No, I have washed (already).'  
 [Mtx-7-15.046]

- (113) —*I eke rō koe 'i ruŋa i te pahī era? —'Ina.*  
 PFV go\_up EMPH 2SG at above at ART ship DIST NEG  
 '—Did you go on board that ship? —No.' [R413.811]

### 10.5.2 Status and origin of *'ina*

In many Polynesian languages, some negators are verbs, or at least have important characteristics in common with verbs: they occur in the position of the predicate and they are preceded and/or followed by VP elements such as aspectuals (see Payne 1985: 209–211; Broschart 1999 on Tongan). The rest of the sentence may be constructed as a subordinate clause, as evidenced by the constituent order (subject raising) and by the fact that the choice of aspectuals on the main verb is limited in the same way as in other subordinate clauses. The latter happens for example in Tahitian (Lazard & Peltzer 1999; Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 49) and Māori (Hohepa 1969a; Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 139–141).

The question is whether Rapa Nui *'ina* can be analysed as a matrix verb followed by a subordinate clause.<sup>11</sup> Weber (2003a: 57) assumes a biclausal structure, when she analyses subject placement in *'ina* constructions by a raising rule, in which the subject is moved to the subject position of the higher clause. Stenson (1981: 159–160) gives several arguments to treat *'ina* as a matrix verb: it may be separated from the negated verb by the subject (while the otherwise common VSO order is marginal in *'ina*-clauses); it may co-occur with the negators *kai* and *e ko*, and unlike the latter, it co-occurs with an aspect marker. It should be noted, however, that the last two points only show that *'ina* has a different status from *kai* and *e ko*, without demonstrating its verbal character. After all, the aspect marker does not occur in front of *'ina* itself, but in front of the following verb.

Another possible indication for the verbal character of *'ina* is, that it can be followed by a wide range of verb phrase particles: certain adverbs (*mau* 'really', *tako'a* 'also'), the emphatic marker *rō*, the directional *atu*, postverbal demonstratives and the identity marker *'ā*. This is illustrated in (90) above and in the following example:

<sup>11</sup> Note that *'ina* is not related to verb-like negators in other Polynesian languages (but see the discussion on Mangarevan *inau* below). The latter either do not have a cognate in Rapa Nui or a cognate with a different status; for example, the negative verb *'ikai* in Tongan is related to the negative particle *kai* in Rapa Nui.



- (114) *'Ina rō atu he noho i a au.*  
 NEG EMPH away NTR stay at PROP 1SG  
 'I couldn't keep (my fishing line) steady (lit. It didn't stay at all to me).'  
 [R230.162]

Despite these arguments, there are good reasons not to analyse *'ina* as a verb followed by a subordinate clause.

1. The most obvious difference between *'ina* and verbs is, that *'ina* is never preceded by an aspectual. Verbs are always preceded by aspectuals (with a few well-defined exceptions, see §7.2.2).
2. In Māori and Tahitian, one argument for a biclausal analysis of negative constructions is, that the choice of aspectuals with the main verb is limited to precisely those aspectuals occurring in subordinate clauses. In Rapa Nui however, the reverse is true: the main verb after *'ina* is obligatorily marked with neutral *he*, while those markers typical of subordinate clauses (*i*, *e* and  $\emptyset$ ) do not occur.
3. As shown above, *'ina* can be combined with the negators *kai* and *e ko*. Both of these are main clause negators; subordinate clauses are mostly negated with the constituent negator *ta'e*. *'Ina* is never combined with the negator *ta'e*, which suggests that the clause following *'ina* is a main clause.
4. The fact that *'ina* is almost invariably clause-initial can also be considered as an argument against its verbal status. No verb is as consistently initial as *'ina*; even auxiliary verbs like *ha'amata* 'begin' may be preceded by subjects and other constituents. Rather, its obligatory initial position places *'ina* on a par with focus elements like interrogatives (§10.3.2) and deictic particles (§4.5.4.1).

The main argument for analysing *'ina* as a matrix verb in a biclausal construction, is that it attracts the subject: after *'ina*, the subject is usually preverbal. In this respect, *'ina* constructions are similar to constructions with auxiliary verbs such as *ha'amata* 'begin' (§11.3.2.1), and it may be tempting to analyse both along the same lines. However, auxiliary verbs in Rapa Nui are not the only elements that trigger preverbal subject placement. Subjects tend to be preverbal after a wide range of initial elements, including adjuncts and deictic particles (§8.6.1.1; cf. Footnote 42 on p. 404).

We may conclude that *'ina* is not a verb and that *'ina* constructions are monoclausal. Even so, it should be noted that *'ina* is significantly different from other negators: *'ina* is a phrase nucleus, while other negators are prenuclear particles. *'Ina* forms a constituent on its own, which may contain various postnuclear particles. This is confirmed by the fact that second-position particles (which are placed after the first constituent) occur immediately after *'ina*. Here is an example with *pa'i* (§4.5.4.2):

- (115) *'Ina, pa'i, a mātou kai māuiui 'i te rōviro.*  
 NEG in\_fact PROP 1PL.EXCL NEG.PFV sick at ART smallpox  
 'In fact, we were not sick with smallpox.' [R539-1.680]

The fact that *'ina* is consistently initial, conforms to a general crosslinguistic tendency for negative particles to come first (Miestamo 2007: 560 and refs. there). It may also be explained by the possible origin of *'ina*. Unlike other negators in Rapa Nui, *'ina* is not widely found in other Polynesian languages. The only plausible cognate I have found is Mangarevan *inau*.<sup>12</sup> The latter is used both as independent negator ‘no’ and as verb ‘to deny a proposition; to refuse’ (Tregear 2009: 24; Rensch 1991: 83).

If *'ina* is indeed related to Mangarevan *inau*, this suggests that it originated as an independent polarity item.<sup>13</sup> This would confirm Clark’s suggestion (Clark 1976: 104) that *'ina* started out as reinforcement of another negator (‘no, we will not go’) and developed into a clausal negator, a cross-linguistically common process which is known as Jespersen’s Cycle (Miestamo 2007: 566). This analysis would provide a historical explanation for the fact that *'ina* is always clause-initial, and the fact that it is often accompanied by another negator.

### 10.5.3 The perfective negator *kai*

*Kai* negates clauses in the perfective aspect.<sup>14</sup> It precedes the verb and occurs in the same position as aspectuals. As discussed in §10.5.1 above, it is often combined with *'ina*, in which case the subject usually precedes the verb.

*Kai* is used to negate events in narrative as in (116–117), and any past events as in (118–120).<sup>15</sup> If these clauses were positive, the former would be marked with *he*, the latter with perfective *i* or – if the speaker wishes to emphasise their present relevance – perfect *ko* V *'ā*.

- (116) *He hoki mai ki 'uta, kai iri ki te hakanonoŋa.*  
 NTR return hither to inland NEG.PFV ascend to ART fishing\_zone  
 ‘They returned inland, they did not go out to the *hakanononga* fishing zones.’  
 [Ley-6-43.031]
- (117) *Kai pāhono e Hotu i tū vānaŋa era 'a Tahoŋa.*  
 NEG.PFV answer AG Hotu ACC DEM word DIST of.A Tahonga  
 ‘Hotu did not reply to those words of Tahonga.’ [R301.273]

<sup>12</sup> *Inau* may in turn be related to *kinau*, found in some languages in West-Polynesia in the sense ‘to persist against something’ (Pollex, Greenhill & Clark 2011). In East Futunan and East Uvean, this verb has ‘to deny’ as one of its senses.

<sup>13</sup> The verbal use in Mangarevan may be a secondary development, one which is not unexpected given the great freedom of cross-categorial use in Polynesian languages.

<sup>14</sup> The negator *kai* occurs in a few other Polynesian languages (Māori, Pukapuka, Tikopian) but only as a negative imperative marker and/or in the sense ‘lest’ (Pollex, see Greenhill & Clark 2011). More widespread are reflexes of PPN \**ikai*, which has various negative senses in all branches of Polynesia.

<sup>15</sup> The latter point is illustrated somewhat more extensively, to show that *kai* does indeed negate past tense clauses, the positive counterpart of which would have perfective *i*. In this respect my analysis is different from Englert (1978: 79), who claims that *i*-clauses are negated by *ta'e* (an analysis followed by Chapin 1978: 158 and Stenson 1981: 157). In fact, *ta'e* is not the default negator of *i*, but is used to negate certain constructions with *i* and *e* (§10.5.6 below).

- (118) *¿He aha rā ia 'ina ho'i koe kai kī mai?*  
 PRED what INTENS then NEG indeed 2SG NEG.PFV say hither  
 'Why then didn't you tell me?' [R372.050]
- (119) *¿'Ina koe kai 'ā'ati i te 'ā'ati era?*  
 NEG 2SG NEG.PFV compete ACC ART contest DIST  
 '(talking about an event in the past:) Didn't you compete in that contest?'  
 [R415.738]
- (120) *E nua, kai kī mai ho'i koe pē hē te tunu haŋa o te kai era*  
 VOC Mum NEG.PFV say hither indeed 2SG like CQ ART cook NMLZ of ART food  
 DIST  
 'Mum, you didn't tell me how to cook that food.' [R236.091]

*Kai* is also used to negate stative verbs. In positive clauses, these verbs are commonly marked with perfect aspect *ko V 'ā* (§7.2.7.2).

- (121) *'Ina a au kai maruaki.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG NEG.PFV hungry  
 'I am not hungry.' [R208.250]
- (122) *¡Ko haŋa 'ā a au mo topa atu! ¡Kai haŋa a au mo oho!*  
 PRF want CONT PROP 1SG for descend away NEG.PFV want PROP 1SG for go  
 'I want to get off (the ship)! I don't want to go!' [R210.106–107]
- (123) *'Ina a au kai haŋa mo iri atu.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG NEG.PFV want for ascend hither  
 'I don't want to go up (to the hospital).' [R162.023]

In (118), (121) and (123), *kai* co-occurs with the neutral negator *'ina*. There is little or no semantic or pragmatic difference between clauses with and without *'ina*, though he examples with *'ina* may be slightly more emphatic than constructions with *kai* alone.

Just like any verb phrase, a verb phrase marked with *kai* may contain various kinds of postverbal particles, such as directionals (*mai* in (118) and (120) above). When the clause has perfect aspect, the continuity marker *'ā/'ana* may be added. This marker is obligatory with the perfect marker *ko* and indicates continuity of a state (§7.2.5.5); in combination with *kai* it indicates that the negative state still continues, i.e. that a positive action has not yet taken place, or that a positive state has not yet been reached.

- (124) *E 'iti'iti nō 'ā a koe; kai 'ite 'ana e tahi me'e o te via taŋata.*  
 IPFV small:RED just CONT PROP 2SG NEG.PFV know CONT NUM one thing of ART  
 life person  
 'You are (still) little; you don't know anything about human life (yet).' [R210.052]

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- (125) *ǀKai 'ara 'ana 'ō a nua era ko Kava, e ta'e tu'u*  
NEG.PFV wake\_up CONT really PROP Mum DIST PROM Kava IPFV CONNEG arrive  
*mai nei?*  
hither PROX  
'Hasn't mother Kava not woken up (yet), that she doesn't come?' [R229.359]

### 10.5.4 The imperfective negator (*e*) *ko*

(*E*) *ko*<sup>16</sup> is the imperfective negator. Like *kai*, it replaces the aspectual in front of the verb. The first element *e* (tentatively glossed as imperfective) is almost always included, except in the imperative. Like *kai*, *e ko* it can be reinforced with *'ina*, which triggers preverbal verb placement; compare (127) and (128) below.

*E ko* has the same range of use as imperfective *e*. It is used in sentences expressing a future event or intention:

- (126) *A koe, e Vai Ora ē, e ko ai ta'a rua poki.*  
PROP 2SG VOC Vai Ora VOC IPFV NEG.IPFV exist POSS.2SG.A two child  
'You, Vai Ora, won't have another child.' [R301.077]
- (127) *E ko 'avai e au e tahi tanata i tā'aku poki.*  
IPFV NEG.IPFV give AG 1SG NUM one person ACC POSS.1SG.A child  
'I won't give my child to anybody.' [R229.069]
- (128) *'Ina a au e ko 'avai atu ki a koe i a Puakiva.*  
NEG PROP 1SG IPFV NEG.IPFV give away to PROP 2SG ACC PROP Puakiva  
'I won't give Puakiva to you.' [R229.010]

It also negates habitual actions and general facts.

- (129) *'Ina a 'Orohe e ko hoa i tō'ona taina 'iti'iti.*  
NEG PROP Orohe IPFV NEG.IPFV abandon ACC POSS.3SG.O sibling small:RED  
'(When they walk to school,) Orohe does not leave his little sister alone.'  
[R166.005]

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<sup>16</sup> The origin of *ko* is unclear. Pollex (Greenhill & Clark 2011) mentions a negative imperative form *\*kaua* in Fijian and Polynesian, which could have assimilated > *\*kō* > *ko*. The semantic correspondence is tempting, but the evidence for *\*kaua* is not very strong; more common is *'aua*, which occurs throughout Polynesian and which could be at the root of Rapa Nui 'o 'lest' (§11.5.4). Alternatively, *ko* could be a shortening of *kore*, which is the main negator in verbal clauses in Central-Eastern Polynesian languages (Clark 1976: 100). This would explain the fact that *e* is a fixed part of the negation in most contexts: in CE languages, *kore* fused with preceding aspectuals (esp. *ka* and *e*). NB *kore* itself also occurs in Rapa Nui as a lexical negator (§10.5.7).

- (130) *Mo ta'e e'a o te nu'u hī ika, e ko ai te ika mo*  
 if CONNEG go\_out of ART people to\_fish fish IPFV NEG.IPFV exist ART fish for  
*kai.*  
 eat  
 'If the fishermen don't go out, there is no fish to eat.' [R334.261]

Finally, *e ko* negates stative verbs. This includes auxiliaries like *puē*, as in (133).

- (131) *E ko rivariva te kāiŋa, e ko nahonaho te noho*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV good:RED ART homeland IPFV NEG.IPFV comfortable ART stay  
*oŋa.*  
 NMLZ  
 'The land wasn't good, life was not comfortable (up until now).' [R368.103]
- (132) *¿E ko haŋa 'ō koe mo 'ori o tāua?*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV want really 2SG for dance of 1DU.INCL  
 'Don't you want to dance with me (lit. us to dance)?' [R315.115]
- (133) *E ko puē ho'i tāua mo hī 'i te kona nei.*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV can indeed 1DU.INCL for to\_fish at ART place PROX  
 'We cannot fish in this place.' [R237.149]

### 10.5.5 Negation of the imperative

Negative commands are marked by the imperfective negator (*e*) *ko*, usually in combination with *'ina*. While *e* is obligatory in other uses of the imperfective negator, in imperatives it is often left out, as in (134) and (136) below. However, when *'ina* is not included, as in (137), *e* is obligatory.

As with other uses of *'ina*, the subject – if expressed at all – tends to be placed before the verb.

The following examples show, that (*'ina*) (*e*) *ko* negates both immediate commands (marked with *ka* when positive, §10.2.1) and non-immediate commands (marked with *e* when positive).

- (134) *Ka mou, 'ina koe ko taŋi haka'ou.*  
 IMP quiet NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV cry again  
 'Be quiet, don't cry anymore.' [R229.343]
- (135) *E hāpa'o kōrua i a Puakiva. 'Ina kōrua e ko tiŋa'i i*  
 EXH care\_for 2PL ACC PROP Puakiva NEG 2PL IPFV NEG.IPFV strike ACC  
*a ia.*  
 PROP 3SG  
 'You two take care of Puakiva. Don't beat him.' [R229.420]

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(136) **'Ina ko pōŋeha ko makenu rahi tako'a.**  
NEG NEG.IPFV noise NEG.IPFV move much also  
'Don't make noise or move a lot.' [R210.171]

(137) **E ko oho koe ki te rua hare.**  
IPFV NEG.IPFV go 2SG TO ART other house  
'Don't go to another house.' [R310.016]

First and third person injunctions are negated in the same way. Notice that in (139) below, the subject remains in postverbal position.

(138) **'Ina a tātou ko eke 'i ruŋa i te tumu era.**  
NEG PROP 1PL.INCL NEG.IPFV go\_up at above at ART tree DIST  
'Let's not climb that tree.' [R481.044]

(139) **'Ina ko tu'u haka'ou 'i te hora era e tahi taŋata.**  
NEG NEG.IPFV arrive again at ART time DIST NUM one person  
'(When he was in mourning), at that time nobody could go to his house anymore.' [R310.160]

### 10.5.6 The constituent negator *ta'e*

*Ta'e* has a wide range of uses, all of which can be characterised as constituent negation: *ta'e* is used whenever something other than a main clause is negated, i.e. a subordinate clause or a constituent of a clause.<sup>17</sup> Besides, *ta'e* is used to negate the predicate of certain types of nonverbal clauses.

**10.5.6.1** *Ta'e* negates noun phrases which are the PREDICATE of a nonverbal clause. This may be a classifying clause with a *he*-marked predicate (§9.2.1) as in (140),<sup>18</sup> or an

<sup>17</sup> Cognates of *ta'e* are widespread; they occur in most Samoic-Outlier languages, as well as in Tongan and a number of CE languages (Māori, Marquesan, Mangarevan). The glottal only occurs in those languages that preserved the PPN glottal, such as Tongan and Rapa Nui. The initial vowel was assimilated to *e* in all languages except Tongan and Rapa Nui, and in most Samoic-Outlier the initial consonant changed to *s*- (or a reflex of \**s*-) or *l*-. As a result, the current form is *see*, *hee* or *lee* in most SO languages, and *tee* in CE languages. Clark (1976: 85–87) argues for \**ta'e* as the PPN form. This had probably assimilated to \**te'e* in PNP (see also Hamp 1977); the question remains whether Rapa Nui *ta'e* should be explained as subsequent dissimilation, or whether \**ta'e* survived alongside \**te'e* in PNP (Clark 1976: 87).

In SO languages, reflexes of \**ta'e* are the unmarked negator. In Mangarevan as well, *tē* seems to be a main clause negator (Janeau 1908: 78; examples are found in Pupu-takao (1908), e.g. Mark 4:40 *Tē kereto ana noti ra kotou?* 'Do you still not believe?'). In Marquesan, on the other hand, *tē* is a preverbal modifier (Mutu & Teikitoutoua 2002: 52).

<sup>18</sup> There is a difference between:

- (i) *Ta'e he taŋata* 'It is not a man' (classifying)
- (ii) *'Ina he taŋata* 'There is no man' (existential, (103) in §10.5.1)

identifying clause with a *ko*-marked predicate (§9.2.2) as in (141).

- (140) *Ta'e he mōrore te poki nei, 'ā'au mau te poki nei.*  
 CONNEG PRED bastard ART child PROX POSS.2SG.A really ART child PROX  
 'This child is not a bastard, the child is your own.' [Ley-2-07.027]
- (141) *Ta'e ko Rēŋa Roiti ta'a me'e ena.*  
 CONNEG PROM Rēŋa Roiti POSS.2SG.A thing MED  
 'That one (lit. 'your thing') is not Rēŋa Roiti.' [Ley-9-56.092]

*Ta'e* does not negate nouns as such: nouns are negated with *kore* (§10.5.7).

10.5.6.2 *Ta'e* negates OTHER PHRASES: prepositional phrases serving as arguments in a verbal clause as in (142–143), prepositional predicates as in (144), possessive predicates as in (145):

- (142) *¡Ta'e ho'i ki a koe a au i vānaŋa atu ai!*  
 CONNEG indeed to PROP 2S PROP 1SG PFV talk away PVP  
 'It wasn't to you I was talking!' [R315.135]
- (143) *...mahana va'ai era i te mauku, ta'e i te henua*  
 day give DIST ACC ART grass CONNEG ACC ART land  
 'the day when (king Atamu Tekena) gave the vegetation (to the Chileans), (but) not the land' [R649.172]
- (144) *Tō'oku hare ta'e a te ara ko Tu'u Kōihu.*  
 POSS.1SG.O house CONNEG by ART road PROM Tu'u Kōihu  
 'My house is not by the road Tu'u Kōihu.' [Notes]
- (145) *Te hare nei, ta'e ō'oku.*  
 ART house PROX CONNEG POSS.1SG.O  
 'This house is not mine.' [R229.268]

10.5.6.3 *Ta'e* negates NOMINALISED VERBS:

- (146) *Kai puē tako'a a ia mo hāpī 'o te ta'e rava o te moni.*  
 NEG.PFV can also PROP 3SG for learn because\_of ART CONNEG sufficient of ART  
 money  
 'He could not study as well (like his brother), because there was not enough money (lit. because of the not sufficient of the money).' [R231.006]
- (147) *¿Ko take'a 'ā e koe tu'u ta'e hakarōŋo ena?*  
 PRF see CONT AG 2SG POSS.2SG.O CONNEG listen MED  
 'Do you see how disobedient you were (lit. your not listening)?' [R481.117]

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10.5.6.4 *Ta'e* negates SUBCONSTITUENTS, such as adjectives (148) and quantifiers (149) in the noun phrase.

- (148) *A Hiero poki ta'e porio ni ta'e pāpaku.*  
 PROP Hiero child CONNEG fat nor CONNEG thin  
 'Hiero was neither a fat nor a skinny child.' [R315.020]
- (149) *Hora nei ta'e ta'ato'a taŋata 'ite o ruŋa.*  
 time PROX CONNEG all person know of above  
 'Nowadays, not all people know about it.' [R647.206]

10.5.6.5 *Ta'e* also occurs in the verb phrase. It negates SUBORDINATE CLAUSES introduced by a subordinating marker. These markers are in the same position as aspectuals (§11.5); *ta'e* occurs between the marker and the verb. Below are examples with *mo* 'to, in order to' and *ana* 'irrealis':

- (150) *'E 'ina he puē mo ta'e u'i atu.*  
 and NEG NTR can for CONNEG look away  
 'And I'm not able not to look at you.' [R308.023]
- (151) *Ana ta'e hā'aki mai koe, he tiŋa'i mātou i a koe.*  
 IRR CONNEG inform hither 2SG NTR kill 1PL.EXCL ACC PROP 2SG  
 'If you don't tell us, we will kill you.' [Mtx-7-21.030]

Subordinate clauses without subordinating marker are also negated by *ta'e*. In these cases, *ta'e* co-occurs with an aspect marker, usually *i* or *e*. As in the examples above, *ta'e* occurs between the marker and the verb. Below are examples of relative clauses (152–153) (the second without aspectual), a temporal clause (154), and the conjunction '*āhani*' (155).

- (152) *Te vānaŋa rapa nui ta'e he me'e [e ta'e haŋa rō 'ā e au].*  
 ART word Rapa Nui CONNEG PRED thing IPFV CONNEG like EMPH CONT AG  
 1SG  
 'The Rapa Nui language is not something I don't like.' [R648.251]
- (153) *A Julio taŋata [ta'e 'ite i te haka tere i te vaka].*  
 PROP Julio person CONNEG know ACC ART CAUS run ACC ART boat  
 'Julio is a man who does not know how to navigate a boat.' [R303.151]
- (154) *I ta'e kore era tu'u tokerau era he mana'u mo haka tītika*  
 PFV CONNEG lack DIST POSS.2SG.O wind DIST NTR think for CAUS straight  
*i te vaka ki Tahiti.*  
 ACC ART boat to Tahiti  
 'When the wind did not die down, they decided to steer the boat to Tahiti.'  
 [R303.064]



- (155) *‘Āhani ‘ō tō’oku nua era i ta’e mate, ‘ī au ‘i muri i a*  
 if\_only really POSS.1SG.O Mum DIST PFV CONNEG die IMM 1SG at near in PROP  
*ia ‘i te hora nei.*  
 3SG in ART time PROX  
 ‘If my mother had not died, I would be near her at this time.’ [R245.007]

10.5.6.6 Interestingly, *ta’e* also occurs in the verb phrase in MAIN CLAUSES, mainly with the aspect markers *i* and *e*. This happens when the verb phrase is preceded by an oblique constituent. As suggested in Footnote 42 on p. 404, this preposed constituent acts somewhat like a subordinating predicate.

- (156) [*Hai ‘arero*], *pa’i, e ta’e ŋaro ena te haka tere iŋa o te motu*  
 INS tongue in\_fact IPFV CONNEG lost MED ART CAUS run NMLZ of ART island  
*nei.*  
 PROX  
 ‘By means of the language, the culture of this island will not be lost.’ [R647.155]
- (157) [*‘O ira*] *pa’i i ta’e ma’u ai hai me’e mo kai.*  
 because\_of ANA in\_fact PFV CONNEG carry PVP INS thing for eat  
 ‘Therefore they didn’t take anything to eat.’ [R303.053]
- (158) [*Mai rā mahana*] *i ta’e aŋa haka’ou ai.*  
 from DIST day PFV CONNEG work again PVP  
 ‘From that day on, she did not work any more.’ [R441.005]
- (159) *¿[He aha] e ta’e aŋa rivariva ena i te rāua aŋa?*  
 PRED what IPFV CONNEG do good MED ACC ART 3PL work  
 ‘Why don’t they do their work well?’ [R648.249]

However, in such cases, main clause negators are also used. This is illustrated in (118) above and in the following example:

- (160) *‘O ira, ‘ina e ko ŋaro te kaikai.*  
 because\_of ANA NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV lost ART string\_figure  
 ‘Therefore, the (art of making) string figures will not be lost.’ [R648.133]

10.5.6.7. Finally, *ta’e* is used in combination with the other negators to express DOUBLE NEGATION; *ta’e* and the other negator cancel each other out, resulting in a strong affirmation. The other negator may be *kai* or *e ko*; as (162) shows, it may be reinforced by *‘ina*.

- (161) *Kai ta’e haka ‘ite ko ai a ia hai me’e rivariva aŋa.*  
 NEG.PFV CONNEG CAUS know PROM who PROP 3SG INS thing good:RED do  
 ‘(God) did not fail to make known who he is, by the good things he did.’ (Acts 14:17)

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- (162) ...*'ina e ko ta'e rava'a te ika.*  
NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV CONNEG obtain ART fish  
'(If the mother does not eat the fish caught by her firstborn son,) he will not fail to catch fish.' [Ley-5-27.008]

### 10.5.7 The negator *kore*

*Kore*<sup>19</sup> is a verb, meaning 'to lack, be absent, be gone':

- (163) *E ko kore te 'ura era mā nīrā.*  
IPFV NEG.IPFV lack ART lobster DIST for today.FUT  
'The lobster won't be lacking (=we will have plenty of lobster) for today.'  
[R230.033]
- (164) *He u'i, ku kore 'ā te tarji.*  
NTR look PRF lack CONT ART cry  
'He looked (at his wife); the crying was over.' [Ley-9-55.076]

Besides, *kore* is used to negate nouns, indicating that the entity expressed by the noun does not exist in the given context; as a noun negator it immediately follows the noun in adjective position. When the noun is a modifier as in (165), *kore* can be translated as 'without N'; in other cases as in (166–167), it can be translated as 'lack of N':

- (165) *Te ηā poki matu'a kore era o koā Eugenio te hāpa'o.*  
ART PL child parent lack DIST of COLL Eugenio ART care\_for  
'Children without parents, Eugenio and the others took care of them.' [R231.308]
- (166) *Te 'ati he matariki kore mo oro o rā hora.*  
ART problem PRED file lack for grate of DIST time  
'The problem was the lack of files to sharpen (the fishhooks) at the time.'  
[R539-1.335]
- (167) *Ko pakiroki 'ā te tarjata 'i te kai kore.*  
PRF thin CONT ART person at ART food lack  
'The people were skinny from lack of food.' [R372.025]

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<sup>19</sup> *Kore* is common in EP languages; in all languages but Rapa Nui, it is either an existential negation ('there is not'), or negates certain types of verbal clauses. In Rapa Nui, existential clauses are negated with *'ina* (§10.5.1). *Kore* has the more specific sense 'to be lacking'. It does not occur in non-EP languages; outside Polynesian, Clark (1976: 98) mentions a verb *ore* in Sa'a (Solomon Islands) 'to remain behind' and Lau (Fiji) 'to fail, lack'. This may suggest that *kore* originated as a verb meaning 'to lack' and developed into something more like a negator in PCE (Clark 1976: 101–102).

10.5.8 *Hia/ia* ‘not yet’

*Hia* (etymology unknown) is used after negated verbs; the sense of the negator + *hia* is ‘not yet’. *Hia* occurs immediately after the verb, before directionals:

- (168) *¡Kai topa hia atu 'ō tā'aku vānaŋa koe i pāhono rō*  
 NEG.PFV descend yet away really POSS.1SG.A word 2SG PFV answer EMPH  
*mai ai!*  
 hither PVP  
 ‘I hadn’t finished speaking yet when you answered!’ [R314.139]

*Hia* may occur with any negator: *kai* as in (168) above, *e ko* (169) or *ta'e* (170).

- (169) *E ko 'o'oa hia te moa ka kī ena e koe e toru kī iŋa*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV crow yet ART chicken CNTG say MED AG 2SG NUM three say NMLZ  
*kai 'ite koe ko ai a au.*  
 NEG.PFV know 2SG PROM who PROP 1SG  
 ‘Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know who I am.’ [Jhn. 13:38]
- (170) *He 'a'amu, mata ta'e 'ite hia pē nei ē: he tahutahu.*  
 NTR tell while CONNEG know yet like PROX thus PRED witch  
 ‘She told it, without knowing yet that (the other person) was a witch.’  
 [R532-07.044]

As (168–169) show, *hia* is often used when an action or event is interrupted by another event. In these cases, the function of the negator + *hia* is similar to a temporal marker ‘before’.

Sometimes the variant *ia* is found. This should not be confused with the sentential particle *ia* ‘then’ (§4.5.4.1): while the latter occurs after the verb phrase, *ia* ‘yet’ occurs before other postverbal particles:

- (171) *Kai tomo ia mai 'ā 'i te ahiahi i 'ite tahi rō ai*  
 NEG.PFV go\_ashore yet hither CONT at ART afternoon PFV know all EMPH PVP  
*te 'uta i tū parau 'āpī era.*  
 ART inland ACC DEM word new DIST  
 ‘They had not arrived yet in the afternoon when all people ashore knew the news.’ [R345.015]

## 10.6 Conclusions

In this chapter, non-declarative moods have been discussed, as well as negation.

Two aspect markers serve to mark imperatives: the contiguity marker *ka* is used for direct commands, imperfective *e* for indirect commands. Though imperatives usually occur in the second person (often with explicit subject), they may occur in the third person as well. For first-person injunctions (e.g. exhortations), the purpose marker *ki* is used.

Polar questions usually do not have any special marking. Sometimes they are marked with the question marker *hoki*; in addition, the particles *'ō* and *hō* may be used to add a note of counterexpectation or doubt, respectively.

Content questions are marked by four question words, each of which belongs to a different word class:

- *Ai* 'who' is a proper noun; it is often used in an identifying cleft construction, preceded by the default preposition *ko*;
- *Aha* 'what' is a common noun; it is often used in a classifying cleft construction, preceded by the predicate marker *he*;
- *Hē* 'where, when, how, which' is a locational; it is preceded by a preposition, without a determiner;
- *Hia* 'how many' is a numeral; it is preceded by a numeral particle.

Rapa Nui has three main clause negators: neutral *'ina*, perfective *kai* and imperfective (*e*) *ko*. *'Ina* is a phrase head; it may seem to have some properties of a predicate (e.g. triggering subject raising), but the same is true for a number of other clause-initial elements, such as deictic particles, while *'ina* lacks crucial features of a predicate.

The other two negators are preverbal markers; they are often combined with *'ina*.

All units other than main clauses are negated by *ta'e*: noun phrases, nominalised verbs, constituents and subordinate clauses. *Ta'e* is also used to negate certain types of main clauses: those which have an *e*- or *i*-marked verb, preceded by an initial oblique constituent. This suggests that these clauses have some features of subordinate clauses: the initial oblique functions as a kind of matrix predicate (see Footnote 42 on p. 404).

# 11 Combining clauses

## 11.1 Introduction

Clauses can be combined in several ways. Two or more main clauses can be linked by juxtaposition or by using a coordinating conjunction (§11.2). Alternatively, one clause may contain another as subordinate clause: various categories of verbs take a clausal complement (§11.3); nouns may be modified by a relative clause (§11.4); adverbial clauses serve as an adjunct in a main clause (§11.6).

In Rapa Nui, different strategies are used to combine clauses, depending on the type of clause. Some constructions have a conjunction, others have a preverbal subordinating marker, others yet are unmarked.<sup>1</sup> Conjunctions only occur in certain types of adverbial clauses and will be discussed in the appropriate subsections of §11.6. Preverbal markers cut through the distinction between types of subordinate clauses, therefore they are discussed separately in §11.5.

## 11.2 Coordination

### 11.2.1 Asyndetic and syndetic coordination

Old Rapa Nui did not have a coordinating conjunction. Both phrases and clauses were linked by simple juxtaposition (i.e. asyndetic coordination, see Haspelmath 2007: 7). (1) shows juxtaposed clauses, while (2) contains a string of juxtaposed noun phrases.

- (1) *He oho a te ara, he tike'a te kohe; he rei hai va'e, he hati te kohe...*  
*kohe*

'He went along the road, he saw a *kohe* plant; he stepped on it, the *kohe* broke...'  
[Ley-2-01.018]

- (2) *He māmāte te taŋata, te vi'e, te poki, te korohu'a.*  
NTR PL:die ART man ART woman ART child ART old\_man  
'Men, women, children, old people died.' [Ley-2-01.010]

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<sup>1</sup> The latter can be recognised as subordinate clauses by the use of the negator *ta'e* (see (211) on p. 557), and by the use of aspectual marker (only *i*, *e* or *ka*; the verb is always followed by a postverbal demonstrative).

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Sometimes the adverbs *tako'a* and *hoki* ‘also’ (§4.5.3.2–4.5.3.3) are used to link clauses or phrases. In (3), two clauses with similar information about different participants are linked with *tako'a*. In (4), the last item in a list of noun phrases is marked with *hoki*. The latter happens only in older texts.

- (3) *He to'o Hereveri i tō'ona o te tīta'a henua, he to'o tako'a Te*  
 NTR take Hereveri ACC POSS.3SG.O of ART terrain land NTR take also Te  
*Rongo i tō'ona o te tīta'a.*  
 Rongo ACC POSS.3SG.O of ART terrain  
 ‘Hereveri took his piece of land; Te Rongo took his piece of land as well.’  
 [Egt-02.045]
- (4) *'I te tapa te matu'a, a koro, a nua, te uka riva, te repa*  
 at ART side ART parents PROP Dad PROP Mum PROP girl good PROP young\_man  
*riva hoki.*  
 good also  
 ‘To the side are the parents, the fathers, the mothers, the pretty girls, also the  
 handsome boys.’ [Ley-5-24.013]

In modern Rapa Nui, the conjunction ‘*e* and’ (probably a Tahitian borrowing<sup>2</sup>) is used to link clauses and phrases; it occurs in clause- and phrase-initial position.

In old texts ‘*e* is found a few times in Mtx, but not in other corpora (Ley and MsE); this suggests that ‘*e* was emerging in the 1930s. In newer texts, it occurs over 3,000 times; this can be (partially) explained by changing speaking and writing styles under the influence of Spanish and other languages.

Even though ‘*e* is very common nowadays, the most common strategy for linking clauses is still juxtaposition. Juxtaposition is especially used to link clauses referring to successive events in discourse. For example, in narrative, sequences such as the following are common:

- (5) *He tahuti a Eva ki haho, he oŋa ki te vaka, he take'a tō'ona koro.*  
 NTR run PROP Eva to outside NTR look to ART boat NTR see POSS.3SG.O Dad  
 ‘Eva ran outside, stared at the boat, saw her Dad.’ [R210.095]

In other situations, the conjunction ‘*e* tends to be used. ‘*E* is common in the following situations (the list is not exhaustive, and neither are these categories mutually exclusive):

1. To mark the final event in a series of three or more events:

- (6) *Ka oho nō koe ka kai 'e ka ha'uru.*  
 IMP go just 2SG IMP eat and IMP sleep  
 ‘Just go, eat and sleep.’ [R304.013]

<sup>2</sup> Concerning the origin of ‘*e* in Tahitian: although it is phonologically identical to French ‘*et*’, the fact that ‘*e* is already common in the 1838 Tahitian Bible translation (Bibilia 1996) indicates that it predates French influence. A similar conjunction (spelled *e*, ‘*e* or *ē*) occurs in Pa‘umotu, Rarotongan and Mangarevan, but not in Marquesan and Māori.

- (7) *He e'a haka'ou a Manutara mai tou hare era he oho 'e he*  
 NTR go\_out again PROP Manutara from DEM house DIST NTR go and NTR  
*tu'u ki te hare o tō'ona rua taina ko 'Antonio.*  
 arrive to ART house of POSS.3SG.O two brother PROM Antonio  
 'Manutara went out again from the house, he went and arrived at the house of  
 his other brother Antonio.' [R309.083]

2. To link a pair of clauses not referring to successive events; these clauses are often parallel in some way and may involve a contrast between two items:

- (8) *Te 'āriŋa he taŋata mau ena, 'e te hakari he kavakava.*  
 ART face PRED person really MED and ART body NTR rib  
 'Their faces were like (normal) people, but their bodies were ribs.' [R233.021]
- (9) *Hora maha nei, 'e hora hitu tātou ka tu'u iho.*  
 hour four PROX and hour seven 1PL.INCL CNTG arrive just then  
 'It is now four o'clock, and seven o'clock we will arrive.' [R210.198]

3. To link subordinate clauses:

- (10) *He hoki koe mo haka mao i tu'u hāpī 'e mo haka tītika te*  
 NTR return 1SG for CAUS finish ACC POSS.2SG.O learn and for CAUS straight ART  
*aŋa o te misione.*  
 work of ART mission  
 'You will return to finish your studies and to direct the mission work.' [R231.244]

4. To indicate a larger break in a sentence. This often involves a shift to a different type of information (indicated by a different aspect marker) or a shift in subject:

- (11) *E ma'u mai 'ā a mātou i te rēkaro nei mā'au, 'e 'i*  
 IPFV carry hither CONT PROP 1PL.EXCL ACC ART present PROX BEN.2SG.A and at  
*te hora nei he oho tātou he koa.*  
 ART time PROX NTR go 1PL.INCL NTR happy  
 'We (excl.) bring this present for you, and now we (incl.) will go and have fun.'  
 [R210.127]
- (12) *He noho rō 'ai a nua he u'i i te ŋā poki, 'e hoko tahi*  
 NTR stay EMPH SUBS PROP Mum NTR look ACC ART PL child and NUM.PERS one  
*nō a koro e iri era ki 'uta.*  
 just PROP Dad IPFV ascend DIST to inland  
 'Mum stayed (and) looked after the children, and Dad went up to the field on his  
 own.' [R235.080]

## 11 Combining clauses

When two clauses are both under the scope of a single initial constituent, they are usually juxtaposed without conjunction and without repetition of the initial constituent. Examples are 'o *ira* 'therefore' in (13) and the interrogative phrase in (14). As (14) also shows, verb phrase particles – both the aspectual and the negator *ta'e* – are repeated in the second clause.

- (13) 'E 'o            *ira a mātou i tu'u mai nei i 'auario nei i*  
 and because\_of ANA PROP 1PL.EXCL PFV arrive hither PROX PFV guard PROX ACC  
*te mōai nei.*  
 ART statue PROX  
 'And therefore we have come and put this statue under guard.' [R650.034]
- (14) ζ*He aha rā ia kōrua i ta'e oho mai ai i ta'e hā'aki*  
 PRED what INTENS then 2PL PFV CONNEG go hither PVP PFV CONNEG inform  
*mai ai...?*  
 hither PVP  
 'Why didn't you come and tell me...?' [R313.106]

When two noun phrases are coordinated in modern Rapa Nui, they are usually linked with 'e. When the list is longer than two as in (16), 'e occurs only before the last item; the other items are juxtaposed:

- (15) 'E *tako'a e ai rō 'ana te tenito 'e te europeo noho 'i Tahiti.*  
 and also IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART Chinese and ART European stay at Tahiti  
 'And there are also Chinese and Europeans living on Tahiti.' [R348.011]
- (16) *He marere he oho rō 'ai te pipihoreko, te manavai 'e te hare*  
 NTR scatter NTR go EMPH SUBS ART cairn ART rock\_garden and ART house  
*moa.*  
 chicken  
 'The rock piles, the rock gardens and the chicken houses gradually fell apart.'  
 [R621.018]

When noun phrases marked with prepositions are coordinated, the preposition is repeated, including the accusative marker *i*; the last item may be preceded by 'e as in (17–18), but juxtaposition is also common, as in (19–20):

- (17) 'I *roto i te piha nei a kōrua ka hāpī ena i te tai'o 'e i*  
 at inside at ART room PROX PROP 2PL CNTG learn MED ACC ART read and ACC  
*te pāpa'i.*  
 ART write  
 'In this (class)room you will learn to read and to write.' [R334.043]
- (18) 'I *roto i te māhatu o tā'ana vi'e 'e o tā'ana ŋā poki...*  
 at inside at ART heart of POSS.3SG.A woman and of POSS.3SG.A PL child  
 'In the heart of his wife and of his children...' [R649.087]



- (19) *Kā nā poki he ma'u i te keke, i te haraoa, i te me'e.*  
 every PL child NTR carry ACC ART cake ACC ART bread ACC ART thing  
 'All the children carried cakes, bread and (other) things.' [R165.001]
- (20) *He hiro i te hau mo hī o te kahi o te ika.*  
 NTR braid ACC ART line for to\_fish of ART tuna of ART fish  
 'He braided lines for fishing tuna (and) (other) fish.' [R310.020]

In modern Rapa Nui, Spanish *pero* 'but' is often used as adversative conjunction:

- (21) *He ma'u mai he tunu i te māmoē pero kai mākona tū nu'u*  
 NTR carry hither NTR cook ACC ART sheep but NEG.PFV satiated DEM people  
*era.*  
 DIST  
 'He carried the sheep and cooked it, but the people were not satiated.' [R183.033]

Despite its frequent use in everyday speech, *pero* is perceived as an intrusion, as witnessed by the fact that it is little used in the written texts in the corpus. In the Bible translation, it is not used at all. As (8) above shows, 'e is also used in situations where other languages would have an adversative conjunction.

### 11.2.2 Disjunction

In old texts, disjunction is expressed by juxtaposition:

- (22) *He tia i te nua hai ivi manu, ivi moa, ivi taŋata.*  
 NTR sew ACC ART cape with bone bird bone chicken bone man  
 '(The women of old) sewed capes with (needles made of) bird bones, chicken bones (or) human bones.' [Ley-5-04.013]

In modern Rapa Nui, disjunction is expressed by 'o 'or',<sup>3</sup> a conjunction borrowed from Spanish *o*. 'O may connect clauses as in (23–24) or phrases as in (25):

- (23) *Te nā kai 'āpī ra'e era ana momore, ana pa'o, 'o ana kerī, e ma'u to*  
 NTR PL food new first DIST IRR RED:cut IRR chop OR IRR dig IPFV carry ART:of  
*te hare pure 'i ra'e.*  
 ART house pray at first  
 'The first new food which would be picked, cut or dug up, had to be taken to the church first.' [R539-3.150]
- (24) *...he oho 'o he hāpī 'o he e'a he ha'ere 'o he oho ki kampō.*  
 NTR go or NTR learn or NTR go\_out NTR walk or NTR go to countryside  
 '(When his work was finished,) he would go or study or go out for a walk or go to the countryside.' [R302.051]

<sup>3</sup> This particle should not be confused with preverbal 'o 'lest' (§11.5.4), or with the preposition 'o 'because of' (§4.7.3).

## 11 Combining clauses

- (25) *He 'aiua i te aŋa ki a nua 'o ki a koro.*  
NTR help ACC ART work to PROP Mum or to PROP Dad  
'They help Mum or Dad with the work.' [R157.001]

Unlike 'e 'and', 'o may also connect nouns; in that case, the parts on either side of 'o are not complete noun phrases. In the following examples, 'o is directly followed by the second noun; prenominal elements, such as determiners and the plural marker *ŋā* in (26), precede the first noun, while the postnominal demonstrative *era* follows the second noun:

- (26) *...i [te ŋā tāpati 'o 'āva'e era] e noho era 'i tahatai.*  
at ART PL week or month DIST IPFV stay DIST at coast  
'...in the weeks or months they stay on the coast.' [R200.047]
- (27) *E ma'u tako'a koe i [te me'e pūtē 'o 'avahata] mo ha'a'ī o ta'a siera.*  
EXH carry also 2SG ACC ART thing bag or box for fill of POSS.2SG.A  
sawfish  
'Also bring a bag or box to put your sawfish in.' [R364.031]

### 11.3 Clausal arguments

This section deals with verbs which take a clausal argument, i.e. an argument containing a predicate. This includes a number of different types of verbs: perception verbs such as *tike'a* 'to see'; aspectual verbs such as *ha'amata* 'to begin'; cognitive verbs such as *'ite* 'to know'; speech verbs such as *kī* 'to say', attitude verbs such as *haŋa* 'to want'; modal verbs such as *puē* 'can'. These verbs occur in a variety of multiclausal constructions:

1. Complement clauses introduced by a subordinating marker (usually *mo*):

- (28) *He oho ia a Kihi [mo taŋi].*  
NTR go then PROP Kihi for cry  
'Kihi was about to cry.' [R215.024]

2. Nominalised complement clauses, in which the verb is introduced by the article *te*; it may be preceded by the ACC marker *i*, as in the following example:

- (29) *'O ira i ta'e hōrou ai [i te vara'a i te taŋata o ruŋa].*  
because\_of ANA PFV CONNEG quick PVP ACC ART obtain ACC ART person of  
above  
'Therefore, they didn't catch the people on top (of the islet) quickly.' [R304.048]

## 3. Asyndetic coordination:

- (30) *He ha'amata te perete'i [he hīmene].*  
 NTR begin ART cricket NTR sing  
 'The cricket started to sing.' [R212.052]

## 4. Independent clauses:

- (31) *He u'i atu, [ka pū te manu taiko].*  
 NTR look away CNTG approach ART bird taiko  
 'She saw a taiko bird come by.' [Ley-9-55.078]

It depends on the matrix verb which type of construction is used. Only types 1 and 2 involve a proper complement, that is, a constituent which is syntactically an argument of the matrix verb. For lack of a better term, constructions of types 3 and 4 will sometimes be referred to as “complement” or “complement clause” in the following sections, but one should bear in mind that this does not imply that they are syntactically a complement of the verb.

Types 3 and 4 are quite similar; in fact, 3 is a subset of 4, with the following two restrictions:

- Asyndetically coordinated clauses generally have identical aspect marking; in type 4, the aspect marking of the complement clause is independent from that of the main clause.
- While independent clauses may be separated from the matrix clause by markers such as *pē nei ē* ‘like this, as follows’ (see e.g. (65) below), this is not possible in asyndetically coordinated clauses.

Despite their similarities, types 3 and 4 should be distinguished, as they occur with different verbs.

In addition to these four types of constructions, the same matrix verbs may also have a involve monoclausal constructions: nominal arguments and serial verbs. An example of a serial verb construction with complementation function is the following:

- (32) 'O ira i hōrou i oho mai era 'i tū mahana era.  
 because\_of ANA PFV quick PFV go hither DIST at DEM day DIST  
 'Therefore he went quickly that day.' [R105.108]

In the following subsections, the different categories of verbs mentioned above will be discussed in turn. In §11.3.7, the use of these different constructions will be summarised.

### 11.3.1 Perception verbs

Perception verbs like *u'i* ‘to see, watch’, *hakarongo* ‘to listen’ and *narō'a* ‘to hear’ can be followed by a nominal complement (§8.6.4.2), or by a clause which is syntactically independent of the perception verb (type 4 above). The latter will be discussed in the following subsections.

11.3.1.1 Use of aspectuals

When a perception verb is followed by a clause describing the perceived event, the range of aspect markers in this clause is limited: *ka*, *ko V 'ā* and *e* are used, while *i* and *he* do not occur. The absence of perfective *i* is not surprising: events which are over and done with are usually not the object of perception. The absence of neutral *he* is not unexpected either: *he* is not able to provide the necessary temporal/aspectual link between the two clauses.

**Contiguity marker *ka*** When the clause expresses an activity or event which is perceived while it is happening, it is often marked with the contiguity marker *ka*. *Ka* (§7.2.6) expresses simultaneity between the event of perception and the event which is perceived: both take place at the same time.

- (33) *He u'i atu, ka pū te manu taiko.*  
 NTR look away CNTG approach ART bird taiko  
 'She saw a taiko bird come by.' [Ley-9-55.078]
- (34) *He hakarongo mai Kaiŋa, ka 'ui Vaha: '¿Ko ai koe?'*  
 NTR listen hither Kainga CNTG ask Vaha PROM who 2SG  
 'Kainga heard Vaha asking: 'Who are you?'' [Mtx-3-01.127]

**Perfect aspect *ko V 'ā*** When the clause expresses a state of affairs which is perceived, it is marked with the perfect aspect *ko V 'ā* (§7.2.7). This state of affairs may be the result of an event which has taken place before; what is seen is not the event itself but a situation from which the event can be inferred.

The *ko*-marked complement is often a stative verb or a temporal noun like *pō* 'night'; the perfect aspect expresses that this state has come about in some way, without specifying how. In (35) it is night because it has *become* night, and the ship is far from Rapa Nui because it has been *moving* further and further away.

- (35) *He u'i atu ko pō 'ā, 'e ko roaroa 'ana te pahī mai Rapa Nui.*  
 NTR look away PRF night CONT and PRF distant:RED CONT ART ship from Rapa Nui  
 'She saw that it was night, and that the ship was far from Rapa Nui.' [R210.116]

**Imperfective *e*** The third aspectual used after verbs of perception is imperfective *e*, usually followed by the continuity marker *'ā/'ana*. While *ko V 'ā* indicates a state which has come about, *e V 'ā* underlines the continuous nature of a situation, without implying the process by which it has come about (§7.2.5.4 on *e V 'ā*).

- (36) *Ī ka u'i atu ena ko te repa 'i roto e moe rō 'ā.*  
 IMM CNTG look away MED PROM ART young\_man at inside IPFV lie EMPH CONT  
 'Right then she saw a young man inside, lying down.' [R310.045]

- (37) *He u'i atu e huri rō 'ā te 'āriŋa o Heru a ruŋa.*  
 NTR look away IPFV turn EMPH CONT ART face of Heru by above  
 'They saw that Heru was lying face up.' [R313.043]

### 11.3.1.2 NP + clause

Often a perception verb is followed first by an object NP expressing the person or thing which is perceived, then a clause specifying what happens to this referent (cf. English 'he saw someone coming'). The object NP in this construction may be marked in several ways: with the accusative marker *i* as in (38–39), but also with the topic marker *ko* as in (40–41) (§8.6.4.5). The verb in the complement clause is often marked with *ka*.

- (38) *He u'i i tū kahu era ō'ona ko momore tahi 'ā.*  
 NTR look ACC DEM clothes DIST POSS.3SG.O PRF RED:cut all CONT  
 'He saw that those clothes of his were all torn.' [R250.017]
- (39) *He take'a i a Hoto Vari ka pū mai.*  
 NTR see ACC PROP Hoto Vari CNTG approach hither  
 'He saw Hoto Vari approaching.' [R304.004]
- (40) *E ha'uru nō 'ā a Eva he hakarōŋo atu ko te re'o ka raŋi...*  
 IPFV sleep just CONT PROP Eva NTR listen away PROM ART voice CNTG call  
 'When Eva was sleeping, she heard a voice calling...' [R210.180]
- (41) *Ī ka u'i mai nei ko te kio'e e rua ka o'o ka oho atu.*  
 IMM CNTG see hither PROX PROM ART rat NUM two CNTG enter CNTG go away  
 'There he sees two rats making their way in (lit. entering going).' [R310.459]

How should these constructions be analysed? At first sight, the complement clause in (38–41) can be considered as a relative clause to the object. One argument against this is the function of the aspect marker: whereas relative clauses marked with *ka* usually express an event posterior to that in the surrounding clause(s) (§11.4.3), in these examples the *ka*-marked clauses express an event simultaneous to the perception event of the matrix clause. Moreover, as (39) shows, the clause may follow a proper noun, even though proper nouns normally do not take relative clauses.

A second possibility would be to regard the object NP and the complement clause as two complements of the perception verb. This would mean that perception verbs, which normally take one complement, take two complements in this construction. Such an analysis would only be plausible if these arguments fulfilled different semantic roles. However, the noun phrase and the clause do not express different semantic roles connected to the action; neither do they express two instances of the same semantic role (\*'I saw him *and* coming'); rather, they are two aspects of a single semantic role: the nominal

complement refers to the perceived referent, while the clause expresses an action which is not only performed by that entity, but also part of the same perceived situation.

Therefore it seems more plausible to consider the nominal complement and the complement clause as a single constituent. The fact that the noun phrase can be marked with *ko* (which is the default case marker in the absence of other markers) is an argument for this analysis. Constructions (38–39) suggest that this noun phrase can be raised to the object position of the matrix verb.

### 11.3.2 Aspectual and manner verbs

#### 11.3.2.1 *Ha'amata* 'begin'

*Ha'amata* 'begin' is usually followed by a clause expressing the event which begins. In most cases this clause is juxtaposed, with the same verb marking as *ha'amata*. Thus, both verbs may be marked with neutral *he* as in (42), perfective *i* as in (43), or perfect *ko* V 'ā as in (44):

- (42) **He** *ha'amata te perete'i he hīmene.*  
 NTR begin ART cricket NTR sing  
 'The cricket started to sing.' [R212.052]

- (43) *Pē ira i ha'amata ai te tūrita i tu'u mai ai ki nei.*  
 like ANA PFV begin PVP ART tourist PFV arrive hither PVP to PROX  
 'In that way, the tourists started to arrive here.' [R376.076]

- (44) *I tū hora era ko ha'amata atu 'ana tū 'ua era ko hoa 'ā.*  
 at DEM time DIST PRF begin away CONT DEM rain DIST PRF throw CONT  
 'At that time the rain had started to fall.' [R536.042]

This identical marking is not limited to aspect markers. In (45), both verbs are marked with the negator *kai*. In (46), *ha'amata* is the verb of a bare relative clause (§11.4.5), which is characterised by the absence of an aspect marker; the complement verb *tu'u* is likewise unmarked.

- (45) **Kai** *ha'amata a au kai pa'o 'ā e tahi miro.*  
 NEG.PFV begin PROP 1SG NEG.PFV chop CONT NUM one tree  
 'I haven't yet started to chop down a tree.' [R363.091]

- (46) *Hora ha'amata tu'u mai era o te pere'oa'i nei 'ana...*  
 time begin arrive hither DIST of ART car at PROX IDENT  
 'When cars started to arrive here...' [R539-2.145]

As (42–45) show, the S/A of the second verb is often placed in the subject position of the matrix clause. However, it may also be placed after the complement verb:

- (47) *He ha'amata he taŋi a Puakiva ki a Vaha.*  
 NTR begin NTR cry PROP Puakiva to PROP Vaha  
 'Puakiva began to cry for Vaha.' [R229.149]

A second construction is that in which the complement is expressed as a nominalised verb (i.e. preceded by the determiner *te*). This complement may have the accusative marker *i* as in (48), but usually this marker is omitted, as in (49):

- (48) *...i ha'amata ai i te amo i te mā'ea era o te kona ena.*  
 PFV begin PVP ACC ART clean ACC ART stone DIST OF ART place MED  
 '...they started to clear away the stones in that place.' [R539-2.213]
- (49) *He ha'amata a Kava te māuiui.*  
 NTR begin PROP Kava ART sick  
 'Kava started to get ill.' [R229.224]

Despite the nominalised character of the complement, it still has verbal characteristics: its Patient (*i te mā'ea era* in (48)) is marked with *i*.

### 11.3.2.2 *Oti* 'finish'

The verb *oti* has several senses: 'to be finished, done, over' (e.g. a story), 'to run out', 'to be the only one'. One common use is 'to finish doing something', where *oti* is followed by a complement clause.

The complement verb is nominalised, i.e. marked with the article *te*. Sometimes it is preceded by the accusative marker *i*, in other cases *i* is omitted.<sup>4</sup> As the examples show, the subject of the second verb may be placed in the subject position of *oti* as in (50) and (52), or follow the complement verb as in (51) and (53).

- (50) *I oti era tū taŋata era i te vānaŋa...*  
 PFV finish DIST DEM person DIST ACC ART speak  
 'When the man had finished speaking...' [R315.377]
- (51) *Ko oti 'ā i te hopu Kaiŋa i tō'ona rima.*  
 PRF finish CONT ACC ART wash Kaiŋa ACC POSS.3SG.O hand  
 'Kaiŋa had finished washing his hands.' [R243.078]
- (52) *...'o ira kai hini i oti tahi rō ai tū hare era te vera.*  
 because\_of ANA NEG.PFV delay PFV finish all EMPH PVP DEM house DIST ART  
 burn  
 '...therefore it wasn't long before the house was completely burned.' [R250.120]

<sup>4</sup> In Māori, the complement verb never has the accusative marker; Hooper (1984a) argues that the complement verb is the subject of *oti*.

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- (53) *I oti era te kī au, he turu ko au ko te vi'e.*  
 PFV finish DIST ART say 1SG NTR go\_down PROM 1SG PROM ART woman  
 ‘When I had finished saying this, I went down (to the coast) with my wife.’  
 [Egt-02.066]

When the complement verb is transitive, the Patient may be raised to the subject position of *oti*, showing that the complement clause is passivised:

- (54) *Ki oti te kōrua parau te tuha'a 'i te pō'ā...*  
 when finish ART 2PL document ART distribute at ART morning  
 ‘When your certificates have been handed out in the morning...’ [R315.368]

*Oti* as a matrix verb with a complement may also be expressed in a serial verb construction. For examples, see (183–184) in §7.7.3.

### 11.3.2.3 *Hōrou* ‘hurry’

*Hōrou* ‘to hurry, (be) quick’ is used as an adjective or adverb, but more commonly it is a main verb taking a clausal argument. This argument can be expressed in a variety of ways:

- in juxtaposition as in (55), with identical marking of both verbs;
- as a serial verb as in (56), with repetition of the aspect marker, but nothing else between the two verbs (§7.7 on serial verbs);
- as a nominalised verb, either with accusative marker as in (57), or without as in (58).

- (55) *E hōrou koe e turu.*  
 EXH hurry 2SG EXH go\_down  
 ‘Go down quickly.’ [R231.143]
- (56) *'O ira i hōrou i oho mai era 'i tū mahana era.*  
 because\_of ANA PFV quick PFV go hither DIST at DEM day DIST  
 ‘Therefore he went quickly that day.’ [R105.108]
- (57) *'O ira i ta'e hōrou ai i te vara'a i te taŋata o ruŋa.*  
 because\_of ANA PFV CONNEG quick PVP ACC ART obtain ACC ART person of above  
 ‘Therefore, they didn’t catch the people on top (of the islet) quickly.’ [R304.048]
- (58) *E ko hōrou te ika te pū mo pātia hai pātia ku hape ā*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV quick ART fish ART approach for spear INS spear PRF fault CONT  
*te haha'u iŋa.*  
 ART tie NMLZ  
 ‘The fish would not come quickly to be speared with a harpoon that had not been tied properly.’ [R360.019]



As (58) shows, the subject of the second verb may be raised to the subject position of *hōrou* (in this case, the Patient is raised, showing that the complement clause is passivised).

#### 11.3.2.4 *Oho* ‘go, about to’

*Oho* ‘go’ usually refers to physical movement; in this sense, it is the most unmarked motion verb. *Oho* is also used as an aspectual verb, indicating that an event is about to happen (possibly under influence of Spanish *ir*, cf. Fischer 2007: 392). In this sense, *oho* is followed by a complement clause introduced by *mo*.

- (59) *He oho ia a Kihi mo taŋi.*  
 NTR go then PROP Kihi for cry  
 ‘Kihi was about to cry.’ [R215.024]
- (60) *I oho era a Kekoa mo rere mai... he 'aka he hoki a tu'a.*  
 PFV go DIST PROP Kekoa for jump hither NTR hesitate NTR return by back  
 ‘When Kekoa was about to jump... he hesitated and turned back.’ [R108.010]

#### 11.3.3 Cognitive verbs

Cognitive verbs include ‘*ite* ‘to know’,<sup>5</sup> *aŋiaŋi* ‘to know, be certain’, *mana'u* ‘to think’ and the obsolete *ma'a* ‘know’. They may take a nominal object, which – depending on the verb – is marked with *i* or *ki* (§8.6.4.2).

The content of knowledge or thought may also be an event. This is expressed by an independent clause, which can be nominal as in (61) or verbal as in (62–63). As (64) shows, the clause may also be a dependent question. In each example, the bracketed part could function as a clause by itself.

- (61) *Ko 'ite 'ana ho'i kōrua [te vārua me'e mana].*  
 PRF know CONT indeed 2PL ART spirit thing power  
 ‘You know that spirits are powerful.’ [R310.023]
- (62) *He aŋiaŋi e Ataraŋa [e ko hoki haka'ou tū vi'e era 'ā'ana].*  
 NTR certain:RED AG Ataranga IPFV NEG.IPFV return again DEM women DIST  
 POSS.3SG.A  
 ‘Ataranga knew for sure that his wife would not return.’ [R532-01.019]
- (63) *He mana'u rō 'ai te taŋata o nei [ko māmate 'ā a koā Taparahi].*  
 NTR think EMPH SUBS ART person of PROX PRF PL:die CONT PROP COLL  
 Taparahi  
 ‘The people here thought that Taparahi and the others had died.’ [R250.243]

<sup>5</sup> For ‘*ite* expressing possibility or ability, see §11.3.6 below.

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- (64) *Ko 'ite 'ana ho'i kōrua [i hē a ia].*  
PRF know CONT indeed 2PL at CQ PROP 3SG  
'For you know where she is.' [R229.277]

The content clause may be introduced by the phrase *pē nei ē* 'like this' (§4.6.5.1).

- (65) *Ko 'ite rivariva 'ā e koe pē nei ē: ko haŋa 'ā a ia mo oho*  
PRF know good:RED CONT AG 2SG like PROX thus PRF want CONT PROP 3SG for go  
*mo hāpī.*  
for study  
'You know very well that she wants to go and study.' [R210.066]

### 11.3.4 Speech verbs

As discussed in §8.6.4.2, there are two types of speech verbs in Rapa Nui, 'say'-type and 'talk'-type verbs. Only the former, which include e.g. *kī* 'say' and '*a'amu* 'tell', can be followed by a clause (or longer discourse) expressing the content of speech. This can be a direct speech, which usually follows without a specific marker:

- (66) *He kī: 'Ka moe ki raro!*  
NTR say IMP lie to below  
'He said: "Lie down!"' [Ley-5-28a.003]

When the speech verb is followed by an indirect speech, it is often introduced by *pē nei (ē)* 'like this' (§4.6.5.1):

- (67) *Kai kī atu e te nu'u hāpa'o i a koe pē nei ē: a koe*  
NEG.PFV say away AG ART people care\_for ACC PROP 2SG like PROX thus PROP 2SG  
*he poki 'a Hakahonu.*  
NTR child of.A Hakahonu  
'The people who took care of you haven't told you that you are the child of Hakahonu.' [R427.016]

*Kī* 'say' may also be followed by a complement clause introduced by the purpose marker *mo* (§11.5.1); usually with a different subject, in the sense 'tell/ask someone to...', occasionally with the same subject, in the sense 'to tell one's intention'. The identity of the subject can only be known from the context.

- (68) *He kī haka'ou e rā poki [mo haka hoki i tā'ana kōreha].*  
NTR say again AG DIST child for CAUS return ACC POSS.3SG.A eel  
'The child told/asked (them) again to give his eel back.' [R532-10.014]
- (69) *He uru atu he kī [mo 'aruke i tō'ona kutu].*  
NTR enter away NTR say for delouse ACC POSS.3SG.O louse  
'They entered and told (him) they would delouse him.' [R310.030]

## 11.3.5 Attitude verbs

Under this heading a varied group of verbs is included which involve emotion, mental state, volition and desire. These include *haŋa* ‘to want’, *pohe* ‘to desire’, *ri'ari'a* ‘to fear’, *ha'amā* ‘to be ashamed’, *mana'u* ‘to consider, intend, decide’ (for *mana'u* as cognitive verb, see §11.3.3).

These verbs may take a nominal complement introduced by *i* or *ki* (§8.6.4.2). They may also take a clausal complement introduced by *mo* (§11.5.1):

- (70) *E haŋa rō 'ā a au [mo kī atu e tahi vānaŋa].*  
 IPFV want EMPH CONT PROP ISG for say away NUM one thing  
 ‘I want to say one thing.’ [R447.025]
- (71) *He ha'amā a Tiare [mo uru ki roto i te piha hāpī].*  
 NTR ashamed PROP Tiare for enter to inside at ART room learn  
 ‘Tiare was ashamed to enter the classroom.’ [R334.032]
- (72) *He mana'u ia a ia [mo oho ki te kona hare o tō'ona māmātia  
 era ko Keke].*  
 NTR think then PROP 3SG for go to ART place house of POSS.3SG.O aunt  
 DIST PROM Keke  
 ‘She decided to go to the house of her aunt Keke.’ [R345.090]

As these examples show, the complement clause usually has the same subject as the matrix clause and is unexpressed. A different subject is possible, though; this subject is expressed in the same way as in all *mo*-clauses (§11.5.1.2): usually as possessive, but sometimes with the agent marker *e*:

- (73) *'Ina kai haŋa [mo oho ō'ou ki te kona roaroa].*  
 NEG NEG.PFV want for go POSS.2SG.O to ART place distant:RED  
 ‘I don’t want you to go to a distant place.’ [R210.018]
- (74) *Ko haŋa 'ā a au [mo haka hopu mai e koe i a au paurō te  
 mahana].*  
 PRF want CONT PROP ISG for CAUS bathe hither AG 2SG ACC PROP ISG every ART  
 day  
 ‘I want you to wash me every day.’ [R313.178]

Negative complements can be introduced by *'o* ‘lest’ (§11.5.4), which expresses an adverse effect to be avoided.

- (75) *'Ai a Vai Ora ka ri'ari'a nō ['o māuiui rō 'i te rari].*  
 then PROP Vai Ora CNTG afraid just lest sick EMPH at ART wet  
 ‘Then Vai Ora was afraid (her child) would get ill from being wet.’ [R301.151]

## 11 Combining clauses

- (76) *Ana haŋa koe* [*'o mana'u rahi koe ki te poki*], *mo tāua 'ana e*  
 IRR want 2SG lest think much 2SG to ART child for 1DU.INCL IDENT IPFV  
*hāpa'o i a rāua ko Kava.*  
 care\_for ACC PROP 3PL PROM Kava  
 'If you don't want to worry (lit. if you want lest you think much) about the boy,  
 we will care for him and Kava.' [R229.028]

### 11.3.6 Modal verbs

Various verbs can be used to express modal concepts such as ability, possibility and obligation. These verbs are followed by a complement clause, which is in most cases introduced by *mo*. Most of these verbs are also used in other constructions, e.g. with a nominal complement. If the subject is expressed, it occurs in the main clause (except with *tiene que*, see below).

*Riva* and *rivariva* 'good', followed by *mo V*, express ability, possibility or permission:

- (77) *'Ina pa'i a ia e ko rivariva mo hāpa'o i a Puakiva.*  
 NEG in\_fact PROP 3SG IPFV NEG.IPFV good:RED for care\_for ACC PROP Puakiva  
 'She was not able to take care of Puakiva.' [R229.003]

- (78) —*Te ŋā poki e ko riva mo o'o ki te kona aŋa vaka? —E*  
 ART PL child IPFV NEG.IPFV good for enter to ART place make canoe IPFV  
*riva nō.*  
 good just  
 '—Can't the children enter the canoe building site? —They can.' [R363.137–138]

When *'ite* 'to know' is followed by *i te V* (i.e. a nominalised verb marked as direct object), it often expresses ability, often a particular skill. Alternatively, it may express a habit or inclination, as in (80).

- (79) *Ko 'ite 'ā i te pāpa'i, i te tai'o, i te vānaŋa i tētahi*  
 PRF know CONT ACC ART write ACC ART read ACC ART speak ACC other  
*'arero...*  
 tongue  
 'He could write, read, speak other languages...' [R539-1.052]

- (80) *'Ina a au kai 'ite i te kai i te 'ate.*  
 NEG PROP 1SG NEG.PFV know ACC ART eat ACC ART liver  
 'I don't eat liver, I'm not used to eating liver.' [R245.238]

*Rova'a/rava'a* 'to obtain', followed by *mo V*, is used in the sense 'to be able, to succeed':

- (81) *Kai rava'a e roto mo haka ra'u mai i te kūpeŋa.*  
 NEG.PFV obtain AG inside for CAUS hook hither ACC ART net  
 'Those inside (the net) did not succeed to hook the net.' [R304.128]

Possibility is often expressed by *puē*. This word is borrowed from Spanish *puede*, the third person sg. present tense of *poder* ‘can, be able’,<sup>6</sup> but is used in all persons and numbers. It is followed by *mo* V.

- (82) *'Ina e ko puē mātou mo ho'o atu i te puka pē ira.*  
NEG IPFV NEG.IPFV can 1PL.EXCL for trade away ACC ART book like ANA  
‘We cannot sell the books like that.’ [R206.021]
- (83) *I puē iho ai ananake mo e'a mo aŋa i te rāua aŋa misione.*  
PFV can just\_then PVP together for go\_out for do ACC ART 3PL work mission  
‘From then on they could go out together to do their mission work.’ [R231.281]
- (84) *'I te hora nei ka puē iho nei au mo hāpī rivariva i te pure*  
at ART time PROX CNTG can just\_now PROX 1SG for teach good:RED ACC ART pray  
*ki te taŋata.*  
to ART person  
‘Now I can teach the people well how to pray.’ [R231.195]

*Tiene que*, which expresses both obligation (‘have to’) and necessity (‘must’), is borrowed from Spanish *tiene*, the third person sg. present from *tener*. Just like *puē*, it is used for all persons and numbers. The complementiser *que* was borrowed along with the verb;<sup>7</sup> *que* is followed by a clausal complement, as in Spanish.<sup>8</sup>

The subject usually comes after the main verb as in (86); in this respect *tiene que* is different from other modal verbs, where the subject follows the modal verb immediately. However, (87) shows that the subject can be raised to the subject position of *tiene*.

- (85) *Tiene\_que ai te hare pure tuai era.*  
must be ART house pray old DIST  
‘This must be the old church.’ [R416.060]
- (86) *Tiene\_que vānaŋa tāua i te vānaŋa rapa nui.*  
must speak 1DU.INCL ACC ART talk Rapa Nui  
‘We must speak the Rapa Nui language.’ (Makihara 2001b: 208)
- (87) *Tiene tātou que mana'u hai forma positiva pē mu'a.*  
must 1PL.INCL *que* think INS form positive toward front  
‘From now on, we must think positively.’ (Makihara 2001b: 208)

<sup>6</sup> It is not uncommon for Spanish words to be borrowed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person sg. present (Makihara 2001b: 197). The weak pronunciation of intervocalic *d* in Chilean Spanish facilitates its elision (§2.5.3.1); the resulting VV sequence coalesces into a single long vowel.

<sup>7</sup> In this respect *tiene* is less integrated into the language than *puē*, which takes the Rapa Nui complementiser *mo*. *Puē* is much more common in the text corpus (176x *puē*, 20x *tiene*). The difference in complementiser can also be explained from Spanish itself: the auxiliary *poder* (3sg. *puede*) is followed by a bare verb, a construction which would be highly unusual in Rapa Nui, hence the insertion of *mo*.

<sup>8</sup> See Makihara (2001b: 207–210) for more examples and discussion.

### 11.3.7 Summary

As stated in the introduction to this section, while certain verbs are followed by a complement clause marked with a subordinating marker, other verbs are followed by a juxtaposed clause which is interpreted as semantic complement; yet others are followed by an independent clause. Table 11.1 summarises the use of these strategies for different types of verbs.

## 11.4 Relative clauses

### 11.4.1 Introduction

Relative clauses modify the head noun in a noun phrase. In Rapa Nui, as in most languages, the head noun is external to the relative clause itself; it is a constituent of a higher clause. As this noun has a semantic role both in the higher clause and in the matrix clause, Dixon (2010b: 317) uses the term *common argument* (CA).

In Rapa Nui, relative clauses are not marked by special markers or relative pronouns. They have the following syntactic features:

- They follow the head noun and usually occur at the end of the noun phrase.
- They are almost always predicate-initial.
- Most types of relative clauses exhibit a gapping strategy: the common argument is not expressed in the relative clause.
- The aspectual *he* is rare; the most common aspectuals are *e* and *i*.
- The aspectual is often left out.
- The S/A argument of the relative clause may be expressed by a pre- or postnominal possessor modifying the head noun.
- When the common argument is direct object in the relative clause, the subject is often *e*-marked.
- The verb in the relative clause may be raised to a position adjacent to the head noun.

All these features will be discussed and illustrated below. First, a number of preliminary remarks.

- Relative clauses always modify an overt head noun. Headless relative clauses do not occur in Rapa Nui.

Table 11.1: Complementation strategies

	subord. marker	serial verb	nomin. verb	juxtaposition	indep. clause	§
perception verbs					x	11.3.1
<i>ha'amata</i> 'begin'				x		11.3.2.1
<i>oti</i> 'finish'		x	x			11.3.2.2
<i>hōrou</i> 'hurry'		x	x	x		11.3.2.3
<i>oho</i> 'go'	<i>mo</i>					11.3.2.4
cognitive verbs					x	11.3.3
speech verbs	<i>mo</i>				x	11.3.4
attitude verbs	<i>mo, 'o</i>					11.3.5
<i>riva(riva)</i> 'able'	<i>mo</i>					11.3.6
<i>'ite</i> 'know how to'			x			11.3.6
<i>rova'a</i> 'able'	<i>mo</i>					11.3.6
<i>puē</i> 'can'	<i>mo</i>					11.3.6
<i>tiene que</i> 'must'	<i>(que)</i>					11.3.6

- Relative clauses are always restrictive, i.e. they restrict the reference of the noun phrase. Rapa Nui does not have nonrestrictive relative clauses, clauses which add information without limiting the reference. If such a clause is called for, a generic noun is placed in apposition to the head noun to serve as an anchor for the relative clause (see (170–171) on p. 272).
- Relative clauses are used in cleft constructions, which serve to put a noun in focus (§9.2.6). Clefts are also used to construct a verbal clause after the interrogatives *ai* ‘who’ (§10.3.2.1) and *aha* ‘what’ (§10.3.2.2).

### 11.4.2 Relativised constituents

In many languages, there are restrictions on the types of constituents that can be relativised. Keenan & Comrie (1977; 1979) account for this by proposing a “noun phrase accessibility hierarchy”:

(88) subject > direct object > indirect object > oblique > possessor

All languages allow subject relativisation; not all languages allow relativisation of other constituents. A language may have one or more relativisation strategies; according to Keenan & Comrie, a given strategy will always apply to a continuous segment of this hierarchy.

This principle holds in many languages, though exceptions have turned up; among Polynesian languages, the hierarchy does not hold in Māori (see Harlow 2007a).

In this section, relativisation of different constituents in Rapa Nui will be discussed and illustrated. At the end of the section, the issue of the noun phrase hierarchy will be revisited.

**11.4.2.1 Subject** Subject relativisation is common. The subject is not expressed in the relative clause.

- (89) *A Taparahi he poki e tahi [i poreko ai 'i 'uta].*  
 PROP Taparahi NTR child NUM one PFV born PVP at inland  
 ‘Taparahi was a child who was born in the countryside.’ [R250.001]
- (90) *He 'aroha mai ki te nu'u varavara [tu'u ki te kona hoa pahī nei].*  
 NTR greet hither to ART people scarce arrive to ART place throw ship PROX  
 ‘They greeted the few people who had come to the place where the ship was launched.’ [R250.235]
- (91) *Ka rahi atu te nu'u [e 'aroha mai era hai tāvana teatea].*  
 CNTG many away ART people IPFV greet hither DIST INS sheet white:RED  
 ‘Numerous were the people who greeted them with white bedsheets.’ [R210.087]



**11.4.2.2 Object** When the object is relativised, it is not expressed in the relative clause. In object relative clauses, the subject is often *e*-marked. This conforms to a general pattern: *e*-marking of the subject is the rule in transitive clauses without an expressed object (§8.3.1).

- (92) *Me'e rahi te me'e rivariva [i aṇa e te 'ariki nei ko Hotu Matu'a*  
 NTR many ART thing good:RED PFV do AG ART king PROX PROM Hotu Matu'a  
*mo tō'ona nu'u].*  
 for POSS.3SG.O people

'Many were the good things king Hotu Matu'a did for his people.' [R369.024]

- (93) *He take'a i tū aṇa erc [e aṇa mai era e Huri 'a Vai].*  
 NTR see ACC DEM work DIST IPFV do hither DIST AG Huri a Vai  
 'He saw the thing which Huri a Vai did.' [R304.004]

Interestingly, the *e*-marked subject may precede the verb if it is pronominal, even though preverbal subjects in general are not *e*-marked (§8.3.1), and even though preverbal constituents in relative clauses are rare.

- (94) *He va'ai tahi e 'Oho Takatore i tū ṇā me'e ta'ato'a era [e ia i*  
 NTR give all AG Oho Takatore ACC DEM PL thing all DIST AG 3SG PFV  
*ma'u era].*  
 carry DIST

'Oho Takatore gave (him) all the things he had brought.' [R304.115]

Pronominal subjects are not always *e*-marked; in the following example, the subject pronoun is marked with the proper article *a*:

- (95) *Ka hakarōṇo rivariva mai tā'aku vānaṇa nei [a au ka kī atu*  
 IMP listen good:RED hither POSS.1SG.A word PROX PROP 1SG CNTG say away  
*nei ki a koe].*  
 PROX TO PROP 2SG

'Listen well to my words I am going to say to you.' [R229.243]

**11.4.2.3 Oblique** When oblique arguments<sup>9</sup> are relativised, the common argument is expressed pronominally in the relative clause.<sup>10</sup> As examples in native texts are scarce, two example from the Bible translation are given.

- (96) *...nu'u [ki a rāua a au i va'ai ai i te māramarama mo te*  
 people to PROP 3PL PROP 1SG PFV give PVP ACC ART intelligent for ART  
*rāua aṇa]*  
 3PL work

'people to whom I have given intelligence for their task' [Exo. 28:3]

<sup>9</sup> This includes "indirect objects" (§8.8.1).

<sup>10</sup> Silva-Corvalán (1978: 1) gives an example of an oblique argument relativised with gapping, but such a construction does not occur anywhere in my the text corpus.

## 11 Combining clauses

- (97) *A au he 'Atua, kope [ki a ia e ha'amuri ena e te kōrua  
 PROP 1SG PRED God person to PROP 3SG IPFV worship MED AG ART 2PL  
 tupuna].*  
 ancestor  
 'I am God, the one whom your ancestors worshipped.' [Mat. 22:32]

**11.4.2.4 Adjunct** Adjuncts are relativised without being expressed in the relative clause. These usually express place as in (98) or time as in (99), but other adjuncts are possible as in (100).

- (98) *Ki te kona ta'ato'a [e oho era a Hēmi]...*  
 to ART place all IPFV go DIST PROP Hemi  
 'To all the places (where) Hemi went...' [R476.004]
- (99) *'i te hora era [e paka rō 'ā te kōpū]*  
 at ART time DIST IPFV conspicuous EMPH CONT ART belly  
 'at the time (when) the belly was showing (=in a late stage of pregnancy)'  
 [R301.004]
- (100) *¿Ko 'ite 'ana ho'i e koe he aha te ha'aaura'a [au i ta'e  
 PRF know CONT indeed AG 2SG PRED what ART meaning 1SG PFV CONNEG  
 pāhono ai]?*  
 answer PVP  
 'Do you know what the reason was (why) I didn't answer?' [R363.109]

In two situations a relativised locative constituent is represented by the pro-form *ira* (§4.6.5.2):

1. When the relative clause is a locative clause, i.e. the relativised phrase is predicate:
- (101) *He tu'u ki te kona ['i ira te honu].*  
 NTR arrive to ART place at ANA ART turtle  
 'They arrived at the place where the turtle was.' [R532-03.008]
2. When a preposition is needed to specify the nature of the locative relationship, for example, when a movement is involved from (*mai*) the referent:
- (102) *...mo oho ō'ona ki Hiva ki te henua era [mai ira tō'ona nu'u  
 for go POSS.3SG.O to Hiva to ART land DIST from ANA POSS.3SG.O people  
 matu'a era i oho mai ai].*  
 parent DIST PFV go hither PVP  
 '...to go to Hiva, the country from which his parents had come.' [R370.002]

As these examples show, the *ira* constituent is in clause-initial position in the relative clause.

**11.4.2.5 Possessor** Relative clauses with possessor relativisation are rare, but they do occur. The possessor is expressed pronominally in the relative clause, in the same position where it would be in a main clause. In the following example, *te rāua* is coreferential to the head noun *nu'u*.

- (103) ...*tētahi atu nu'u tu'u atu*, [*haru tako'a i te rāua henua e te fiko*].  
 other away people arrive away grab also ACC ART 3PL land AG ART  
 government  
 '...other people who had arrived, whose land the government had also grabbed.'  
 [R649.055]

**11.4.2.6 Identifying predicates** Predicates of identifying clauses (§9.2.2) may also be relativised. In this case, the predicate is expressed in the relative clause as a pronoun preceded by *ko*.<sup>11</sup>

- (104) *te kope era [ko ia te pū'oko haka tere o te intitucione]*  
 ART person DIST PROM 3SG ART head CAUS run of ART institute  
 'the person who is the head of the institute' [R647.143]
- (105) *He 'ui mātou ki te nu'u [ko rāua te me'e i aŋiaŋi o ruŋa i te aŋa nei]*.  
 NTR ask 1PL.EXCL to ART people PROM 3PL ART thing PFV certain:RED of above  
 at ART work PROX  
 'We'll ask the people who are the ones who know about this work.' [R535.193]

**11.4.2.7 Existential clauses** To relativise existential clauses, the verb *ai* 'to exist' is used. As discussed in §9.3, there are two subtypes of existential clauses: existential-locative ('there is a house in the field', see §9.3.2) and possessive ('there is his house' = 'he has a house', see §9.3.3). An example of a relativised existential-locative is the following:

- (106) *Kona [ai o te miro o rā hora] ko te hare pure*.  
 place exist of ART tree of DIST time PROM ART house prayer  
 'The place where there were trees at the time was the church.' [R539-1.524]

In this example the location (*kona*) is relativised, while the Existee (the entity that exists in a given place) is expressed in the relative clause, marked with the possessive preposition *o*.

The Existee can also be relativised, with the location expressed in the relative clause:

- (107) ...*he aha te me'e [i ai 'i Rapa Nui]*  
 PRED what ART thing PFV exist at Rapa Nui  
 '(they want to know) what are the things that exist on Rapa Nui' [R470.006]

<sup>11</sup> See §9.2.2 for arguments to consider the *ko*-marked pronoun as predicate.

## 11 Combining clauses

In possessive clauses, the possessor can be relativised as in (108); in this case, the possessee is expressed in the relative clause. The possessee can also be relativised as in (109–110), in which case the possessor is expressed in the relative clause.

- (108) *Ko 'ata rahi 'ana te ŋā poki [ai o te veka].*  
 PRF more many CONT ART PL child exist of ART scholarship  
 ‘The number of children who have a scholarship has increased.’ [R648.213]
- (109) *¿He aha te 'ati [ai o te vi'e nei o ruŋa i te 'a'amu nei]?*  
 PRED what ART problem exist of ART woman PROX of above at ART story  
 nei]  
 PROX  
 ‘What was the problem that the woman in this story had (lit. that existed of this woman)?’ [R616.603]
- (110) *He haŋu pūai [ta'e ai i te ta'ato'a taŋata].*  
 PRED strength strong CONNEG exist at ART all person  
 ‘(Mana) was a strong force that not everyone had.’ [R634.002]

As these examples show, possesseees in the relative clause are marked with genitive *o* as in (108); possessors are marked either with *o* as in (109) or the general-purpose preposition *i* as in (110).

To summarise: there are two relativising strategies in Rapa Nui: one involving a gap (non-expressed constituent), one involving a resumptive element. It depends on the role of the relativised constituent which strategy is used; this is shown in Table 11.2.<sup>12</sup>

Table 11.2: Relativisation strategies

	gapping	pronoun
subject	x	
direct object	x	
oblique argument		x
adjunct	x	(x)
possessor		x
identifying predicate		x

We can now look once again at the noun phrase hierarchy given in (88) on p. 530 above. As Table 11.2 shows, whether or not the situation in Rapa Nui conforms to Keenan & Comrie’s generalisation that every relativising strategy involves a continuous segment of the hierarchy, depends on how the syntactic categories of Rapa Nui are mapped to

<sup>12</sup> Existential clauses are not included separately in this table. When the Existee/possessee is relativised, it is the subject of the clause; when the possessor or location is relativised, it can be considered as an adjunct.

this hierarchy. If oblique arguments (a category including arguments such as Recipients) are taken as a rough equivalent of their category of “indirect object”, the gapping strategy in Rapa Nui does not apply to a continuous segment of the hierarchy: it applies to subjects, direct objects and adjuncts (with the latter, the pronoun strategy also occurs, but marginally), but not to “indirect objects”.

### 11.4.3 Aspect marking in relative clauses

The most common aspect markers in relative clauses are perfective *i* and imperfective *e*. *Ka* and *ko* are not unusual either, but *he* is rare. All of these will be briefly discussed in turn.

Perfective *i* is the most general aspectual in relative clauses. It may mark events performed at the same time as the events in the main clause as in (111), or completed prior to the events in the main clause as in (112); it may also mark states as in (113).

The verb may be followed by a postverbal demonstrative (including *ai*), but this is optional.

- (111) *I tū hora era [Eva i ŋaro'a era i tū vānaŋa era 'a koro], he*  
 at DEM time DIST Eva PFV perceive DIST ACC DEM word DIST of.A Dad NTR  
*hakaroŋo atu...*  
 feel away

‘At the moment Eva heard those words Dad (spoke), she felt...’ [R210.075]

- (112) *He taŋi ki tū poki era 'ā'ana [i to'o era e Kava].*  
 NTR cry to DEM child DIST POSS.3SG.A PFV take DIST AG Kava

‘She cried for her child, which had been taken by Kava.’ [R229.095]

- (113) *He oti mau 'ā te taŋata [i ta'e māuiui o te kona hare*  
 NTR finish really CONT ART person PFV CONNEG sick of ART place house  
*era].*  
 DIST

‘He was the only person in the house who wasn’t sick.’ [R250.091]

Imperfective *e* in relative clauses often refers to events which are going on at the time of reference, as in (114). Alternatively, it may indicate events which happen repeatedly or habitually, as in (115). The verb is usually followed by a postverbal demonstrative (§7.2.5.4).

- (114) *...i te reka o te rāua ara [e oho era].*  
 at ART entertaining of ART 3PL way IPFV go DIST

‘(Eva stopped crying,) because of the enjoyment of the trip they were making.’  
 [R210.137]

## 11 Combining clauses

- (115) *Te aŋa 'a Puakiva [e 'avai era e Pipi], he apaapa hukahuka...*  
 ART work of.A Puakiva IPFV give DIST AG Pipi PRED gather firewood:RED  
 'The work Puakiva got assigned by Pipi, was gathering firewood...' [R229.396]

Perfect *ko/ku V 'ā* indicates a state which has come about in some way: with event verbs as in (116), the state is the result of the event described by the verb; with statives as in (117), the situation has resulted from some unspecified process.

- (116) *...e he mataroa repahoa o koro [ko ma'u mai 'ā ka rahi atu*  
 and PRED sailor friend of Dad PRF carry hither CONT CNTG many away  
*te pahu peti].*  
 ART can peach  
 '...and some sailors, friends of Dad, who had brought many cans of peaches.'  
 [R210.125]
- (117) *Ta'e he tiare; he henua [ko hāhine 'ā a tātou mo tu'u].*  
 CONNEG PRED flower PRED land PRF near CONT PROP 1PL.INCL for arrive  
 'These are not flowers; it is the land which we are close to arriving at.' [R210.197]

When the contiguity marker *ka* is used in a relative clause, the clause expresses an event posterior to the events in the context. In direct speech this means the clause refers to the future, as in (118); in narrative texts the *ka*-marked relative clause is posterior with respect to the time of the main action, as in (119). The verb is always followed by a postverbal demonstrative.

- (118) *Te 'iŋoa o te kai era [ka ma'u mai era ki a koe] he ioioraŋi.*  
 ART name of ART food DIST CNTG carry hither DIST to PROP 2SG PRED ioioraŋi  
 'The name of the food they will bring you is ioioraŋi.' [R310.060]
- (119) *He turu ia te taŋata ta'e ko 'iti ki tū kona era o te*  
 NTR go\_down then ART man CONNEG PROM little to DEM place DIST of ART  
*pahī [ka hoa era ki haho i te tai].*  
 ship CNTG throw DIST to outside at ART sea  
 'Many (lit. not a few) people went down to the place where the ship would be launched.' [R250.211]

Neutral *he* is rarely used in relative clauses. In the few examples I found, its function seems to be similar to *ka*:

- (120) *'I te mahana era [he oho], ko 'ara 'ā a Eva 'i te hora ono o*  
 at ART day DIST NTR go PRF wake\_up CONT PROP Eva at ART time six of  
*te pō'ā.*  
 ART morning  
 'On the day she was going to leave, Eva woke up at six in the morning.'  
 [R210.028]

Finally, relative clauses may be marked with the purpose marker *mo* (§11.5.1), in which case they express an event destined to happen:

- (121) *He haka take'a e Kava i te kona [mo aña o te hare].*  
 NTR CAUS see AG Kava ACC ART place for make of ART house  
 'Kava showed (him) the place to build the house.' [R229.217]
- (122) *E tupa nō 'ana hai tanata i te uka era [mo hāipoipo] 'i ruña i*  
 IPFV carry just CONT INS person ACC ART girl DIST for marry at above at  
*tū pahī era.*  
 DEM ship DIST  
 'With (several) people, they carried the girl who was to be married in the boat.'  
 [R539-3.034]

#### 11.4.4 Possessive-relative constructions

In possessive-relative constructions, the head noun is preceded or followed by a possessor, which is coreferential to the subject of the relative clause; the latter is not expressed in the relative clause itself. (These constructions occur in Rapa Nui as well as in various other Polynesian languages.) Possessive-relative constructions only occur when a constituent other than the subject is relativised; they are found with both object and adjunct relativisation. An example is the following:

- (123) *¿He aha te kōrua me'e [i aña 'i 'Apina]?*  
 NTR what ART 2PL thing PFV do at Apina  
 'What did you do (lit. what [is] your thing did) in Apina?' [R301.197]

Syntactically, *te kōrua* is a possessive pronoun modifying *me'e* 'thing'; it is coreferential to the implied subject of the relative clause.

When the possessor is pronominal, it may either precede the noun as in (124–125), or follow it as in (126) (§6.2.1):

- (124) *...mo haka oho ki tā'ana kona era [i pohe].*  
 for CAUS go to POSS.3SG.A place DIST PFV desire  
 '...to make (the horse) go to the place he wanted (it to go).' [R345.087]
- (125) *¿Pē hē te vai i kōnā ai 'i tō'oku hora [rere mai nei]?*  
 like CQ ART water PFV splash PVP in POSS.1SG.O time jump hither PROX  
 'How did the water splash at the time when I jumped?' [R108.125]<sup>13</sup>
- (126) *Te aña ra'e 'ā'ana [i aña] he hāpa'o māmoē.*  
 ART work first POSS.3SG.A PFV do PRED care\_for sheep  
 'The first work he did, was looking after sheep.' [R487.015]

<sup>13</sup> That this is a relative clause, not just a modifying verb, is shown by the verb phrase particle *mai*.

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When the possessor is a full noun phrase, it must occur after the noun:

- (127) *I tū hora era o Kekoa [e rere mai era]...*  
 at DEM time DIST of Kekoa IPFV jump hither DIST  
 ‘At the moment when Kekoa jumped...’ [R408.024]
- (128) *Te kenu 'a Hetu'u [i rova'a ai], kenu rivariva.*  
 ART spouse of.A Hetu'u PFV obtain PVP husband good:RED  
 ‘The husband which Hetu'u obtained, was a good husband.’ [R441.021]<sup>14</sup>

Possessive-relative constructions occur in other Polynesian languages as well. There has been some discussion on the question whether the possessor is raised from the subject position of the relative clause (e.g. Harlow 2000: 367; Harlow 2007a: 185), or whether it is a genuine noun phrase possessor which happens to be coreferential to the relative clause subject (Clark 1976: 116). In Rapa Nui the second option is more plausible. First, the possessor can be in the same positions as in any other noun phrase, which suggests that it is no different from other possessors in the noun phrase. Second, as the examples above show, the form of the possessive construction varies between *a*- and *o*-possession: *a*-possession in (124), (126) and (128), *o*-possession in (125) and (127). As *a*- and *o*-possession express different semantic relationships between possessor and possessee (§6.3.2), this suggests that there is a direct relation between the possessor and the head noun, even though the primary function of the possessor seems to be the expression of the relative clause subject.<sup>15</sup> And indeed, in most of these cases the choice between *'a* and *o* is governed by the same principles guiding this choice in possessive constructions in general. In (128), where the relation between possessor and head noun is one between husband and wife, *'a* is used (§6.3.3.1.1). In (126), the use of *'a* is possibly motivated by the active relationship of the possessee to the head noun ‘work’ (§6.3.3.2 item 2). In (127), *o* is used with a temporal noun, again conforming to a general pattern (§6.3.3.3 item 11). In fact, given the wide range of relationships expressed by possessive constructions in Rapa Nui, all possessive-relatives seem to exhibit some kind of possessive relationship also attested in simple possessive constructions.

If this analysis is correct, the possessor is not the result of raising, but is a normal noun phrase possessor which happens to be coreferential to the relative clause subject. Under coreferentiality, the latter is left unexpressed.

This analysis is confirmed by the fact that there are also possessive-relative constructions where the possessor is not the subject of the relative clause, but an oblique/embedded constituent as in (129):

<sup>14</sup> Examples such as (128) are potentially ambiguous. As discussed above, in object relative clauses the subject is sometimes preverbal and preceded by the proper article *a* (see (95) in §11.4.2 above). Now the proper article *a* is homophonous to the possessive preposition *'a*, and both may be followed by proper nouns; therefore, in examples such as (128), the subject could also be analysed as a nominative subject marked with the proper article *a*. However, an analysis as genitive (i.e. *'a* rather than *a*) is more plausible, as only pronouns occur unambiguously as preverbal subjects in the relative clause; noun phrase subjects in relative clauses are always postverbal (see e.g. (92–93) above).

<sup>15</sup> Herd, Macdonald & Massam (2011) make a similar observation for other Polynesian languages. They propose a structure where there is a relation between the possessor and the relative construction as a whole. This involves a control relation (not raising) between possessor and relative clause subject.



- (129) *He pura mata te kōrua me'e [take'a mai].*  
 PRED only eye ART 2PL thing see hither  
 'Your eyes are the only thing that can be seen (lit. mere eyes are your thing seen).' [R245.217]

#### 11.4.5 Bare relative clauses; verb raising

Bare relative clauses are relative clauses in which the verb is not preceded by an aspectual. In Rapa Nui in general, the aspectual is obligatory, except in a few well-defined contexts (§7.2.2), one of which is when the verb is adjectival (i.e. functions as noun modifier). Even so, in §5.7.2.3 I argued that bare relatives are different from adjectival modifiers: unlike the latter, they are truly verbal in that they indicate an event taking place at a specific time; moreover, they can be followed by verb phrase particles and verb arguments.

Here are a number of examples of bare relative clauses.

- (130) *He 'aroha mai ki te nu'u varavara [tu'u ki te kona hoa pahī nei].*  
 NTR greet hither to ART people scarce arrive to ART place throw ship PROX  
 'They greeted the few people who had come to the place where the ship was launched.' [R250.235]
- (131) *'Ina he vece [haka hoki mai i te tarake].*  
 NEG PRED time CAUS return hither ACC ART corn  
 'At no time (lit. there was not a time) (the buyers) refused the corn (which he offered for sale).' [R250.080]
- (132) *Ko mātou nō te me'e [noho o nei].*  
 PROM 1PL.EXCL just ART thing stay of PROX  
 'We are the only ones living here.' [R404.050]
- (133) *Te me'e nei he hī siera, me'e [ai mai mu'a 'ana 'ātā ki te hora nei].*  
 ART thing PROX PRED to\_fish sawfish thing exist from before IDENT until to  
 ART time PROX  
 'This thing, fishing for sawfish, is something that has existed from the past until now.' [R364.001]

These examples show that bare relative clauses are not limited to one single aspect. In most cases they express a one-time event which has been completed as in (130), i.e. the clause has perfective aspect; however, they may also be habitual as in (131), durative as in (132), or stative as in (133).

As these examples also show, the verb tends to come straight after the head noun. Only in (130) are noun and verb separated by the adjective *varavara*. Other elements occasionally occurring between noun and verb are quantifiers as in (134) and postnominal demonstratives as in (135):

## 11 Combining clauses

- (134) *He turu tahi tū nu'u ta'ato'a ha'aau era.*  
 NTR go\_down all DEM people all agree DIST  
 'All the people who had agreed (on the plan) went down (to the coast).'  
 [R250.233]

- (135) *...mo ha'ateitei i te nu'u era oho era ki Tahiti.*  
 for honour ACC ART people DIST go DIST to Tahiti  
 '...to honour the people who went to Tahiti.' [R202.003]

Even though noun and verb can be separated by these noun phrase elements, there is a strong tendency to place the verb adjacent to the noun. Often the verb is raised to a position straight after the noun, before other noun phrase elements. In (136), the verb *hatu* is raised to a position before the quantifier *ta'ato'a*, while the subject of the relative clause is stranded after *ta'ato'a*. (The status of *era* is discussed below.)

- (136) *He oho tū poki era pē tū me'e [hatu] ta'ato'a era [e tū*  
 NTR go DEM child DIST like DEM thing advise all DIST AG DEM  
*rū'au era].*  
 old\_woman DIST  
 'The boy went (and did) like all the things advised by the old woman.' [R310.105]

Similarly, in (137), the verb *tu'u* is raised over the postnominal possessor *'ā'ana*. Notice that even though the relative clause only consists of a verb, it is still a true relative clause, not an “adjectival” verb: *tu'u* refers to a specific event, it is not a time-stable property of the child (§5.7.2.3).

- (137) *He vānaŋa ararua ko tū poki [tu'u] era 'ā'ana.*  
 NTR talk the\_two PROM DEM child arrive DIST POSS.3SG.A  
 'She spoke with her child who had arrived.' [R532-01.007]

In (138) the verb *hiŋa* is raised both over the particle *'ā* and the possessor *o te poki*.<sup>16</sup> The same happens in (139), where the possessor 'of the morning' modifies the head noun, while the next phrase 'to school' is the part of the relative clause left stranded.

- (138) *...i te mahana [hiŋa] era 'ā o te poki?*  
 at ART day fall DIST IDENT of ART child  
 '(Why didn't you come and tell me) on the same day the child fell?' [R313.106]

- (139) *...mai te hora [turu] era 'ā o te pō'ā [ki te hāpī] ki tū*  
 from ART time go\_down DIST IDENT of ART morning to ART learn to DEM  
*hora era*  
 time DIST  
 '...from the morning time, when he went down to school, until then' [R245.009]

<sup>16</sup> 'Ā occurs both in the noun phrase (expressing identity) and in the verb phrase (expressing continuity); here it is a noun phrase particle, modifying the noun: 'the very same day'.

Examples (136–139) all involve a demonstrative *era*. Now this demonstrative (as well as *nei* and *ena*) is common both in the noun phrase and in the verb phrase, so *a priori* it may be either a postnominal particle over which the verb has been raised, or a verb phrase particle belonging to the relative clause. The position of *era* in the examples suggest that the former is the case, as indicated by the brackets. *Era* occurs after the quantifier in (136), but before the possessor in (137) and before the particle 'ā in (138–139); in other words, *era* occurs in its usual noun phrase position (see the chart in §5.1). If *era* were a verb phrase particle, it would be unclear why it is raised with the verb in (137–139), but left stranded in (136).

Another reason to consider *era* as postnominal rather than postverbal, is that it co-occurs with the demonstrative *tū*, which is always accompanied by a postnominal demonstrative (§4.6.2.1). When *tū* co-occurs with *era* after the verb, this suggests that the verb has been raised.<sup>17</sup> This is illustrated in (136) above; the same analysis can be extended to examples such as the following:

(140) *He kī ki a Kava i tū vānaŋa [kī] era [e Pea e tā'ana kenu].*  
 NTR say to PROP Kava ACC DEM word say DIST AG Pea AG POSS.3SG.A spouse  
 'She told Kava the words spoken by her husband Pea.' [R229.075]

(141) *E u'i mai era a tū kona [kī] era [e nua].*  
 IPFV look hither DIST by DEM place say DIST AG Mum  
 'She looked towards the place Mum had told.' [R210.083]

In other words, even though *kī era e nua* in (141) seems to be a relative clause, the presence of *tū* suggests that *era* is not part of the relative clause, but is a noun phrase particle which has been leapfrogged over by the verb.

Examples such as (140–141) are quite common. In fact, the tendency to leave out the aspectual and (if needed) to raise the verb is strongest with definite/anaphoric noun phrases like the ones illustrated here. Leaving out the aspectual has the effect of down-playing the action/event character of the relative clause: what the relative clause denotes is not so much an event but rather a fact; this fact is part of the referential description in the noun phrase.

## 11.5 Subordinating markers

The preverbal markers *mo*, *ana*, *ki*, 'o and *mai* are used to mark certain types of clauses. As these markers occur in the same position as aspectuals (§7.1), they do not co-occur with the latter, which means that a clause containing one of these particles is not marked for aspect.

<sup>17</sup> Relative clause verbs may have a postverbal demonstrative, even when the head noun also has a demonstrative; see *nu'u era [oho era]* in (135). Nevertheless, raised verbs never have a demonstrative of their own: two consecutive demonstratives never occur (*\*nu'u [oho] era [era]*). This can be accounted for by a rule deleting one of two consecutive demonstratives.

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In subordinate clauses, these markers are always clause-initial; no constituents are placed before the verb phrase. *Ana*, *ki* and – somewhat marginally – *mo* also occur in main clauses. As their functions in main and subordinate clauses are clearly similar, all their uses will be discussed together in the following sections, with two exceptions:

- The hortative use of *ki* is treated in the section on imperatives (§10.2.3).
- The use of *mo* in complement clauses is discussed in the section on complement clauses (§11.3).

### 11.5.1 The purpose/conditional marker *mo*

*Mo* is by far the most common subordinating marker.<sup>18</sup> It is used to mark complements of cognitive verbs (§11.3.3), speech verbs (§11.3.4), attitude verbs (§11.3.5) and modal verbs (§11.3.6). In addition, it marks both purpose clauses and conditional clauses; these will be discussed in §11.5.1.1. §11.5.1.2 discusses the expression of arguments in *mo*-clauses. Occasionally *mo* occurs in main clauses; this is discussed in §11.5.1.3.

#### 11.5.1.1 *Mo* in adverbial clauses

*Mo* marks PURPOSE clauses. As the examples below show, the *mo*-clause usually follows the main clause.

- (142) *He tahuti a Eva mo eke ki ruŋa i te vaka.*  
NTR run PROP Eva for go\_up to above at ART boat  
'Eva ran to get on the boat.' [R210.060]
- (143) *He haka 'ara i a Tahonga mo haka unu hai rā'au.*  
NTR CAUS wake\_up ACC PROP Tahonga for CAUS drink INS medicine  
'She woke Tahonga up to give her medicine to drink.' [R301.159]
- (144) *He moko tētahi taŋata he rutu mo 'a'aru mai; 'ina kai rava'a.*  
NTR rush some man NTR gather for grab hither NEG NEG.PFV obtain  
'Some people rushed together to grab (her); they did not catch her.'  
[Ley-9-55.149]

*Mo* also marks CONDITIONAL clauses.

- (145) *Mo mate tā'ue, 'o mo ŋaro, he rahi tu'u māuiui 'i te 'aroha.*  
if die by\_chance or if lost NTR much POSS.2SG.O sick at ART pity  
'If (the bird) dies accidentally, or if it gets lost, you would suffer much from feeling sorry.' [R213.027]

<sup>18</sup> Preverbal *mo* probably developed from (or is an extended use of) the benefactive preposition (§4.7.8). To my knowledge, Rapa Nui is the only language in which *mo* developed into a preverbal marker. The fact that the subject is often expressed as a possessor (§11.5.1.2) may be a trace of the prepositional character of *mo*.

- (146) *Me'e ihu pi'ipi'i; mo vānaja mai, me'e re'o huru kē.*  
 think nose crushed:RED if talk hither thing voice manner different  
 'They are snub-nosed; if they talk, they have a strange voice.' [R310.252]

Conditional clauses usually precede the main clause as in these examples, though this is not a rigid rule.

As *mo* is a preverbal marker, it is always immediately followed by a verb. This means that *mo* constructions would be impossible with nominal clauses, or in contexts where a different preverbal marker is called for (e.g. the negation *kai*). In such cases, the existential verb *ai* can be employed as an auxiliary verb. *Ai* in turn is followed by a clause which is structured as a main clause (this construction is further discussed in §9.6.1).

- (147) *'E mo ai he tire koe, bueno ka mana'u pa he tire.*  
 and if exist NTR Chilean 2SG good IMP think like PRED Chilean  
 'And if you are a Chilean, OK, think like a Chilean.' [R625.098]
- (148) *Mo ai kai 'ite i nei hīmene, ka 'ui haka'ou ia koe.*  
 if exist NEG.PFV know ACC PROX song IMP ask again then 2SG  
 'If you don't know this song, then ask again.' [R615.139]

### 11.5.1.2 Arguments in the *mo*-clause

**The S/A argument** The S or A argument of the *mo*-clause is often coreferential to the subject of the main clause, in which case it is usually not expressed. See e.g. (143) above.

When the S/A argument is expressed, it is either as a possessive (with preposition *o* or a possessive pronoun of the *o*-class) as in (149–151), or with the agent marker *e* as in (152–155). The latter occurs more or less in the same contexts as in main clauses (§8.3): in transitive VA-clauses without explicit object as in (152); in VOA-clauses as in (153); with verbs like *ɲaro'a* as in (154); when it is contrasted with other referents as in (155).

- (149) *He oho tātou ki 'Anakena [mo māta'ita'i ō'ou].*  
 NTR go 1PL.INCL to Anakena for observe POSS.2SG.O  
 'We'll go to Anakena for you to watch.' [R301.259]
- (150) [*Mo haɲa ō'ou mo 'ite a hē a au e ɲaro nei*]...  
 if want POSS.2SG.O for know by CQ PROP 1SG IPFV disappear PROX  
 'If you want to know where I disappear (then come with me).' [R212.010]
- (151) *Ka hoa hai haraoa, [mo oho mai o te ika ena mo kai].*  
 IPFV throw INS bread for go hither of ART fish MED for eat  
 'Throw bread, so that fish will come to eat.' [R301.215]

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- (152) 'O ira i 'avai ai i a Puakiva [mo hāpa'o e te vi'e  
because\_of ANA PFV give PVP ACC PROP Puakiva for care\_for AG ART woman  
**nei ko Kava**].  
PROX PROM Kava  
'Therefore they gave Puakiva to this woman Kava to take care of. (lit. gave  
Puakiva to take care by this woman Kava).' [R229.006]
- (153) Ka haka noho nō atu koe i a au 'i nei [mo take'a nō mai o  
IMP CAUS stay just away 2SG ACC PROP 2SG at PROX for see just hither of  
Puakiva e au].  
Puakiva AG 1SG  
'Let me stay here, so I can see Puakiva.' [R229.013]
- (154) ;Ī a au ka oho rō hai kona [mo ŋaro'a e au te ora]!  
IMM PROP 1SG CNTG go EMPH INS place for perceive AG 1SG ART life  
'Now I will go to a place to find (lit. feel) rest!' [R214.042]
- (155) Ko haŋa 'ā a au [mo haka hopu mai e koe i a au paurō te  
PRF want CONT PROP 1SG for CAUS bathe hither AG 2SG ACC PROP 1SG every ART  
mahana].  
day  
'I want you (not mother) to wash me every day.' [R313.178]

The fact that the S/A argument is often expressed as a possessive, does not mean that the *mo*-clause is nominal. Apart from the possessive constituent, the clause is wholly verbal: the verb is not preceded by a determiner, it may be followed by VP particles such as *mai* in (155), and as the same example also shows, the object may have the accusative marker *i*.

**The O argument** The O argument of a *mo*-clause is either expressed as a direct object – preceded by the accusative marker *i* – or as a possessive. (155) above and (156) below show *i*-marked direct objects; in (157–158), the O is expressed as a possessive.

- (156) ;Ka haka hāhine mai koe mo u'i atu i tu'u tau ena pē he  
IMP CAUS near hither 2SG for look away ACC POSS.2SG.O pretty MED like PRED  
ra'ā 'ā!  
sun IDENT  
'Come near, so I can see your beauty like the sun!' [R301.212]
- (157) Ka oho mai koe, mo u'i 'iti'iti o te poki 'ī e ha'uru 'ana.  
IMP come hither 2SG for look little:RED of ART child IMM IPFV sleep CONT  
'Come, to have a look at the child that is sleeping.' [R235.047]

- (158) ...*he vahivahi mo tatau o te pua'a, mo hāŋai o te oru 'e mo puru*  
 NTR divide:RED for to\_milk of ART cow for feed of ART pig and for close  
*o te hoi.*  
 of ART horse  
 '...he divided (the piece of land) to milk cows, to raise pigs and to enclose  
 horses.' [R250.047]

I have not noticed any difference between the two constructions. There may be a distinction in prominence, with less significant objects marked as possessive. However this may be, object marking in *mo*-clauses is significantly different from object marking in main clauses: contexts where the object is possessive are not the same contexts where the object would be zero-marked in main clauses (§8.4.1).

### 11.5.1.3 *Mo* in main clauses

Occasionally preverbal *mo* is used in main clauses. In these clauses, the subject is always expressed; the constituent order is almost always SV/AVO. When the subject is a pronoun or proper noun, it is marked with *ko*. This structure reminds of clauses with *ko*-marked topicalised subjects (§8.6.2.1).

The general sense is that of a subject being destined in some way to perform the action described by the verb. Depending on the context, the clause may express a plan or intention as in (159), an instruction as in (160), or permission as in (161).

- (159) *Ko au mo noho mo tiaki i te tātou hare.*  
 PROM 1SG for stay for guard ACC ART 1PL.INCL house  
 'If you like, you go there.) I will stay and guard our house.' [R399.130]
- (160) *Ko Teke mo teki atu ki ruŋa ki to'u miro ena... Ko au mo oho*  
 PROM Teke for jump away to above to POSS.2SG.O ship MED PROM 1SG for go  
*a te rara mata'u.*  
 by ART side right  
 'Teke is to jump onto your ship... I will go (with my ship) by the righthand side.'  
 [MsE-077.010]
- (161) *Nu'u era ka tu'u ra'e era ko rāua mo o'o ra'e.*  
 people DIST CNTG arrive first DIST PROM 3PL for enter first  
 'The people who arrived first, they could enter first.' [R250.071]

With a negation, *mo*-clauses may express a prohibition or dissuasion. Several negative constructions occur. The constituent negator *ta'e* can be used to negate the subject as in (162) or the predicate as in (163). A construction with the clause negator *'ina* is also possible, as in (164).

- (162) *Ta'e māua mo moto haka'ou.*  
 CONNEG 1DU.EXCL for fight again  
 'We should not fight any more.' [R211.014]

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- (163) ...*mo 'ite rō 'ai e te ta'ato'a ta'e mo hopu e tahi 'i ira.*  
for know EMPH CONT AG ART all CONNEG for bathe NUM one at ANA  
'(Malo put up the stick) so all would know that nobody (lit. not one) could swim there.' [R108.030]
- (164) '*Ina e tahi tanata mo tu'u haka'ou ki tū kona era.*  
NEG NUM one person for arrive again to DEM place DIST  
'Nobody could enter that place any more.' [R310.158]

More work is needed to find out the exact function of *mo* in main clauses, and the syntactic constraints that apply in this construction.

### 11.5.2 The irrealis marker *ana*

*Ana* is an irrealis marker.<sup>19</sup> The irrealis mode, as defined by Payne (1997: 244), does not assert that the event has happened or will happen. Neither does it assert that the event did *not* happen or will not happen: the irrealis refrains from any claim about the truth of the proposition expressed by the clause.

*Ana* is mostly used to mark events which may or may not happen, for example intentions, possibilities and obligations; this will be amply illustrated in the following subsections.

In some cases the event has actually happened; this is not inconsistent with the irrealis as defined above. In the following example, the speaker refers back to a question her interlocutor has just asked:

- (165) ¿*Mo aha 'ana koe ana 'ui rō mai?*  
for what IDENT 2SG IRR ask EMPH hither  
'Why would you ask this?' [R315.028]

Even though the asking is a real event, the speaker refers to it as something unrealised, perhaps conceived as a more general truth ('why would anybody ask something like this?'), or as something which is inherently improbable.

*Ana* occurs in the same structural position as aspect markers; *ana* and aspect markers are mutually exclusive. Clauses marked by *ana* are therefore not differentiated for aspect (but see (185) below).

As (165) shows, *ana* can be followed by evaluative markers (*rō*) and directionals (*mai*). It cannot be followed by postverbal demonstratives or the VP-final particles '*ā* and '*ai*.

The following subsections will deal with uses of *ana* in main clauses (§11.5.2.1) and subordinate clauses (§11.5.2.2), respectively.

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<sup>19</sup> This particle does not occur in any other language, with the exception of Māori *ana* 'if and when' (Biggs 1973: 130), which corresponds to the use of Rapa Nui *ana* in conditional/temporal clauses.



11.5.2.1 *Ana* in main clauses

11.5.2.1.1 *Ana* is used to express INTENTIONS. While the outcome of the intended event is inherently uncertain, the intention itself may be quite firm: (166) occurs in a context where two parents have just agreed to call their baby Tahonga; in the quoted sentence, this decision is confirmed.

- (166) *Ko Tahoŋa te 'iŋoa o te tāua poki ana nape.*  
 PROM Tahonga ART name of DEM 1DU.INCL child IRR call  
 'Tahonga is the name we will call our child.' [R301.146]

- (167) *Āpō nō tāua ana vānaŋa.*  
 tomorrow just 1DU.INCL IRR speak  
 'Tomorrow we will talk.' [R304.014]

11.5.2.1.2 *Ana* may express POTENTIAL events, events which may or may not happen.

- (168) *A 'uta hō a Vaha ana oho rō.*  
 by inland DUB PROP Vaha IRR go EMPH  
 'Vaha might go by the inland way.' [Mtx-3-01.142]

Whether the event will happen or not, may depend on a condition which is stated explicitly. Thus, *ana* may occur in the apodosis, the clause expressing the consequence of a conditional or temporal clause.

- (169) *Ki hāhine nō tāua mo tu'u ana ma'u iho e au te kai.*  
 when close just 1DU.INCL for arrive IRR carry just\_then AG 1SG ART food  
 'When we are close to arrival, then I will take the food.' [R215.026]

Even without a conditional clause construction, the occurrence of the event marked by *ana* may be contingent on another event: it is the result of, or at least follows upon, an event expressed in an earlier clause: 'X, only then Y'. In this case – as in (94) above – the verb is usually followed by *iho* 'just then'.

- (170) *He me'e 'o kai vave, e hoki au, ana kai iho.*  
 PRED thing lest eat yet IPFV return 1SG IRR eat just\_then  
 'Don't<sup>20</sup> eat yet; I will return, then you can eat.' [Mtx-3-01.194]
- (171) *A mātou e iri ki te rano 'o ki Ro'iho ana rova'a iho te vai.*  
 PROP 1PL.EXCL IPFV ascend to ART crater or to Ro'iho IRR obtain just\_then ART  
 water  
 'We will go up to the crater or to Ro'iho, where we (will/may) find water.'  
 [R487.035]

<sup>20</sup> *He me'e 'o* is a now obsolete construction expressing prohibitions.

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As a marker of potentiality, *ana* is also used in content questions. The question may be a real one to which an answer is expected as in (172), or a rhetorical one as in (173):

- (172) *¿I hē māua ana aŋa i nā kai?*  
 at CQ 1DU.EXCL IRR make ACC MED food  
 ‘Where will we prepare the meal?’ [Luke 22:9]
- (173) *¿A hē ana tētere te hānau 'e'epe 'i te ura o te ahi, 'ina he ara  
 by CQ IRR PL:RUN ART race corpulent at ART flame of ART fire NEG PRED way  
 mo tētere?  
 for PL:RUN  
 ‘Where could the ‘corpulent race’ flee from the flame of fire, as there was  
 nowhere to flee?’ [Mtx-3-02.034]*

11.5.2.1.3 *Ana* also has a DEONTIC use: it is used to express instructions, obligations or norms, as well as permission.

- (174) *Ana tu'u kōrua ki ira hora pae o te popohaŋa.*  
 IRR arrive 1p to ANA hour five of ART dawn  
 ‘You must arrive there five o’clock in the morning.’ [R310.272]
- (175) *E tahi nō ika mata rāua ko te 'āuke ana kai 'i te mahana.*  
 NUM one just fish raw 3PL PROM ART seaweed IRR eat at ART day  
 ‘He was allowed to eat just one raw fish with seaweed per day.’ [Fel-40.11]

In the second person, deontic *ana* is similar in function to imperative *ka* and exhortative *e*. While the latter two are only used with clause-initial verbs, *ana* is especially used when the verb phrase is non-initial. In (177), initial *e* alternates with non-initial *ana*:

- (176) *Ki tā'aku vānaŋa ana hakarōŋo mai.*  
 to POSS.1SG.A word IRR listen hither  
 ‘You must listen to my words.’ [R229.280]
- (177) *E ha'amuri koe ki a Iehoha ki tu'u 'Atua 'e ki a ia mau  
 EXH worship 2SG to PROP Jehovah to POSS.2SG.O God and to PROP 3SG really  
 nō koe ana tāvini.  
 just 2SG IRR serve  
 ‘Worship Jehovah your God, and serve only him.’ [Mat. 4:10]*

11.5.2.1.4 *Ana* may also mark clauses which express a GENERAL PRACTICE, something which is normally/usually done in a given situation. This use is found especially in procedural contexts, where the speaker describes how certain things are normally done or should be done. In Rapa Nui, procedures are generally expressed by strings of *he*-clauses, with occasional imperatives (see (5) on p. 317). But *ana* may be used as well, especially when the verb is non-initial.

- (178) *'I te pō nō te ika nei ana hī.*  
 at ART night just ART fish PROX IRR to\_fish  
 'This (type of) fish is only fished at night.' [R364.007]
- (179) *Hai me'e he raŋaria ana tari mai i te mā'ea.*  
 INS thing PRED sled IRR transport hither ACC ART stone  
 '(This is what I saw in my youth:) With a sled they would transport the stones.'  
 [R107.044]

Examples like (178) could be considered as deontic, prescribing how something should be done. However, (179) shows that *ana* is used even when the procedure is not an instruction to the present-day hearer, but a description of how something was done in the past. Such contexts can be considered irrealis, as they do not describe events which happened at a specific occasion.<sup>21</sup>

### 11.5.2.2 *Ana* in subordinate clauses

11.5.2.2.1 In subordinate clauses, *ana* is used to express a CONDITION: the event may or may not happen, but only if it happens will the event in the main clause take place. The conditional clause tends to precede the main clause.

- (180) *Ana haŋa koe 'o mana'u rahi koe ki te poki, mo tāua 'ana e*  
 IRR want 2SG lest think much 2SG to ART child for 1DU.INCL IDENT IPFV  
*hāpa'o i a rāua ko Kava.*  
 care\_for ACC PROP 3PL PROM Kava  
 'If you don't want to worry about the child, we will take care of her and Kava.'  
 [R229.028]
- (181) *E u'i atu te mata ki a au; ana noho mai au, ana raranga mai*  
 EXH look away ART eye to PROP 1SG IRR sit hither 1SG IRR weave hither  
*au i te kete, ku ha'uru 'ā te hānau 'e'epe.*  
 1SG ACC ART basket PRF sleep CONT ART race corpulent  
 'Look at me; if I sit down, if I am weaving a basket, (that means that) the  
 'corpulent race' are asleep.' [Ley-3-06.025]

As these examples show, the apodosis is usually marked with an aspectual, i.e. in the realis mood. Alternatively, the apodosis may also be marked with *ana* (cf. (169) above). This can lead to a situation in which both the conditional clause and the apodosis are marked with *ana*:

- (182) *Ana haŋa mo hakarere nō 'i Orohie, 'i rā 'ana ana hakarere...*  
 IRR want for leave just at Orohie at DIST IDENT IRR leave  
 'If they want to leave (the statue) in Orohie, there they leave it...' [Ley-4-06.015]

<sup>21</sup> Payne (1997: 245) points out that habitual aspect is less realis than perfective aspect.

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In other cases, the question is not *whether* the event in the subordinate clause happens, but *when*: the event is expected to happen or has already happened, and the same is true for the main clause event dependent on it. However, *ana* signals that the clause is still irrealis in some way. It may indicate an event which takes or took place habitually (see the discussion about (179) above), or an event which is expected (with more or less certainty) to take place in the future. *Ana* is not used with events which have taken place at a definite moment in the past.

- (183) *Ana mate te tanata, te matu'a, he hohora te moeŋa...*  
IRR die ART man ART parent NTR spread ART mat  
'When a man – a father – dies, they spread out a mat...' [Ley-4-08.001]

- (184) *Ana pō, he tutu hai ahi.*  
IRR night NTR kindle INS fire  
'When it is dark, we will light a fire.' [R210.085]

11.5.2.2.2 *Ana* also occurs in DEPENDENT POLAR QUESTIONS ('whether'):

- (185) *Ī 'ō a au he oho he u'i ana ai ko 'ara 'ana.*  
IMM really PROP 1SG NTR go NTR look IRR exist PRF wake\_up CONT  
'I'm going straightaway and look whether she has woken up.' [R229.366]

While *ana* is usually followed by the main verb of the clause, sometimes it is followed by the existential verb *ai* 'exist' (just like *mo*, see (147) on p. 543); the rest of the clause follows as a complement to this verb. This allows the speaker to use *ana* with a nonverbal clause as in (186), or to express aspect in addition to irrealis, as in (185) above, where the main verb is marked with perfect aspect *ko*.

- (186) *He 'ui e Aio ki tū korohu'a era ana ai [pē ira mau te parauti'a].*  
NTR ask AG Aio to DEM old\_man DIST IRR exist like ANA really ART truth  
'Aio asked the old man if those things were true (lit. if it was: like that [was] the truth).' [R532-14.016]

### 11.5.3 The purpose/temporal marker *ki*

The preverbal marker *ki* is used in subordinate clauses expressing time ('when') and purpose ('in order to, so that'). In main clauses it marks hortatives, i.e. first-person injunctions. In this section, its use in subordinate clauses is discussed; hortatives are discussed in §10.2.3.

Even though *ki* is homophonous to the preposition *ki*, the two are probably etymologically distinct. The verbal marker *ki* is probably derived from PPN \**kia*, which occurs in

many languages with an optative and/or purposive sense.<sup>22</sup> If this is correct, the preposition and the verbal marker *ki* were distinct lexemes in the protolanguage. However, because of the goal-oriented character of preverbal *ki*, it is glossed ‘to’, just like the preposition.

11.5.3.1 For PURPOSE CLAUSES, the default marker is *mo* (§11.5.1.1). *Ki* is used especially in the following circumstances:

In the first place, after an imperative or hortative.

- (187) *Ka uru mai koe ki roto ki 'avai atu a au i tā'au o te kai.*  
 IMP entr hither 2SG to inside to give away PROP 1SG ACC POSS.2SG.A of ART food  
 ‘Come inside, so I will/can give you your food.’ [R229.417]
- (188) *Ka hōrou mai koe ki oho rō tāua.*  
 IPFV hurry hither 2SG to go EMPH 1DU.INCL  
 ‘Hurry up, so we can go.’ [R313.109]

When the *ki*-clause has a first person plural subject as in (188), the clause may have hortative overtones: ‘so we (can) go’ > ‘let’s go’.

Secondly, when *mo* would be potentially ambiguous. In (189), the main verb *pohe* is followed by a complement clause marked with *mo*. If the next clause were also marked with *mo*, it could be read as a second complement of *pohe*; to ensure a reading as purpose clause, *ki* is used. The same happens in (190): while the *mo*-clause expresses the purpose of the preceding main clause, the *ki*-clause after that expresses the ultimate purpose, the higher-order goal of the preceding clauses as a whole.

- (189) *Ī e pohe atu ena mo 'ata noho mai ki 'ata keukeu ai tētahi aŋa.*  
 IMM IPFV desire away MED for more stay hither to more labour:RED PVP other  
 aŋa.  
 work  
 ‘I would like him to stay here a bit more, in order to get other projects done.’  
 [R204.005]
- (190) *O te hānau 'e'epe i keri ai i te rua... mo pae o te hānau*  
 of ART race corpulent PFV dig PVP ACC ART hole for finished of ART race  
*momoko, ki noho e hānau 'e'epe nō.*  
 slender to stay AG race corpulent just  
 ‘The ‘corpulent race’ dug a hole... to exterminate the ‘slender race’, so the  
 ‘corpulent race’ would be the only ones (left).’ [Ley-3-06.019]

<sup>22</sup> *Kia* was shortened to *ki* in various languages. Clark (1976: 30) mentions Kapingamarangi, Nukumanu, Sikaiana and Luangiua. Hawaiian *i* (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 61) seems to represent the same particle. As the particle is *kia/ia* in most CE languages, the shortening to *ki* in Rapa Nui must have been an independent development which took place after Rapa Nui broke off from PEP (§2.5.2 on the monophthongisation of particles). This process may have taken place relatively recently: there are a few occurrences of *kia* in older texts, mostly in fossilised phrases such as *ka oho, kia tika* ‘go straight’ (Mtx-2-03.018; Mtx-6-07.014); see discussion in Fischer (1994: 429). Nowadays *kia* survives in *kiahio* ‘keep courage, be strong’ (cf. *hiohio* ‘strong’).

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Thirdly, to express a result not intended by the main-clause subject. This is illustrated in the following two examples. The *ki*-clause does not express a purpose which the main-clause subject had in mind; rather, it is a purpose external to the intentions of the subject.

- (191) *¿He aha te me'e i me'e e ia ki aŋiaŋi ai e tātou ko*  
 PRED thing ART thing PFV thing AG 3SG to certain:RED PVP AG 1PL.INCL PRF  
*koa 'ā?*  
 happy CONT  
 'What things did she do so that we (the readers of the story) know that she was happy?' [R615.658]
- (192) *Māuruuru haka'ou ki te mau mahiŋo era i 'ui mai era: hē te*  
 thank again to ART PL people DIST PFV ask hither DIST CQ ART  
*mātou ra'atira, ki hakarongo atu tā'ana vānaŋa.*  
 1PL.EXCL chief to listen away POSS.3SG.A word  
 'Thanks again to the people who asked: where is our chief, so we can hear his words.' [R205.044]

As these examples show, the subject of the *ki*-clause is expressed in the same way as in main clauses: either unmarked as in (187–188) or with the agent marker *e* as in (190). In this respect, *ki*-clauses are different from *mo*-clauses, which usually have a possessive subject.

A peculiarity of *ki*-clauses with purpose sense, is that the verb is often followed by *ai*, the postverbal demonstrative which otherwise only occurs after *i* (§7.6.5). This is illustrated in (189) and (191) above.

11.5.3.2 *Ki* also marks TEMPORAL clauses.<sup>23</sup> As the examples below show, these occur in various contexts: with past reference, with future reference, or habitual. *Ki*-clauses usually occur before the main clause, but as (196) shows, they may also be placed after the main clause.

- (193) *Ki oti a Puakiva te vānaŋa i kī ai e koro...*  
 when finish PROP Puakiva ART talk PFV say PVP AG Dad  
 'When Puakiva had finished speaking, Dad said...' [R229.490]
- (194) *He haka hū au i te 'umu, ki oti he oho a koe...*  
 NTR CAUS burn 1SG ACC ART earth\_oven when finish NTR go PROP 2SG  
 'I will light the earth oven, when finished you will go...' [R184.007]

<sup>23</sup> The double function of reflexes of PPN \**kia* as both optative/purposive and temporal markers is also found with Māori *kia* (Bauer, Parker & Evans 1993: 62, 459) and Tahitian *'ia* (Lazard & Peltzer 2000: 138–139); unlike Rapa Nui, in these languages the particle is not used in temporal clauses referring to the past. In Rapa Nui, the purposive sense of \**kia* has to a large degree been taken over by *mo*, as discussed above.

- (195) *Ki oho ararua e ma'u te rima.*  
 when go the\_two EXH hold ART hand  
 ‘When the two of you walk together, hold hands.’ [R166.004]
- (196) *He aña tātou he haka hōrou mo turu o tātou ki tai ki tu'u*  
 NTR work 1PL.INCL NTR CAUS quick for go\_down of 1PL.INCL to sea when arrive  
*mai a nua.*  
 hither PROP Mum  
 ‘We will work quickly, so we can go to the sea when Mum comes.’ [R229.456]

*Ki*-marked clauses may indicate a goal or temporal boundary: ‘until’. This occurs for example after the verb *tiaki* ‘wait’.<sup>24</sup>

- (197) *He tiaki ki hū tahi te hukahuka.*  
 NTR wait to burn all ART firewood:RED  
 ‘They wait until all the firewood is burned.’ [R333.460]
- (198) *He noho rō atu 'ai o tū nu'u era 'i ira ki ora riva o te mata*  
 NTR stay EMPH away SUBS of DEM people DIST at there to live good of ART eye  
*o Māhina Tea.*  
 of Mahina Tea  
 ‘The people stayed there until Mahina Tea’s eyes had healed well.’ [R399.235]

The preposition *ki* has the same use, see (272) on p. 214. This shows that the two particles *ki*, though etymologically distinct, are closely related.

In fact, there is not an absolute distinction between the senses ‘when’ and ‘until’. Whether *ki* is translated as one or the other, mainly depends on whether it is connected to the preceding clause (‘X until Y’) or to the following clause (‘when Y, then Z’). When connected to both, the *ki*-clause marks a boundary point or “hinge” between two events:

- (199) *I roto e hāpa'o era ki takataka tahi te tarake he to'o mai*  
 at inside IPFV care\_for DIST to/when gather:RED all ART corn NTR take hither  
*he huhu.*  
 NTR strip  
 ‘Inside they stored (the corn) until all the corn was gathered, (then) they would take it and strip it.’ [R250.068]
- (200) *He uru ki raro i te ro'i he piko, ki roa te hora he e'a*  
 NTR enter to below at ART bed NTR hide to/when long ART time NTR go\_out  
*he tere mai.*  
 NTR run hither  
 ‘He would go under the bed and hide, when/until a long time (had passed), then he would come out and run away.’ [R250.185]

<sup>24</sup> In other contexts, ‘until’ is more commonly expressed by *ka V rō*, and/or using *'ātā* (§11.6.2.5).

### 11.5.4 'O 'lest'

The preverbal marker 'o<sup>25</sup> indicates a consequence which is to be avoided. It can be translated as 'lest' or 'so that ... not'.

'O-marked clauses usually occur after the main clause and are always verb-initial. The subject is expressed in the same way as in main clauses: unmarked as in (201), or with the agent marker *e* as in (202).

- (201) *He oho a Eva he piko 'o kī rō a koro mo ta'e oho ki*  
 NTR go PROP Eva NTR hide lest say EMPH PROP Dad for CONNEG go to  
*hiva.*  
 mainland  
 'Eva went and hid lest Dad would tell her not to go to the mainland.' [R210.026]

- (202) *He tētere he pipiko tahi 'o vara'a rō e te Miru i a rāua mo*  
 NTR PL:run NTR PL:hide all lest catch EMPH AG ART Miru ACC PROP 3PL for  
*tiaŋi.*  
 kill  
 'All of them fled and hid, lest the Miru would catch them to kill them.'  
 [R304.039]

- (203) *¿He aha te kōrua me'e ka aŋa ena 'o ai pē ira?*  
 PRED what ART 2PL thing CNTG do MED lest exist like ANA  
 'What will you do so that it won't happen?' [R648.239]

- (204) *E tiaki 'ana hoki Kaiŋa i a Vaha 'o iri atu Vaha ki ruŋa ki*  
 IPFV wait CONT also Kainga ACC PROP Vaha lest ascend away Vaha to above to  
*te motu.*  
 ART islet  
 'Kainga waited for Vaha, so Vaha wouldn't climb on the islet.' [Mtx-3-01.124]

In modern Rapa Nui, a verb marked with 'o is usually followed by the asseverative particle *rō* (§7.4.2), as illustrated in (201–202) above.

Occasionally 'o is found in complement clauses expressing a negative complement: *ri'ari'a 'o* 'to fear lest', *haŋa 'o* 'to want that not...' (see (75–76) in §11.3.5).

<sup>25</sup> The origin of 'o is unclear. It may be a reflex of PPN \*'aua 'negative imperative', which occurs throughout Polynesia (Tongic, Samoic-Outlier and EP). Cf. also Footnote 16 on p. 502 on the origin of the negator (*e*) *ko*.

Another possible cognate is Tahitian 'o, which introduces clauses after "des verbes exprimant la crainte, la méfiance, et parfois l'éventualité" (verbs expressing fear, mistrust, and sometimes contingency), and which is followed by a nominalised verb (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 197). However, given the fact that Rapa Nui 'o occurs in old texts already, it is relatively unlikely that it is a borrowing from Tahitian.



11.5.5 *Mai* ‘before; while’

*Mai*, which is common as a preposition ‘from’ (§4.7.5) and as a directional ‘movement towards deictic centre’ (§7.5), also occurs occasionally as a preverbal marker. It indicates an event prior to the event in the main clause: ‘before’.

- (205) *He tunu atu au i to tāua kai mai pō.*  
 NTR cook away 1SG ACC ART:of IDU.INCL food from night  
 ‘I will cook our food, before it gets dark.’ [R229.140]

*Mai* is often reinforced by the constituent negator *ta'e*, which in this construction does not invert the polarity of the clause.

- (206) *¡Ka hōrou mai, mai ta'e tanjite oe!*  
 IMP hurry hither from CONNEG cry ART bell  
 ‘Hurry up, before the bell strikes!’ [R334.077]

As these examples show, the event in the *mai*-clause indicates the end point of a time frame, which limits the time available to accomplish the action in the main clause. Event A should be done before (*mai*) event B happens.<sup>26</sup>

The event in the *mai*-clause may also be something which is to be avoided altogether: A should be done before B happens, so that B will not happen at all.

- (207) *Ka horohorou koe mai ta'e 'atrasao.*  
 IMP RED:hurry 2SG from CONNEG tardy  
 ‘Hurry up or you will be late.’ [R245.019]
- (208) *Ī au he oho rō 'ai mai ta'e ma'urima i a au.*  
 IMM 1SG NTR go EMPH SUBS from CONNEG surprise ACC PROP 1SG  
 ‘I’m going now, before (=or else) they will catch me.’ [R304.117]

Occasionally, the *mai*-clause marks not the boundary of a time frame, but the time frame as such during which the action in the main clause is to be performed: ‘while, as long as’. In this case, the verb is followed by the continuity marker *'ā/ana* (§7.2.5.5):

- (209) *¿'O te aha koe i ta'e hā'aki mai ai mai noho 'ana 'i*  
 because\_of ART what 2SG PFV CONNEG inform hither PVP from stay CONT at  
*Hiva, 'i te kāiŋa?*  
 Hiva at ART homeland  
 ‘Why didn’t you tell me when we still lived in Hiva, in the homeland?’  
 [Ley-2-07.028]

<sup>26</sup> Interestingly, in Hawaiian *mai* marks events to be avoided; it marks both negative imperatives and events (always unpleasant ones) which almost happen, but not quite: *Mai hā'ule ke keike* ‘The child almost fell’ (Elbert & Pukui 1979: 61–63). This is somewhat similar to temporal *mai* in Rapa Nui, though the latter is limited to subordinate clauses.

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- (210) 'O           ira ka hā'ere 'i roto i te mā'eha, **mai ai** atu 'ana te  
 because\_of ANA IMP walk:PL at inside at ART light    from exist away CONT ART  
 mōri.  
 light  
 'Therefore walk in the light, while there is still light.' [John 12:35]

### 11.5.6 Summary

In the preceding sections, five preverbal markers have been discussed which introduce subordinate clauses; two of these also introduce certain types of main clauses. Table 11.3 summarises the different functions of these markers.

Table 11.3: Functions of preverbal markers

	clause type	gloss	§
<i>mo</i>	complement	that	11.3
	purpose	to, in order to	11.5.1.1
	conditional	if	11.5.1.1
	main clause: destined	be to, be destined to	11.5.1.3
<i>ana</i>	main clause: intention	will, let's	11.5.2.1
	main clause: potential	may, might, could	11.5.2.1
	main clause: apodosis	(if,) then	11.5.2.1
	main clause: deontic	must; be allowed to	11.5.2.1
	main clause: general practice	always, usually	11.5.2.1
	conditional	if	11.5.2.2
	temporal	when	11.5.2.2
	dependent question	whether	11.5.2.2
<i>ki</i>	hortative	let's	10.2.3
	purpose	so, in order to	11.5.3
	temporal	when; until	11.5.3
'o	negative purpose	lest	11.5.4
	negative complement	that not	11.3.5
<i>mai</i>	temporal	before; while	11.5.5

The sections above also show, that case marking in subordinate clauses follows the same rules as in main clauses: the S/A argument is marked with  $\emptyset$  or *e*, the O argument with *i* or  $\emptyset$ , depending on the factors described in §8.3–8.4. The only exception is *mo*, where both arguments are often marked as possessive.

## 11.6 Adverbial clauses

### 11.6.1 Adverbial clause strategies

Adverbial clauses provide an adverbial modification of the main clause. They can be constructed in various ways:

1. using one of the preverbal markers discussed in §11.5 above;
2. using a conjunction (where *conjunction* is defined as a clause-initial word which indicates the function of the clause and which is not part of the verb phrase);
3. without any special marking. In this case, the relationship between the subordinate clause and the main clause is indicated by the aspectual marker, possibly in combination with certain postverbal particles;
4. using a nominal construction. Properly speaking, such a construction is not an adverbial clause, but as it fulfils similar functions, it will be mentioned in this section as well.

Type 3 clauses are subordinate, even though they lack a conjunction or subordinating marker; this is indicated by the fact that they are negated with the constituent negator *ta'e* (§10.5.6.5), not by a main clause negator. Here is an example of a negated temporal clause. Cf. also (258) on p. 567 (a reason clause marked with *he*).

- (211) [I *ta'e* kore era tu'u tokerau era] he mana'u mo haka tītika  
 PFV CONNEG lack DIST POSS.2SG.O wind DIST NTR think for CAUS straight  
*i te vaka ki Tahiti.*  
 ACC ART boat to Tahiti  
 'When the wind did not die down, they decided to steer the boat to Tahiti.'  
 [R303.064]

In the following subsections, adverbial clauses are discussed, grouped by function: time (§11.6.2), purpose (§11.6.3), reason/result (§11.6.4), condition (§11.6.6), concession (§11.6.7) and circumstance (§11.6.8). This is followed by an overview (§11.6.9) summarising the different strategies used.

### 11.6.2 Time

A temporal clause is a subordinate clause which provides a temporal framework for the event in the main clause. Rapa Nui has a variety of temporal clause constructions. Some of these involve a conjunction or a nominal construction; in others, the temporal relation is expressed by an aspectual marker.

11.6.2.1 Cohesive clauses

In Rapa Nui discourse – especially in narrative – it is common to find an unmarked subordinate clause at the beginning of a sentence, which provides a temporal framework for the main clause. Weber (2003b: 116) labels these *cohesive*: they connect the events to the preceding context and provide a setting for the events that follow. Two examples:

(212) *I pō era, he e'a mai roto mai te vai te hānau 'e'epe.*  
 PFV night DIST NTR go\_out from inside from ART water ART race corpulent  
 ‘When it had become night, the ‘corpulent race’ came out of the water.’  
 [Ley-3-06.046]

(213) *I poreko era a Puakiva, he māuiui a Kuha.*  
 PFV born DIST PROP Puakiva NTR sick PROP Kuha  
 ‘After Puakiva was born, (his mother) Kuha got sick.’ [R229.001]

Cohesive clauses are characterised by the following features:

- They precede the main clause.
- They do not have a conjunction or subordinating marker.
- They are always predicate-initial, i.e. nothing precedes the verb phrase.
- The aspectual is usually *i*, though *e* and *ka* are also found.
- The verb is almost always followed by a postverbal demonstrative, usually *era*.<sup>27</sup>

As the examples above show, cohesive clauses marked with perfective *i* express an event anterior to the event in the main clause (§7.2.4.2), which provides the setting for the event in the main clause.

Cohesive clauses marked with imperfective *e* indicate events simultaneous to the event in the main clause. They may be continuous as in (214) or habitual as in (215):

(214) *E ha'uru nō 'ā a Eva he hakarōŋo atu ko te re'o ka*  
 IPFV sleep just CONT PROP Eva NTR listen away PROM ART voice CNTG  
*raŋi...*  
 call  
 ‘When Eva was still asleep, she heard a voice calling...’ [R210.080]

(215) *E kā era i tou 'umu era paurō te mahana, 'ina he 'ō'otu*  
 IPFV kindle DIST ACC DEM earth\_oven DIST every ART day NEG PRED cooked  
*te 'umu e pō rō era.*  
 ART earth\_oven IPFV night EMPH DIST  
 ‘When they lighted the earth oven every day, the food was not cooked until night.’ [R352.013]

<sup>27</sup> In a representative corpus containing 304 *i*-marked cohesive clauses, 281 (92.4%) have *era*; *ai* occurs in 13 clauses (4.3%), while the remaining clauses have *nei* (7x), *ena* (1x) or no PVD at all (2x).

The contiguity marker *ka* in cohesive clauses expresses temporal contiguity: the event in the subordinate clause marks the starting point of the event in the main clause.

- (216) *Ka tu'u mai era a koro ki te kai he oho a Eva he piko.*  
 CNTG arrive hither DIST PROP Dad to ART eat NTR go PROP Eva NTR hide  
 'When Dad came to eat, Eva would go and hide.' [R210.026]
- (217) *Ka hakame'eme'e era he riri a Taparahi.*  
 CNTG mock DIST NTR angry PROP Taparahi  
 'When they mocked, Taparahi would get angry.' [R250.151]

Perfect aspect *ko V 'ā* in cohesive clauses (as in main clauses) expresses a state resulting from a process. In cohesive clauses, *ko V 'ā* only occurs with stative verbs.

- (218) *Ko nuinui 'ā a Te Manu he hāipoipo ki tā'ana vi'e.*  
 PRF big:RED CONT PROP Te Manu NTR marry to POSS.3SG.A woman  
 'When Te Manu had grown up, he married a (lit. his) woman.' [R245.256]
- (219) *Ko 'ō'otu<sup>28</sup> mai 'ā te 'umu he ma'oa.*  
 PRF cooked hither CONT ART earth\_oven NTR open\_earth\_oven  
 'When the (food in the) earth oven is cooked, they open it.' [R372.075]

Concerning the function of cohesive clauses in discourse: in many cases the preposed clause expresses an event which is predictable from the situation or from the preceding events. The event is just to be expected, and therefore it is backgrounded to a subordinate clause. In the following example, the person in question is on his way to Hanga Oteo. Puna Marengo is a place that lies on the way to Hanga Oteo, so it is only natural that he passes it on the way.

- (220) *He e'a he oho ki Hanga 'Ōteo. I haka noi atu era 'i ruŋa o*  
 NTR go\_out NTR go to Hanga Oteo PFV CAUS incline away DIST at above of  
*te nihinihi era o Puna Mārengo, he u'i atu ko te 'au...*  
 ART curve:RED DIST of Puna Marengo NTR look away FROM ART smoke  
 'He went out to Hanga Oteo. When he had come down the slope of Puna Marengo, he saw smoke...' [R313.091]

The preposed clause is not always closely connected to the preceding context, however. It may also have a transitional function, marking the start of a new scene or episode in the story. Such transitional clauses may express a lapse of time between the previous and the next event, or indicate the point in time at which the next events take place:

- (221) *I hinihini era he oho mai he ha'i i tū poki era 'ā'ana.*  
 PFV delay:RED DIST NTR go hither NTR embrace ACC DEM child DIST POSS.3SG.A  
 'After that, he went to embrace his child.' [R210.068]

<sup>28</sup> 'Ō'otu is a stative verb meaning 'to be cooked, done', not an active verb 'to cook'.

- (222) *I tu'u nei ki te mahana e tahi he e'a haka'ou te tanata*  
 PFV arrive PROX to ART day NUM one NTR go\_out again ART man  
*nei...*  
 PROX  
 'When a certain day came, this man went out again...' [R310.025]

### 11.6.2.2 Other unmarked temporal clauses

Apart from cohesive clauses, there are other temporal clauses without a conjunction or subordinator. The only way in which these clauses are marked, is by an aspectual which is different from the aspectual in the main clause. They may be marked with *i*, *e* or *ka*.

**Perfective *i*** In §7.2.4.2 on perfective *i*, it was shown that *i*-marked clauses may express a restatement, conclusion or clarification of the preceding clause. Subordinate *i*-marked clauses are somewhat similar in function; they express an event which is simultaneous to the event expressed in the preceding clause.

- (223) *Kai take'a mai i u'i ai e māua ko Vai Ora.*  
 NEG.PFV see hither PFV look PVP AG 1DU.EXCL PROM Vai Ora  
 'We didn't see (the fish) when Vai Ora and I looked.' [R301.292]

- (224) *Me'e koa atu a Tahonga i e'a mai ai mai Ōroŋo.*  
 thing happy away PROP Tahonga PFV go\_out hither PFV from Orongo  
 'Tahonga was happy when he came back from Orongo.' [R301.316]

**Imperfective *e*** Temporal clauses may also be marked with imperfective *e*. These clauses express a continuous event simultaneous to the one in the main clause. As discussed in §7.2.5.4, *e*-marked verbs in main clauses are followed either by a postverbal demonstrative (PVD) or the continuity marker '*ā*'*ana*. The same is true in temporal clauses: the verb is either followed by a PVD as in (225–226), or by '*ā*'*ana* as in (227–228).

- (225) *He me'e mai mai roto mai tau 'ana era e vero atu era hai*  
 NTR thing hither from inside from DEM cave DIST IPFV throw away DIST INS  
*akaue...*  
 stake  
 'They said from inside the cave, while (the enemy) threw sticks at them...'  
 [Mtx-3-02.042]

- (226) *He oho haka'ou e 'ui era ki te hare, ki te hare era.*  
 NTR go again IPFV ask DIST to ART house to ART house DIST  
 'He went again, asking from house to house.' [R310.152]

- (227) *Ko tu'u haka'ou mai 'ā tū ηā poki era e ma'u rō 'ā i*  
 PRF arrive again hither CONT DEM PL child DIST IPFV carry EMPH CONT ACC  
*te ra'akau.*  
 ART castor\_oil\_plant  
 'The children had come back, carrying castor oil leaves.' [R313.053]
- (228) *Terā ka pāhono mai e Vaha e koa rō 'ā...*  
 then CNTG answer hither AG Vaha IPFV happy EMPH CONT  
 'Then Vaha answered happily...' [R304.098]

Though all these clauses are similar in function, there is a difference between clauses marked with *e VPVD* and the ones marked with *e V 'ā*. The constructions with a PVD can be characterised as true temporal clauses, indicating an event which takes place at the same time as the main event. The clauses with *'ā* are more like circumstantial or manner clauses, further defining the nature of the event in the main clause or the manner in which it takes place. They have less the character of an independent event and can often be translated with a participle.

There are two indications for the more participial character of the *'ā* constructions:

1. With *'ā*, the subject is always the same as in the main clause; in the PVD construction, the subject can be different, as in (225).
2. With *'ā*, the predicate can be an adjective, as in (228); in the PVD construction, this is rare, unless the adjective indicates a process. (The same is true in main clauses, §7.2.5.4).

**Contiguity marker *ka*** Subordinate clauses marked with the contiguity marker *ka* indicate an event which is simultaneous with the event expressed in the main clause:

- (229) *He ruku te 'atariki, ka noho nō atu te hanūpotu.*  
 NTR dive ART firstborn CNTG stay just away ART last\_child  
 'The eldest dived, while the youngest stayed (ashore).' [Mtx-7-30.012]
- (230) *Ka turu nei tāua, he tu'u mai a koro era ko Vaha ki*  
 CNTG go\_down PROX 1DU.INCL NTR arrive hither PROP Dad DIST PROM Vaha to  
*nei.*  
 PROX  
 'When we go down, father Vaha will come here.' [R229.187]

As these examples show, the subordinate clause may precede or follow the main clause. As in (230), the verb is often followed by a postverbal demonstrative.

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### 11.6.2.3 Development of *hora* ‘time’ into a pseudo-conjunction

Temporal adjuncts can be expressed by a temporal noun preceded by a preposition; the most general temporal noun is *hora* ‘time’. The adjunct can be further specified by a modifier, e.g. a genitive as in (231) or a relative clause as in (232):

- (231) *I te hora era 'ana o tō'oku māmārū'au era i oti rō ai*  
at ART time DIST IDENT of POSS.1SG.O grandmother DIST PFV finish EMPH PVP  
*rā oho iŋa.*  
DIST go NMLZ

‘In my grandmother’s time this custom (lit. going) finished.’ [R648.137]

- (232) *I te hora era e ora nō 'ā tā'ana kenu era, 'ā'ana te*  
at ART time DIST IPFV live just CONT POSS.3SG.A husband DIST POSS.3SG.A ART  
*oho ki te kona aŋa...*  
go to ART place work

‘At the time when her husband was still alive, she was the one who would go to work...’ [R349.005]

Now as discussed in §5.3.2.3, the article can be omitted before clause-initial nouns followed by a demonstrative like *era*. At the same time, the preposition *'i* can be omitted as well. This results in constructions like the following:

- (233) *Hora ena e vānaŋa 'ā ki te rua, ʔe u'i rō 'ā koe a roto*  
time MED IPFV talk CONT to ART other IPFV look EMPH CONT 2SG by inside  
*i te mata?*  
at ART eye

‘When you talk to someone else, do you look (them) in the eyes?’ [R209.027]

- (234) *Hora take'a era e au, ʔai te nehenehe!*  
time see DIST AG 1SG there ART beautiful

‘When I saw her, she was so beautiful!’ [R413.099]

In the constructions above, *hora ena/era* resembles a temporal conjunction; semantic bleaching is taking place, where *hora ena/era* comes to mean little more than ‘when’. Notice however, that the construction is syntactically still a nominal phrase with relative clause: as (234) shows, the aspectual can be omitted, something which is only possible in relative clauses (§11.4.5). (Also, the verb *take'a* has been raised from the relative clause.)

### 11.6.2.4 Anteriority: ‘before’

Rapa Nui has a variety of devices to express that the event in the subordinate clause takes place prior to the event in the main clause. One of these is preverbal *mai*, discussed in §11.5.5. The following strategies are also used:



**'Ira'e** *Ra'e* is a locational meaning 'first' (§3.6.4.1). *'Ira'e ki*, followed by a nominalised verb, means 'before':

- (235) *Paurō te mahana e 'ara era 'i te pō era 'ā, 'i ra'e ki te*  
 every ART day IPFV wake\_up DIST at ART night DIST IDENT at first to ART  
*e'a o te ra'ā.*  
 go\_out of ART sun  
 'Every day he woke up early in the morning, before the sun came up.' [R448.003]

**Ante** *Ante* (< Sp. *antes*) is used as an adverb meaning 'before, earlier, previously'. It is also used as a conjunction, followed by *ki* + nominalised verb:

- (236) *Pero ante ki te uru, he oho tahi te ηā poki he fira ra'e.*  
 but before to ART enter NTR go all ART PL child NTR line first  
 'But before going in, the children first go and stand in line.' [R151.012]

**'Ō ira** *'ō ira* 'before'<sup>29</sup> consists of the otherwise unknown particle 'ō, followed by the pro-form *ira* (§4.6.5.2). It is always followed by a *ka*-marked verb. As (237) shows, the subject after 'ō *ira* is usually preverbal.

- (237) *Te rāua henua ra'e i noho ko Perú, 'ō\_ira te Inca ka tu'u.*  
 ART 3PL land first PFV stay PROM Peru before ART Inca CNTG arrive  
 'The first land where they lived was Peru, before the Incas arrived.' [R376.011]

**Hia** The postverbal marker *hia*, combined with a negation, means 'not yet'; in a multiclausal construction it indicates that an event has not happened before another occurs (§10.5.8).

#### 11.6.2.5 Temporal limit: 'until'

'Until' is often expressed by the aspectual *ka* (§7.2.6) in combination with the emphatic marker *rō* (§7.4.2). This is in line with the function of *ka* as a contiguity marker: the event or state expressed in the *ka*-clause marks the temporal boundary of another event, often indicating the natural or expected outcome of an action performed to completion. These *ka*-clauses usually occur sentence-finally.

- (238) *He kai a Te Manu ka mākona rō.*  
 NTR eat PROP Te Manu CNTG satiated EMPH  
 'Te Manu ate until he was satiated.' [R245.067]

<sup>29</sup> Not to be confused with 'o *ira* 'therefore' (§11.6.4).

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- (239) *I noho ai a Te Manu 'i muri tū pāpārū'au era ka rova'a rō*  
 PFV stay PVP PROP Te Manu at near DEM grandfather DIST CNTG obtain EMPH  
*ho'e 'ahuru tūma'a matahiti.*  
 one ten more\_or\_less year  
 'Te Manu stayed with his grandfather until he was about ten years old.'  
 [R245.159]

In the examples above, the subject of the main clause reaches a certain state or end point; for example, in (239), Te Manu reaches a state of satiation after having eaten. The stative verb in the *ka V rō* clause may also specify the action of the main clause, which is performed – or is to be performed – to a certain extent or in a certain way. (Cf. the use of *ka* before numerals to mark an extent, §4.3.2.2).

- (240) *E hatu era ki a 'Ohovehi ka rivariva rō.*  
 EXH advise DIST TO PROP Ohovehi CNTG good:RED EMPH  
 'Advise Ohovehi well!' [R310.277]
- (241) *He uru atu ararua he here i te kūpeŋa ka hiohio rō.*  
 NTR enter away the\_two NTR tie ACC ART net CNTG strong:RED EMPH  
 'The two went in and tied the net firmly.' [R310.397]

A second way to express 'until' is by means of 'ātā (< Sp. *hasta*). 'Ātā is used in nominal constructions before the preposition *ki* (see (273) on p. 214), but also in verbal constructions, followed by *ka V rō*. As (243) shows, 'ātā may be shortened to 'ā:

- (242) *Mai ki hāpa'o nō tātou i a ia 'ātā ka nuinui rō.*  
 hither HORT care\_for just 1PL.INCL ACC PROP 3SG until CNTG big:RED EMPH  
 'Let us take care of him until he is big.' [R211.063]
- (243) *...'ai ka haka teka ka oho ki Hanga Piko 'ā tāua ka*  
 there CNTG CAUS turn CNTG go to Hanga Piko until 1DU.INCL CNTG  
*tomo rō nei.*  
 go\_ashore EMPH PROX  
 '...then we will turn and go to Hanga Piko, until we come ashore.' [R230.401]

In the third place: less commonly, the conjunction 'ahara is used, followed by *ka*:

- (244) *He noho rō 'ai tāua 'ahara ka haka hoki rō koe i a au*  
 NTR stay EMPH SUBS 1DU.INCL until CNTG CAUS return EMPH 2SG ACC PROP 1SG  
*ki mu'a ki tō'oku nu'u.*  
 to before to POSS.1SG.O people  
 'We will stay, until you make me return to my people.' [Fel-1978.115]

Finally, 'until' may be expressed by the subordinator *ki*, especially after verbs like *tiaki* 'wait' (§11.5.3).

### 11.6.3 Purpose: bare purpose clauses

Purpose clauses are often marked with preverbal *mo* (§11.5.1.1) or *ki* (§11.5.3). Purpose may also be expressed by a bare verb, i.e. a verb without aspect marker.<sup>30</sup> This verb is always initial in the clause. Bare purpose clauses are found especially after motion verbs. A few examples:

- (245) *Paurō te mahana e e'a era te poki ki haho māta'ita'i i te*  
 every ART day IPFV go\_out DIST ART child to outside observe ACC ART  
*raŋi 'e i te vaikava.*  
 sky and ACC ART ocean  
 'Every morning the child went outside to watch the sky and the sea'  
 [R532-07.004]

- (246) *He oti te kai, he moe te 'ariki ki raro haka ora.*  
 NTR finish ART eat NTR lie ART king to below CAUS live  
 'When the meal was finished, the king lay down to rest.' [Ley-2-10.017]

More commonly, the purpose of an action is expressed by a noun phrase introduced by the preposition *ki*, followed by a bare verb. Here are a few examples:

- (247) *Te poki nei i iri atu ai ki te tarake toke.*  
 ART child PROX PFV ascend away PVP to ART corn steal  
 'This boy went (to the field) to steal corn.' [R132.003]
- (248) *He iri ararua ki te rāua hoi 'a'aru mai.*  
 NTR ascend the\_two to ART 3PL horse grab hither  
 'Both of them went to grab their horse.' [R170.002]
- (249) *He turu tahi mātou ki te pērikura māta'ita'i 'i te hare hāpī*  
 NTR go\_down all 1PL.EXCL to ART movie watch at ART house learn  
*era.*  
 DIST  
 'We all went down to watch a movie at school.' [R410.010]

In these examples, the main verb is a motion verb; the *ki*-marked noun phrase is the Goal of movement. This noun phrase is followed by a bare verb, of which the preceding noun is the Patient.<sup>31</sup>

The noun in this construction is not an incorporated object of the following verb: it is the head of a regular noun phrase, marked with the article *te* and preceded by a preposition. A somewhat more plausible analysis would be to consider the verb as incorporated

<sup>30</sup> Clauses with a bare verb cannot be analysed as juxtaposed main clauses, as main clause verbs always have an aspect marker, except occasionally when the verb is followed by certain postverbal particles (§7.2.2).

<sup>31</sup> Clark (1983b: 424) points out that the same construction occurs in Marquesan and Mangarevan. Different from what Clark suggests, in Rapa Nui this construction is not limited to generic objects, as (248) shows.

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into the noun; however, the directional *mai* in (248) shows that the verb is the head of a true verb phrase. It is best to analyse these constructions simply as a combination of a noun phrase and a bare purpose clause, rather than assuming that the noun phrase + verb are a single constituent. An additional reason to do so is that this construction is not an isolated phenomenon, but an instance (admittedly, the most common instance) of a group of constructions in which a locative noun phrase and a purpose clause occur together. Related constructions include:

- a *ki te NV* construction where the noun is not the verb's Patient:

(250) *I oti era he turu ki raro ki te teata māta'ita'i.*  
 PFV finish DIST NTR go\_down to below to ART cinema watch  
 'After that, they went down to the cinema to watch (a movie).' [R210.145]

- a Source noun phrase (with preposition *mai* 'from') followed by a bare verb:

(251) *He tu'u mai tau vi'e matu'a era mai te kūmara kerī.*  
 NTR arrive hither DEM woman parent DIST from ART sweet\_potato dig  
 'The mother came (back) from harvesting sweet potatoes.' [MsE-094.006]

- a *ki*-marked Goal noun phrase followed by a *mo*-marked purpose clause:

(252) *'I te ahiahi he e'a a 'Orohe ki ruŋa i te vaka ki te ika mo*  
 at ART afternoon NTR go\_out PROP Orohe to above at ART boat to ART fish for  
*ma'u mai.*  
 carry hither  
 'In the afternoon Orohe went out by boat to bring fish.' [R160.005]

- a *ki*-marked Goal noun phrase, with the associated action left implicit:

(253) *—Ki hē a kuā 'Orohe i iri ai 'i ruŋa i te vaka? —Ki te*  
 to CQ PROP COLL Orohe PFV ascend PFV at above at ART boat to ART  
*rāua ika 'i ruŋa i te toka.*  
 3PL fish at above at ART rock  
 '—Where did Orohe and the others go by boat? —To their fish (i.e. to catch fish) on the rocks.' [R154.038]

- a *mo*-marked Goal noun phrase followed by a purpose clause (the latter may be either bare or marked with *mo*):

(254) *...ai ka ma'u atu ki hiva mo te purumu mo aŋa.*  
 there CNTG carry away to mainland for ART broom for make  
 '...then they transported (the horsehair) to the mainland to make brooms.'  
 [R539-02.091]

These examples suggest that *ki te NV* in (247–249) should not be analysed as a special construction involving a single NP+V constituent. Rather, it is a combination of two constituents, a nominal Goal phrase followed by a bare purpose clause, either of which may also occur on its own.

#### 11.6.4 Reason

Reason clauses can be constructed in several ways. In the first place, reason is often expressed by nominalised clauses marked with the prepositions 'i and 'o (§4.7.3).

Secondly, in modern Rapa Nui, the phrase 'i te me'e (era) (lit. 'in the thing' or 'because of the thing') is used as a conjunction introducing a reason clause. As the examples show, the reason clause either precedes or follows the main clause.

- (255) *He ri'ari'a 'i te me'e era ko piri 'ā ki a rāua te ta'oraha.*  
 NTR afraid at ART thing DIST PRF join CONT to PROP 3PL ART whale  
 'They are afraid because whales approach them.' [R364.038–039]
- (256) *Bueno, 'i te me'e era e 'iti'iti nō 'ā au 'ina he ha'ati'a mai*  
 good at ART thing DIST IPFV small:RED just CONT 1SG NEG NTR permit hither  
*e tō'oku pāpā era mo eke ki ruŋa te hoi.*  
 AG POSS.1SG.O father DIST for go\_up to above ART horse  
 'OK, because I was little, my father didn't allow me to mount a horse.' [R101.004]

Thirdly, the reason clause may also be a subordinate clause marked with the aspectual *he*. That this is a subordinate clause, is shown by the fact that it is negated with the constituent negator *ta'e* (§10.5.6); main clauses would have a different negator.

- (257) *I tu'u mai ai ki Rapa Nui mai Marite he ai o te aŋa o*  
 PFV arrive hither PVP to Rapa Nui from America NTR/PRED exist of ART work of  
*tō'ona matu'a tane 'i nei.*  
 POSS.3SG.A parent male at PROX  
 'He came to Rapa Nui from America because his father had work here.'  
 [R461.002]
- (258) *Te nu'u nei i tētere ai he ta'e ha'ati'a e te hua'ai mo*  
 ART people PROX PFV PL:RUN PVP NTR/PRED CONNEG permit AG ART family for  
*hāipoipo ararua.*  
 marry the\_two  
 'These people fled because their family did not allow them to marry.' [R303.144]

In these constructions, *he* can also be considered as a nominal predicate marker followed by a nominalised verb (hence the double gloss in the examples above). One reason to do so, is that other nominal constructions are also used to express reasons: in (259) a nominalised verb preceded by a possessive pronoun, in (260) a subordinate existential construction (an existential main clause would be 'Ina he me'e mo kai):

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- (259) *Tu'u ta'e hakaroŋo ena ki te vānaŋa o te taote; 'o*  
POSS.2SG.O CONNEG listen MED to ART word of ART doctor because\_of  
*ira koe i māuiui haka'ou ena.*  
ANA 2SG PFV sick again MED  
'You didn't listen to the words of the doctor, therefore you got sick again.'  
[R237.087]
- (260) *He me'e kore mo kai, 'o ira au e taŋi nei.*  
PRED thing lack for eat because\_of ANA 1SG IPFV cry PROX  
'There is nothing (lit. the lack of things) to eat, therefore I am crying.' [R349.013]

### 11.6.5 Result

Results may be marked by the adverbial connector 'o *ira* 'because of that; therefore' (the reason preposition 'o followed by the pro-form *ira*). As (262) shows, it is possible to mark both the reason clause (in this case, a nominal construction) and the result clause.

- (261) *'Ina pa'i o māua kona mo noho. 'O ira au i iri mai*  
NEG in\_fact of 1DU.EXCL place for stay because\_of ANA 1SG PFV ascend hither  
*nei ki a koe...*  
PROX to PROP 2SG  
'We don't have a place to live. Therefore I have come up to you...' [R229.210–211]
- (262) *'I te ta'e hakaroŋo ō'ou 'o ira koe i hiŋa ena.*  
at ART CONNEG listen POSS.2SG.O because\_of ANA 2SG PFV fall MED  
'Because you didn't listen, therefore you fell.' [R481.136]

As these examples show, the subject tends to be placed straight after 'o *ira*. This conforms to a general preference for preverbal subjects after initial oblique constituents (§8.6.1.1).

### 11.6.6 Condition

Conditional clauses can be marked by one of the subordinators *mo* (§11.5.1.1) and *ana* (§11.5.2.2).

Condition is not always marked, however: clauses with a conditional sense may also occur without special marking. The verb is marked with one of the aspectuals *i*, *e* or *ka* and followed by a postverbal demonstrative. Two examples:

- (263) *'E i haŋa era koe mo rere ki ta'a kona i mana'u, he rere rō*  
and PFV want DIST 2SG for fly to POSS.2SG.A place PFV think NTR fly EMPH  
*'ai koe...*  
SUBS 2SG  
'And if you want to fly to the place you think of, you (can) fly...' [R378.006]

- (264) *Ka hāṅai atu ena ki a koe, he mate koe.*  
 CNTG feed away MED TO PROP 2SG NTR die 2SG  
 'If (the two spirits) feed you, you will die.' [R310.061]

The contiguity marker *ka* is relatively common in clauses expressing a condition. It seems natural that a marker which indicates temporal contiguity (simultaneous or sequential events) also marks logical contiguity, i.e. contingency of one event on another.

To mark unreal conditions, the conjunction *'āhani* (var. *'ani*, *'ahari*) is used.<sup>32</sup>

- (265) *'Āhani 'ō au he 'ono, ko ho'o mai 'ā au i te hare e*  
 if\_only really 1SG PRED rich PRF buy hither CONT 1SG ACC ART house NUM  
*tahi...*  
 one  
 'If I were rich, I would buy a house...' [R399.182]
- (266) *'Āhani 'ō tō'oku nua era i ta'e mate, 'ī au 'i muri i a*  
 if\_only really POSS.1SG.O Mum DIST PFV CONNEG die IMM 1SG at near at PROP  
*ia 'i te hora nei.*  
 3SG at ART time PROX  
 'If my mother hadn't died, I would be with her now.' [R245.007]

As these examples show, the subject after *'āhani* is usually preverbal (§8.6.1.1).

### 11.6.7 Concession

The aspectual marker *ka*, in combination with the directional *atu*, can be used in a concessive sense, indicating a circumstance which might be expected to prevent – but actually does not prevent – the event in the main clause.<sup>33</sup>

- (267) *Ka rahi atu tā'aku poki, e hāpa'o nō e au 'ā.*  
 CNTG many away POSS.1SG.A child IPFV care\_for just AG 1SG IDENT  
 'Even if I have many children, I will care for them myself.' [R229.023]

As discussed in §7.2.6, *ka* expresses temporal contiguity; the concessive sense follows in a way from this basic sense. By explicitly juxtaposing two events or situations which are temporally contiguous or simultaneous, the contrast between the two is highlighted.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> *'Āhani* < *Tah*. *'ahani*, a var. of *'ahari/'ahiri/'ahini*, which is likewise a conjunction introducing an unreal condition clause.

<sup>33</sup> This does not mean that all *ka V atu* constructions have a concessive sense, see e.g. example (264) above.

<sup>34</sup> The same use can be observed for constructions expressing simultaneity in other languages. English 'while' can be used in the sense 'even though' ('While he had a good job, he did not earn enough to support his expensive tastes.'). The French *gérondif*, preceded by 'tout en', has a concessive sense ('La police a des soupçons tout en ignorant l'identité du coupable' = 'The police has suspicions, but does not know the identity of the culprit.').

## 11 Combining clauses

The *ka V atu* construction with concessive sense is especially common with the existential verb *ai*, in the expressions *ka ai atu* ‘even’ and *ka ai atu pē ira/nei* ‘even though; even so’:

- (268) *Ka ai atu te me'e 'iti'iti hope'a, he tau nō ki a au.*  
CNTG exist away ART thing small:RED last NTR pretty just to PROP 1SG  
‘Even the smallest things are beautiful to me.’ [R224.037–038]
- (269) *E haka topa rō mai 'ā mai roto tētahi nūna'a henua ka*  
IPFV CAUS happen EMPH hither CONT from inside some group land CNTG  
*ai atu pē nei ē: 'i te Pacífico 'ā.*  
exist away like PROX thus at ART Pacific IDENT  
‘Some groups of islands are excluded (from Oceania), even though they are in the Pacific.’ [R342.005]

A second way to express concession is by means of the preposition *nōatu*,<sup>35</sup> followed by a nominalised verb:

- (270) *Nōatu te paŋaha'a, te mahana te mahana e hāpī ena 'i ira.*  
no\_matter ART heavy ART day ART day IPFV teach MED at ANA  
‘Even though it’s heavy, they teach there day after day.’ [R537.023]

Finally, concession is expressed by the adverbial expression *te me'e nō* ‘however, even so’, which functions as a coordinating conjunction (§5.8.2.4):

- (271) *'Apa te toe a au he mate; te me'e nō, 'ī a au e ora nō*  
half ART remain PROP 1SG NTR die ART thing just IMM PROP 1SG IPFV live just  
*'ā.*  
CONT  
‘I almost died; even so, I am alive.’ [R437.050]

### 11.6.8 Circumstance

Circumstantial clauses may be expressed by *koia ko* ‘with’ preceding the verb (§8.10.4.2):

- (272) *He hoki mai a Kāiŋa koia ko taŋi.*  
NTR return hither PROP Kainga COM PROM cry  
‘Kainga returned crying.’ [R243.173]

Alternatively, *mā* ‘and, with’ may be used, followed by a nominalised verb.<sup>36</sup> As (274) shows, *mā te* may be assimilated to *mata*.

<sup>35</sup> *Nōatu* < *nō* ‘just’ + *atu* ‘away’, but probably borrowed as a whole from Tahitian *noātu* (Académie Tahitienne 1986: 310).

<sup>36</sup> *Mā* has a limited distribution in Rapa Nui: it is only used in the construction under discussion and in numerals. Both uses are also found in (and were probably borrowed from) Tahitian (see Footnote 9 on p. 148).



- (273) *E noho nō 'ā mā te aña kore, mā te hupehupe.*  
 IPFV stay just CONT with ART do lack with ART lazy  
 'She lived doing nothing, being lazy.' [R368.016]
- (274) *He 'a'amu, mata ta'e 'ite hia pē nei ē: he tahutahu.*  
 NTR tell with\_the CONNEG know yet like PROX thus NTR witch  
 'She told (the other woman), without knowing that she was a witch.'  
 [R532-07.044]

When circumstances are states rather than events, they tend to be expressed in a clause in the perfect aspect (*ko V 'ā*), without a special marker.

- (275) *He tañi ko 'ū 'ā era pē he pua'a.*  
 NTR cry PRF bellow CONT DIST like PRED cow  
 'He cried, howling like a cow.' [R210.016]
- (276) *He rañi mai ko riri rivariva 'ā...*  
 NTR call hither PRF angry good:RED CONT  
 'Very angry, she shouted...' [R245.214]

I have not found this construction in older texts, so it may be a modern development.

Perfect aspect clauses expressing circumstances are especially common in the construction *ko V 'ā e V era*. In this construction, the second clause is marked with *e V era* and expresses an action, while the preceding *ko V 'ā* clause expresses a quality (e.g. a feeling or attitude) possessed by the subject performing the action. Even though *e V era* in general expresses durative actions, in this construction it is not necessarily durative.

- (277) *Ko riri 'ā e kī era ki a nua...*  
 PRF angry CONT IPFV say DIST to PROP Mum  
 'Angrily she said to Mum...' [R210.062]
- (278) *He māroa ki ruña, ko nene 'ā e u'i era pe tū haña era.*  
 NTR stand to above PRF tremble CONT IPFV look DIST toward DEM bay DIST  
 'He stood up and looked trembling towards that bay.' [R408.128]

Notice that *e V era* is obligatory when the circumstantial *ko V 'ā* clause comes first; when the circumstantial clause follows the main clause, the main clause may be *he*-marked, as in (275–276) above.

### 11.6.9 Summary

Events which modify the event in the main clause, can be expressed in several ways. Certain interclausal relationships are expressed using a subordinating marker or conjunction. In other cases no special marker is used; even so, the modifying clause is subordinate, as is shown by the fact that these clauses are negated by the subordinate negator *ta'e* rather than a main clause negator. The various strategies are summarised in Table 11.4.

Table 11.4: Overview of adverbial clauses

	§	subord. marker	conjunction	no subord. marking	nominal	adverbial connector
temporal	11.6.2.1– 11.6.2.3		<i>hora</i> 'time'	A/M PVD	V	
'before'	11.6.2.4		<i>'ō ira</i> 'before'			<i>'i ra'e</i> 'first'; <i>ante</i> 'before'
'until'	11.6.2.5	<i>ki</i> 'to'	<i>'ātā</i> 'until'; <i>'ahara</i> 'until'	<i>ka V rō</i>		
purpose	11.6.3	<i>mo</i> 'for'; <i>ki</i> 'to'		bare verb		
reason	11.6.4		<i>'i te me'e</i> 'because'			<i>'i 'at'; 'o</i> 'because of'; <i>he</i> 'PRED'
result	11.6.5					<i>'o ira</i> 'therefore'
condition	11.6.6	<i>mo</i> 'if'; <i>ana</i> 'IRR'		A/M PVD	V	
irreal condition	11.6.6		<i>'āhani</i> 'if only'			
concession	11.6.7			<i>ka V atu</i>	<i>nōatu</i> 'no matter'	<i>te me'e nō</i> 'however'

## 11.7 Conclusions

This chapter has explored the ways in which clauses are combined. A common way to combine clauses is simple juxtaposition. In fact, older Rapa Nui did not have any coordinating conjunction. In modern Rapa Nui *'e* 'and' is used, but juxtaposition is still the default strategy for coordinating clauses. Juxtaposition is not only used to express sequential events, but also to express semantic complements of the verbs *ha'amata* 'begin' and *hōrou* 'hurry'.

Rapa Nui has various strategies to express the argument of a matrix verb. Only some of these involve a proper complement clause, i.e. a clause which is syntactically dependent on the main verb; they may involve the subordinating marker *mo* 'for, in order to', or a nominalised complement. Other verbs are followed by a juxtaposed clause or an independent clause.

The subordinator *mo* marks both complement clauses and adverbial clauses; interestingly, it marks both purpose and condition. The marker *ana* has an even wider range of functions, all of which can be characterised as irrealis: an *ana*-marked clause refrains from claiming the truth of the proposition expressed. *Ana*-marked clauses express intentions, potential events and obligations, but also general truths. In subordinate clauses, *ana* marks conditional clauses and dependent questions.

Relative clauses in Rapa Nui are not marked by a conjunction or preverbal marker, but they have various distinctive properties: they are invariably verb-initial and the choice of aspectuals is limited. A peculiar feature is, that the aspect marker may be left out (in most other clause types, unmarked verbs are rare or nonexistent). In these “bare relative clauses”, the verb is often raised to a position immediately after the head noun, before any postnominal markers.

A wide range of constituents can be relativised; most of these are not expressed in the relative clause, others are expressed as a pronoun. The distribution of these two constructions does not entirely conform to the noun phrase hierarchy proposed by Keenan & Comrie (1977): while subjects, objects and adjuncts are left unexpressed, oblique arguments (which are higher in the hierarchy than adjuncts) are expressed pronominally, just like constituents low in the hierarchy like possessors.

There is a tendency to express the entity which is subject of the relative clause as a possessor before or after the head noun: ‘your thing [did yesterday]’ = ‘the thing you did yesterday’. Syntactically there is nothing special about these constructions: the possessor is no different from other possessors in the noun phrase; the relative clause is no different from other relative clauses, apart from the fact that the subject is not expressed.



## Appendix A: Interlinear texts

Below are three glossed and interlinearised texts, all of which are part of the PLRN text corpus (§1.6.2). The first text is a children’s story, written during a writer’s workshop in 1984. The second text is a dramatic retelling of a traditional story by Luis Avaka Paoa (‘Papa Kiko’), a renowned storyteller; a very short version of the same story was published by Blixen (1974). Number three is a description of a fishing trip, composed as part of a schoolbook containing stories about traditional activities on Rapa Nui.

### *Te tātane taŋata* – The devilman (R215)

by Virginia Haoa Cardinali (Haoa Cardinali 1984; Weber, Weber & team 1990a: Vol. 3:118–119)

01 *Ko ahiahi pō 'ā.* 02 *Te ŋā poki nei e rua: e tahi ko Kihi te*  
 PRF evening night CONT ART PL child PROX NUM two NUM one PROM Kihi ART  
*'iŋoa, e rima ō'ona matahiti, poki teatea, ritorito, he tau nō; te rua poki*  
 name NUM five POSS.3SG.O year child white clear NTR pretty just ART two child  
*ko 'Atera te 'iŋoa, e hitu matahiti, me'e rakerake a vērā.* 03  
 PROM Atera ART name NUM seven year thing bad:RED PROP poor\_thing  
*Mahana tāpati 'i te pō, he haka rivariva e te rāua māmā mo ma'u i*  
 day Sunday at ART night NTR CAUS good:RED AG ART 3PL mother for carry ACC  
*te kai ki te rāua koro.* 04 *Te aŋa iŋa 'i te kona motore mo haka pura i*  
 ART food to ART 3PL Dad ART work NMLZ at ART place engine for CAUS shine ACC  
*te mōrī paurō te mahana 'i te pō.* 05 *Ko ha'a'i 'ā tū kai era e nua*  
 ART light every ART day at ART night PRF fill CONT DEM food DIST AG Mum  
*'i roto i te pani e tahi, 'ai ka viri rō hai pānio teatea.*  
 at inside at ART pan NUM one SUBS CNTG wrap EMPH with towel white

01 It was evening. 02 There were two children: one was called Kihi, she was five years old, a fair child, light-skinned, just pretty; the other child was called Atera, seven years old, the poor one was ugly. 03 On Sunday night, their mother made preparations to take food to their father. 04 He worked at the electrical power plant every day at night. 05 Mother had put the food in a pan and wrapped it in a white towel.

06 *He hahari i te pū'oko o tū ŋā poki era, he haka uru i te paratoa,*  
 NTR comb ACC ART head of DEM PL child DIST NTR CAUS dress ACC ART jacket  
*'ai ka va'ai rō tū pū'ahu kai era ki te poki 'atariki era.* 07 *He kī*  
 SUBS CNTG give EMPH DEM bundle food DIST to ART child firstborn DIST NTR say

Appendix A: Interlinear texts

*ia e nua: 08 —Ka ma'u hiohio te kai ena mā koro. 09 E ma'u hiohio 'i*  
 then AG Mum IMP carry strong ART food MED for.A Dad EXH carry strong at  
*roto i tu'u rima; ta'e mo haka pakō tā'ue. 10 E tahi rima ena*  
 inside at POSS.2SG.O hand CONNEG for CAUS loose by\_chance NUM one hand MED  
*ō'ou ka ma'u ena i te kai, e tahi i te rima o tu'u taina;*  
 POSS.2SG.O CNTG carry MED ACC ART food NUM one ACC ART hand of POSS.2SG.O sibling  
*ararua nō 'ina ko haka pako'o ki te hora hope'a.*  
 the\_two just NEG NEG.IPFV CAUS loose to ART time last

06 She combed the children's hair, put on their jacket and gave the bundle of food to the oldest one. 07 Then mother said, "Hold the food for Dad firmly. 09 Hold it tight in your hands; you must not let go of it. 10 With one hand carry the food, with the other hold on to you sister's hand; don't ever let go of each other."

*11 He e'a ia tū ŋā poki era a te vāeŋa o te ara he ha'ere he*  
 NTR go\_out then DEM ART child DIST by ART middle of ART road NTR walk NTR  
*iri. 12 'Ina e tahi vānaŋa rere ararua; ko momou 'ā 'i te ri'ari'a 'i te*  
 ascend NEG NUM one word fly the\_two PRF PL:quiet CONT at ART fear at art  
*pōhāhā. 13 'E 'i te ri'ari'a 'i tū pōhāhā era, he pa'ahia te rima ararua. 14*  
 dark and at ART fear at DEM dark DIST NTR sweat ART hand the\_two  
*He ha'amata te paŋaha'a o te rāua va'e, pē ira 'ā tū kai era mā koro.*  
 NTR begin ART heavy of ART 3PL foot like ANA IDENT DEM food DIST for.A Dad

11 The children went out by the middle of the road and walked up. 12 The two didn't say anything; they were silent, because they were afraid in the dark. 13 And because they were afraid in the dark, both had sweaty hands. 14 Their feet started to feel heavy, and the food for Dad felt heavy as well.

*15 Ko hinihini 'ā te hora e iri era, he 'ui ia e 'Atera ki a Kihi:*  
 PRF delay:RED CONT ART time IPFV ascend DIST NTR ask then AG Atera to PROP Kihi  
*16 —¿E ko haŋa 'ō rō koe mo ma'u i te kai nei mā koro? 17*  
 IPFV NEG.IPFV want really EMPH 2SG for carry ACC ART food PROX for.A Dad  
*Ka ma'u 'iti'iti koe mo haka ora 'iti'iti o tō'oku rima. 18 Terā ka kī e Kihi:*  
 IMP carry little 2SG for CAUS rest little of POSS.1SG.O hand then CNTG say AG Kihi  
*19 —¿Ko aha 'ā i a koe! 20 ¿Ko haŋa 'ana 'ō pēaha koe mo pako'o*  
 PRF what CONT at PROP 2SG PRF want CONT really perhaps 2SG for loose  
*tō'oku rima? 21 He momou haka'ou ararua, 'ai ka iri nō.*  
 POSS.1SG.O hand NTR PL:quiet again the\_two SUBS CNTG ascend just

15 When they had walked for a while, Atera asked Kihi, 16 "Don't you want to carry the food for Dad? 17 Carry it for a little while, so my hand can rest a little." 18 Kihi

said 19 “What are you thinking! 20 Do you really want to let go of my hand?” 21 The two were silent again, while they kept going up.

22 *I roaroa haka'ou era te hora, he kī haka'ou e 'Atera: 23 —;Mo ta'e*  
 PFV long again DIST ART time NTR say again AG Atera if CONNEG  
*haŋa ō'ou mo ma'u i te kai nei mā koro, he haka pakō e au*  
 want POSS.2SG.O for carry ACC ART food PROX for.A Dad NTR CAUS loose AG 1SG  
*tu'u rima nei! 24 He oho ia a Kihi mo taji, 'ai ka kī rō: 25*  
 POSS.2SG.O hand PROX NTR go then PROP Kihi for cry SUBS CNTG say EMPH  
*—;E te taina riva ō'oku ē, 'ina koe ko haka pakō i tō'oku rima*  
 VOC ART sibling good POSS.1SG.O VOC NEG 2SG NEG.IPFV CAUS loose ACC ART hand  
*'o ri'ari'a rō au 'i te tātane! 26 Ki hāhine nō tāua mo tu'u ana ma'u*  
 lest fear EMPH 1SG at ART devil when near just 1DU.INCL for arrive IRR carry  
*iho e au te kai.*  
 just\_then AG 1SG ART food

22 After a long time, Atera said again, 23 “If you don’t want to carry the food for Dad, I will let go of your hand!” 24 Kihi was about to cry and said, 25 “My dear sister, don’t let go of my hand, or else I will be afraid of the devil! 26 When we are almost there, then I will carry the food.”

27 *He kī ia e 'Atera: 28 —;Ko aha 'ā koe i vānaŋa mai ai i te*  
 NTR say then AG Atera PRF what CONT 2SG PFV speak hither PVP ACC ART  
*vānaŋa o te tātane! 29 ;Hoki ko tike'a 'ā e koe te tātane ra'e? 30 He pāhono*  
 word of ART devil PQ PRF see CONT AG 2SG ART devil first NTR answer  
*mai ia e Kihi: 31 —Te parauti'a, kai tike'a 'ā e au te tātane ra'e. 32*  
 hither then AG Kihi ART truth NEG.PFV see CONT AG 1SG ART devil first  
*O tētahi ŋā poki 'ō tā'au i 'a'amu mai pē nei ē: e ai rō*  
 of other PL child really POSS.2SG.A PFV tell hither like PROX thus IPFV exist EMPH  
*'ā te tātane 'e 'i te pō e e'a e ha'ere nei.*  
 CONT ART devil and at ART night IPFV go\_out IPFV walk PROX

27 Atera said, 28 “What are you talking about the devil! 29 Have you ever seen a devil?” 30 Kihi replied, 31 “The truth is, I have never seen a devil. 32 Other children have told that devils exist and that they go out and walk around at night.”

33 *Ka topa tū vānaŋa era 'a Kihi, 'ī rāua ka u'i atu ena e noho*  
 CNTG happen DEM word DIST of.A Kihi IMM 3PL CNTG look away MED IPFV sit  
*nō mai 'ā te tātane e tahi 'i ruŋa i te 'āua. 34 A ruŋa i pe'e*  
 just hither CONT ART devil NUM one at above at ART fence by above PFV jump\_up

Appendix A: Interlinear texts

*ai ararua ko kikikikiu atu 'ana ia. 35 E tu'u nō 'ā te re'o ki te*  
 PVP the\_two PRF RED:shriek away CONT then IPFV arrive just CONT ART voice to ART  
*rāua hare era 'e pē ira 'ā ki te kona aŋa era o koro. 36 He momoko*  
 3PL house DIST and like ANA IDENT to ART place work DIST of Dad NTR PL:rush  
*mai te taŋata ta'ato'a mai roto i te rāua hare. 37 Pē ira 'ā a nua*  
 hither ART man all from inside at ART 3PL house like ANA IDENT PROP Mum  
*ararua ko koro ko tahuti mai 'ā i ŋaro'a era te re'o o tū ŋā*  
 the\_two PROM Dad PRF run hither CONT PFV perceive DIST ART voice of DEM PL  
*rikiriki era o rāua. 38 I tu'u era ki tū kona era o tū ŋā poki era ko*  
 small.PL DIST of 3PL PFV arrive DIST to DEM place DIST of DEM PL child DIST PROM  
*te kikikikiu haŋa 'ā, e puru rō 'ā te 'āriŋa ararua hai tū paratoa*  
 ART RED:shriek NMLZ IDENT IPFV close EMPH CONT ART face the\_two INS DEM jacket  
*era o rāua.*  
 DIST of 3PL

33 Just when Kihi had said that, they saw a devil that was sitting on a fence. 35 They both jumped up and yelled. 35 The sound could be heard at their house and also at the place where Dad worked. 36 All the people rushed out from their houses. 37 Mum and Dad came running when they heard the voice of their little ones. 38 When they came to the place where their children were, the two were still yelling, covering their face with their jackets.

*39 He haka hāhine atu ia a nua ararua ko koro, 'ai ka kī rō: 40*  
 NTR CAUS near away then PROP Mum the\_two PROM Dad SUBS CNTG say EMPH  
*—Ka momou, e koā vovo ē. 41 Ta'e he tātane te me'e era o ruŋa*  
 IMP PL:quiet VOC COLL dear\_girl VOC CONNEG PRED devil ART thing DIST of above  
*i te 'āua. 42 He mautini piro ko kakaro 'ā te roto e Hao Kūmā.*  
 at ART fence PRED pumpkin rotten PRF hollow\_out CONT ART inside AG Hao Kuma  
*43 'Ai ka aŋa rō te mata, te haha, 'ai ka pu'a rō hai paratoa*  
 SUBS CNTG make EMPH ART eye ART mouth SUBS CNTG cover EMPH with jacket  
*'e he to'o mai he haka eke ki ruŋa o te 'āua mo haka ri'ari'a o te*  
 and NTR take hither NTR CAUS go\_up to above of ART fence for CAUS fear of ART  
*hua'ai ha'ere pō.*  
 family walk night

39 Mum and Dad came near and said, 40 “Be quiet, dear girls. 41 That thing on the fence is not a devil. 42 It’s a rotten pumpkin which Hao Kuma has hollowed out. 43 He made eyes and a mouth, then he covered it with a jacket and put it on top of the fence to scare the people who walk by at night.”



## Tikitiki 'a 'Ataraŋa – Tikitiki a Ataranga (R352)

by Luis Avaka Paoa (Weber, Weber & team 1990a: Vol. 4:93–98)

01 *Hora nei he 'a'amu atu au i te 'a'amu era o Tikitiki 'a 'Ataraŋa.* 02  
 time PROX NTR tell away 1SG ACC ART story DIST of Tikitiki a Ataranga  
*A Tikitiki 'a 'Ataraŋa, kai aŋiaŋi mai e au he aha tō'ona mata*  
 PROP Tikitiki a Ataranga NEG.PFV certain hither AG 1SG PRED what POSS.3SG.O tribe  
*he aha tō'ona hakaara, he Tūpāhotu 'o he Miru.* 03 *'Ina kai*  
 PRED what POSS.3SG.O descendance PRED Tupahotu of PRED Miru NEG NEG.PFV  
*aŋiaŋi rivariva mai e au.* 04 *Te me'e ō'ona i aŋiaŋi mai e au, he*  
 certain good:RED hither AG 1SG ART thing POSS.3SG.O PFV certain hither AG 1SG PRED  
*nua ō'ona te 'iŋoa ko Nuahine 'a Raŋi Kotekote.* 05 *I poreko era te*  
 Mum POSS.3SG.O ART name PROM Nuahine a Raŋi Kotekote PFV born DIST ART  
*poki nei, he hāŋai e te rū'au nei ararua ko tā'ana kenu.* 06  
 child PROX NTR raise AG ART old\_woman PROX the\_two PROM POSS.3SG.A husband  
*He nuinui, he mate te koro.* 07 *I mate era te koro o te poki nei, he*  
 NTR big:RED NTR die ART Dad PFV die DIST ART Dad of ART child PROX NTR  
*toe he rū'au nō nei, he noho he hāŋai ē...* 08 *he nuinui.*  
 remain PRED old\_woman just PROX NTR stay NTR raise on\_and\_on NTR big:RED

01 Now I'm going to tell the story of Tikitiki a Ataranga. 02 Concerning Tiki a Ataranga, I don't know what his tribe was or his descendance, whether Tupahotu of Miru. 03 I don't know it well. 04 The thing about him I do know, is that his mother's name was Nuahine a Raŋi Kotekote. 05 When this child was born, this old woman brought it up with her husband. 06 When he was bigger, his father died. 07 When the child's father had died, just the old woman was left; she continued to raise the child 08 until he was grown up.

09 *He moe tou poki era ko Tikitiki 'a 'Ataraŋa ki tā'ana vi'e*  
 NTR lie\_down DEM child DIST PROM Tikitiki a Ataranga to POSS.3SG.A woman  
*Tūpāhotu.* 10 *He poreko e toru poki: e rua poki tane, e tahi poki vahine.* 11  
 Tupahotu NTR born NUM three child NUM two child male NUM one child female  
*He hāŋai i tū ŋā poki era he nunui.*  
 NTR raise ACC DEM PL child DIST NTR PL:big

09 The boy Tikitiki a Ataranga married a Tupahotu wife. 10 Three children were born: two boys and one girl. 11 They raised the children and they grew up.

12 *I hāŋai era i nunui era, te aŋa o tū rū'au māmā era he*  
 PFV raise DIST PFV PL:big DIST ART work of DEM old\_woman mother DIST PRED

Appendix A: Interlinear texts

*kā i te 'umu paurō te mahana. 13 E kā era i tou*  
 kindle ACC ART earth\_oven every ART day IPFV kindle DIST ACC DEM  
*'umu era paurō te mahana, 'ina he 'ō'otu te 'umu e pō rō*  
 earth\_oven DIST every ART day NEG NTR cooked ART earth\_oven IPFV night EMPH  
*era. 14 E pō rō 'ā e 'ō'otu era te 'umu e ma'oa*  
 DIST IPFV night EMPH CONT IPFV cooked DIST ART earth\_oven IPFV open\_earth\_oven  
*era, 'ai ka kakai ananake ko te ηā poki. 15 He u'i pa'i i te me'e*  
 DIST SUBS CNTG PL:eat together PROM ART PL child NTR look\_in\_fact ACC ART thing  
*era 'ina 'ō he kai 'i te 'ōtea 'ā. 16 E pō rō 'ana 'ō e kai*  
 DIST NEG really NTR eat at ART daytime IDENT IPFV night EMPH CONT really IPFV eat  
*era, e mōkirokiro rō 'ā. 17 He 'aro ha pa'i he kī: 18 —<sub>i</sub>Kai riva*  
 DIST IPFV nightfall EMPH CONT NTR pity in\_fact NTR say NEG.PFV good  
*'ō te kai nei o tātou, e repa ē! 19 'I te 'ao nui 'ō e kai*  
 really ART eat PROX of 1PL.INCL VOC young\_man VOC in ART day big really IPFV eat  
*nei te ηā poki, e ha'uru rō 'ō te ηā poki.*  
 PROX ART PL child IPFV sleep EMPH really ART PL child

12 When they had raised them and they had grown up, what the old mother did was cooking food in the earth oven every day. 13 When she cooked food in the oven every day, the food was not cooked before it got dark. 14 When it was dark, the food would be done and she would open the earth oven; then she would eat with the children. 15 So she saw that they did not eat in the daylight. 16 It was night when they ate, it was dark. 17 So she took pity and said, 18 “The way we eat is not right, my son! 19 The children eat at midnight, when they are asleep.”

*20 He oti 'ana he kī e tou poki era o tou rū'au era ko Tikitiki 'a*  
 NTR finish CONT NTR say AG DEM child DIST of DEM old\_woman DIST PROM Tikitiki a  
*'Ataranga: 21 —<sub>i</sub>Ma'a 'ā rō koe, e nua ē? 22 He kī tou rū'au era:*  
 Ataranga know CONT EMPH 2SG VOC Mum VOC NTR say DEM old\_woman DIST  
*23 —'E, <sub>i</sub>he aha? 24 —A au he e'a a au he oho. 25 He oho au ki ηā*  
 and PRED what PROP 1SG NTR go\_out PROP 1SG NTR go NTR go 1SG to PL  
*hare he no'ino'i hai kona mahute, hauhau mo hiro o te taura mo*  
 house PL request:RED INS place mulberry kind\_of\_tree for braid of ART rope for  
*tāea e au i te ra'ā mo here. 26 <sub>i</sub>'E ku tano 'ā, e nua ē?*  
 catch\_with\_lasso AG 1SG ACC ART sun for tie and PRF correct CONT VOC Mum VOC  
*27 —e kī era ki tō'ona nua nei. 28 He kī: 29 —'Ēē, ku tano 'ā.*  
 IPFV say DIST to POSS.3SG.O Mum PROX NTR say yes PRF correct CONT

20 Then the son of the old woman, Tikitiki a Ataranga, said, 21 “You know what, Mum?” 22 The old woman said, 23 “Well, what?” 24 “I will go out. 25 I will go to the houses and ask for mulberry and hauhau fibers to braid a rope to catch the sun with a lasso. 26 Is that okay, Mum?” 27 he said to his mother. 28 She said, 29 “Yes, that’s okay.”

30 *I e'a era 'i te 'ao era 'ā o te rua ra'ā, he oho he tu'u he*  
 PFV go\_out DIST at ART dawn DIST IDENT of ART two day NTR go NTR arrive NTR  
*pa'o mai i tā'ana mahute i tā'ana hauhau, he haha'o ki roto*  
 chop hither ACC POSS.3SG.A mulberry ACC POSS.3SG.A kind\_of\_tree NTR insert to inside  
*te vai he haka pā mo haka marere mo haka piro haka kōpiro 'i roto*  
 ART water NTR CAUS double for CAUS fall\_apart for CAUS rotten CAUS ferment at inside  
*i te vai mo te taura mo hiri.* 31 *He oho ki te hare o tō'ona ŋaruhoa*  
 at ART water for ART rope for braid NTR go to ART house of POSS.3SG.O friend  
*e noho era ananake.* 32 *'E i tupu'aki 'ā 'i tō'ona hare, he oho he*  
 IPFV stay DIST together and PFV near CONT at POSS.3SG.O house NTR go NTR  
*tu'u he no'ino'i hai mahute hai hauhau.* 33 *He rova'a mai.* 34 *He*  
 arrive NTR request:RED INS mulberry INS kind\_of\_tree NTR obtain hither NTR  
*ma'u he oho mai he tu'u, he pu'a he haka kōpiro mo te taura mo hiri.*  
 carry NTR go hither NTR arrive NTR cover NTR CAUS ferment for ART rope for braid

30 When he had gone out at dawn the next day, he went and chopped mulberry and hauhau trees; he put the fibres in the water and folded them so they would fall apart and rot and ferment in the water, to braid a rope from. 31 He went to the houses of his friends who lived together with him. 32 And when he was near their houses, he went and asked for mulberry and hauhau. 33 He got them. 34 He carried them away and covered them (with water) to ferment to braid a rope from.

35 *I oti era tū me'e era, he to'o koro'iti mai tū taura era i tou hau*  
 PFV finish DIST DEM thing DIST NTR take slowly hither DEM rope DIST ACC DEM cord  
*era, he hiro i te taura.* 36 *He hiro ka hiro era ē...* 37 *ka kumi*  
 DIST NTR braid ACC ART rope NTR braid CNTG braid DIST on\_and\_on CNTG long  
*ka kumi.* 38 *He to'o mai i tū taura era he aŋa 'ā ka oti rō.* 39  
 CNTG long NTR take hither ACC DEM rope DIST NTR make until CNTG finish EMPH  
*I oti era tū taura era, he oho mai he kī ki tū rū'au māmā era:*  
 PFV finish DIST DEM rope DIST NTR go hither NTR say to DEM old\_woman mother DIST  
 40 *—Āpō 'i te 'ao era 'ā, e oŋa iho nō mai 'ā te ra'ā,*  
 tomorrow at ART dawn DIST IDENT IPFV appear just\_then just hither CONT ART sun  
*he rere au he oho he tu'u he tāea i te ŋao o te ra'ā, he*  
 NTR jump 1SG NTR go NTR arrive NTR catch\_with\_lasso ACC ART neck of ART sun NTR  
*here a ruŋa i te mā'ea.* 41 *Haka rito koe, e nua ē, mo kā i to*  
 tie by above at ART stone CAUS ready 2SG VOC Mum VOC for kindle ACC ART:of  
*tātou 'umu āpō.* 42 *He kī tū rū'au era:* 43 *—Ku tano 'ā.*  
 1PL.INCL earth\_oven tomorrow NTR say DEM old\_woman DIST PRF correct CONT

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35 When that was done, he took the fibres bit by bit and braided a rope. 36 He braided and braided 37 until the rope was very long. 38 He took the rope and kept working until it was finished. 39 When the rope was finished, he went and said to his old mother, 40 “Tomorrow early in the morning, just when the sun appears, I will jump and catch the neck of the sun with a lasso and tie it to a rock. 41 Get ready, Mum, to cook our earth oven tomorrow.” 42 The old woman said, 43 “That’s okay.”

44 *Ka moe ka 'ara, ka moe ka 'ara ē...* 45 *I te*  
 CNTG lie\_down CNTG wake\_up CNTG lie\_down CNTG wake\_up on\_and\_on at ART  
*'ao era 'ā i 'ara rō ai, he tiaki he haka tau he noho he u'i*  
 dawn DIST IDENT PFV wake\_up EMPH PVP NTR wait NTR CAUS hang NTR stay NTR look  
*ki te ra'ā.* 46 *I oho mai era mo hāhine mai mo e'a mai o te ra'ā, he*  
 to ART sun PFV go hither DIST for near hither for go\_out hither of ART sun NTR  
*rere he oho.* 47 *Ka rere atu ka oho atu, ka oŋa mai te ra'ā, he*  
 jump NTR go CNTG jump away CNTG go away CNTG appear hither ART sun NTR  
*haka eke hai taura ki te ŋao, he here hiohio ta'a ika.* 48 *He totohi he*  
 CAUS go\_up INS rope to ART neck NTR tie strong POSS.2SG.A victim NTR drag NTR  
*oho mai i te taura, he tu'u mai he here ki ruŋa ki te puku mā'ea*  
 go hither ACC ART rope NTR arrive hither NTR tie to above to ART boulder stone  
*ena, 'ā ka ŋōŋō rō ka ŋōŋō rō, 'ā ka harara rō.* 49 *He here, 'ā*  
 MED until CNTG firm EMPH CNTG firm EMPH until CNTG stiff EMPH NTR tie until  
*ka hiohio rō, 'ina kai hōrou haka'ou mai tū ra'ā era.* 50 *He iri*  
 CNTG strong EMPH NEG NEG.PFV quickly again hither DEM sun DIST NTR ascend  
*mai tū ra'ā era koro'iti nō koro'iti nō i iri mai ai.*  
 hither DEM sun DIST slowly just slowly just PFV ascend hither PVP

44 He slept and woke up, he slept and woke up... 45 Early in the morning he woke up and stayed on the lookout, keeping an eye on the sun. 46 When the sun was close to rising, he jumped up. 47 Just when he jumped, the sun appeared; he put the rope to the neck and tied his victim firmly. 48 He dragged the rope and tied it to a stone boulder, so it was very firmly tied and the rope was taut. 49 He tied it firmly and the sun did not go quickly any more. 50 The sun came up; slowly, slowly it came up.

51 *He e'a mai tou rū'au era 'i tou hora 'ā e ki tā'ana*  
 NTR go\_out hither DEM old\_woman DIST at DEM time IDENT quickly to POSS.3SG.A  
*'umu, he amo ka ma'itaki rō.* 52 *He penapena i te*  
 earth\_oven NTR wipe CNTG clean EMPH NTR arrange\_firewood ACC ART  
*'umu pae, he tutu.* 53 *He oho ki tā'ana kūmā he keri*  
 earth\_oven hewn\_stones NTR set\_fire NTR go to POSS.3SG.A sweet\_potato NTR dig  
*mai he tata, ki tā'ana moa he unu.* 54 *Pōpōrā e ke'oke'o mai era*  
 hither NTR wash to POSS.3SG.A chicken NTR pluck quickly IPFV hurry hither DIST

te rima o tou rū'au era. 55 He to'o mai he kā i tou 'umu  
 ART hand of DEM old\_woman DIST NTR take hither NTR kindle ACC DEM earth\_oven  
 era he 'ō'otu. 56 He ta'o i te kūmā, i te taro, i te 'uhi, i  
 DIST NTR cooked NTR cook ACC ART sweet\_potato ACC ART taro ACC ART yam ACC  
 te moa. 57 Ko turu 'ā tū taŋata era ki tai ko hī mai 'ā i  
 ART chicken PRF go\_down CONT DEM man DIST to sea PRF to\_fish hither CONT ACC  
 te ika, e here 'ā i te kōreha. 58 Tanu te 'umu ra'e nei o te  
 ART fish IPFV tie CONT ACC ART eel bury ART earth\_oven first PROX of ART  
 rū'au nei, ko tata mai 'ā tū taŋata era mo tou ika era.  
 old\_woman PROX PRF approach hither CONT DEM man DIST for DEM fish DIST

51 At that time the old women went quickly to her earth oven and wiped it clean. 52 She arranged the firewood over the earth oven made of hewn stones, and kindled it. 53 She went and dug up sweet potatoes and washed them, and plucked chickens. 54 The hands of the old woman moved quickly. 55 She lighted the earth oven and got the food cooked. 56 She cooked sweet potatoes, taro, yam and chicken. 57 The man had gone down to sea to catch fish with hook and line and to catch eels with a trap. 58 The old woman covered the first earth oven when the man had come back with his fish.

59 Puhi haka'ou 'ā ka rua 'umu. 60 Ko 'ō'otu haka'ou mai 'ā te  
 blow again CONT CNTG two earth\_oven PRF cooked again hither CONT ART  
 ta'o, penapena haka'ou mai 'ā ka toru 'umu. 61 He e'a  
 cook arrange\_firewood again hither CONT CNTG three earth\_oven NTR go\_out  
 mai tou rū'au era ki tou 'umu ra'e era, he mātaki mai. 62 He raŋi  
 hither DEM old\_woman DIST to DEM earth\_oven first DIST NTR open hither NTR call  
 mai ki te ŋā poki: 63 —Ka oho mai! 64 He oho atu tou vi'e hunoŋa  
 hither to ART PL child IMP go hither NTR go away DEM woman child\_in\_law  
 era, tou ŋā poki era he takataka, he ma'oa tou 'umu era.  
 DIST DEM PL child DIST NTR gather:RED NTR open\_earth\_oven DEM earth\_oven DIST

59 She lighted another earth oven, the second one. 60 When the food was cooked again, she arranged firewood again for the third earth oven. 61 The old woman went to the first earth oven and opened it. 62 She cried to the children, 63 “Come!” 64 Her daughter-in-law and the children gathered and she opened the earth oven.

65 He hoa te kai ki ruŋa, he kī: 66 —Pē nei hoki ta'a me'e. 67  
 NTR throw ART food to above NTR say like PROX indeed POSS.2SG.A thing  
 'Ī tātou ka rovā kai. 68 Ka kai iho tātou 'i te hora mā'eha 'i  
 IMM 1PL.INCL CNTG obtain food CNTG eat just\_now 1PL.INCL at ART time light at  
 te 'ōtea. 69 Kai riva hoki ta'a me'e era tātou e kakai era 'i  
 ART daytime NEG.PFV good indeed POSS.2SG.A thing DIST 1PL.INCL IPFV PL:eat DIST at

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te pō 'i te 'ao nui. 70 'Ina he mā'eha mo u'i ija i te kai. 71 E  
 ART night at ART dusk big NEG PRED light for see NMLZ ACC ART food IPFV  
 hā'uru rō era te nā poki, 'ina he kakai. 72 'Ā, me'e 'aroha! 73 'O  
 PL:sleep EMPH DIST ART PL child NEG NTR PL:eat ah thing pity because\_of  
 ira 'ī tātou ka to'o rō mai ka kai rō atu. 74 He kai mai i  
 ANA IMM 1PL.INCL CNTG take EMPH hither CNTG eat EMPH away NTR eat hither ACC  
 tou 'umu era, he oti. 75 He ma'oa haka'ou mai ka rua  
 DEM earth\_oven DIST NTR finish NTR open\_earth\_oven again hither CNTG two  
 'umu 'i ruŋa 'ā, he kai haka'ou mai. 76 He ta'o haka'ou mai i  
 earth\_oven at above IDENT NTR eat again hither NTR cook again hither ACC  
 te 'umu. 77 I ta'o i oho nō i ta'o i oho nō.  
 ART earth\_oven PFV cook PFV go just PFV cook PFV go just

65 She took the food out and said, 66 “Here, look at this. 67 Now we have something to eat. 68 We will eat in the daytime, when it is light. 69 It was not good what we did, eating in the dark at midnight. 70 There was no light to see the food. 71 The children were asleep and did not eat. 72 Ah, what a pity! 73 So we will go ahead now and eat.” 74 They ate the food from the earth oven and finished. 75 Then they opened the second earth oven and ate again. 76 They cooked another earth oven. 77 They just kept cooking and cooking.

78 I ahiahi era, he tike'a e te taŋata ko here 'ā i te ra'ā. 79 He oho  
 PFV evening DIST NTR see AG ART man PRF tie CONT ACC ART sun NTR go  
 mai he tu'u mai he haka takataka 'i tū hare era o tū taŋata era. 80  
 hither NTR arrive hither NTR CAUS gather:RED at DEM house DIST of DEM man DIST  
 He taū te tau'a, he rakerake te tau'a he noho he kakai. 81 Kakai i  
 NTR to\_fight ART fight NTR bad:RED ART fight NTR stay NTR quarrel quarrel ACC  
 te tau'a nei, ka rakerake rō 'i te hare era o tū taŋata era. 82 He kī:  
 ART fight PROX CNTG bad:RED EMPH at ART house DIST of DEM man DIST NTR say  
 83 —He aha koe i to'o mai ai i here ai i te ra'ā?  
 PRED what 2SG PFV take hither PVP PFV tie PVP ACC ART sun

78 In the evening, the people saw that the sun had been tied. 79 They came and gathered at the house of that man. 80 A fight broke out, there was an ugly quarrel. 81 There was a bad quarrel at the house of that man. 82 They said, 83 “Why did you take the sun and tie it up?”

84 He kī e tū taŋata era: 85 —Ka koa ho'i kōrua. 86 ζKai koa 'ō  
 NTR say AG DEM man DIST IMP happy indeed 2PL NEG.PFV happy really  
 kōrua 'i te me'e rivariva? 87 Ku to'o mai 'ā a au i te ra'ā ku here  
 2PL at ART thing good PRF take hither CONT PROP 1SG ACC ART sun PFV tie

'ā mo haka mā'eha mo tātou mo kakai. 88 'O ira ho'i au i here  
 CONT for CAUS light for 1PL.INCL for PL:eat because\_of ANA indeed 1SG PFV tie  
 ena. 89 Nā ka u'i rā kōrua, ka hia 'umu nei 'ā'aku e  
 MED MED IMP look INTENS 2PL CNTG how\_many earth\_oven PROX POSS.1SG.A IPFV  
 kā atu ena. 90 He kā te 'umu nei he ma'oa he kai.  
 kindle away MED NTR kindle ART earth\_oven PROX NTR open\_earth\_oven NTR eat  
 91 He kā haka'ou he ma'oa he kai. 92 'Ai e kā haka'ou  
 NTR kindle again NTR open\_earth\_oven NTR eat SUBS IPFV kindle again  
 mai era.  
 hither DIST

84 The man said, 85 “Be happy! 86 Aren’t you happy with a good thing? 87 I have taken the sun and tied it up to give us light to eat. 88 That’s why I tied it up. 89 There, look how many earth ovens I’ve been cooking. 90 We lighted this earth oven, opened it and ate. 91 We lighted another, opened it and ate. 92 Then we lighted another.”

93 He ture ka rakerake rō te tau'a. 94 He rere mai e te taŋata he  
 NTR scold CNTG bad:RED EMPH ART fight NTR jump hither AG ART man NTR  
 horehore i tou taura era. 95 He momotu he haka poko'o. 96 I haka  
 cut:RED ACC DEM rope DIST NTR break\_completely NTR CAUS loose PFV CAUS  
 poko'o atu era i te ra'ā era, he nini rō 'ai tū ra'ā era he oho he  
 loose away DIST ACC ART sun DIST NTR spin EMPH SUBS DEM SUN DIST NTR go NTR  
 ŋaro. 97 He raŋi e te rū'au nei: 98 —E pa'o rō kōrua i te  
 disappear NTR call AG ART old\_woman PROX IPFV chop EMPH 2PL ACC ART  
 ra'ā here e tā'aku poki. 99 Rohirohi e tā'aku poki i iri ai i here  
 sun tie AG POSS.1SG.A child tired AG POSS.1SG.A child PFV ascend PVP PFV tie  
 mai ai mo haka mā'eha o tātou. 100 'E 'ī au ka raŋi rō atu: e  
 hither PVP for CAUS light of 1PL.INCL and IMM 1SG CNTG call EMPH away IPFV  
 to'o rō au i ta'a me'e hukahuka ena mai ruŋa i te henua. 101 'Ī  
 take EMPH 1SG ACC POSS.2SG. thing firewood MED from above at ART land IMM  
 ka to'o rō.  
 CNTG take EMPH

93 They made reproaches and quarreled bitterly. 94 The people jumped up and cut the rope. 95 It snapped and the sun was loose. 96 When the sun was loose, it turned around and disappeared. 97 The old woman cried out, 98 “You’re chopping the rope with which my son tied the sun. 99 My sun wore himself out to go up and tie the sun to give us light. 100 Now I’ll tell you: I will take your firewood from the earth. 101 I’ll take it straightaway.”

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102 He rere mai te rūrāu nei ki tā'ana 'umu pae, ki  
 NTR jump hither ART old\_woman PROX to POSS.3SG.A earth\_oven hewn\_stones to  
 tā'ana hukahuka, ki tā'ana kai, ki tā'ana me'e ta'ato'a. 103 He 'apa tahi  
 POSS.3SG.A firewood to POSS.3SG.A food to POSS.3SG.A thing all NTR carry all  
 ko te nā poki, ko te hare, ko te me'e ta'ato'a. 104 He rere he oho  
 PROM ART PL child PROM ART house PROM ART thing all NTR fly NTR go  
 rō atu 'ai, ko te iri ija 'ā ko te oho oja 'ā, ē...  
 EMPH away SUBS PROM ART ascend NMLZ IDENT PROM ART go NMLZ IDENT on\_and\_on  
 105 he ηaro ki roto ki te māhina, he oti rō 'ai. 106 Ki roto i te  
 NTR disappear to inside to ART moon NTR finish EMPH SUBS to inside at ART  
 māhina i ηaro ai te rūrāu nei. 107 Te 'iηoa o tou rūrāu  
 moon PFV disappear PVP ART old\_woman PROX ART name of DEM old\_woman  
 era ko Nuahine 'a Raŋi Kotekote. 108 He ηaro rō atu 'ai ki roto ki  
 DIST PROM Nuahine a Raŋi Kotekote NTR disappear EMPH away SUBS to inside to  
 te māhina.  
 ART moon

102 The old woman jumped to her stone earth oven, to her firewood, to her food, to all her things. 103 She carried all the children, the house, everything. 104 She flew away, going up, going away... 105 and disappeared into the moon, and that was it. 106 Inside the moon the old woman disappeared. 107 The name of the old woman was Nuahine a Raŋi Kotekote. 108 She disappeared into the moon.

109 He kī te taŋata: 110 —'Ā, ko tere 'ā te rūrāu! 111 I 'ōtea  
 NTR say ART man ah PRF run CONT ART old\_woman PFV daylight  
 mai era ki te popohāna he u'i te taŋata ku oje 'ā, 'ina he  
 hither DIST to ART dawn NTR look ART man PRF shortage CONT NEG PRED  
 hukahuka. 112 Ku oje 'ā te kai, ko pakapaka 'ā ku mei 'ā. 113  
 firewood PRF shortage CONT ART food PRF dry:RED CONT PRF wither CONT  
 He kī: 114 —'Ā! 115 O tou rūrāu era 'ā te kai, e topa era te  
 NTR say ah of DEM old\_woman DIST IDENT ART food IPFV happen DIST ART  
 mau, te hukahuka e ai era. 116 Ku kore 'ā te hukahuka mo tunu o  
 abundance ART firewood IPFV exist DIST PRF lack CONT ART firewood for cook of  
 te kai. 117 Ku pakapaka 'ā te henua. 118 Ku oje 'ā tātou. 119 He  
 ART food PRF dry:RED CONT ART land PRF shortage CONT 1PL.INCL NTR  
 oti mau 'ā. 120 ¿Ka aha rā ia? 121 Ku tere 'ā te rūrāu nei.  
 finish really CONT CNTG what INTENS then PRF run CONT ART old\_woman PROX

109 The people said, 110 “Ah, the old woman has run off!” 111 At dawn the next day the people saw that there was shortage, there was no firewood. 112 The food was scarce, it was dry and had withered. 113 They said, 114 “Ah! 115 It was because of the woman that there was food, that there was abundance, that there was firewood. 116 Now there is no firewood to cook food. 117 The land is dry. 118 We are in need. 119 That’s how it is. 120 What can we do? 121 The old woman has run off.”



122 *Kai 'ite atu ho'i e te taŋata pē nei ē: tou rū'au era*  
 NEG.PFV know away indeed AG ART man like PROX thus DEM old\_woman DIST  
*'ō e ai rō 'ā tō'ona mana; rū'au mana.* 123 *Pē ira 'ā*  
 really IPFV exist EMPH CONT POSS.3SG.O power old\_woman power like ANA IDENT  
*tū taŋata era.* 124 *'O ira ho'i i iri era i here era i te ra'ā*  
 DEM man DIST because\_of ANA indeed PFV ascend DIST PFV tie DIST ACC art sun  
*era.* 125 *E ai rō 'ā to rāua mana.*  
 DIST IPFV exist EMPH CONT ART:of 3PL power

122 The people did not know that the old woman had mana (supernatural power); it was a woman with power. 123 The same was true for the man. 124 That's why he went up and tied the son. 125 They had supernatural power.

126 *He oti mau 'ā.* 127 *Ku ŋaro ku oti 'ā te rū'au nei ki*  
 NTR finish really CONT PRF disappear PRF finish CONT ART old\_woman PROX to  
*roto ki te māhina.* 128 *'E ku noho 'ā te taŋata o te henua he taŋi rō*  
 inside to ART moon and PRF stay CONT ART man of ART land NTR cry EMPH  
*'ai mo tou rū'au era 'i tū me'e era ko ŋaro 'ā.* 129 *He oti*  
 SUBS for DEM old\_woman DIST at DEM thing DIST PRF disappear CONT NTR finish  
*mau rō 'ai te 'a'amu nei o Tikitiki 'a 'Ataraŋa.*  
 really EMPH SUBS ART story PROX of Tikitiki a Ataranga

126 That's all. 127 The old woman had disappeared into the moon. 128 And the people of the land stayed and cried for the woman, because she had disappeared. 129 The story of Tikitiki a Ataranga is finished.

## ***He oho iŋa o te nu'u hoko rua rama* – The trip of two people who went torch fishing (R357)**

(Weber, Weber & team 1990a: Vol. 5:22–23)

01 *Ko te 'āva'e era o te evinio'e ko te mahana maha ia, he e'a*  
PROM ART month DIST of ART Lent and PROM ART day four then NTR go\_out  
*te nu'u hoko rua, he pu'a i te hoi, he aŋa i te rama, he haka*  
ART people NUM.PERS two NTR cover ACC ART horse NTR make ACC ART torch NTR CAUS  
*rito i te rāua me'e, he eke te hoi, he oho ararua a te pā'eŋa ena o*  
ready ACC ART 3PL thing NTR go\_up ART horse NTR go the\_two by ART side MED of  
*Vaihū. 02 I tu'u era ki 'Akahaŋa, he noho he tiaki ki te tai hahati mo*  
Vaihu PFV arrive DIST to Akahanga NTR stay NTR wait to ART sea break for  
*rama.*  
fish\_with\_torch

01 In the month of Lent on a Thursday, two people went out; they saddled their horses, made torches and prepared their things; they mounted their horses and went together to the side of Vaihu. 02 When they arrived at Akahanga, they stayed and waited for the rising tide (suitable) for torch fishing.

03 *Ko rote 'ahuru mā ho'e o te pō ia, he e'a ararua, he*  
PROM inside\_ART ten plus one of ART night then NTR go\_out the\_two NTR  
*tutu i te rama, he topa he rama 'i rote haŋa era o*  
set\_fire ACC ART torch NTR descend NTR fish\_with\_torch at inside\_the bay DIST of  
*'Akahaŋa. 04 E rama nō 'ā, i hoa rō atu ai te 'ua ki*  
Akahanga IPFV fish\_with\_torch just CONT PFV throw EMPH away then ART rain to  
*te kāve'uve'u o te tua'ivi. 05 Kai rova'a hia e tahi me'e. 06 He e'a*  
ART ache of ART back NEG.PFV obtain yet NUM one thing NTR go\_out  
*ararua, he tētere ki rote 'ana, he nonoho koia ko mamae 'i tū me'e*  
the\_two NTR PL:run to inside\_the cave NTR PL:stay with PROM pain at DEM thing  
*ta'e rova'a era.*  
CONNeg obtain DIST

03 Around eleven o'clock at night the two went out, lighted their torches, went down and went torch fishing in the bay of Akahanga. 04 While they were fishing, suddenly the rain came down, lashing their backs. 05 They didn't catch anything. 06 The two left and fled into a cave, sad because they hadn't caught anything.

07 *I nonoho era, he papaŋaha'a 'i te ha'uru. 08 E ha'uru nō 'ā, he*  
PFV PL:stay DIST NTR PL:heavy at ART sleep IPFV sleep just CONT NTR

*tu'u atu hoko rua haka'ou nu'u mai te puhi ija mo te evinio.*  
 arrive away NUM.PERS two again people from ART fish\_at\_night NMLZ for ART Lent  
**09** *He hipa atu he haka 'ara i tū ŋā ha'uru era.* **10** *I 'a'ara*  
 NTR pass\_by away NTR CAUS wake\_up ACC DEM PL sleep DIST PFV PL:wake\_up  
*mai era, he eke te hoi, he oho mai mai 'Akahanga, he tu'u ki Motu o*  
 hither DIST NTR go\_up ART horse NTR go hither from Akahanga NTR arrive to Motu o  
*Pope.* **11** *He topa haka'ou ararua 'i tū kona era he tutu te rama.*  
 Pope NTR descend again the\_two at DEM place DIST NTR set\_fire ART torch

**07** While they stayed there, they fell asleep. **08** While they were sleeping, two other people arrived, who had been fishing at night for Lent. **09** They came by and woke the sleepers up. **10** Once awake, they mounted their horses, left Akahanga and went to Motu o Pope. **11** There the two descended again and lighted their torches.

**12** *I mā'eha atu era tū rama era, 'ī ka u'i atu ena ko te 'ura*  
 PFV light away DIST DEM torch DIST IMM CNTG look away MED PROM ART lobster  
*ku noho 'ā 'i tū kona era.* **13** *He topa ararua he 'aru'aru mai i*  
 PRF stay CONT at DEM place DIST NTR descend the\_two NTR grab:RED hither ACC  
*tū ŋā 'ura era mai tū kona era.* **14** *He rova'a e ho'e 'ahuru mā piti*  
 DEM PL lobster DIST from DEM place DIST NTR obtain NUM one ten plus two  
*'ura.* **15** *Ku koa 'ā ko ruŋa i te hoi, he 'ehu he oho rō mai*  
 lobster PRF happy CONT PROM above at ART horse NTR twilight NTR go EMPH hither  
*'ai ki Hanga Roa 'i tū hora era.*  
 SUBS to Hanga Roa at DEM time DIST

**12** When their torches gave light, they saw lobsters sitting in that place. **13** The two went down and grabbed the lobsters from there. **14** They got twelve lobsters. **15** Happily they climbed their horses, and in the early morning light they went to Hanga Roa.

**16** *Tū oho era ho'i i oho ai e oho 'ā mo rova'a 'ura mo e'a ki*  
 DEM go DIST indeed PFV go PVP IPFV go CONT for obtain lobster for go\_out to  
*ruŋa ki te vaka ki te nanue hī 'i te motu mo kai o te evinio.* **17** *I*  
 above to ART boat to ART kind\_of\_fish to\_fish at ART islet for eat for ART Lent at  
*te me'e era, te taŋata o nei 'i rā hora 'ina he kai i te kiko 'i te*  
 ART thing DIST ART person of PROX at DIST time NEG NTR eat ACC ART meat at ART  
*ta'ato'a mahana pae o te evinio.*  
 all day five of ART Lent

**16** This trip happened when they went to catch lobsters (as bait), to go out by boat to fish for nanue at the islets, to eat during Lent. **17** Because at that time the people here did not eat meat on Fridays during Lent.



# Appendix B: The text corpus

Below is a list of texts in the corpus. The first column gives the reference as given in the example sentences in this grammar (*x* represents any digit). The second column gives a basic characterisation of the text type. The third column provides a short description; for published texts, a bibliographic reference is given. The final column gives the number of words in thousands.

The corpus is described in §1.6.2.

## 1. Older texts

Code	Text type	Description	wrđ
Egt-xx	narrative	Englert (1948: 377-417)	12.5
Ley-x-xx	narrative; description	Englert (1980; 2001); collected c. 1936. Numbering corresponds to published version.	38.5
Ley-x-xxa	narrative	Englert (1939a,b): earlier versions of certain legends in Englert (1980)	1.7
MsE-xxx	narrative	Manuscript E, c. 1910. Frontier (2008), earlier published in original orthography in Barthel (1978). Three-digit number refers to page no. in the ms.	17.7
Mtx-x-xx	narrative	Métraux 1935 (unpublished stories); Métraux 1971 (bilingual published stories, collected in 1934–1935); Métraux 1937 (short story). For a list of texts, see <a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/metraux-text-listing">www.tinyurl.com/metraux-text-listing</a>	54.1
Total word count			124.5

## 2. Texts from the 1970s

Code	Text type	Description	wrđ
Blx-2-x	narrative	Blixen (1973)	1.5
Blx-3	narrative	Blixen (1974)	1.3
Fel-xx	narrative	Felbermayer (1971); numbers correspond to the initial page of each story	7.1
Fel-1973	narrative	Felbermayer (1973)	2.1
Fel-1978	narrative	Felbermayer (1978)	2.5
Total word count			14.5

### 3. Programa Lengua Rapa Nui corpus

Code	Text type	Description	wrd
R101, 111-112, 121, 185-187	description	Description of the island and current/everyday activities (Mario Tuki Hey, Felipe Tuki Tepano, Lorenzo Teao Hey)	4.8
R102	narrative	Story "Ijujerei" (Luis Avaka Paoa)	2.5
R103	description	Recorded letter to family members (Miguelina Hotus Pakarati)	4.9
R104-105	narrative	Story "The bewitched stone" (Luis Avaka Paoa)	5.1
R106	narrative	Story "Manutara" (Felipe Pakarati Tuki)	1.4
R107, 109	narrative	Two short stories (Felipe Pakarati Tuki)	3.4
R108	narrative	Story "He puhu o te pipi puhu" (The shout of the conch shell) (translation of Hawaiian story)	2.6
R110	persuasive	Health leaflet, hospital Hanga Roa	0.3
R122-149, 188	narrative	Short stories/essays by primary school children	5.1
R150-184	narrative	Short stories (Mariluz Hey Paoa)	13.8
R200	procedural	Description "Building a boat" (Felipe Tuki Tepano)	2.6
R201-207	persuasive	Radio talks (Sergio Rapu Haoa, Clementina Tepano Haoa, Felipe Pakarati Tuki)	9.2
R208	phrasebook	Hotus Tuki (2001)	2.2
R209	persuasive	Counselling questions	0.6
R210	narrative	Writers Workshop 1984: Chávez Ika (1984)	3.8
R211-215	narrative	id.: Haoa Cardinali (1984)	5.3
R216-228	poetry	id.: Hucke Atán (1984a)	2.8
R229	narrative	id.: Hucke Atán (1984b)	6.8
R230	narrative	id.: Pakarati Tuki (1984)	7.2
R231	narrative	id.: Pakomio Ika (1984)	5.4
R232-234	narrative	id.: Paté Tuki (1984)	2.7
R235-237	narrative	id.: Tepano Haoa (1984a)	5.6
R238-240	description	id.: Tepano Haoa (1984b)	3.2
R241-244	dialogue; narrative; poetry	id.: Tuki Tepano (1984a)	5.3
R245	narrative	id.: Tuki Tepano (1984b)	3.3
R250	narrative	Writers Workshop 1985: Cardinali (1985)	5.3
R251-300	poetry	id.: Hey Chávez (1985)	3.5
R301	narrative	id.: Hey Icka (1985a)	5.8
R302-303	narrative	id.: Hey Icka (1985b)	5.1
R304-308	narrative; poetry	id.: Tepano Pont (1985)	4.0
R309	narrative	id.: "He mana 'u ki to 'oku taina" (Thinking of my brother) (Flora Tepano Haoa)	2.7
R310-312	narrative	id.: Tuki Hey (1985)	6.6
R313-314	narrative	id.: Tuki Pakarati (1985)	5.6
R315-317	narrative; poetry	id.: Tuki Paté (1985)	6.1

Code	Text type	Description	wrđ
R333	narrative	Weber, Weber & team (1990a) = schoolbook series <i>Mai ki hāpī...</i> , Vol. 1, main text	3.9
R334	narrative	id., Vol. 2, main text	4.1
R335-339	narrative	id., Vol. 2, miscellaneous stories (Mariluz Hey Paoa et al.)	1.8
R340-341, 351, 355, 358, 362, 366, 377, 382	poetry	id., Vol. 3–6, poems (Leonardo Pakarati Languitaki, María Dolores Tuki Paté, Felipe Tuki Tepano, Felipe Pakarati Tuki, Kio Teao Atán)	1.7
R342-343, 346, 348, 350	description	id., Vol. 4, description of different Pacific islands	7.9
R344-345, 347, 349	narrative	id., Vol. 4, translated tales from other parts of the Pacific	7.9
R352	narrative	id., Vol. 4, “Tiki-tiki 'a 'Ataraŋa” (Luis Avaka Paoa)	1.6
R353-354, 356-357, 360, 364	description	id., Vol. 5, Description of fishing techniques and customs	5.0
R359, 367	narrative	id., Vol. 5, Two biblical stories	0.8
R361, 363, 365	narrative	id., Vol. 5, stories on fishing and boat construction (Felipe Pakarati Tuki, Hilaria Tuki Pakarati)	6.4
R368	narrative	id., Vol. 5, “Nuahine Rima Roa” (The woman with the long arms) (Luis Avaka Paoa)	1.7
R369-371, 373-374, 376, 378	description	id., Vol. 6, Episodes from the history of Rapa Nui	7.9
R372	narrative	id., Vol. 6, “'Ao Hoe-hoe” (Luis Avaka Paoa)	2.0
R375	narrative	id., Vol. 6, “Oromatu 'a keu-keu henua” (The priest who worked the land) (Hilaria Tuki Pakarati)	1.6
R379	narrative	id., Vol. 6, “Manutara” (Felipe Pakarati Tuki) = edited version of R106	1.6
R380	narrative	id., Vol. 6, “Poki va'e rohi-rohi ki a nua era” (Child of weary feet to Mum) (Clementina Tepano Haa)	2.9
R381	narrative	id., Vol. 6, “E toru hanere huru maika” (One hundred kinds of bananas) (Felipe Pakarati Tuki)	1.5
R397	narrative	= R105	3.0
R398	persuasive	Health leaflet, hospital Hanga Roa	0.3
R399-402	narrative	Four stories (Mariluz Hey Paoa)	4.8
R403-404	description	= extracts from R103	2.7
R405-407	narrative	Short stories (Mario Tuki Hey)	1.7
R408	narrative	= R108 (edited)	2.7
R409	poem	Poem “He kai nui o te henua” (The great food of the island) (Felipe Pakarati Tuki)	0.4
R410	narrative	Story “He mau o te ara oho ki kampō” (The abundance of a trip to the country) (Felipe Tuki Tepano)	1.3
R411-416	dialogue	Recorded conversations around a collection of photographs	27.7

Appendix B: The text corpus

Code	Text type	Description	wrd
R420-463	narrative; poetry	“Taller Literario Aldea 2006”: stories and poems by high school students	16.6
R470	informative	Report on irrigation project	0.5
R472-475	poetry	Four poems (Ana Chávez Ika)	1.4
R476-477	narrative	Two stories translated from Māori	1.9
R478-479	narrative	Story “Te tumu o Rapa Nui” (Virginia Haoa Cardinali), 2 versions	2.2
R480-497; 536	narrative	Various writing exercises	8.6
R501-523	poetry	Pāta'uta'u: poetry collection by anonymous writers	4.6
R530	description	Introduction to Pauly & Atán (2008)	0.7
R531-532	narrative	Cuadros Hucke (2008)	6.5
R533	persuasive	Speech for Polynesian language forum 1998 (Hilaria Tuki Pakarati)	0.8
R534	misc.	Survey form Rapa Nui language academy	1.1
R535	narrative	Story on the elimination of the striped mosquito	2.5
R537	narrative	Story “A little sheep” (Nancy Weber & Maria Eugenia Tuki Pakarati)	0.6
R538	misc.	Tomb epitaph	0.1
R539	narrative	Pakarati Tuki (2010)	34.5
R615-617	misc.	Weber, Weber & team (1990a), Vol. 3-6: Exercises and explanations; Weber, Weber & team (1990b)	27.9
R620-629	dialogue	Radio interviews	10.8
R633-646	misc.	<i>Ka 'Ara te Mata</i> , Rapa Nui magazine, 2 issues, 1992 (Francisco Edmunds Paoa, Rodrigo Paoa Atamu et al.)	4.1
R647-649	misc.	<i>Tapura Hetu</i> (later <i>Tapura Re'o</i> ), Rapa Nui newspaper, 3 issues, 2010	18.8
R650-654	dialogue	Television speeches and interviews	6.2
Total word count (excluding duplicates R379, R397, R408, R403-404)			399.9

#### 4. Bible translation

Code	Text type	Description	wrd
Book xx:xx	misc.	Bible translation: the complete New Testament (final version 2015)	348.6
Book xx:xx	misc.	Bible translation: Old Testament portions (draft)	85.0
R630-632	misc.	Text of the Gospel of Luke, adapted for the dubbing of a Biblical video, including opening and closure	32.7
Total word count			466.3



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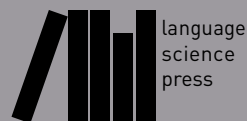
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# A grammar of Rapa Nui

This book is a comprehensive description of the grammar of Rapa Nui, the Polynesian language spoken on Easter Island. After an introductory chapter, the grammar deals with phonology, word classes, the noun phrase, possession, the verb phrase, verbal and nonverbal clauses, mood and negation, and clause combinations.

The phonology of Rapa Nui reveals certain issues of typological interest, such as the existence of strict conditions on the phonological shape of words, word-final devoicing, and reduplication patterns motivated by metrical constraints.

For Polynesian languages, the distinction between nouns and verbs in the lexicon has often been denied; in this grammar it is argued that this distinction is needed for Rapa Nui. Rapa Nui has sometimes been characterised as an ergative language; this grammar shows that it is unambiguously accusative. Subject and object marking depend on an interplay of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors.

Other distinctive features of the language include the existence of a 'neutral' aspect marker, a serial verb construction, the emergence of copula verbs, a possessive-relative construction, and a tendency to maximise the use of the nominal domain. Rapa Nui's relationship to the other Polynesian languages is a recurring theme in this grammar; the relationship to Tahitian (which has profoundly influenced Rapa Nui) especially deserves attention.

The grammar is supplemented with a number of interlinear texts, two maps and a number of indices.

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