

A person is lying on their back on a white mat with a repeating pattern of blue roses and geometric shapes. The mat is placed on a wooden floor made of horizontal planks. The person is wearing a dark grey sleeveless t-shirt with a colorful grid pattern and grey cargo shorts. The background shows the interior of a traditional building with wooden walls and a woven bamboo door.

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# Verbal number in Kibiri

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A person is lying on their back on a white mat with a repeating pattern of blue roses and geometric shapes. The mat is placed on a wooden floor made of horizontal planks. The person is wearing a dark grey sleeveless t-shirt with a colorful grid pattern and grey cargo shorts. Another person is standing behind them, wearing a colorful patterned shirt. The background shows the interior of a traditional building with wooden walls and a woven bamboo door.

# Summary

- Introduction to Kibiri
- Methodology
- Intransitive stative verbs
- Intransitive dynamic verbs
- Transitive verbs: PN of O + EN
- Ditransitive verbs
- Conclusion

# Introduction to Kibiri

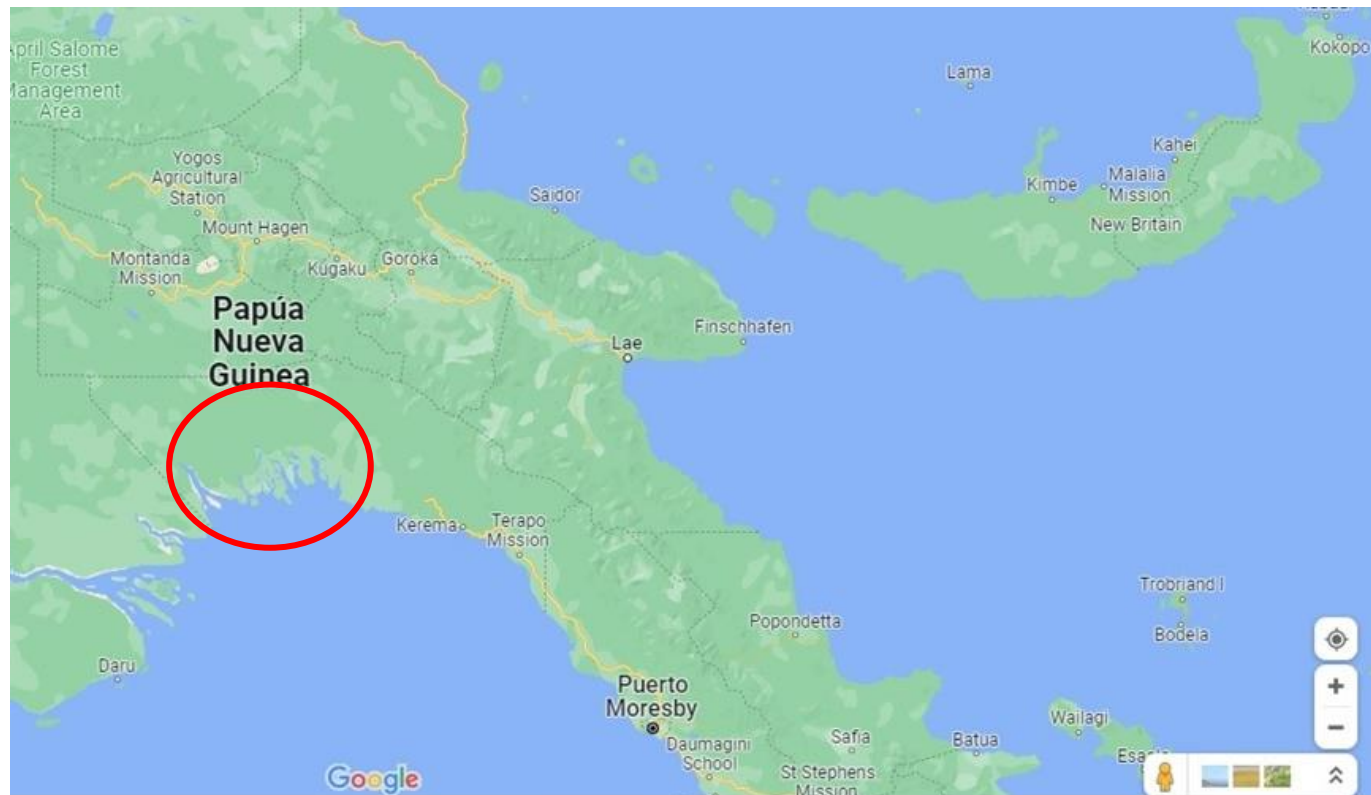
- Kibiri [prm] No ISO code yet
- Etymology: Kitouri tree (species?)
- Kibiri-Porome: Isolate (Hammarström 2017 : 297)
- 300 people (Kimuri Kaini, p.c.)
- 32 L1 speakers
- Intelligible with Porome [prm] (Franklin 1973:273-274; Petterson 2019:1-2)
- Most documentation on Porome by Robert Petterson (SIL)
- Previous documentation: 6 sentences and pronouns in Franklin (1973)

Kitouri tree  
(species?)



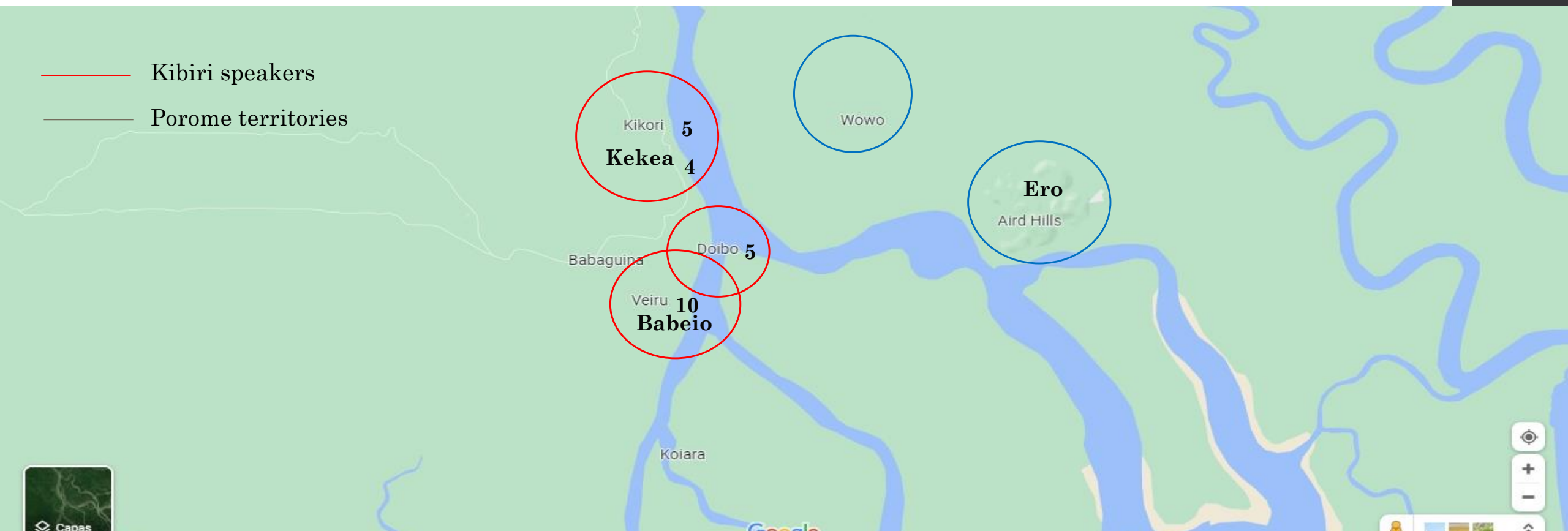
# Introduction to Kibiri

- Gulf Province, Kikori district
- Kikori, Babeio/Veiru, Kekea 1 and 2, Doibo.



# Introduction to Kibiri

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# Introduction to Kibiri

- Other L1 speakers: Port Moresby, Veraibari and Kerema
- Live among other groups: Kerewo, Porome, Rumu, etc.

# Introduction to Kibiri

- 300 people
- 32 remaining L1 speakers
- 40 – 90 years old
- Hiri Motu [hmo], Tok Pisin [tpi], Kerewo [kxz], some English
- Hiri Motu: all social settings (house, church, tribal meetings, etc) + Kerewo
- Children generation (30 – 55): referential KBR NPs into HM speech, understanding, translation
- Grandchildren generation (< 25): recognition of some words, some understanding – no understanding at all.



# Introduction to Kibiri

- Low socialization among L1 speakers: HM, KBR sometimes
- As L2: Non-Kibiri partner (Kerewo, Porome)
- Today's house: Kibiri + Kerewo grandparent
- Start of cessation of transmission: 1970's
- Intermarriage with other groups: Kerewo, etc.
- Non-Kibiri parent's language took over house interactions
- Port Moresby national missionaries speaking HM with the kids. Ban to use KBR?
- Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (EGIDS, Lewis and Simons 2010)
- 8a Moribund or 8b Nearly Extinct

# Methodology

- Corbett (2000)
- Problem: Event number (EN) and Participant number (PN) exhibit the same morphological means:
- Suppletion, partial reduplication.
- How do they interact?
- How to disambiguate situations?

# Methodology

- Ongoing analysis!
- Empirical data
- Elicitation, oral texts, data discussion with speakers
- Stimuli material
- 727 videos/pictures
  - Intransitive statives: 61
  - Intransitive dynamics: 167
  - Transitives: 480
  - Ditransitives: 19
- 3 months, 3 speakers
- 14 participants

# Methodology

- Verbs that were investigated, but not all of them are sensitive to verbal number
- Intransitive statives: 5
  - Lie (on the ground)
  - Hang
  - Stand
  - Sit
  - Float
- Intransitive dynamics: 15
  - Jump
  - Stand up
  - Fall
  - Limp
  - Roll (on the ground)

# Methodology

- Verbs that were investigated, but not all of them are sensitive to verbal number
- Transitives: 30 verbs
  - Hit
  - Kill
  - Hang
  - Break
  - Blow
- Ditransitives: 1
  - Give

# Methodology

- Stimuli parameters
  - Repetition of the event (2 or more times)
  - Number of S, O, theme, recipient.
    - Singular, dual?, plural
  - Once one by one (O1B1)
  - Once at the same time (OATST)
  - Many times one by one (MT1B1)
  - Many times at the same time (MTATST)

# Nominal number vs. Verbal number

| Nominal Number   | Verbal Number  |
|--|--|
| Locus: Noun  | Locus: Verb  |
| Suffixes: <i>-bu</i> , <i>-a</i> on nouns<br>Partial reduplication is very rare. | Suffixes <i>-sto</i> , <i>-wo</i><br>Partial reduplication is widespread<br>Suppletion |
|  |  |

opuito tere      kubi      ke~kere      buai ma~mairi (...)  
 now   person   tree.abst   PL~PART   two   O.PL~carry  
 'Now, the man carried two logs'

# Intransitive stative verbs: PN of S



- (1) Myriam da=ba e-a  
myriam 3SG=EMPH **lie.S.SG-3.PRS**  
'Myriam is lying (on the floor)'



- (2) Mi buai da=ba **teri-a**  
girl.ABST two 3SG=EMPH **lie.S.PL-3.PRS**  
'The two girls are lying on the floor'



# Intransitive stative verbs: PN of S

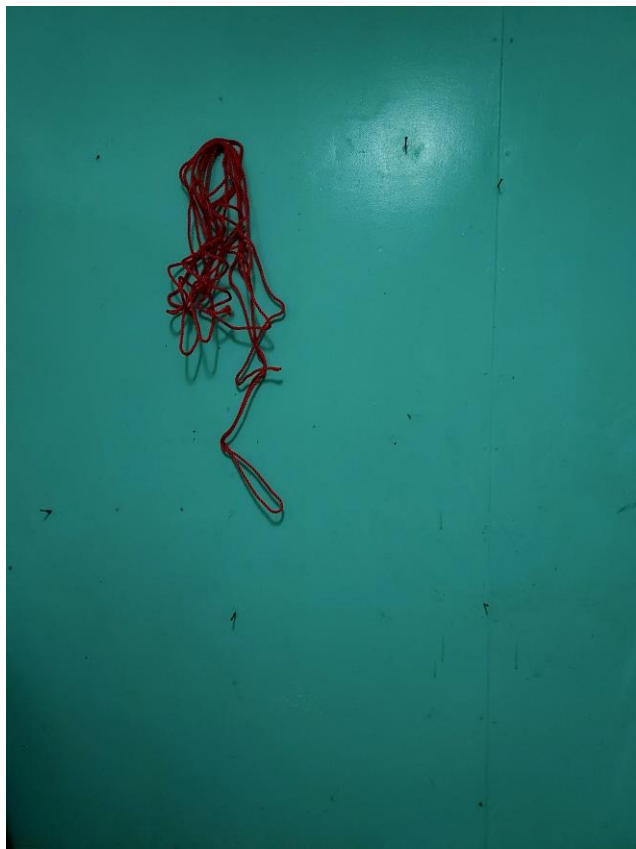


- (3) Mi            ewa    da=ba            **ete**-a  
girl.ABST big    3SG=EMPH    **stand.S.SG**-3.PRS  
'The big girl is standing'



- (4) Miryam Umo aboai=ba    **uri**-a  
myriam umo    3D=EMPH    **stand.S.PL**-3.PRS  
'Myriam and Umo are both standing'

# Intransitive stative verbs: PN of S



- (5) Ukukuro da=ba **tete**-a  
rope.ABST 3SG=EMPH? **hang.S.SG**-3.PRS  
'The rope is hanging'



- (6) Ukukuro buai da=ba **kaiw**-a  
rope.ABST two 3SG=EMPH **hang.S.PL**-3.PRS  
'The two ropes are hanging'

# Intransitive stative verbs: PN of S



(7) Kubi kere da=ba ubi-neika **bai-a**  
tree.ABST PART 3SG=EMPH water.ABST-in **float.S.SG-3.PRS**  
'The stick is floating in the water'



(8) Kubi kere buai ubi-neika **ba~bai-are**  
tree.ABST PART two water.ABST-in **S.PL~float -IPFV**  
'The two sticks are floating in the water'

# Intransitive stative verbs: PN of S



Also:  
*ibitimaro* vs  
*ibi~bitimaro*  
'Sit'



- (7) Kubi kere da=ba ubi-neika **bai**-a (8) Kubi kere buai ubi-neika **ba~bai**-are  
tree.ABST PART 3SG=EMPH water.ABST-in **float.S.SG-3.PRS** tree.ABST PART two water.ABST-in **S.PL~float** -IPFV  
'The stick is floating in the water' 'The two sticks are floating in the water'

# Intransitive dynamics: EN > PN of S

(9) bueri                      nimo    **paruoi**      do-bu  
unmarried.woman   woman   **jump.SG**    AUX-3.HODPST  
'The girl jumped once'

(10) bueri                      nimo    **pa~paruoi**    do-bu  
unmarried.woman   woman   **jump.PL**    AUX-3.HODPST  
'The girl jumped many times'

(11) koberi                      tere    wawa **paruo**-bu                      bueri                      nimo  
unmarried.man   male   one   **jump.SG-3.HODPST**    unmarried.woman   female

itapa wawa **paruo**-bu  
also   one   **jump.SG-3.HODPST**

'The man jumped once, the woman also jumped once' (O1B1)

# Intransitive dynamics: EN > PN of S

(12) nauara wawa pa~paruo-bu  
together one S.PL~jump-3.HODPST  
'(They) jumped together once' (OATST)

(13) aboakei mi ai keu pa~paruo-bu  
3D girl.ABST boy.ABST many S.PL~jump-3.HODPST  
'The girl and the boy both jumped many times' (MT1B1)

(14) aboakei keu pa~paruo-bu  
3D many S.PL~jump-3.HODPST  
'They both jumped many times' (MTATST)

Other verb(s): *bai* vs *ba~bai* 'stand up'

# Intransitive dynamics: PN of S

*-sto suffix*

(15) kubi            okoire-ra-bu  
tree.ABST fall-PFV-3.HODPST  
'The tree has fallen'

(16) kubi-abo            okoire-**sto**-ra-bu  
tree.ABST-DEF.PL fall-**S.PL**-PFV-3.HODPST  
'The trees have fallen'

# Transitives: PN of O



(17) moi-da=nei      kubi      kere      **mairi**-are  
man-DEF.SG=AGT tree.ABST PART **carry.O.SG**-IPFV  
'The man is carrying one log'



(18) moi-da=nei      kubi      kere      **ma~mairi**-are  
man-DEF.SG=AGT tree.ASBT PART **O.PL~carry**-IPFV  
'The man is carrying many logs'



# Transitives: PN of O



Also:  
*mare vs.*  
*ma~mare*  
'Catch'



(17) moi-da=nei      kubi      kere      **mairi**-are  
man-DEF.SG=AGT tree.ABST PART **carry.O.SG**-IPFV  
'The man is carrying one log'

(18) moi-da=nei      kubi      kere      **ma~mairi**-are  
man-DEF.SG=AGT tree.ASBT PART **O.PL~carry**-IPFV  
'The man is carrying many logs'

# Transitives: PN of O +EN

(19) moi-da          ukukuro    wawa    **tetea**-bu  
man-DEF.SG    rope.ABST    one      **hang.O.SG**-3.HODPST  
'The man hung the rope'

(20) moi-da          opoi ukukuro    buai nauara      **kaiawo**-bu  
man-DEF.SG    now rope.ABST    two    together      **hang.O.PL**-3.HODPST  
'The man hung two ropes (once) at the same time' (OATST)

(21) moi-da          ukukuro-da          wawa    keu    beiro          maira=nei  
man-DEF.SG    rope.ABST-DEF.SG    one      many    day.CSTR    time=?

**ka~kaiawo**=ba

**PL~hang.O.PL**=DECL

'The man hung the (SAME) ROPE many times' (1MT, O1B1) = hung the ROPES SEPARATELY ONE BY ONE = MANY TIMES. Both meanings are ok.

# Transitives: PN of O +EN

(22) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere **kevo**-are  
kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART **break.SG**-IPFV  
'The small kid is breaking **one stick once**'

(23) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere **ke~kevo**-are  
kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART **PL~break**-IPFV  
'The small kid is breaking **one stick many times**'

(24) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere buakei **kevo-sto**-are  
kid small-DIM=AGT tree PART two **break.SG-O.PL**-IPFV  
'The small kid is breaking **two sticks once**'

(25) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere buakei **ke~kevo-sto**-are  
kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART two **PL~break-O.PL**-IPFV  
'The kid is breaking **two sticks many times**'

# Transitives: PN of O + EN

(22) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere **kevo**-are  
 kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART **break.SG**-IPFV  
 ‘The small kid is breaking **one stick once**’

No marking of O.PL  
 EN > PN  
 What matters is EN

(23) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere **ke~kevo**-are  
 kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART **PL~break**-IPFV  
 ‘The small kid is breaking **one stick many times**’

No marking of O.PL  
 EN = PN  
 If many times = many sticks

(24) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere buakei **kevo-sto**-are  
 kid small-DIM=AGT tree PART two **break.SG-O.PL**-IPFV  
 ‘The small kid is breaking **two sticks once**’

UNATTESTED

(25) Karera etere-mi=nei kubi kere buakei **ke~kevo-sto**-are  
 kid small-DIM=AGT tree.ABST PART two **PL~break-O.PL**-IPFV  
 ‘The kid is breaking **two sticks many times**’

Marking of O.PL  
 PN = EN  
 If many sticks = many times

# Ditransitives: PN of T

(26) mi=nei=nei      kubi      kere    wawa    apa-bu                      mi=nei=nei=ra  
girl.ABST=?=AGT tree.ABST PART one    give-3.HODPST    girl.ABST=?=?=R  
'The girl gave one stick to the (other) girl'

(27) mi=nei=nei      kubi      ke~kere    buai    buai    apa-**wo**-bu  
girl.ABST=?=AGT tree.ABST PL~PART two two    give-**T.PL**-3.HODPST

mi=nei=nei=ra

girl.ABST=?=?=R

'The girl gave four sticks to the (other) girl'

# Conclusion

|                | Participant                     |   |           | Event      |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|------------|
|                | S                               | O/T   | Recipient |            |
| Intr. Statives | Suppl / Part. Red.              |   |           |            |
| Intr. Dynamics | Suffix <i>-sto</i> / Part. Red. |   |           | Part. Red. |
| Transitives    |                                 | Suffix <i>-sto</i> /<br>Part. Red./<br>Suppletion |           | Part. Red. |
| Ditransitives  |                                 | Suffix <i>-wo</i>                                 |           |            |

In intransitive dynamic verbs, when the participant number of S is SG, partial reduplication expresses event number (many times), but when the participant number of S is PL, then partial reduplication expresses plurality of the S participant and event number expression is obliterated

# Conclusion

|                | Participant                     |   |           | Event      |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|------------|
|                | S                               | O/T   | Recipient |            |
| Intr. Statives | Suppl / Part. Red.              |   |           |            |
| Intr. Dynamics | Suffix <i>-sto</i> / Part. Red. |   |           | Part. Red. |
| Transitives    |                                 | Suffix <i>-sto</i> /<br>Part. Red./<br>Suppletion |           | Part. Red. |
| Ditransitives  |                                 | Suffix <i>-wo</i>                                 |           |            |

In intransitive dynamic verbs, when the participant number of S is SG, partial reduplication expresses event number (many times), but when the participant number of S is PL, then partial reduplication expresses plurality of the S participant and event number expression is obliterated

# Conclusion

- Ergative behaviour: Corbett (2000)
- PN's morphology is more complex than EN's
- EN interpretation is obliterated when PN is PL in intransitive dynamic verbs, more research is needed.
- EN and PN can be marked simultaneously, but semantically one can imply the other (break)
- The parameters 1B1 and ATST help to disambiguate situations



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*Amo  
dororiba!*



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