

## Onnele number beyond number

“Number is the most underestimated  
of the grammatical categories.

It is deceptively simple,  
and is much more interesting and varied  
than most linguists realize.”

- Greville Corbett (2000)



## Onnele number beyond number

False assumptions:

- ◊ Number is just an opposition of singular vs. plural
- ◊ All relevant items (e.g. nouns) will mark number
- ◊ Items which do mark number will behave the same
- ◊ Number must be expressed
- ◊ Number is a nominal category
- ◊ *A given number morpheme always indicates the same sense*

## Onnele number beyond number



### Quantifiers

Cardinal numerals  
 Ordinal numerals  
 Distributive numerals  
 Referential properties of numerals  
 Non-numeral quantifiers  
 Syntactic Properties



### Nominals

Basic free pronouns  
 Emphatic pronouns  
 Agreement markers  
 Complex nominals  
 Nouns  
 Number words



### Verbal Number

Iteratives  
 Distributives  
 Reciprocity



## Quantifiers: Cardinal numerals

- (1) *Iri para wokera w-ai-ye ipele ompoi plainre.*  
 tree grass one 2/3s-sit-2/3s.CONT middle string.bag two  
 ‘One leaf is sitting between two string bags.’
- (2) *Uma plain-rikera n-ai-ne n-ukalo-ne eli.*  
 man.PL two-one 3ns-sit-3ns.CONT 3ns-fasten-3ns.CONT spear  
 ‘Three men are sitting and fastening spears.’



## Quantifiers: Cardinal numerals

Num.	Onnele	Gloss	Tok Pisin
1	<i>wokera</i>	‘one’	-
2	<i>plainre</i>	‘two’	-
3	<i>plain-rikera</i>	‘two-one’	<i>tri(pela)</i>
4	<i>plainre (ka) plainre</i>	‘two (and) two’	<i>fo(pela)</i>
5	<i>plain-rikera (ka) plainre / mew-pikali</i>	‘two-one (and) two’ / ‘hand-broken[fist]’	<i>faiŋ(pela)</i>
6	<i>mew-pikali (ka) wokera</i>	‘hand-broken[fist] (and) one’	<i>siks(pela)</i>
7	<i>mew-pikali (ka) plainre</i>	‘hand-broken[fist] (and) two’	<i>sewen</i>
8	<i>mew-pikali (ka) plain-rikera</i>	‘hand-broken[fist] (and) two-one’	<i>et(pela)</i>
9	<i>mew-pikali (ka) plainre-plainre</i>	‘hand-broken[fist] (and) two-two’	<i>nain(pela)</i>
10	<i>mew-plainre-pikali</i>	‘hand-two-broken[fist]’	<i>ten(pela)</i>
11	<i>mew-plainre-pikali (ka) wokera</i>	‘hand-two-broken[fist] (and) one’	<i>ilewen</i>



## Quantifiers: Cardinal numerals

- (3) *Fonde ki k-apu k-apu pai ningki ki k-iyε. Fraide ki*  
 Thursday 1SG 1s-search 1s-search until night 1SG 1s-sleep. Thursday 1SG  
*k-apu k-apu pai ningki ki k-iyε.*  
 1s-search 1s-search until night 1SG 1s-sleep.

‘On Thursday I searched and searched until night and I slept. On Friday I searched and searched until night and I slept.’



## Quantifiers: Ordinal numerals

- (4) *Ningki paiyi peplere ningkinama, sa kaire plain-rikera.*  
 night 3s-go break morning TOP sun two-one

‘The night lasted until it broke into morning; that was **three days**.’





## Quantifiers: Ordinal numerals

- (5) *Ka wu wol-rufu kore mi namo emen wu isi y-uka mi*  
 and 3SG liver-think again speech DET.MID at.first 3SG PAST 2/3s-tie speech  
*pin mayklama namo...*  
 woman marriageable.female DET.MID...  
 ‘And he remembered that word he had **first** agreed to with that young woman...’



## Quantifiers: Ordinal numerals

- (6) *Ki sa mel-mana plainren. Ila mana sa risi, noula Sen,*  
 1SG TOP child-male two. head man TOP go.first, name Sen,  
*y-upene sa pin-mela noula Danila, ka w-airu sa Laurens.*  
 2/3s-follow TOP female-child name Sanila, and 2/3s-come.last TOP Laurens.  
 ‘I have two boys. The oldest son **came first**, named Sen, the **one following** is the  
 sister named Danila, and **coming last** is Laurens.’



## Quantifiers: Distributive numerals

- (7) *Wu y-awa-le nu painri plainre plainre mokoi wok~wokera.*  
 3SG 2/3s-send-nsO 3PL 3ns.go two two village one-one.  
 'He sent them to go **by twos** to **each** village.'



## Quantifiers: Distributive numerals

TABLE 2.2: FULL AND PARTIAL REDUPLICATION OF DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERALS

Partial reduplication	Full reduplication	Gloss
<i>wok~wokera,</i> <i>woker~woker</i>	<i>wokera~wokera</i>	'one one'
<i>plain~plainre</i>	<i>plainre~plainre</i>	'two two'
<i>plain-ri~plain-riker</i>	<i>plain-riker~plain-riker</i>	'two-one two-one [three three]'



## Quantifiers: Distributive numerals

- (8) *pɔnɛ p-ire-ɲkle nu painri n-inan n-ai fiti fiti uma.*  
 2PL 2ns-tell-3nsO 3PL 3ns.go 3ns-spread.out 3ns-sit fifty fifty people.  
 ‘You tell them to go spread out and sit in groups of fifty people.’




## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

- (9) *Uporo wamo empo mu plain-rikera m-a-we yene m-olo<m>i*  
 good big GEN 1PL.EXC two-one 1ns-with-2sO 2SG 1ns-come<1ns>  
*mɛɛ.*  
 DET.PROX

‘It’s so good that **we three** came here with you.’






## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

(10) *Yene wokera nro sa fei namale ommo fika empo*  
 2SG one only TOP no know something.NS what GEN  
*n-emei-ne kaire namo wee?*  
 3ns-get.up-3ns.CONT sun DET.MID YNQ


‘How **uniquely** you that you don’t know what things have been happening today, am I right?’



## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

TABLE 2.3: INDEFINITE QUANTIFIERS AND NUMERALS


Numeral	Gloss	Quantifier	Gloss
<i>wokera</i>	‘one’	<i>wonke</i>	‘a, one, another’
<i>plainre</i>	‘two’	<i>plai</i>	‘some, others’



## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals


- (11) *Ki k-ire k-uupu ommo papli **plai** fai k-aile ka re k-ire*  
 1SG 1s-want 1s-get something.NS skin some PRP 1s-wear and too 1s-want  
*k-em mobile **wojke**.*  
 1s-get mobile another

‘I want to buy **some** clothes to wear and I also want to get **a** mobile phone.’



## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals


- (12) ***Wojke** ese w-ai-ye riri, **wojke** iplele, ka **wojke** ruwe.*  
 one FUT 2/3s-be-2/3s.CONT above, another middle, and another below.  
 ‘**One** will be up above, **another** in the middle, and **another** down below.’



## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

(13) *Ka wojke mana wu-nini namo, ke paiyi ka, w-ai-le pon,*  
 and another man 3SG-POSS DET.MID CTEXP 3s.go and 2/3s-sit-nsO poo  
*ile-plola wamo, y-uka pouw para, ka y-ina w-ai-ye...*  
 short-piece big 2/3s-wrap breadfruit leaf and 2/3s-put 2/3s-sit-2/3s.CONT  
*se wone wojke mana namo ke y-olo<w>i y-ulu*  
 CTS 3SG.EMPH another man DET.MID CTEXP 2/3s-come<2/3s> 2/3s-see  
*pouw kura namo.*  
 breadfruit bundle DET.MID

‘But that **friend of his** had gone and sat there and made a big short poop and wrapped it with breadfruit husk, and he put it there... but then **his own friend** there came and saw that bundle of breadfruit.’




## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

(14) *wu w-ai-ye y-oru sewenpela kaire kore*  
 3SG 2/3s-sit-2/3s.CONT 2/3s-wait seven sun again

‘He stayed and waited seven days **more**.’






## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

(15) *Ka wone wongke mana namo y-ali-ne Asukla, "Y-ire yene*  
 and 3SG.EMPH other man DET.MID 2/3s-ask-SO prawn 2/3s-say 2s  
*re ro y-apu-le ompla plai pu wee?" Ka wu y-ire,*  
 too must 2/3s-find-nsO something some already YNQ and 3SG 2/3s-say  
*"Ki re ome."*  
 1SG too nothing

‘And his friend there asked Prawn, "You say, you **too** must have found some food already, or not?" And he said, "Me **neither**."’



## Quantifiers: Referential properties of numerals

(16) *m-ampo Arop ese m-em-m-oku plau nu kongkom plai.*  
 1NS-go.down Arop FUT 1ns-RECP-1ns-gather COM 3PL children some  
 ‘We went down to Arop to gather **with** the **other** guys.’



## Quantifiers: Non-numeral quantifiers

TABLE 2.4: NON-NUMERAL QUANTIFIER NOMINALS

Singular	Plural	Distributive Singular	Distributive Plural
<i>plola</i> 'part'	<i>ploli</i> 'parts'	<i>plol~plola</i> 'DISTR~part(pieces)'	<i>plol~ploli</i> 'DISTR~parts(pieces.many)'
<i>rola</i> 'little.bit'	<i>roli</i> 'little.bits'	<i>rol~rola</i> 'DISTR~little.bit'	<i>rol~roli</i> 'DISTR~little.bits(many)'

TABLE 2.5: NON-NUMERAL QUANTIFIER ADJECTIVES

Onnele	Gloss	Onnele	Gloss
<i>miɲkla</i>	'many'	<i>miɲkla-ri</i>	'many-SUP'
<i>pitiri</i>	'little, few'	<i>pitiri~pitiri / pitir~pitiri / pit~pitiri</i>	'SUP~little'
<i>wamo</i>	'big/plenty'	<i>wamo-le</i>	'big/plenty-SUP'



## Quantifiers: Non-numeral quantifiers

(17) *empo wik mɛɛ ki k-anke ommo miɲkla empo DYL kos.*  
 GEN week DET.PROX 1SG 1s-do thing.NS many GEN DYL course  
 'During this week I did **many** things for the DYL course.'


(18) *miɲkla-ri n-em-n-oku painri ka n-angke mi kelo.*  
 many-SUP 3ns-RECP-3ns-gather 3ns.go and 3ns-make speech strong  
 'Everyone moved together and made a big shout.'

(19) *ommo empo nupi n-emei miɲkla.*  
 something.NS GEN river 3ns-get.up many.  
 'The creatures of the rivers became **many**.'



## Quantifiers: Non-numeral quantifiers

- (20) *empo Sānde niyknama-nole mone mingkla-ri ese m-oiple mii ka*  
 GEN Sunday morning-main 1NS.INC many-SUP FUT 1ns-wash water and  
*m-oru-me pin-mana n-ampo-le ommo.*  
 1ns-wait-1ns.CONT woman-man 3ns-cook-nsO something.NS  
 ‘Early on Sunday morning we all will wash and be waiting for the women to cook everything.’



## Quantifiers: Syntactic properties of numerals & quantifiers

- (21) *Kaire namba twenti-sewen empo namba tu kali, pike kam-ole*  
 sun number twenty-seven GEN number two moon, ground dry-SUP  
 ‘On day twenty-seven of the second month, the ground had become fully dry.’





## Quantifiers: Syntactic properties of numerals & quantifiers

(22) *Iri para panima wamo plainrane n-ai-ne ompoi*  
 tree.branch grass green big two 3ns-sit-3ns.CONT string.bag  
*kuma-lpo.*  
 back-LOC  
 ‘**Two** big green leaves are sitting at the back of a string bag.’



## Quantifiers: Syntactic properties of numerals & quantifiers

“If there must be nominals, Papuan speakers...  
 try to have no more than one nominal modifying the verb  
 in the clause, and no more than one modifying element  
 in the nominal phrase.”

- *Lourens de Vries* (2006)

## Quantifiers: Syntactic properties of numerals & quantifiers

(23) *Iri para plainrane n-ai-ne ompoi kumalpo, iri*  
 tree.branch grass two 3ns-sit-3ns.CONT string.bag back-LOC tree.branch  
*para wamo, panima.*  
 grass big green  
 ‘Two tree leaves are sitting at the back of a string bag – big leaves, green.’

## Nominals: Number in basic free pronouns

TABLE 3.1: ONNELE PERSONAL FREE PRONOUNS

Person / Number	Singular	Plural	Clusivity
1	<i>ki</i>	<i>mu</i>	<b>inclusive</b>
		<i>mone</i>	<b>exclusive</b>
2	<i>yene</i>	<i>pone</i>	-
3	<i>wu</i>	<i>nu</i>	-

## Nominals: Number in emphatic pronouns

TABLE 3.2: DISYLLABIC PRONOUN CHANGE ACROSS BASIC AND EMPHATIC PRONOUNS

Person & No.	Basic	Emphatic	Alternative Emphatic Phrases
1SG	<i>ki</i>	<i>kɔne</i>	<i>ki wone</i>
2SG	<i>yene</i>	<i>wɔne</i>	<i>yene won</i>
3SG	<i>wu</i>	<i>wɔne</i>	<i>wu wone</i>
1PL.EXC	<i>mu</i>	-	<i>mu mɔne</i>
1PL.INC	<i>mɔne</i>	-	<i>mone won</i>
2PL	<i>pɔne</i>	-	<i>pone won</i>
3PL	<i>nu</i>	<i>nɔne</i>	<i>nu wone</i>

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.3: ONNELE FREE &amp; BOUND SUBJECT PRONOUNS

Person & No.	Basic Free Pronouns	Bound Subject Markers	Bound CONT Aspect Enclitics	Person & No.
1SG	<i>ki</i>	<i>k-</i>	<i>-kɛ</i>	1s
2SG	<i>yene</i>	<i>y/w/r-</i>	<i>-yɛ</i>	2/3s
3SG	<i>wu</i>			
1PL (EXC)	<i>mu</i>	<i>m-</i>	<i>-mɛ</i>	1ns
1PL (INC)	<i>mɔne</i>			
2PL	<i>pɔne</i>	<i>p-</i>	<i>-pɛ</i>	2ns
3PL	<i>nu</i>	<i>n-</i>	<i>-nɛ</i>	3ns



# Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.4: ONNELE TRANSITIVE VERB FORMATION

	Free Subject Pronoun	Bound Subject Prefix	Verb Root	Bound Object Suffix	Free Object Pronoun
'2SG give [it to] 3SG'	<i>yene</i>	<i>y-</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>-ne</i>	<i>wu</i>

# Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.5: TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH *-le* (NS) MARKER

Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>w-ai</i> 2/3s-sit	<i>w-ai-le</i> 2/3s-poo-nsO
<i>y-apu</i> 2/3s-search	<i>y-apu-le</i> 2/3s-search-nsO
<i>y-ei</i> 2/3s-sing	<i>y-ei-le</i> 2/3s-sing-nsO
<i>y-ina</i> 2/3s-[bird]sing	<i>y-ina-le</i> 2/3s-[bird]sing-nsO
<i>y-ompo</i> 2/3s-blow	<i>y-ompo-le</i> 2/3s-blow-nsO
<i>y-ouw</i> 2/3s-call.out	<i>y-ouw-le</i> 2/3s-call.out-nsO
<i>y-ura</i> 2/3s-cut[overgrowth]	<i>y-ura-le</i> 2/3s-cut[overgrowth]-nsO

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.6: TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH *-lo* (NS) MARKER

Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>y-oko</i> 2/3s-chop.SG	<i>y-oko-lo</i> 2/3s-chop-nsO
<i>y-ompo</i> 2/3s-plant/dig.hole.SG	<i>y-ompo-lo</i> 2/3s-plant/dig.hole-nsO
<i>y-uka</i> 2/3s-cover.SG	<i>y-uka-lo</i> 2/3s-cover-nsO

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.7: VERBS WITH *-li* (NS) MARKER

Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>r-aune</i> 2/3s-touch.SG	<i>r-aune-li</i> 2/3s-touch-nsO
<i>y-una</i> 2/3s-hold.SG	<i>y-una-li</i> 2/3s-hold-nsO
<i>ri</i> die.SG	<i>ri-li</i> die-nsE

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.8: VERBS WITH *-re* (NS) MARKER

Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>y-aule</i> 2/3s-cut.sO	<i>y-aule-re</i> 2/3s-cut-nsO
<i>y-ekli</i> 2/3s-break.sO	<i>y-ekli-re</i> / <i>y-eki-re</i> 2/3s-break-nsO
<i>y-opli</i> 2/3s-break.sO	<i>y-opli-re</i> 2/3s-break-nsO
<i>y-ule</i> 2/3s-side.cut.sO	<i>y-ule-re</i> 2/3s-side.cut-nsO

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.9: TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH *-ne* (SG) & *-le* (NS) MARKERS

Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>y-awa-ne</i> 2/3s-send-sO	<i>y-awa-le</i> 2/3s-send-nsO
<i>y-olo-ne</i> 2/3s-lift.up-sO	<i>y-olo-le</i> 2/3s-lift.up-nsO
<i>y-ukai-ne</i> 2/3s-is.like-sO	<i>y-ukai-le</i> 2/3s-is.like-nsO
<i>y-uma-ne</i> 2/3s-call/choose-sO	<i>y-uma-le</i> 2/3s-call/choose-nsO
<i>y-upe-ne</i> 2/3s-follow-sO	<i>y-upe-le</i> 2/3s-follow-nsO
<i>y-upo-ne</i> 2/3s-leave-sO	<i>y-upo-le</i> 2/3s-leave-nsO



## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.10: TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH MISCELLANEOUS O MARKERS

Singular object	Non-singular object	Singular object	Non-singular object
<i>kungku-no</i> not.know-sO	<i>kungku-mple</i> not.know-nsO	<i>y-irapo-ne</i> 2/3s-leave-sO	<i>y-ira&lt;l&gt;po-le</i> 2/3s-leave<nsO>nsO
<i>r-a-na</i> 2/3s-put.inside-sO	<i>r-a-ile</i> 2/3s-put.in side-nsO	<i>y-is-i</i> 2/3s-hammer-sO	<i>y-is-olo</i> 2/3s-hammer-nsO
<i>rikepone</i> win/beat.sO	<i>rike&lt;l&gt;pone</i> win/beat.nsO	<i>y-ok-u</i> 2/3s-plant-sO	<i>y-ok-le</i> 2/3s-plant-nsO
<i>y-aikowo</i> 2/3s-drink.sO	<i>y-aiko&lt;l&gt;wo</i> 2/3s-drink<nsO>	<i>y-omro-me</i> 2/3s-lift.up-sO	<i>y-omro-lo</i> 2/3s-lift.up-nsO
<i>y-auli</i> 2/3s-split.sO	<i>y-auli-ri</i> 2/3s-split-nsO	<i>y-onykol-e</i> 2/3s-shoulder-sO	<i>y-onykol-wa</i> 2/3s-shoulder-nsO
<i>y-einj-<i>lo</i></i> 2/3s-loosen-sO	<i>y-einj-o</i> 2/3s-loosen-nsO	<i>y-opl-in-e</i> 2/3s-bite-sO	<i>y-opl-ekare</i> 2/3s-bite-nsO
<i>y-ima-i</i> 2/3s-clear.away-sO	<i>y-ima-ne</i> 2/3s-clear.away-nsO	<i>y-uf-u</i> 2/3s-hit-sO	<i>y-uf-lo</i> 2/3s-hit-nsO

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.11: ONNELE “GIVE” &amp; “TELL” BOUND OBJECT MARKERS

Person & No.	Basic Free Pronouns	Bound Subject Markers	“Give” Object Markers	“Tell” Object Markers	Bound Subject CONT Aspect Enclitics	Person & No.
1SG	<i>ki</i>	<i>k-</i>	<i>y-a-ke</i>	<i>y-ire-ki</i>	<i>-ke</i>	1s
2SG	<i>yene</i>	<i>y/w/r-</i>	<i>y-a-we</i>	<i>y-ire-wi</i>	<i>-ye</i>	2/3s
3SG	<i>wu</i>		<i>y-a-ne</i>	<i>y-ire-ni</i>		
1PL (EXC)	<i>mu</i>	<i>m-</i>	<i>y-a-me</i>	<i>y-ire-mi</i>	<i>-me</i>	1ns
1PL (INC)	<i>mone</i>					
2PL	<i>pone</i>	<i>p-</i>	<i>y-a-pe</i>	<i>y-ire-pi</i>	<i>-pe</i>	2ns
3PL	<i>nu</i>	<i>n-</i>	<i>y-a-li</i>	<i>y-ire-nykle</i>	<i>-ne</i>	3ns

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.12: ONNELE TRANSITIVE & COMITATIVE 'AND'-VERB FORMATION

	Free Subject Pronoun	Bound Subject Prefix	Verb Root	Bound Object Suffix	Free Object Pronoun
'2SG give [it to] 3SG'	<i>yene</i>	<i>y-</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>-ne</i>	<i>wu</i>
'2sg and 3SG'	<i>yene</i>	<i>y-</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>-ne</i>	<i>wu</i>

## Nominals: Number in agreement markers

TABLE 3.13: ONNELE COMITATIVE 'AND'-VERB OBJECT MARKERS

Person & No.	Bound Subject Markers	Person & No.	Basic Free Pronouns	Person & No.	'Give' Object Markers	Comitative 'And'-Verb Markers	'Tell' Object Markers
1s	<i>k-</i>	1SG	<i>ki</i>	1SG	<i>y-a-ke</i>	<i>y-a-ne / k-a-we</i>	<i>y-ire-ki</i>
2/3s	<i>y/w/r-</i>	2SG	<i>yene</i>	2SG	<i>y-a-we</i>	<i>y-a-we</i>	<i>y-ire-wi</i>
		3SG	<i>wu</i>	3SG	<i>y-a-ne</i>	<i>y-a-ne</i>	<i>y-ire-ni</i>
1ns	<i>m-</i>	1PL.EXC	<i>mu</i>	1NSO	<i>y-a-me</i>	<i>y-a-me</i>	<i>y-ire-mi</i>
		1PL.INC	<i>mone</i>				
2ns	<i>p-</i>	2PL	<i>pone</i>	2PL	<i>y-a-pe</i>	<i>y-a-pe</i>	<i>y-ire-pi</i>
3ns	<i>n-</i>	3PL	<i>nu</i>	3PL	<i>y-a-li</i>	<i>y-a-kle</i>	<i>y-ire-ηkle</i>

## Nominals: Number in complex nominals

TABLE 3.14: ONNELE COMPLEX DUAL PRONOUNS BASED ON 'AND'-VERB

Complex Person	Following Hierarchy	Reverse Hierarchy	Inclusive
1 + 2	<i>ki-k-a-we</i> 1SG-1s-and-2s 'I – you with me'	<i>yen-k-a-we</i> 2SG-1s-and-2s 'you – I with you'	<i>mən-k-a-we</i> 1NS-1s-and-2s 'we – you and I'
1 + 3	<i>ki-k-a-ne</i> 1SG-1s-and-SG 'I – he/she with me'	<i>wu-y-a-ne ki</i> 3SG-3s-and-SG 'he/she-I with him/her'	-
2 + 2	* <i>yən-y-a-we</i>	-	-
2 + 3	<i>yən-y-a-ne</i> 2SG-2s-and-SG 'you – you and he/she'	<i>wu-y-a-ne yene</i> 3SG-3s-and-SG 2SG 'he/she – he/she with you'	-
3 + 3	<i>wu-y-a-ne</i> 3SG-3s-and-SG 'he/she – he/she with another'	-	-

## Nominals: Number in nouns

(25) *rora wongke wila paiyi w-ai-ye roma ka mu m-ɛm roma,*  
 bird a fly 3s.go 2/3s-sit-2/3s.CONT stone and 1PL.EXC 1ns-get stone  
*ka mu m-uu rora namo*  
 and 1PL.EXC 1ns-shoot bird DEM.MID

'A bird flew over and was sitting on a **stone**, and we got **stones** and we shot them at that bird.'



## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.15: GENERAL FORM NOUNS

Onnele	Gloss	Onnele	Gloss
<i>afu</i>	'black.palm(s)'	<i>mokoi</i>	'village(s)'
<i>ai</i>	'bush(jungle)'	<i>monre</i>	'house(s), home(s)'
<i>aimon</i>	'knife/knives'	<i>monyoma</i>	'neck(s)'
<i>amu</i>	'egg(s)'	<i>moule</i>	'space(s), area(s)'
<i>ekleri</i>	'verandah(s)'	<i>mow</i>	'house(s), building(s)'
<i>firela</i>	'fish'	<i>nale</i>	'body/bodies, behaviour(s)'
<i>ila</i>	'head(s)'	<i>nama</i>	'eye(s)'
<i>ilo</i>	'tree(s)'	<i>noula</i>	'name(s)'
<i>kaire</i>	'sun, day(s)'	<i>ompoi</i>	'string.bag(s)'
<i>klai</i>	'earthquake(s)'	<i>pala</i>	'dog(s)'
<i>kinro</i>	'scale(s)'	<i>pika</i>	'ground(s), land(s)'
<i>kolmo<sup>2</sup></i>	'matrilinal.kin'	<i>puna</i>	'stomach(s)'
<i>koi</i>	'area(s), place(s)'	<i>rai</i>	'song(s)'
<i>malila</i>	'worm(s)'	<i>rokoi</i>	'road(s), path(s), way(s)'
<i>mew</i>	'hand(s), arm(s)'	<i>uka</i>	'noise(s)'
<i>mi</i>	'talk, word(s), story/stories'	<i>ujkla</i>	'nose(s)'
<i>mii</i>	'water(s)'	<i>weila<sup>3</sup></i>	'pitpit(s)'
<i>misiri</i>	'trap(s)'	<i>wola</i>	'liver(s)'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.16: NOUNS WITH PLURAL -PI SUFFIX

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>ara, ara-fle<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>ara-pi</i>	'father's.sister(s)'
<i>auna</i>	<i>auna-pi</i>	'son(s), younger.brother(s), brother's.son(s)'
<i>firem</i>	<i>firem-pi</i>	'friend(s)[between.men]'
<i>kawa</i>	<i>kawa-pi</i>	'friend(s)[between.women], sister.wife/wives[married.to.same.man]'
<i>mam, mampa</i>	<i>mampa-pi</i>	'grandmother(s)'
<i>moka</i>	<i>moka-pi</i>	'mother(s)'
<i>awa</i>	<i>moka-pi</i>	'mother's.younger.sister(s), father's.younger.brother's.wife/wives'
<i>najka</i>	<i>najka-pi</i>	'father(s)'
<i>nona</i>	<i>nona-pi</i>	'daughter(s), younger.sister(s), brother's.daughter(s)'
<i>ripen</i>	<i>ripen-pi</i>	'husband(s).of.daughter(s)'
<i>wowa, aura</i>	<i>aura-pi</i>	'father's.younger.brother'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.17: NOUNS WITH PLURAL *-mpi* SUFFIX

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>ino</i>	<i>ino-mpi</i>	'younger.same.gender.brother(s), father's.younger.sister's.son(s)', mother's.younger.brother's.son(s)'
<i>rani</i>	<i>rani-mpi</i>	'older.same.gender.brother(s), father's.older.brother's.son(s), mother's.older.brother's.son(s)'
<i>rino</i>	<i>rino-mpi</i>	'younger.same.gender.sister(s), father's.sister's.daughter(s), mother's.younger.brother's.daughter(s)'
<i>yairi</i>	<i>yairi-mpi</i>	'husband's.older.sister(s), older.brother's.wife/wives'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.18: NOUNS WITH PLURAL *-ple* SUFFIX

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>apa</i>	<i>apa-ple</i>	'older.brother(s), father's.older.sibling's.child(ren), mother's.older.sibling's.child(ren)'
<i>papa, fapi<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>papa-ple</i>	'mother's.older.brother(s), father's.sister's.husband(s),'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.19: NOUNS WITH MISCELLANEOUS PLURAL SUFFIXES

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>mam</i>	<i>mam-pa</i>	'mother's.older.sister(s), father's.older.brother's.wife/wives.'
<i>pule</i>	<i>pule-ne</i>	'dust(s)'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.20: NOUNS WITH SINGULAR *-i* AND PLURAL *-pi* SUFFIXES

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>mam-i</i>	<i>mam-pi</i>	'grandfather, ancestor(s)[male.and.female]'
<i>pul-i</i>	<i>pul-pi</i>	'wife/wives[of.various.husbands.or.the.same]'
<i>in-i</i>	<i>in-pi</i>	'husband(s)'
<i>alan-i</i>	<i>alan-pi</i>	'older.same.gender.sister(s), parent's.older.sibling's.daughter(s)'



## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.21: NOUNS WITH SINGULAR *-a* AND PLURAL *-i* SUFFIXES

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>wel-a</i>	<i>wel-i</i>	'sprout(s).with.leaf/leaves'
<i>plol-a</i>	<i>plol-i</i>	'part(s), piece(s)'
<i>rinr-a</i>	<i>rinr-i</i>	'bone(s)'
<i>rol-a</i>	<i>rol-i</i>	'part(s), piece(s)'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.22: NOUNS WITH SINGULAR *-fle* AND VARIOUS PLURAL SUFFIXES

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>ara, ara-fle</i>	<i>ara-pi</i>	'father's.sister(s)'
<i>maum-fle</i>	<i>maum-flapi</i>	'grandfather(s), forefather(s)'
<i>wali-fle</i>	<i>wali-mpi</i>	'son's.wife/wives'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.23: MISCELLANEOUS SINGULAR AND PLURAL SUFFIXES

Onnele Singular	Onnele Plural	Gloss
<i>an-i, an-im</i>	<i>an-fife</i>	'grandchild(ren)'
<i>au-la</i>	<i>au-re</i>	'little.one(s)[offspring]'
<i>il-im</i>	<i>il-i</i>	'(s)[of.tree.or.river]'
<i>ol-i</i>	<i>ol-ila</i>	'blood,
<i>om-pla</i>	<i>om-mo</i>	'something / things, food, work'
<i>uk-uli</i>	<i>uk-lele</i>	'sprout(s).without.leaf/leaves'

## Nominals: Number in nouns

TABLE 3.24: NOUN WITH ONLY MARKED SINGULAR *-la* SUFFIX

Singular	Gloss	Plural	Gloss
<i>kinre-la</i>	'root/rope-SG'	<i>kinre</i>	'roots/ropes'



## Nominals: Number words

- (26) *mamplo Arop ese memmoku plau nu kongkom plai.*  
 go.down Arop FUT gather.together with 3PL boys some.  
 ...we went down to Arop to get together with some other **guys**.



## Verbal Number: Iteratives

- (28) *Ka rora w-ila paiyi ka mu m-ajku rora namo, mu*  
 and bird 2/3s-fly 2/3s.go and 1PL.EXC 1ns-chase bird DET.MID 1PL.EXC  
*m-ajku m-ele m-upe-ne nupi namo m-ele*  
 1ns-chase 1ns-come.down 1ns-follow-sO river DET.MID 1ns-come.down  
*m-ajku rora m-ajku m-ajku, mu fei m-uu rora namo.*  
 1ns-chase bird 1ns-chase 1ns-chase 1PL.EXC no 1ns-shoot bird DET.MID  
 ‘And the bird flew away and we **chased** that bird, we **chased** it, and we came down following that river, we came down, **chasing** the bird, **chasing on and on**, but we didn’t shoot that bird.’





## Verbal Number: Iteratives

(29) *Ka wu empo ponrini y-apu-le ompla, y-ire ese w-o*  
 and 3SG GEN hungry 2/3s-search-ITER something 2/3s-want fut 2/3s-eat

*fane.*

like.that.

‘And he being hungry was searching and searching for something, for he wanted to eat.’

(27) *Ommo namo y-emei ki plain-rikera.*  
 something.NS DET.MID 2/3s-get.up 1SG two-one

‘These things happened to me **three times**.’



## Verbal Number: Distributives

(31) *m-aule-re ompla kela m-olo m-ok-le*  
 1ns-cut-nsO something.SG leaf 1ns-go.daun 1ns-plant-nsO

We cut **all kinds of each** leafy thing and went down and planted them [in the stream].

(32) *m-akle rara plainre namo*  
 1NS-cut.sO animal **two** DET.MID

‘We **each** worked on cutting up those **two** animals.’



## Verbal Number: Reciprocity

(30) *Ka mi plai namo n-ai-ne monre*  
 and 3PL some DET.MID 3ns-sit-3ns.CONT inside  
*n-en-n-ampo-le-ne ommo n-o-ne-ne*  
 3ns-RECP-3ns-cook-nsO-3ns.CONT thing.PL 3ns-eat-sO-3ns.CONT  
 ‘And those others were sitting in the house **cooking their food for each other** and eating it.’