KOM LANGUAGE GRAMMAR SKETCH PART 1

George Shultz

Contents

Kom Language Grammar Sketch
Part 1, Preliminary

George Shultz, SIL
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This paper is a preliminary edition of Part 1 of a grammar sketch of the Kom language. Part 1 discusses general information about the language, gives a brief overview of the phonology, discusses the general morphological characteristics of the language, and describes the word classes of the language and the morphological characteristics of each class. Comments are being sought from Kom speakers and linguists in order to improve and verify the description given here. Part 2 of this sketch grammar, which will describe the phrase structure, clause structure, discourse features, and residue, will follow in the near future.

1. Generalities
The Kom language is spoken by the Kom people located in Boyo Division, Northwest Province, Cameroon, Africa.

1.1 Name of language
The language is referred to as "Kom" to outsiders, the same designation given to the people group. It is referred to as "Itaŋikom" (*the speech of Kom*) by speakers of the language.

1.2 Language classification
The Kom language may be classified as one of the Central Ring languages of Grassfields Bantu, Bantoid, Benue-Congo, Niger-Congo, Niger-Kordofanian (Dieu and Renaud). Others prefer to classify Kom as Southern Bantoid, Wide Grassfields, Narrow Grassfields, Ring, Center (Watters and Leroy).

1.3 Number and distribution of speakers
The 1984 Ethnologue listed 127,000 speakers of the Kom language. Current estimates are between 150,000 and 200,000 speakers.

1.4 Ethnographic information
The majority of the population live near the main road which runs from Mbingo, in the south, to beyond Fundong, in the north. The area is divided into three distinct valleys. The Belo valley, in the south, is the largest, with the village of Belo serving as the subdivisional headquarters. The village of Njinikom serves as the administrative headquarters for Njinikom valley. Fundong is located in the Abasakom valley and serves as the divisional headquarters.
The original settlement of the Kom people in the 18th century was in the Abasakom region in the area called Laikom. Later in that century the people began to migrate southward into the Njinikom valley in search of additional farm land. The Kom people engaged in tribal warfare with numerous chiefdoms that surrounded them in the early 19th century. The Kijem (Babanki) people were

forced to leave the area that is now known as Belo. The other smaller chiefdoms remained but became subservient to the Kom fon (king).

Farming remains the primary occupation with women tending small farms to supply food for family consumption and men tending to the cash crop, coffee. The people maintain their rich, traditional culture, including their traditional religion which plays a large role in their daily life. Electricity was introduced in the major villages in 1990 and an improved road was completed in 1995. This development is introducing change into the society. It is now possible for Kom people to travel outside and foreigners to travel to Kom more easily. More goods are available for sale now within the Kom area.

Mr. Loh Pius and Mr. Yisa Manfred have served as the primary language assistants for this research.

1.5 Dialects and language varieties

There is one major dialect of the language which serves 95% of the population. There is very little variation in pronunciation and no difference in lexical items within this dialect. A secondary dialect, spoken in the village of Mbesa, is very closely related to Itaŋikom. The people of the village of Ake also speak a variation of the Kom language. Both Mbesa and Ake are very remote villages.

1.6 Language use and multilingualism

The Kom language is used in all domains of society among Kom people. Pidgin may be used with non-Kom speakers in marketing. English (and very little French) may be used in conducting government business with non-Kom speakers. Most church services are conducted in Kom. In the larger villages, the services are conducted in English or Pidgin and translated into Kom.

1.7 Language contact

The small surrounding chiefdoms have maintained their own languages but nearly all the inhabitants are bilingual, also speaking the Kom language. More and more Kom people are learning to speak Pidgin or English but there does not seem to be an interest in speaking neighboring Cameroonian languages. Some Kom people know a bit of the surrounding languages (Bum, Oku, Nso, Babanki, etc.) but do not use those languages in conversation. The lexicon of the Kom language is being expanded somewhat through the use of loan words from English and French.

1.7.1 Loan words

The following list of borrowed words exemplifies how this phenomenon is expanding the lexicon of the language.

"lâm," from 'lamp,' used of a kerosene lamp;

"lûm," from 'room,' used by some to indicate a room of a house;

"mitù," from 'motor,' used to refer to a road vehicle;

"aflyoŋ," from 'avion,' used to refer to a flying machine;

"sugèy'sì," from 'soldier,' used to refer to 'gendarmes;'

"ìkfàlà," from Pidgin, used to refer to prostitutes;

"nfamasɨ," literally 'eights' but used to speak of 'AIDS;'

"ifɨ," literally 'leaf' but used to speak of 'leave,' 'congé'

1.8 Language vitality

The Kom language will continue to be a viable language well into the future. The people are very proud of their language and culture and seek to preserve it from outside changes. It is the first and only language used in the home by small children. It is being used to teach the skills of reading and writing to over 5,000 primary school children at this time. Many adults, especially women, are attending literacy classes to learn to read and write their language. The Kom Language Development Committee has considerable influence and is seeking to promote literacy in the Kom language and is producing many titles in the language.

2. Phonology

2.1 Segmental phonemes

There are 19 consonants and 6 vowels in the Kom language. See charts below:
Chart 1.

CONSONANTS	labial	alveolar	palatal	velar
noncontinuant, voiceless		t	c	k
noncontinuant, voiced	b	d	ɟ	g
continuant, voiceless	f	s		
continuant, voiced	v	z		ɣ
noncontinuant, sonorant	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
sonorant, continuant, nonsyllabic	w	l	y	

Chart 2.

VOWELS	non back	back unrounded	back rounded
high	i	ɨ	u
non high	e	a	o

All of the consonant phonemes occur in the syllable initial position except for the palatal nasal. The following phonemes occur in the syllable final position: /m, n, l, ɲ , f, s, k/.

2.2 Suprasegmental phonemes

Kom is a tonal language. There are three level tones (high, mid, low) and three primary contour tones (low-falling, high-low, high-mid). Other contour tones rarely occur as a result of tone modification within the phrase. Only low and high-low tones are marked in the orthography.
Vowel lengthening occasionally occurs in conjunction with a high-low tone or an emphatic utterance. This is not marked separately from the high-low tone mark. Stress is heard only in emphatic speech but is not marked.

2.3 Phonological processes

Vowel coalescence:
The sequence /iu/ is realized as [ü] and is written as "ue"; the sequence /io/ is realized as [œ], and the sequence /ia/ is realized as[æ]. These three sounds are of low frequency in the language. Native speakers prefer to write these three coalesced sounds, "ue," "œ," æ," so that there are nine vowels in the orthography.

Alveolar nasal:
The sequence of alveolar nasal plus high front vowel is realized as a single phoneme / ɲ / and is written as "ny" in the orthography.

Complex vowels:
There is a series of vowels with a high front vowel off-glide or a sequence of two vowels which occur primarily before / ɲ / but also before verb suffixes. This is represented phonemically as, for example, /woɲ / but written as "woyn."

Glottal stop:
The voiceless velar stop becomes a glottal stop in syllable final position except that there is a neutralization of contrast after the segment /ɨ /. This glottal stop is written in the orthography for sociolinguistic reasons.

Assimilation:
The nasal assimilates to the same point of articulation as the following consonant.

Vowel modification:
Vowels are lowered in closed syllables.

2.4 Syllable structure
The syllable is composed of a nucleus, an optional initial margin and an optional final margin. The nucleus may be simple (a single vowel) or complex (vowel offglide or vowel coalescence). The initial margin may be simple (a single consonant) or complex (consonant cluster). The final margin is always filled by a single consonant. The most common syllable patterns are: CV,CVC, CCV, and CCVC.

The phonological word can be composed of one to four syllables, although words or more than two syllables are rare. The most common word patterns are: V.CV , V.CVC , CV.CV , CV.CVC , CCVC,CV , CCV.CV.

2.5 Orthographic conventions
The orthography consists of 29 graphemes plus two tone diacritics. Some of the differences between the phonemic representation and the orthographic representation were described in 2.3 above. In addition, the phoneme "ɣ" is written as "gh" and the phoneme "c" is written as "ch." Many of the punctuation conventions of the English language are used when writing the Kom language.

2.6 Transcription system used in this sketch
Phonetic information will be given between square brackets, [ɨ̄wé]. Phonemic information will be given between backslash markers, / ɨwe /. Orthographic information will be given between quotation marks, "ɨwe" when found in a descriptive paragraph. Other numbered orthographic examples will be written without quotation marks. English translations of Kom words will be expressed with single quotation marks.

2.7 Abbreviations used in this sketch

The following abbreviations are used in this paper:

Agr	= agreement marker	Inc	= incompletive aspect marker
Asp	= aspectual marker	Ind	= indefinite pronoun
Ass	= associative marker	Loc	= locative
Comp	= completive aspect marker	Q	= question marker
Conj	= conjunction	Ref	= anaphoric reference marker
Dur	= durative aspect marker	Seq	= sequential marker
Emph	= emphatic marker	Top	= topicalization marker
Ger	= gerund	Ex	= existential marker

3. Morphology and word structure

3.1 Morphemes

Morphemes, as the smallest meaningful unit in the speech of the Kom language, tend to be written as separate words with the exception of noun class affixes and verb suffixes, which are bound morphemes. Morphemes may have a lexical role or a grammatical role (functor).

3.2 Affixation

The Kom language has thirteen different noun classes. Most noun classes are identified by a noun class affix. See Chart 5 under section 4.1.2 for a complete list of the noun class affixes.

Generally words are formed by joining a noun root and a noun class prefix. In these cases both the root and the prefix are bound morphemes, they must always occur together. Some noun roots in class 9 are free morphemes and have a zero prefix. Nouns in classes 1, 2, and 10 do not require a noun class prefix. The plural morpheme suffix of class 10 is a bound morpheme.

There are four verb suffixes that are bound morphemes. They are optionally joined to free verb stems to produce a new verb of related meaning. The chart below summarizes these suffixes.

Chart 3.

verb suffix	aspect	verb stem example	meaning	derived verb stem	meaning
- sɨ	causative	ko'	'go up'	ko'sɨ	'make go up'
- tɨ	diminutive or iterative	kàf bɨf	'scratch' 'ask'	kàbtɨ bɨbtɨ	'scratch a bit' 'ask repeatedly'
- lɨ	diminutive	nyɨm	'smile'	nyɨmlɨ	'smile a bit'
- nɨ	various	bol	'be soft'	boynɨ	'be easy'

The verb suffix "nɨ" is not easily categorized as it has a variety of functions.

The nominalizing derivational prefixes, "n-," and "i-," are described in 3.5 below.

According to the established orthographic rules of the language, the incompletive verb aspect marker, -a, is written as an inflectional suffix to the verb stem, as shown below.

1. Aŋena nɨn lafā̠. 'They are getting dressed.'
   they   Asp   dress.Inc

The orthographic rules also require that the noun class agreement marker is written as a suffix to the adjective in a noun phrase, as shown below.

2. Wù n-kôŋ afo a yɨni-a. 'He wants something to eat.'
   he   Asp-like   thing Ass eat.Ger-Agr

3.3 Other morphological processes
3.3.1 Alternation:

As a result of the noun class system in Kom there are many different plural morphemes (see 4.1.3 for a listing and distribution of the plural morphemes), demonstrative morphemes (see 4.6.3, 4.8.3), associative morphemes (see 4.1.6, 4.3.4, 4.6.2, 4.8.4), and relativizer morphemes(see 4.9.3).

The derivational morpheme, /n-/, 'agent, one who does something,' (see 3.5 below) has three different allomorphs that are the result of phonologically defined alternation, [n-], [m-], [ŋ-]. The nasal morpheme is assimilated to the point of articulation of the initial consonant of the following verb stem.

3. [ŋgàmtɨ̀] , 'helper'   from /n/ + /gàmtɨ̀/ , 'help'
4. [mbē ᶦʔlɨ̄] , 'seller'   from /n/ + /beiʔlɨ/ , 'sell'
5. [ntsɨ̀] , 'blacksmith'   from /n/ + /tsɨ/, 'do smithing'

The progressive / temporal aspect marker /nɨn/ has two allomorphs; "n-" is used after a CV pronoun subject and the durative marker and is prefixed to the following verb, while "nɨn" as a separate word is used in all other situations.

6. Ghelɨ nɨn mâ' nyamsɨ ta bzɨsɨ sɨ nà bey'lɨ-â fɨ̂ kfɨla.
   people Asp raise animals   as goats Inf Dur sell-Inc   again eat.Inc
       'People raise animals like goats to be selling and eating.'
7. Wà n-ghɨ àfô a bɨ-a.   'You are good for nothing.'
   you Asp-be   thing Ass bad-Agr

3.3.2 Metathesis:

The first person subject pronoun /ma/ has two allomorphs; "ma" is the unmarked usage, occuring in most situations and "mɨ" occurs before the "n-" allomorph of the progressive / temporal aspect marker (see above). This second allomorph is a result of a type of metathesis where the /ɨ/ phoneme of the aspect marker "nɨn" replaces the /a/ phoneme of the first person pronoun before a verb, expressed as follows:

$$ma + nɨn > mɨ\ n\text{-(verb)}$$

Example 8. below is the unmarked case and example 9. shows the metathesized allomorph.

8. Ma fê'tɨ sɨ̂ và na ɨvɨ̂ wom nɨn ti   a kɨ̂ jvà.
   I   tell   to you that feet my   Asp stand on floor stream
       'I told you that my feet were standing on the floor of the stream.'
9. Mɨ n-ti tèyn ɨvɨ̂ wom kûm isas i jva.
   I Asp-stand so feet my   touch bottom Ass stream
       'I am standing like this my feet are touching the bottom of the stream.'

Another example of metathesis occurs when a noun of class 1, 3 or 8 is combined with a modifier in a noun phrase. The noun class agreement suffix moves from the final position and is manifested as labialization of the first consonant of the modifer, as shown below.

10. ɨwuyn, 'body' + to, 'strong' > /ɨwuyn ɨ to-ɨ/ > ɨwuyn ɨ two, 'healthy body'
11. wul, 'person' + li, 'other'   > /wul ɨ li-ɨ/ > wul ɨ lvɨ , 'a certain person'

3.3.3 Labialization:

Labialization occurs at the word level in conjunction with noun classes 1, 3, and 8, that is, those classes that use "ɨ-" as the noun class prefix and /or the associative marker. Labialization appears to be a phonological feature which occurs with these classes. The proto-Bantu noun class prefixes contains a labial element for these three classes.

12. abayn, 'loaf of fufu' (NC 7) + ɨ - > ɨbwayn, 'loaves of fufu' (plural, NC 8)
13. ɨlweŋ, 'bamboo' (singular, NC 3) but cf. ileŋ, 'bamboos' (NC 4)

3.3.4 Epenthesis and loss of phoneme:

When a CV suffix, beginning with an alveolar continuant or nasal, is joined to a noun or verb morpheme that ends with an alveolar continuant, a palatal continuant appears and the alveolar continuant is lost. This occurs with the verbal suffixes shown in Chart 3 and the plural suffix of noun class 10. This may also be expressed as:

$$\varnothing \rightarrow \text{pal. cont. / alv. cont. \_\_\_ suffix} \quad \text{and}$$
$$\text{alv. cont.} \rightarrow \varnothing / \text{\_\_\_ pal. cont. + suffix}$$

14. mbàl, 'mask' + [sɨ̄], 'plural' >   mbàysɨ, 'masks'
15. yès, 'sweep' + [-lɨ̄], 'diminutive' > yèylɨ, 'touch lightly'
16. yeyn, 'see' + [-nɨ̄], 'iterative' >   yeynnɨ, 'see again'
17. bàs, 'cut'   + [-tɨ̄], 'diminutive' > bàytɨ, 'cut into pieces'

3.3.5 Alternation:

Labial alternation occurs when a syllable final labial continuant of a verb root becomes a noncontinuant before a verbal suffix.

18. dyèf, 'be long' + [-lɨ], 'for plural noun subjects' > dyèblɨ , 'be long (many)'
19. bɨf, 'ask' + [tɨ], 'repetition' > bɨbtɨ, 'ask many times'

3.3.6 Reduplication:

The entire verb stem is reduplicated to indicate and emphasize an action currently in progress.

20. Mɨ n-ghaynɨ ghàynɨ.   'I am strolling (now).'
   I   Asp-stroll   stroll
21. Wù n-buni bùni.   'He is sleeping (now).'
   he   Asp-sleep sleep

3.3.7 Tone perturbation:

The shape of the morpheme can differ in respect to tone as it is affected by surrounding tones. This is a widespread form of allomorphic alternation. For

example, the durative marker, [nà], may appear as [nā] in certain environments, for example, the tone is raised following a Low tone.

22. Wul ɨ lvi <u>nà</u> ghɨ, ...   'A certain man was, ...' (unmarked)
    person Ass other Dur be

23. à <u>na</u> kɨŋ nô mɨ ndà sɨ jùmtɨ ma, ... 'Who ever is wanting to follow me, ...'
    it Dur want Emph any who Inf follow me

24. Wà <u>na</u> kôŋ sɨ <u>nà</u> ma' bzɨsɨ wa <u>nà</u> kya na à n-ghɨ ìfêl to nô sɨ a ŋaŋ.
    you Dur like Inf Dur raise goats you Dur know Comp it Asp-be work strong Emph to it much
        'You like to be raising goats you should know that it is very hard work.'

3.4 Portmanteau morphemes

A type of portmanteau morpheme occurs in certain noun phrases where the head noun and the associative marker coalesce, as shown below. This usually occurs when the head noun has a word final voiceless continuant.

25. isas, 'bottom' + ndo, 'house' > /isas i ndo/ > [isæ ndo], 'family'

3.5 Derivational processes

There are instances where a derivational affix, attached to a root morpheme, causes the root morpheme to change word classes, from a verb to a noun. The nominalizing prefixes "i-" and "n-" are examples of this type of process.

26. sɨ gàmtɨ, 'to help,' + i- > igâmtɨ, 'help'
27. sɨ gàmtɨ, 'to help,' + n- > ngàmtɨ, 'helper'

The suffix "-nɨ" attached to a verb stem causes the verb to become a gerund, as shown below.

28. sɨ yɨ, 'to eat,' + -nɨ > yɨ<u>nɨ</u>, 'eating,' ɨfwo a yɨ<u>nɨ</u>, 'things of eating' > 'food'

3.6 Compounding processes

A compound stem or word is composed of two stems that function as a unit. Most of the words commonly used in the language that may be thought of as compound words are actually noun phrases in which the associative marker which joins the head noun and the modifier has been dropped. Some common examples are:

29. nàwàyn, 'mother'   literally 'mother of child'
30. wayn-na, 'brother' or 'sister' literally 'child of mother'
31. bòbè, 'sir'   literally 'lord of compound'

There are some rare cases where stems are combined to form a new and distinctive unit, as shown below. The associative marker is retained in these cases.

32. nwò' i ngumi, 'name of a certain kind of large bird,'
     literally 'a catcher of grasshopper.'

3.7 Clitics

The morpheme "kɨ," 'only' or 'just,' is an example of a clitic in the Kom language in that it is somewhat like a root and somewhat like an affix and somewhat like a word. It is not isolatable, that is, it cannot be spoken alone as a response to an utterance, but it has an independent grammatical function, that of delimiting or emphasizing another word, and it can be separated from the morpheme to which it is bound. It has a wide distribution and function in that it is used with subject nouns, object nouns, verbs, adverbs, complementizers, temporal phrases and locative phrases.

33. A kà' a ghal kɨ̀ wul ɨ   wi   ɨ̀   kfa   nɨ̀ nyeyn ...
    it   able so hold just person Ass female and go.home with it   [bound to emphatic subject]
    'It is <u>only</u> a woman that can hold it and take it home ...'
34. Wu yeyn kɨ̲ ngò'sɨ̀.   'He saw <u>only</u> stones.'
    he   see   just stones   [bound to object]
35. Aŋena nà gvi kɨ̲ gvi bòm ta ...   'They were <u>just</u> coming because ...'
    they   Dur come just come for   as [bound to reduplicated verb]
36. Nkò' nin ghɨ fɨm   kɨ̲ tèyn.   'The juju is <u>very</u> black.'
    juju   Asp be   be.black just so   [bound to adverb]
37. Wàyn nâ wèyn ɨ bè kɨ̲ na bò vzɨ bè na ...
    child   Ref that   say just that father his   say that   [bound to complementizer]
    'That child say <u>just</u> that his father said...'
38. Wu ... chwo yisi   zɨnɨ   kɨ̲ achi nâ ghè ...
    he   pass   spend.day be.confused just day   Ref there [bound to temporal phrase]
    'He passed <u>just</u> that (whole) day being confused...
39. Aŋena kasi chfɨŋ kɨ̲ afu.   'They came back and hung (it) <u>just</u> there.'
    they   return hang   just there   [bound to locative]
40. A n-ghɨ kɨ̲ nô wul ɨ lwema.   'It is <u>just</u> a very old person.'
    it Asp-be just Emph person Ass grown   [bound to semantic subject but separated from it by the emphatic particle]

4. Word classes

4.1 Noun

4.1.1 Structure of the noun
The structure of the noun in the Kom language can be described as follows:
        a. + noun class prefix + noun root, or
        b. + noun root + noun class suffix
        c. + derivational suffix + verb (see 3.5)
        d. + verb + derivational suffix (see 3.5)

An example of a. above is the noun root "-saŋ" a bound morpheme, which has the basic meaning of 'corn' but never occurs in that form, always with a noun prefix, "i-" or "a-" as in "isaŋ," singular, or "asaŋ," plural.
An example of b. above is a noun from class 10, "kayn+sɨ," 'monkeys.'

4.1.2 Noun classes
The Kom language has thirteen different noun classes. The affixes pertaining to each class are shown in the chart below.

Chart 4.

noun class	affix	examples
1	∅	wayn, 'child'
2	∅	woyn, 'children'
3	ɨ̄ -	ɨvis, 'fire'
4	ī -	ileŋ, 'bamboos'
5	ī -	iwum, 'eggs'
6	ā -	awum, 'eggs'
6a	mī -	mɨvil, 'oil'
7	ā -	afol, 'hat'
8	ī -	ɨfwol, 'hats'
9	∅ / Ǹ -	bzɨ, 'goat,' ngàmtɨ, 'helper'
10	- sī	bisɨ, 'dogs'
13	tī -	tɨbi, 'kola nuts'
19	fī -	fɨkâ', 'tree'

The associative marker for noun class two "ghɨ," frequently occurs in the place of a noun class prefix in the spoken language. The head noun of the noun phrase "gheli," 'people,' is dropped leaving only the assocative marker and the modifying noun. These last two are combined into a single word, as shown below:

41. gheli ghɨ lùmnì , 'men'   > ghìlùmnì , 'men'
    people Ass male   Ass.male

42. gheli ghɨ li,   'other people'   > ghɨli   , 'others'
    people Ass other   Ass.other

4.1.3 Number

There are seven plural noun classes and nine genders, each containing two noun classes, as shown in chart 5. The plural of class 1 nouns is found in class 2 but there are no distinguishing affixes. The plural of class 3 nouns may be found in class 13 or class 4, indicated by noun class prefixes. The plural of class 5 nouns may be found in class 13 or class 6, indicated by noun class prefixes. The plural of class 7 nouns may be found in class 8 or class 6a, indicated by noun class prefixes. The plural of class 9 nouns is found in class 10, indicated by a noun class suffix. The plural of class 19 nouns is found in class 6a, indicated by a noun class prefix.

Chart 5.

gender	singular noun class	plural noun class	singular / plural
1	1	2	wayn / woyn, 'child / children'
2	3	4	ɨlweŋ / ileŋ, 'bamboo / bamboos'
3	3	13	ɨvɨs / tɨvɨs, 'gun / guns'
4	5	6	isɨ / asɨ, 'eye / eyes'
5	5	13	ìngòm / tìngòm, 'banana / bananas
6	7	6a	afɨ / mifɨ, 'medicine / medicines'
7	7	8	afol / ɨfwol, 'hat / hats'
8	9	10	bɨ / bisɨ, 'dog, dogs'
9	19	6a	fɨkâ' / ɨnkâ', 'tree / trees'

A specific number of objects is indicated by the use of an associative noun phrase construction, that is, the head noun + the associative marker (noun class specific) + numeral, as shown below.

43. ifwol, 'hats,' ifwol i bwò , 'two hats'   N.B. labialization of the number
44. bɨsɨ, 'dogs,' bɨsɨ sɨ tal , 'three dogs'

4.1.4 Case

The Kom language does not make use of a system for marking nouns phrases and first and second person pronouns which relates these elements to the verb and/or other parts of the sentence. Nominals do not have a set of affixes or separate words that indicate function in Kom. There is, however, a set of subject pronouns and a different set of object pronouns for third person. See 4.6.

4.1.5 Referentiality / deixis

No distinctions of referentiality, definiteness, or deixis is indicated in the noun itself in the Kom language. Referentiality is indicated by noun modifiers within the noun phrase. See 4.8. There is no distinction between proper and common nouns. Proper nouns function in phrases as class 9 nouns.

4.1.6 Agreement categories

All nouns are classified by noun class and all nominal modifiers show agreement with the class of the head noun. This is manifested by an agreement suffix, or concord marker, determined by the noun classes, but in some cases the agreement marker is not expressed. This occurs with certain modifiers, possibly a class of true adjectives, with nouns from classes 1, 2, 3, 6a, 8, and 9, as in 48. below. See also 4.3.

45. afo a kema, 'my thing'
    thing Ass my.Agr
46. ifo i yemi, 'my cutlass,
    cutlass Ass my.Agr
47. atu a wula, 'a person's head'
    head Ass person.Agr
48. wul ɨ jùŋ_, 'a good person'
    person Ass good

4.1.7 Nominalizing derivational processes

As described in 3.5, some nouns are derived from verbs by the addition of a nominalizing prefix. A nasal prefix is used to indicate the agent, the one who performs the action, as shown below.

49. sɨ fè'tɨ, 'to help,' nfè'tɨ, 'teller'

The prefix "i-" is used to indicate the result or outcome of the action, as shown below.

50. sɨ kfà'tɨ, 'to think,' ikfà'tɨ, 'thought'

This latter process can function like a gerund, as shown below.

51. sɨ yvìtɨ, 'to rest'
52. Iyvɨtɨ i nɨn jofà nɨ̀ lùm. 'Resting is good in the dry season.'
    rest   Top Asp good.Inc with heat

4.1.8 Denominalizing processes

There is no process in the Kom language whereby a noun is changed to another word class.

4.1.9 Noun compounding

Nouns are not joined together to form compound words in the Kom language. As stated in 3.6 above, most of the words commonly used in the language that may be thought of as compound words are actually noun phrases in which the associative marker which joins the head noun and the modifier has been dropped.

53. wul achɨ, 'chairman' from 'person' + 'bench'

54. wul atu, 'leader' from 'person' + 'head'

There are some rare cases where stems are combined to form a new and distinctive unit, as shown below.

55. njwò ì ìfo, 'bat'
    <small>flesh   Ass cave</small>

4.2 Verb

4.2.1 Structure of the verb

The structure of the verb in the Kom language can be described as:

        + verb root ± verb suffix

An example of this is the verb root "fɨ," 'come out' which is a free morpheme and common lexical item. The addition of an optional verb suffix, "-sɨ," changes the meaning of the verb, "bring out."

As stated in 3.2 above, there are four such verb suffixes that are bound morphemes, "-sɨ, -tɨ, -lɨ, -nɨ." They are can be joined to free verb stems to produce a derived stem that is in the same semantic domain of the stem. Chart 3 is reproduced below.

Chart 3.

verb suffix	aspect	example verb stem	meaning	derived verb stem	meaning
- sɨ̄	causative	ko'	'go up'	ko'sɨ	'make go up'
- tɨ̄	diminutive or iterative	kàf bif	'scratch' 'ask'	kàbtɨ̀ bɨbtɨ	'scratch a bit' 'ask repeatedly'
- lɨ̄	diminutive	nyɨm	'smile'	nyɨmlɨ	'smile a bit'
- nɨ̄	misc.	bol	'be soft'	boynɨ	'be easy'

4.2.2 Verb classes and subclassification

Verbs in Kom can be classified as intransitive, both transitive and intransitive, or ditransitive.

An intransitive verb expresses an action where there is no stated patient toward which the action is directed. A transitive verb is one that expresses an action and the action passes from the agent to a patient (object).

For purposes of classification of Kom verbs, a transitive verb is a verb that requires an object. An intransitive verb does not permit an object. A verb that allows an optional object is considered to be both transitive and intransitive. A verb that allows two objects (direct and indirect object) is ditransitive.

In the Kom language there are many intransitive verbs that describe and that express motion. There are many verbs that are both transitive and intransitive, that is, the verb may take an object but it frequently does not (the presence of the object is determined by the context). There are few verbs that are ditransitive. There are no verbs that are transitive, as defined above. The following chart lists a few of the common verbs according to category. See examples below.
Chart 6.

intransitive verbs (do not permit an object)		transitive / intransitive (allow an object)		ditransitive (allow two objects)	
ndù	'go'	ki	'look'	bè	'say'
lù	'leave'	we	'put inside'	fè'tì	'tell'
fì	'come out'	zue	'kill'	bɨf	'ask'
gvì	'come'	kfè	'cook'	fu	'give'
se'	'go'	yɨ	'eat'		
kfa	'go home'	yeyn	'see'		
kasi	'return'	nì	'do'		
kàlì	'go down'	tum	'send'		
ko'	'go up'	jàŋ	'call'		
zɨ	'enter'	lì	'take'		
zitɨ	'begin'	gàmtì	'help'		
timi	'stand'	faytɨ	'make'		
baŋ	'be red'	kɨŋ	'want'		
gha'	'be big'	cho'	'choose'		

56. <u>Nàwàyn nɨn lam abayn.</u>   'Mother is stirring fufu.'
    subject   aspect verb   direct object
    mother.child Asp   stir   fufu
57. Wù <u>lam</u> meyn.   'She has <u>stirred</u> (it).'
    she stir Comp
58. Yi <u>gha'</u> kɨ tèyn.   'It <u>is</u> very <u>big</u>.'
    it big   just so
59. <u>Wù</u> n-bê iwo sî <u>ŋweyn.</u>   '<u>He</u> is saying <u>something</u> to <u>him</u>.'
    he   Asp-say thing to him

Verbs in the Kom language can also be classified as roots or stems which are free morphemes, and derived stems, as described in 4.2.1. above.
60. bèyn, root, 'turn something'   root or stem
61. bèynsì, inflected stem, 'turn over'   derived stem
62. bèynlì, inflected stem, 'turn around   derived stem
63. bèyntì, inflected stem, 'respond repeatedly'   derived stem

Verbs can also be classified according to tonal patterns. There are high tone verbs and low tone verbs. The high tone verbs have a mid-level tone in the infinitive form but have a high tone in the imperative form. The low tone verbs are marked with a low tone in the infinitive form. The imperative form of a low tone verb has a mid-level tone on the last syllable.

64. sɨ yem, 'to sing'   sɨ yèm, 'to wake up'
65. sɨ yvɨtɨ, 'to listen'   sɨ yvɨ̀tɨ̀, 'to rest'

4.2.3 Tense / aspect / mood
Tense, aspect, and mood are not indicated in the verb itself but by free morphemes that are written as separate words (with the exception of the incompletive aspect marker, see below).
Chart 7.

Tense			Aspect		Mood	
present			progressive	nɨn	imperative	high tone
past	P1	nì	durative	nà	hortative	high tone
	P2	læ̀	incompletive	a	optative	verbal
	P3	ti	completive	meyn	interrogative	a
	P4	læ	unrealized	sɨ		ma
future	F1	nî				
	F2	læ̀				

N.B. The P2 and F2 tense markers are homophonous. F2 always occurs with the progressive / temporal aspect marker.

Present tense is indicated by aspectual markers and context. There are no overt present tense markers.
66. Aŋena nɨ̀n gvî lvîyn. 'They are coming now.'   present progressive
    they Asp come now
67. Aŋena gvì lvîyn.   'They have come now.'   present perfect
    they   come now

There are four past tense particles, "nì, læ̀, ti, læ," as shown below.
68. nì, Aŋena nì gvì nì nchùe.   'They came during the day.'   recent past
    P1 they   P1   come with sunshine
69. læ̀, Aŋena læ̀ gvì bɨsì bɨsì.   'They came early.'   today past
    P2 they   P2   come early early
70. tî, Aŋena tî gvì iyoni.   'They came yesterday.'   yesterday past
    P3 they   P3   come yesterday
71. læ, Aŋena nìn læ gvi nì bèŋ. 'They came in the rainy season.' remote past
    P4 they   Asp P4 come with year

There are two future tense markers, "nî, læ̀," as shown below.
72. nî, Aŋena nɨn nî gvî nì ntu'. 'They will come tonight.'   near future
    F1 they   Asp F1 come with night
73. læ̀, Aŋena nɨn læ̀ gvi a lɨbɨs. 'They will come tomorrow.'   remote future
    F2 they   Asp F2 come on tomorrow

The progressive / temporal aspectual marker "nɨn" is used to establish or resume a temporal point of reference. The most common semantic function is to indicate the idea of "at that time" or "now," setting a time frame or conveying a progressive idea. This marker never occurs with the past tense particles P1-P3 but it always is present with P4.
74. nɨn, Aŋena nɨn gvi-à.   'They are coming (now).'
    Asp they   Asp come-Inc

Another temporal aspect marker is "sɨ," which expresses the idea that the action of the verb was expected to happen but has not yet been realized. This is only used in the present tense.

75. sɨ, Wà sɨ gvì-à.   'You are (already) coming.'
  Asp you   Asp come-Inc

Incompletive aspect is indicated by the particle "a." It is written as a verbal suffix but it could also be written as a separate word.

76. -a, Aŋena nìn yema. 'They are singing.'
  Inc   they   Asp   sing-Inc

Imperfective aspect is indicated by the durative marker, "nà." The context may indicate that the tense need not be overtly marked.

77. nà, Aŋena nà n-kɨŋ sɨ tɨm nyam ngwô. 'They were wanting to spear an antelope.'
  Dur   they   Dur Asp-want Inf shoot animal   antelope

Perfective aspect is indicated by the completive marker, "meyn."

78. meyn, Aŋena ti meyn gvì iyoni. 'They had come yesterday.'
  Comp   they   P3 Comp   come yesterday

The declarative mood is the unmarked mood.

The imperative mood is expressed by a high (raised) tone on the verb.

79. sɨ gvì, 'to come'

80. gvi, [gvɨ́], 'come!'

The hortative mood is expressed is the same way as the imperative mood, that is, a high (raised) tone is applied to the verb. The imperative is stated in the second person, while the hortative is stated in the first or third person. The are no modal particles that indicate the hortative mood.

81. Ghesɨnà tsɨyn! 'Let us push!' (many people)
  we(incl)   push

82. Wul ɨ wi   guf! 'Let the woman pull!'
  person Ass female pull

83. Aŋena tsɨyn! 'Let them push!' (many people)
  they   push

84. Ghesɨvà tsɨyn! 'Let's you and I push!'
  we(dual)   push

85. Aŋena tsɨyn kɨ ghɨ bô! 'Let the two of them push!'
  they   push   just Ass   two

The optative mood, the mood of possibility, can be expressed in two ways: by a verb, "kà'" 'be able,' or by a clause beginning with the phrase "ɨlvɨ ɨ li," [lɨ̄fɨlɨ́]. This noun phrase literally means 'time other,' or 'some time.'

86. Wù ka' a wù chwo bey'lɨ ibi i   li   ɨwe.   'He could sell some kola in the market.'
  he   can so he pass   sell   kola Ass other market

87. Ibam i iyvìtì ɨlvɨ ɨ li   wù fayti gveyn ŋweyn.
  behind Ass rest   time Ass other he   make farm   his

   'After resting, he may prepare his farm.'

The interrogative mood is expressed by special interrogative particles or interrogative pronouns. See 4.6.5.

4.2.4 Voice: valency-changing processes

There are no verbal affixes that indicate voice. The unmarked use of any verb is the active voice. The use of indefinite pronoun, "ghɨ," accomplishes what a passive verb would do, that is, to de-emphasize the agent of the action or mark the subject as the semantic goal of the action.

88. <u>Ghɨ</u> zue meyn ŋweyn. 'He has been killed.' or 'They have killed him.'

Ind   kill   Comp   him

4.2.5 Agreement patterns

There are generally no grammatical features that show agreement between the verb and the other elements of the clause.

4.2.6 Verb-forming derivational processes

Verbs are the basis upon which many nouns and adjectives are derived but verbs are not derived from other word classes in the Kom language. There are no compound verbs. The basic meaning of stem verbs is modified by verbal suffixes to indicate repetition, a small amount of activity, etc. See 3.2 and 4.2.1.

4.2.7 Deverbalizing processes

Verbs may be transformed into nouns with the addition of a nominalizing prefix. See 4.1.7. Verbs may be transformed into a verbal noun with the addition of a derivational suffix. See 4.3.1.

4.3 Adjective

There are very few, if any, roots that are true adjectives in the Kom language. Many adjectival ideas are expressed by verbs, for example:

89. sɨ baŋ,   'to be red'
90. sɨ be,   'to be big'
91. sɨ læ,   'to be small'
92. sɨ to,   'to be hard'
93. sɨ sayn,   'to be cold'
94. sɨ dvɨ,   'to be many'
95. sɨ leyn,   'to slide'
96. ìnkâ' sɨ nà leyna,   'the wood is smooth,'

wood   Asp Dur slide.Inc
97. ìnkâ' in leynnɨ,   'smooth wood'

wood   Ass   slide.Ger

Possible true adjectives include the following words that never function as a verb (i.e., never occur in the verb position nor occur with tense and aspect markers). These words also do not occur with the noun class agreement suffix when used to modify head nouns of classes 1, 2, 3, 6a, 8, and 9.

98. li   'other'
99. juŋ   'good'
100. bɨ   'bad'
101. fɨ   'new'
102. mu   'old'
103. mɨvɨl ɨn fɨ̱   'new wine'

4.3.1 Adjective root

The verb is the root for most adjectival constructions. The suffix "-nɨ" is added to the verb to form a gerund which is joined to the head noun by the associative marker.

104. wul ɨ baŋnɨ(-ɨ),   'a red person'   baŋ, 'to be red' + nɨ + Agr
    person Ass red.Ger

105. afo a baŋnɨ-a   'a red thing'   baŋ + nɨ + agreement marker
    thing Ass red.Ger-Agr

4.3.2 Comparative
The description of an object is usually accomplished by a verb.

106. Ibi i ŋweyni nɨn jofà. 'His kola is good.'
    kola Ass his.Agr   Asp   good.Inc

The comparative is also expressed verbally by a periphrastic morpheme, using a serial verb construction of the main verb and the verb "chwò," 'to pass.' The item that is the object of comparison may not stated in the comparative sentence but it is known from the wider context.

107. Ibi i ŋweyni nɨn jofa   chwò. 'His kola is good pass (better).'
    kola Ass his.Agr   Asp   good.Inc pass

Certain verbs, due to their semantic relationships, express comparison in another way, putting the item that is the object of comparison in a prepositional phrase following the verb.

108. Wul ɨ lùmnì nìn ghi lema sî woynda. 'The man is older than the children.'
    person Ass male   Asp   be   grow.old   to children

4.3.3 Superlative
The superlative adjectival idea is also expressed verbally. A concessive phrase is added to the comparative clause to form the superlative. In this case the items that are the objects of comparison are stated in the same sentence.

109. Ibi i ŋweyni nɨn jofa chwò nô mɨ ibi ì kà   antêynì tɨbi afêyn ɨwe.
    kola Ass his.Agr   Asp   good.Inc pass Emph any kola Ass which inside   kolas   here   market
    'His kola is good pass even any which kola among the kolas in the market here.'

4.3.4 Agreement patterns
The derived adjectival will always agree with the head noun. This is usually indicated by a an agreement marker, based on the noun classes, that is suffixed to the modifier. Certain modifiers (true adjectives) do not occur with the agreement suffix for noun classes 1, 2, 3, 6a, 8, and 9. See discussion above.

110. wul ɨ choŋnì-ɨ,   'a thief' sɨ choŋ, 'to steal'   (written as "wul i choŋnì")
    person Ass steal.Ger-Agr

111. achi a li-a,   'another day' 'a certain day'
    day   Ass other-Agr

4.4 Adverb
Verbs are commonly used to express adverbial ideas in the language. Certain verbs occur as auxiliary verbs in a serial verb construction.

112. nyaŋsɨ ndu,   'go quickly'
    do quickly go
        from the verb "sɨ nyaŋsɨ," 'to do something quickly or frequently'

A prepositional phrase may also be used to express an adverbial idea.

113. ko' ɨ   ndu nì isaŋlɨ i, 'to go happily (with happiness)'

go up Seq go   with joy   Top
        from the verb, "sɨ saŋlɨ," 'to be happy'

There are certain words that express adverbial ideas that seem to be verbs because of their position in the clause, for example, "lum," 'always,' and "jas," 'seldom.'

114. Aŋena <u>lum</u> jæ   se' ibyem ɨ   li   bɨsɨ se' nɨ nseynsɨ.
   they   always before go   hunting   Seq take dogs   go   with them
      'They always take dogs when they go hunting.'

115. ... àŋena se' <u>jas</u>   ɨ   ku kayn.
   they   go   seldom   Seq catch monkey
      "... they seldom catch a monkey."

Locative adverbs are commonly used in the Kom language. They frequently occur in the final position in the clause.

116. afêyn, 'here'   Gvi ɨchfɨ ɨ ndo <u>afêyn</u>.   'Come to the door <u>here</u>.'
   come mouth Ass house here

117. afi, 'there (near)'   Ma ye'i ìtof i yemi sî a ikfɨ a nyamàbo kì a kɨ n-nyɨŋ <u>afi</u>.
   I   learn   wisdom Ass my   to in   death in leopard   which it   Asp-lie
there
      'I learned my wisdom from the death of the leopard that is lying <u>there</u> (within sight).'

118. afu, 'there (remote)'
      Ghes ɨ̀ bò wom   lù   ɨ   na sɨ ndu a ndô ŋwà'lɨ̀. Ghɨ ndu <u>afu</u>, ma yeyn woynda ...
   we(excl Conj father my) leave Seq Dur Asp go   to house book   Ind   go   there   I   see   children
      'My father and I left and went to the school. Going <u>there</u> I saw children ...'

119. awu, 'there (very remote)'

120. abe, 'outside'   Ghɨ bà'lɨ ikaŋ <u>abe</u>.   'The ceiling was built <u>outside</u>.'
   Ind   build   ceiling compound

121. asɨ, 'before, in front of'   A nì gvì mà afêyn si <u>asɨ</u>.
   it   P1   come me   here   so front
                         'It was me who came here to the <u>front</u> (first).'

Associative noun phrases are also commonly used in the same contexts as the locative adverbs.

122. ibàm, 'behind' Wù n-ti   <u>ibàm</u> i mbàyn.   'He is <u>behind</u> the fence.'
   he   Asp-stand behind Ass fence

123. isas, 'under'   Bò àku ɨ   faytɨ ivɨs <u>isas</u> ɨ   bò afî.
   lord   forest Seq make   fire   under Ass bag there
         'The lord of the forest made a fire <u>under</u> the bag there.

124. atu, 'on, over, above'   Kayn ɨ du' <u>atû</u> fɨkà'. (atu à fɨkà')
   monkey Seq sit   head   tree
         'The monkey is sitting <u>on</u> the tree.'

Temporal adverbs are commonly used in the Kom language. They occur in the final position in the clause.

125. lvîyn, 'now'   Aŋena gvì <u>lvîyn</u>.   'They have come <u>now</u>.'
   they   come   now

126. bɨsì-bɨsì, 'early today'   Aŋena læ gvì <u>bɨsì-bɨsì</u>.   'They came <u>early today</u>.'
   they   P2   come early early

4.5 Preposition

Various prepositions are used in the language to express direction, location, means, time, coordination, association, purpose and accompaniment.

a. sɨ , 'to'
127. (indirect object)' Fu sɨ̂ ŋweyn.   'Give it to him.'
                give to him
128. (addressee)' Bò àku ɨ   bè sɨ̂ bòbè ...
              lord forest Seq say to lord.compound
           'The lord of the forest said to the master of the compound ...'

b. a , general locative
129. Fɨnjæ̂njæ̀ fɨ gvɨ ɨ   faŋ kɨ a ŋweyn atùŋlɨ ...
       fly   Top come Seq stay just Loc his   ear
          'The fly came and stayed just on his ear ...'
130. Wu n-dù'i a ndo.   'He is sitting in the house.'
     he Asp-sit   Loc house
131. Mbam ndù a jva ...   'The snake went to the stream.'
     snake   go   Loc stream

c. a , temporal
132. Ghɨ nî ghɨ nyâŋsɨ tɨm keysɨ a mîchi mɨ ɨtu' ɨ ila'.
     Ind   do Ind   frequent   sew baskets on days   Ass day Ass country
         'Fufu baskets are frequently made on country days.'

d. nɨ , temporal
133. A nà ghɨ nɨ̀ nchùe, wu ndu kini yeyn na ...
     it Dur be   with sunshine he   go   examine see that
        'It was during the day, he went to see that ...'
134. Wù gvɨmi meyn mèsɨ nà ŋweyn nɨ̀ ntu'.
     he   bury   Comp finish   mother his   with night
        'He finished burying his mother at night.'

e. nɨ , possession
135. Wu zɨ abu' nɨ̀ fɨndùm.   'He entered the hole of the rat.'
     he   enter hole of rat

f. nɨ , accompaniment
136. Tɨkaynakayn nɨ̀ yvɨsɨ ɨ fɨ   'Wasps and bees came out'
     wasps   with bees   come out
137. Gvi nɨ̀ ɨfwo nâ wèyn.   'Come with these things.'
     come with things Ref these

g. nɨ , means (instrument)
138. Aŋena nin felà   nɨ̀ ɨfɨsɨ àŋena.   'They are working with their hoes.'
     they   Asp   work.Inc with hoes   their

139. Wu n-ghɨ jelà   kɨ nɨ̀ ɨvɨ.   'He is traveling on (by) foot.'
     he   Asp-be   move.Inc just with feet

h. ŋêyn , accompaniment
140. Nsom ŋêyn Soŋ nɨn ghɨ afêyn.   'Nsom with Song are here.'
     Nsom   with   Son Asp be   here

i. antêynɨ̀, locative

141. Ghɨ we ngolsɨ <u>antêynì</u> mɨkàl.   'Snail shells are put <u>inside</u> the beer.'
     Ind   put   shells   inside   corn beer

j. bòm, purpose
142. Ma gvi afêyn <u>bòm</u> iwo nâ yèynì.   'I came here <u>for</u> (because of) this thing.'
     I   come here   for   thing Ref this

4.6 Pronoun

4.6.1 Pronoun system

The pronoun system is displayed in the following charts. Chart 8 describes the first, second, and third person subject and object (direct, indirect, and object of preposition) pronouns.

Chart 8.

noun class		first person		second person		third person	
		subject	object	subject	object	subject	object
1	wùl 'person'	mà	mà	wà	và	wù	ŋweyn
2	gheli 'people'	ghesìnà	ghesìnà	yì / zì	zì	àŋena	àŋena
3	ɨkwo 'money'					wù	ŋweyn
4	ileŋ 'bamboos'					yì	inyeyni
5	ichɨ 'stick'					yì	inyeyni
6	awo 'things'					kɨ	ankeyn
6a	mɨvil 'oil'					mɨ	meyn
7	afol 'hat'					kɨ	ankeyn
8	ɨfwol 'hats'					wù	ŋweyn
9	mbam 'snake'					yi	nyeyn
10	mbamsɨ 'snakes'					sɨ	nseynsɨ
13	tichɨ 'sticks'					tɨ	nteyntɨ
19	fɨkâ' 'tree'					fɨ	nfeynfɨ

The first person singular personal pronoun is coalesced with the temporal aspect marker "nɨn" in the present tense and is written as "Mɨ n-." See 3.3.

The first person plural personal pronouns can be further categorized as inclusive, dual, and exclusive. See Chart 9.

Chart 9.

first person plural pronouns	inclusive	dual	exclusive
	ghesìnà 'we all'	ghesìvà 'I and you (we)'	ghès 'we only'
		ghes ì ŋweyn 'I and he / she (we)'	ghes ì àŋena 'I and they (we)'
		ghes ì (+ name or title) 'I and (name) (we)'	

143. <u>Ma</u> ti meyn fu <u>ankeyn</u> sî <u>ŋweyn</u>.　　　'<u>I</u> gave <u>it</u> to <u>him</u> yesterday.'
　　　I　P3 Comp　give it (6,7) to　him
144. <u>Ghes ì ŋweyn</u> nin ndu a mò'.　　　'<u>He and I</u> (we) are going together.'
　　　we (I Conj him)　Asp　go　in one

4.6.2 Possessive pronouns

The possessive pronoun system is displayed in Chart 10. Each category of possessive pronoun (i.e., first person plural) has ten different forms based on the noun class of the possessed item. These possessive pronouns are used in place of an associative possessive noun phrase, that is, 'mine' rather than 'my people,' 'ours' rather than 'our people.'

Chart 10.

noun class		first person		second person		third person	
		singular	plural	singular	plural	singular	plural
1	wùl 'person'	iwôm 'mine'	iwês 'ours'	ivâ 'yours'	ivzì 'yours'	iwû ŋweyn 'his'	iwû àŋena 'theirs'
2	ghelì 'people'	ighem 'mine'	ighesì 'ours'	ighya 'yours'	ighi 'yours'	ighì ŋweyn 'his'	ighì àŋena 'theirs'
3	ikwo 'money'	iwom	iwesì	iva	ivzì	iwu ŋweyn	iwu àŋena
4	ileŋ 'bamboos'	iyemi	iyesi	izæ	izì	iyi ŋweyn	iyi àŋena
5	ichì 'stick'	iyemi	iyesi	izæ	izì	iyi ŋweyn	iyi àŋena
6	awo 'things'	akema	akesa	akya	aki-a	akì ŋweyna	akì àŋena
6a	mivìl 'oil'	imêm	imês	imyâ	imzî	imî ŋweyn	imî àŋena
7	afol 'hat'	akema	akesa	akya	aki-a	akì ŋweyna	akì àŋena
8	ifwol 'hats'	iwom	iwesì	iva	ivzì	iwu ŋweyn	iwu àŋena
9	mbam 'snake'	iyêm	iyês	izyâ	izî	izî ŋweyn	izî àŋena
10	mbamsì 'snakes'	isemsì	iseysì	isyasì	isisì	isi ŋweynsì	isi àŋenasì
13	tichì 'sticks'	itemtì	iteytì	ityatì	itsitì	iti ŋweyntì	iti àŋenatì
19	fikâ' 'tree'	ifemfì	ifeyfì	ifyafì	ifsifì	ifi ŋweynfì	ifi àŋenafì

All the first person plural forms shown in the chart are exclusive forms. The dual form is, for example, "ɨwû ghes ì và" (class 1). The inclusive form is, for example, "ɨwû ɨ ghesìnà" (class 1).

145. A n-ghɨ <u>imêm</u>.   'It is <u>mine</u> .'   (i.e., my oil)
    it Asp-be mine (6a)

146. A n-ghɨ <u>ighɨ àŋena</u>.   'They are <u>theirs</u>.'   (i.e., their children)
    it Asp-be theirs (2)

147. <u>Ɨmzî</u> nɨn ghɨ abe.   '<u>Yours</u> (pl.) is outside.'   (i.e., your oil)
    yours (6a) Asp be compound

148. <u>Akesa</u> nɨn ghɨ atû teblɨ.   '<u>Ours</u> (excl.) is on the table.' (i.e., our eggs)
    ours (6,7) Asp be head table

149. <u>Iyemi</u> nɨn ghɨ a ndo.   '<u>Mine</u> is in the house.'   (i.e., my banana)
    mine (4,5) Asp be in house

4.6.3 Demonstrative pronouns

The demonstrative pronoun system is displayed in Chart 11 below. There is a three-way spatial and visibility distinction in this system. Group one is the set of demonstratives that indicate an object that is near and visible (+near, +visible). Group two is the set of demonstratives that indicate an object a bit removed from the speaker yet still visible (-near, +visible). Group three is the set of demonstratives that indicate an object that is remote and not visible (-near, -visible). This group of demonstratives is distinguished by a low tone. A further distinction is made between the nominal form and the adjectival form. Both are shown in Chart 11 for ease of comparison. Each type of demonstrative pronoun has ten different forms based on noun class distinctions.

noun class		+near +visible		-near +visible		-near -visible	
		adjectival	nominal	adjectival	nominal	adjectival	nominal
1	wùl 'person'	wèyn 'this person'	ɨwêyn 'this one'	ɨ vzɨ 'that person'	ɨvzɨ 'that one'	ɨ vzì 'that person'	ɨvzì 'that one'
2	ghelɨ 'people'	gheyn 'these people'	ɨgheyn 'these ones'	ghi / zɨ 'those people'	ighi 'those ones'	ghì 'those people'	ighì 'those'
3	ɨkwo 'money'	wèyn	ɨweyn	vzɨ	ɨvzɨ	vzì	ɨvzì
4	ileŋ 'bamboos'	yeyni	iyeyni	zɨ	izɨ	zì	izì
5	ichɨ 'stick'	yeyni	iyeyni	zɨ	izɨ	zì	izì
6	awo 'things'	keyna	akeyna	ki	akî	kì	akì
6a	mivɨl 'oil'	mèyn	imeyn	mzɨ / mi	imzɨ / imi	mzì	imzì
7	afol 'hat'	keyna	akeyna	ki	akî	kì	akì
8	ɨfwol 'hats'	wèyn	ɨweyn	vzɨ	ɨvzɨ	vzì	ɨvzì
9	mbam 'snake'	yèyn	ɨyeyn	zɨ	izɨ	zì	izì
10	mbamsɨ 'snakes'	sèynsì	isêynì	sɨsɨ	isɨsɨ	sìsì	isìsì
13	tichɨ 'sticks'	tèyntì	itêyntì	tsɨtɨ	itsɨtɨ	tsìtì	itsìtì
19	fikâ' 'tree'	fèynfɨ	ifêynfɨ	fsifɨ	ifsifɨ	fsìfì	ifsìfì

The nominal forms are composed of the associative marker plus the adjectival form. The adjectival forms are always anaphoric but the nominal forms may be either cataphoric or anaphoric.

150. <u>Ɨfêynfɨ</u> nìn ghɨ fɨkâ'. 'This is a tree.'
     this (19)   Asp be   tree
151. Mɨ n-kôŋ bɨ <u>yèyn</u>.   'I like <u>this</u> dog.'
     I   Asp-like   dog this (9)

The demonstratives also have a specific discourse function, that of reactivating a participant or of referring to a participant that had been mentioned earlier in the discourse. The anaphoric referential marker "nâ" is used with a demonstrative of any noun class in a noun phrase for this purpose.

152. Wul ɨ wi nɨn beysɨ awo ŋêyn wul ɨ lùmnɨ <u>nâ wèyn</u> ta wu du'i isas i fɨkâ'.
     person Ass female Asp say things with   person Ass male Ref this   as he sit   under Ass tree
     'A woman is conversing with <u>this</u> (mentioned earlier) man sitting under a tree.'

4.6.4 Indefinite pronouns
The indefinite pronoun, "ghɨ," serves to de-emphasize the agent of the action, accomplishing what a passive verbal construction would do. See 4.2.4 above. It can be used in place of any noun and may also be translated as 'they.'

153. <u>Ghɨ</u> jàŋ fɨnjǽnfæ ɨ bɨf iwo sî ŋweyn.
     Ind   call fly   Seq ask thing to him
     'The fly was called and asked something.' or
     'They (i.e. people, members of the council) called the fly and asked him something.'

Another indefinite pronoun, "à," functions as a dummy subject for stative clauses emphatic subject clauses, and for subject interrogative 'who' sentences.
154. <u>à</u> n-ghɨ mà.   '<u>It</u> is me.'
     it Asp-be   me
155. <u>à</u> n-zɨtɨ kɨ àŋena ghɨ bò sɨ nù.   '<u>It</u> was just the two of them that started to fight.'
     it Asp-begin just them   Ass two Inf fight
156. <u>à</u> nì chùf nda a?   'Who carved?'
     it P1 carve who Q

4.6.5 Interrogative pronouns
There are several interrogative pronouns used in the Kom language. They commonly occur at the end of the clause, followed only by the question particle.

157. A nì chùf <u>nda</u> a?   '<u>Who</u> carved (it)?'
     it P1 carve who Q
158. Wu nì chuf <u>gha</u> a?   '<u>What</u> did he carve?'
     he P1 carve what Q
159. Wu nì chùf <u>ɨswe'</u> a?   '<u>How many</u> did he carve?'
     he P1 carve how many Q
160. Wu nì chùf afo à <u>kà</u> à?   '<u>Which</u> thing did he carve?'
     he   P1 carve   thing Ass which Q

4.6.6 Reflexive and / or reciprocal pronouns

Reflexive actions are indicated by the use of the morpheme "ngeŋ," 'self,' (plural = "ngeŋsɨ," 'selves') in a noun phrase. Reciprocal action is indicated by the morpheme "ke" having the meaning of 'each.'

161. Mɨ n-kôŋ <u>ngeŋ</u> yem.   'I love my <u>self</u>.'
     I   Asp-like   self   my

162. Aŋena bɨf sî <u>ngeŋsî</u> àŋenasɨ nâ, ...   'They asked <u>themselves</u> (one another) that ...'
    they   ask   to selves   them.Agr   that

163. Aŋena dù'ì i na sɨ bè kɨ sî àŋena <u>ngeŋsɨ</u> na ...
    they   sit   Seq Dur Asp say just to them   selves   that
      'They sat down and were saying just to <u>themselves</u> that ...'

164. Aŋena <u>kè</u> i bɨf sî <u>kè</u> nâ, ...   'They <u>each</u> asked to <u>each</u> that, ...'
    they   each Seq ask to each that

4.6.7 Logophoric pronouns

There is a set of logophoric pronouns used in indirect speech in the Kom language. Noun classes 1,3, and 8 make use of the following logophoric pronouns: subject, "yì," object, "zɨ," and the possessive, "vzɨ." The possessive pronoun for noun classes 6 and 7 is "kya."

165. Mbàm bè na <u>yì</u> ni ndù dù'ì a jvâ nà nû'tɨ àfɨ à <u>kya</u> ta ɨlvâ i <u>vzɨ</u> nɨn yaf ...
    snake   say that he P2 go   sit   at stream Dur prepare medicine Ass his as stomach Ass his Asp pain
      'The snake said that <u>he</u> went to sit at the river to prepare <u>his</u> medicine
      because <u>his</u> stomach was hurting ...'

4.6.8 Pro-clauses and other substitutive elements

The morpheme "ateyn" has many functions. It serves as a definite determiner (see 4.8.2) and as a demonstrative (see 4.8.3) and as a substitute for nouns of location, as shown below. See also 4.9.3.

166. Wù na sɨ ki dyaŋ ndu nì ntè' zì a àŋena lu <u>ateyn</u>.
    he Dur Asp look across go of village which they   leave there
      'He was looking across at the village which they left <u>from there</u>.'

4.7 Numerals

4.7.1 Numbers for counting
The following chart lists a sample of the numbers used for counting in isolation.

Chart 12.

digits		teens		twenties	
one	nò'	eleven	njvà ì mò' / njvà ì mò' ivɨm	twenty-one	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvà ì mò' / njvà ì mò' mɨvɨm ɨn bò
two	bò	twelve	njvàsì bò / njvàsì bò ivɨm	twenty-two	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì bò / njvàsì bò mɨvɨm ɨn bò
three	tal	thirteen	njvàsì tal / njvàsì tal ivɨm	twenty-three	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì tal / njvàsì tal mɨvɨm ɨn bò
four	kæ̀	fourteen	njvàsì kæ̀ / njvàsì kæ̀ ivɨm	twenty-four	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì kæ̀ / njvàsì kæ̀ mɨvɨm ɨn bò
five	tâyn	fifteen	njvàsì tâyn / njvàsì tâyn ivɨm	twenty-five	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì tâyn / njvàsì tâyn mɨvɨm ɨn bò
six	ntufa	sixteen	njvàsì ntufa / njvàsì ntufa ivɨm	twenty-six	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì ntufa / njvàsì ntufa mɨvɨm ɨn bò
seven	nsombô	seventeen	njvàsì nsombô / njvàsì nsombô ivɨm	twenty-seven	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì nsombô / njvàsì nsombô mɨvɨm ɨn bò
eight	nfama	eighteen	njvàsì nfama / njvàsì nfama ivɨm	twenty-eight	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì nfama / njvàsì nfama mɨvɨm ɨn bò
nine	bulamò'	nineteen	njvàsì bulamò' / njvàsì bulamò' ivɨm	twenty-nine	mɨvɨm ɨn bò njvàsì bulamò' / njvàsì bulamò' mɨvɨm ɨn bò
ten	ivɨm	twenty	mɨvɨm ɨn bò	thirty	mɨvɨm ɨn tal

thirty	mɨvɨm ɨn tal	one hundred and one	ivɨ nì mò'
forty	mɨvɨm ɨn kæ̀	one hundred and two	ivɨ nì bò
fifty	mɨvɨm ɨn tâyn	one hundred and ten	ivɨ nì ivɨm
sixty	mɨvɨm ɨn ntufa	one hundred and ninety	ivɨ nì mɨvɨm ɨn bulamò'
seventy	mɨvɨm ɨn nsombô	two hundred	ighɨ i bò
eighty	mɨvɨm ɨn nfama	two hundred and one	ighɨ i bò nì mò'
ninety	mɨvɨm ɨn bulamò'	three hundred	ighɨ i tal
one hundred	ivɨ	nine hundred	ighɨ i bulamò'
		one thousand	nkam
		two thousand	nkamsɨ sì bò

4.7.2 Cardinal numbers
The number system that is used to indicate quantity is much the same as the system used for counting in isolation. The numbers 1 to 5 and those over 10 are joined to the head noun by the associative marker.

167. ìngom i mò' 'one banana'
     banana   Ass one
168. tìngom tɨ tâyn 'five bananas'
     bananas   Ass five
169. tìngòm ìvɨm 'ten bananas'
     bananas   ten
170. tìngòm ivɨ   nì ìngom i mò' 'one hundred and one bananas'
     bananas   hundred with banana   Ass one
171. Fu ŋwà'lìsì sì bò sî mà. 'Give me two books.'
     give books   Ass two to me

4.7.3 Ordinal numbers

The Kom language has a very limited system to indicate position in a series, that is, first, second, third, etc. It has a means of expressing 'first,' 'next,' and 'last.' A descriptive phrase must be used to express concepts such as 'third,' 'fourth,' etc.

172. Fu ŋwà'lɨ yi asɨ.   'Give (me) the <u>first</u> book.'
     give book   it   front

173. Fu ànkùmtɨ̀ à ŋwà'lɨ̀.   'Give (me) the <u>next</u> book.'
     give following   Ass book

174. Fu ŋwà'lɨ i go'sɨnɨ.   'Give (me) the <u>last</u> book.'
     give book   Ass last.Ger

175. Fu ŋwà'lɨ zɨ̀ a yi n-ghɨ ibàm i ŋwà'lɨ nâ yèyn.
     give book   which it Asp-be   behind Ass book   Ref this
       'Give me the book which is after this book.'

4.8 Noun and verb modifiers and noun and verb phrase elements

4.8.1 Article

In languages in general, a definite article may be used to indicate a noun that has already been mentioned in the context or is common knowledge. An indefinite article may be used to introduce a new participant. However, the Kom language does not have a system of definite and indefinite articles. The context, or another type of determiner, see section 4.8.2, indicates whether or not a given noun is to be considered as definite or indefinite.

176. <u>Bòbè</u> nɨn nî wu là'ɨ <u>ghɨlûmnɨ</u> ghɨ se' ɨ   tem.
     master   Asp do   he invite Ass.male   Ind go Seq clear
       '(A) <u>master</u> of a compound invites (some) <u>men</u> to go and clear (a farm).
       N.B. This is the first time that "bòbè" and "ghɨlûmnɨ" are mentioned in the
       context so they are considered as indefinite nouns.

177. <u>Bzɨkem</u> nɨn ku meyn <u>ntîmkɨbù'</u>.   '<u>The</u> lion caught <u>a</u> wolf.'
     lion   Asp catch Comp wolf
       N.B. This is the second time the noun "bzɨkem" is used in the context so it
       is considered to be a definite noun; this is the first time the noun
       "ntîmkɨbù'" is used in the context so it is considered an indefinite noun.
       Only the context reveals whether or not the noun phrase is definite or
       indefinite.

4.8.2 Determiners

The Kom language does make use of other modifiers that limit, specify, particularize, or determine the head noun (other than articles and demonstratives). These do not occur with demonstratives. Such modifiers may be used to specify the definiteness or indefiniteness of a noun for purposes of clarity or emphasis. Indefiniteness may be indicated by the use of an associative noun phrase using the word 'other' to modify the head noun. This same morpheme may be used to introduce a new participant. Definiteness may be indicated by the use of the morpheme "ateyn" to modify the head noun.

178. Aŋena zɨ   meyn ɨ ndu a ndo nɨ wul ɨ   wi   ɨ   <u>lvi</u>.
     they   enter Perf   and go   in house of person Ass female Ass other
       'They entered a house of a <u>certain</u> woman. (N.B. first occurrence of 'woman')

179. Wul ɨ   wi   <u>ateyn</u> nɨn fu meyn ɨfwo ɨ   yɨnɨ sî àŋena.
     person Ass female there   Asp   give Perf   things Ass eating to them
       '<u>The</u> woman gave them food.' (N.B. subsequent occurrence of 'woman')

4.8.3 Demonstratives

Kom has an elaborate system of modifiers that point out or focus on the noun. The demonstrative pronoun system and its various forms was described earlier in section 4.6.3. and in Chart 11. As stated above, there is a three-way spatial and visibility distinction in this system. See the following examples of the use of these demonstrative modifiers.

180. Ba, gwòtɨ nyam <u>sèynsɨ</u>.   'Friend, share <u>these</u> animals.' (+near, +visible)
      friend share   animal   these
181. Mɨ n-kɨŋ ŋwà'lɨ <u>zɨ</u>.   'I need <u>that</u> book.' (-near, +visible)
      I   Asp-want book   that

A much more common use of the demonstrative modifiers is that of reactivating a participant in a discourse or of referring to a participant that had been mentioned earlier in the discourse. The anaphoric referential marker "nâ" is used with a demonstrative of any noun class in a noun phrase for this purpose.

182. Ghelɨ <u>nâ ghèyn</u> kfa meyn.   '<u>These</u> people (referred to earlier) have gone home.'
      people Ref these   go.home Comp
183. Wu waŋ mu <u>nâ mzɨ</u>, mɨ faŋ tɨ̀ tas.
      she   sprinkle water Ref that   it   stay Neg seal
    'She sprinkled <u>that</u> water (referred to earlier) it did not seal.'

4.8.4 Possessives

The possessive noun modifiers are described in Chart 13. (See also 4.6.2.) Possession is expressed by an associative noun phrase composed of the head noun + associative marker (noun class specific) and the possessive pronoun. Once again the form of the possessive pronoun agrees with the noun class of the head noun. Only the associative marker and the pronoun are shown in the body of Chart 13.

Chart 13.

noun class		first person		second person		third person	
		singular	plural	singular	plural	singular	plural
1	wùl 'person'	ì wom 'my person'	ì wes 'our person'	ì và 'your person'	ì vzì 'your person'	ì ŋweyn 'his person'	ì àŋena 'their person'
2	gheli 'people'	ghem 'my people'	ghes 'our people'	ghya 'your people'	ghi 'your people'	ŋweyn 'his people'	àŋena 'their people'
3	ikwo 'money'	i wom	ì wesi	i va	i vzi	i ŋweyn	i àŋena
4	ileŋ 'bamboos'	i yemi	ì yesi	i zæ	i zi	i ŋweyn	i àŋena
5	ichi 'stick'	i yemi	ì yesi	i zæ	i zi	i ŋweyn	i àŋena
6	awo 'things'	à kema	à kesa	à kya	à ki-a	a ŋweyn	a àŋena
6a	mivil 'oil'	mêm	mês	myâ	mzî	mì ŋweyn	mì àŋena
7	afol 'hat'	à kema	à kesa	à kya	à ki-a	a ŋweyn	a àŋena
8	ifwol 'hats'	i wom	ì wesi	i va	i vzi	i ŋweyn	i àŋena
9	mbam 'snake'	yem	yes	zyâ	zi	ŋweyn	àŋena
10	mbamsi 'snakes'	semsi	seysi	syasi	sisi	si ŋweyn	si àŋena
13	tichi 'sticks'	temti	teyti	tyati	tsiti	ti ŋweyn	ti àŋena
19	fikâ' 'tree'	femfi	feyfi	fyafi	fsifi	fi ŋweyn	fi àŋena

The first person plural form shown in the chart is the exclusive form. The dual form is, for example, "ikwo i ghes ì và" (class 3). The inclusive form is, for example, "ikwo i ghesìnà" (class 3).

It is common for the order of the constituents of the possessive noun phrase to be reversed, that is, for the possessive pronoun to precede the head noun. For example, "abe a ŋweyn" > "a ŋweyn abe," ' in his compound.'

184. Gheli <u>ghem</u> nin gvi-à. '<u>My</u> people are coming.'
     people my (2) Asp come-Inc

185. Afol a <u>kya</u> nin jofà. '<u>Your</u> hat is good.'
     hat   Ass your (7) Asp good.Inc

186. Ikfà'tì ì nin gvi-a a <u>ŋweyn</u> atu. 'A thought was coming into <u>his</u> head.'
     thought Top ASp come-Inc in his   head

4.8.5 Quantifiers

Noun modification expressing quantity is expressed by an associative noun phrase. The head noun is followed by the noun class associative marker which is followed by the quantifier, 'some,' 'many,' 'all,' or a specific number. See also 4.7.2.

187. gheli ghi li 'some people'
     people Ass   other

188. gheli ghi dvini 'many people'
     people Ass   many.Ger

189. gheli ghì jìm 'all the people'

people Ass all
190. gheli ghi tal   'three people'
people Ass three

4.8.6 Auxiliaries

There are few auxiliary verbs in Kom, that is, a verb in a determining relation to another verb. (There are many serial verb constructions that will be described later.) The verb "keli," 'have,' can be used in this sense. When used as an auxiliary it expresses the concept of obligation. It occurs before the main verb of the clause and carries the tense and / or aspect markers.

191. Wù n-<u>keli</u> si kasi si gvì nì bzi ateyn.   'He <u>must</u> bring back the goat.'
he   Asp have   Inf   return Inf   come with goat   there

4.8.7 Copula

The copula is a marker that is used by a predicator that is lexically non-verbal and grammatically uninflected for tense and aspect to complete a construction in which a verb is required. The sentence subject is linked (copula) to a complement by this marker. In Kom, the copula, "ghi," is only a grammatical element that is used to carry tense and aspect. It occurs in stative constructions to express existence and location and in equative constructions to express identity.

noun		
pronoun	+ copula +	noun
demonstrative		

a. equative
192. Nsom nin <u>ghi</u> wul achi.   'Nsom <u>is</u> the chairman.'
       Proper n Asp be   person seat
193. Wù n-<u>ghi</u> wul ìjèl nì ma̍.   'He <u>is</u> my friend.'
       he   Asp-be   person travel of me
194. A n-<u>ghi</u> àjvà.   'It <u>is</u> a tomato.'
       it   Asp-be   tomato
195. Iwêyn nin <u>ghi</u> bòbè.   'This <u>is</u> a compound head.'
       this (1)   Asp be   lord.compound

b. stative
196. Nàwàyn nin <u>ghi</u> a ndo.   'Mother <u>is</u> in the house.'
       mother.child Asp be   in house
197. Bò wom ndù a ndo ghè a atu a ndyèynsì-à nà <u>ghi</u> ateyn.
       father my   go   in house where   head Ass teachers-Agr   Dur be   there
       'My father went into the house where the principal <u>was</u>.'

c. existential
198. Wùl i lvi nà <u>ghi</u>, iziyn i ŋweyni nin ghi Kfà'timeyn.
       person Ass other Dur be   name Ass his.Agr   Asp be   think.first
       'There <u>was</u> a man, his name was Thinkfirst.'

4.8.8 Predicators

There are three types of predicators in the Kom language. The first is a verb that has an object, that is, it expresses an action that passes from an agent to a patient. The second is a verb that expresses an action but has no patient to which it is

directed. The third type is the copula that links two elements. These are described in 4.2.2 and 4.8.7.

4.8.9 Existential marker
The copula may be used as an existential marker in Kom and it frequently occurs in this role with an existential conjunction, "ma." The copula may be used to emphasize the state of being (i.e. location) of the subject. Compare the two following examples.

199. Nkwo nɨn g͟h͟ɨ ti isas i fɨkâ'.　　'The basket is standing under the tree.'
　　　basket　Asp　be　stand under Ass tree

200. Nkwo nɨn tî isas i fɨkâ'.　　'The basket stands under the tree.'
　　　basket　Asp　stand under Ass tree

The existential conjunction "ma," joins the subject existential clause with the clause that describes the state of existence of the subject. It acts as a type of complementizer in that it makes a comment about the noun being modified.

201. Nà ŋweyn nɨn g͟h͟ɨ ma wu bey'i meyn nkwo a ŋweyn atu.
　　　mother his　Asp be　Ex she carry　Comp basket　on her　　head
　　　'His mother is carrying a basket on her head.'
　　　literally, 'his mother is that she has carried a basket on her head.'

It should be noted that when the copula is used for this function, it always occurs with the temporal aspect marker, "nɨn." The clause beginning with the conjunction "ma" is a comment clause and it always contains the completive morpheme "meyn," which indicates background information in the discourse structure, or "kà'," 'able,' which expresses a potential or possible action.

The state of a subject may be emphasized by the use of certain verbs that are semantically stative, such as

marked		unmarked	
202. sɨ baŋ	'to be red'	cf. afo a baŋni-a	'a red thing'
203. sɨ gha'	'to be big'	cf. afo a gha'nɨ-a	'a big thing'
204. sɨ to	'to be strong'	cf. afo a tonɨ-a	'a hard thing'

205. Afo ateyn nɨn baŋa.　　　　A n-ghɨ afo a baŋni-a.
　　　thing　there　Asp　red.Inc　　it Asp-be thing Ass red.Ger-Inc
　　　'The thing is red.'　　　　　'It is a red thing.'

4.8.10 Verbal particles
There are several verbal particles that are commonly used, that is, words that are part of the verb phrase that are not inflected and which are not a noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, or conjunction. There is the infinitive marker, "sɨ."

206. Aŋena nɨn ghɨ jel　ɨ　ndu-à sɨ dyàŋ a jva ...
　　　they　　Asp　be　move and go-Inc　Inf cross　at stream
　　　'They were traveling and going to cross at the stream ...'

The particle "kæ" may serve as a type of development marker in the discourse structure, translated as 'then,' indicating that the following action is the next in a series of actions in a given story line.

207. Mbam ɨ　kæ fu sɨ ya'i ìngàl ì　bò.
　　　snake　Add then give Inf reach　times　Ass two
　　　'The snake then gave (some) two times.'

A homophonous particle "kæ" may serve as a hypothetical marker, indicating that the following action may not occur.

208. Wù ti <u>kæ</u> gìŋ gvisɨ a yi atu kɨ fɕ̂ ...
      he Asp if lay maggots on his head it rot
      '<u>If</u> he lays maggots on his head and it rots ...

4.9 Other grammatical classes

4.9.1 Coordinators

A coordinate phrase consists of two similar head constituents that are joined by a coordinator. A serial phrase consists of more than two head constituents. The coordinating preposition "nì" occurs between each head constituent in Kom in both types of phrases.

        NP + coord prep + NP + coord prep + NP ...

209. Njwò ìfò ɨ jaŋtɨ mìnyuyn <u>nɨ</u> nyamsɨ.   'The bat called birds <u>and</u> animals.'
      flesh   cave Seq call birds   with animals

210. A n-læ nà ghɨ itu' ɨ fɨ li bzɨkem <u>nɨ</u> nyàmàbo <u>nɨ</u> bɨ ɨ se' ibyem.
      it Asp-P4 Dur be day Ass other lion   with leopard   with dog Seq go   hunting
      'One day a lion <u>and</u> a leopard <u>and</u> a dog went hunting.'

Another coordinating preposition, "ŋêyn," can be used to emphasize the idea of accompaniment.

211. Njwò ìfò <u>ŋêyn</u> nyamsɨ nì mìnyûyn ɨ dyàyn lâmsɨ.
      flesh   cave with animals and birds   Seq light   lamps
      'The bat <u>with</u> the animals and birds lit lamps.'

The coordinator that expresses disjunction, "kèsa," is used in the same type of construction, that is, joining two nouns with a common function.

212. Wu n-to' asaŋ <u>kèsa</u> akuyn a.   'She is planting corn <u>or</u> beans.'
      she Asp-plant corn or   beans Top

The idea of two negative alternatives is expressed with a negative morpheme and "kèsa."

213. Wu n-to' <u>wi</u> asaŋ <u>kèsa</u> akuyn a.   'She is planting <u>neither</u> corn <u>nor</u> beans.'
      she Asp-plant Neg corn or   beans Top

The idea of two positive alternatives being selected is expressed simply by the coordinating preposition "nì," as shown above.

214. Wu n-to' asaŋ <u>nì</u> akuyn a.   'She is planting (both) corn <u>and</u> beans.'
      she Asp-plant corn and beans   Top

4.9.2 Complementizers

A sentential complement clause, an embedded clause that functions as an object of a verb, is introduced by a marker that is called a complementizer. There are no subject complement clauses in Kom.

The most frequent occurrence of the object complementizer is that it introduces the content of speech verbs, but it can also introduce the content of verbs of perception and volition.

bè	'say'	kfà'tɨ	'think'
bɨf	'ask'	yeyn	'see'
fè'tɨ	'tell'	kɨŋ	'want'
bèynsɨ	'reply'	nɨ	'cause'

215. Wù bè <u>na</u> yi ni nà du' atû fɨkà', yèyn fɨndùm yi ko' a kfɨyn nɨ nchue.
    he say that he P1 Dur sit head tree   see   rat   it go up on hill   with sunshine
      'He said <u>that</u> he was sitting in the tree and saw a mole climb the hill ...'
216. Ghɨ yeyn <u>na</u> yi gha' ɨ meyn.   'They saw <u>that</u> it was big.'
    Ind   see   that it big   Comp

The particle "ta," 'as,' can also function as a complementizer, introducing the content of a verb of perception.
217. Fɨndùm ɨ yeyn <u>ta</u> wù n-zɨ gvì ɨ le' fɨ   kɨ ji a nchya.
    rat   Seq see as it Asp-enter come Seq go away come out just way in private
      'The mole saw <u>as</u> it (not mole) entered and (mole) escaped by a private way.'

The infinitive marker "si" can also introduce object complement clauses, much as "want to + verb" is used in English.
218. Ghɨ kɨŋ njàm ɨ nà sɨ kɨŋ <u>si</u> gvèl ŋweyn ateyn.
    Ind   want ax   Seq Dur Asp want Inf chop him   there
      'They looked for an ax and were wanting <u>to</u> split him with it.'

4.9.3 Relativizers
A relative clause is introduced by a relativizer. The relativizer has nine different forms based on the noun class system and is composed of the group 3 demonstrative pronouns (-near, -visible) plus the particle "a" which also serves to introduce a clause that states a conclusion. The relative clause consists of this relativizer plus a full clause with a pronoun subject. The relative clause modifies a head noun, either the subject, object (direct, indirect, object of prepostion), or locative, that was previously specified in the context.

relative clause = Group 3 demonstrative pronoun + "a" + subordinate clause					
	class	1,3,8	vzɨ	a	pronoun + verb ± obj.
	class	2	ghɨ	a	
	class	4,5,9	zɨ	a	
	class	6,7	kɨ	a	
	class	6a	mzɨ	a	
	class	10	sɨsɨ	a	
	class	13	tsɨtɨ	a	
	class	19	fsɨfɨ	a	

relative clause = locative pronoun,	ghè	+ "a" + subordinate clause

219. Nò mɨ nyam ɨ kà   <u>zɨ</u> a yi nyiŋ lɨ asi, a yɨ na ghɨ fòyn.
    Emp Emp animal Ass which Rel it run   take front so it Dur be   king [modify subject of main clause]
      'Which ever animal <u>that</u> runs and takes first, it will be king.'

220. Mɨ n-kôŋ ngvɨ <u>zɨ a</u> yì n-ghɨ a ndo. 'I like the fowl that is in the house.'
    I Asp-like fowl   Rel it Asp-be in house [modify object of main clause]

221. Wù gvi nɨ ɨwo <u>zɨ a</u> wù n-kɨŋ.   'He come with the thing <u>that</u> he wants.'
    he come with thing Rel   he Asp-want [modify object of preposition]

222. Yi leŋ mamtɨ̂ fintâŋbuyn alè' <u>ghè a</u> fɨ n-du' ateyn.
    it hit make.flat starling   place Adv   it Asp-sit there [modify location]
      'It hit and flatten the starling on the place <u>where</u> it was sitting.'

4.9.4 Adverbializers

An adverbial clause is introduced by an adverbial conjunction called an adverbializer. The adverbializer is not specific to any class of verbs but it does differ as to function. The adverbializer serves to introduce adverbial clauses of time, reason, purpose, and concession. These clauses refer to the setting or the circumstances of the verb of the main clause. There are no grammatical markers to indicate that the adverbializer introduces a subordinate clause.

Adverbializer	translation	function
ɨlvɨ ta / à nà ghɨ ta	'when'	time
bòm ta	'because'	reason
ta ka / sɨ	'so that'	purpose
nô mɨ ta	'even though'	concession

223. <u>Ɨlvɨ ta</u> nàwàyn lam abayn na ŋweyn lum   ŋweyn ɨ yɨ.
    time as mother.child stir fuf   that she   husband her   Seq eat
      '<u>When</u> the mother prepares fufu she and her husband will eat.'

224. <u>A nà ghɨ ta</u> àŋena byem ɨ̀ mèsì, àŋena nin su'i meyn dù'ɨ sɨ yvɨtɨ.
    it Dur be as they   hunt   and finish   they   Asp go.down Comp   sit   Inf rest
      '<u>When</u> they finished hunting, they sat down to rest.'

225. Wul ɨ lùmnɨ nɨn ku a jûŋ <u>bòm ta</u> wu na yvɨtɨ isas i fɨkâ'.
    person Ass male   Asp catch it good for   as   he Dur rest   under Ass tree
      'The man is feeling well <u>because</u> he was resting under the tree.'

226. Wà na kelɨ ghɨkɨ ghɨ bò <u>ta ka</u> wà na yɨ kula.
    you Dur have women Ass two as   you Dur eat tie.Inc
      'You should have two wives <u>so that</u> you will eat well.'

227. Wù ma' ngœ <u>sɨ</u> yɨsɨ isas i ndo nɨ ŋweyn ateyn.
    she scatter seed Inf feed   under Ass house of her   there
      'She planted seeds <u>in order to</u> feed her family.'

228. Wù ba'tɨ̂ ifêl i ŋweyn <u>nô mɨ ta</u> wu n-yvɨtɨ.
    he plan work Ass his   Emph any as he Asp-rest
      'He is planning his work <u>even though</u> he is resting.'

4.9.5 Interjections

There are exclamatory words that are capable of standing alone, without the other elements of a sentence, such as "ayòŋnì," 'thanks,' "ngaŋ," 'no,' and "sɨ ijya," 'sorry.'

229. Ayòŋnì.   'Thanks.'
    full form, "Mɨ n-fu <u>àyòŋnì</u> sɨ và.   'I give thanks to you.'
              I Asp-give thank   to you

230. Woyn-nà ŋweyn be na, <u>ngaŋ</u>. Ka wu n-kasi ki bòm ta ...
    children-mother his   say that no   Neg he Asp-return look for as
      'His brothers said, <u>no</u>. He should not look back because ...'

231. Sɨ ijya.   'Sorry.' 'Take it easy.' 'Greetings.'

4.9.6 Ideophones

There is a class of words which express the idea of noises or intense feelings. The following examples express the noise of hitting something and calling out to someone, "wo," the feeling of fear, "wi," and a strong negative response, "ay."

232. Kù àteyn fe a ngò' tèyn na <u>bìk</u>.   'The trunk fell on the rock like so, "bìk".'
    trunk there fall on stone so   that

233. <u>Wo</u> gheli̵ ghem, a yi na fi̵-a!   'Wo, my people, come out!'
    people my   so you Dur come out-Inc

234. <u>Wi</u>, bò àkù i̵ bem tèyn!   'Wi, the lord of the forest is terrible!'
    lord forest Seq terrible so

235. <u>Ay</u>! Mi̵ n-kya wi.   'No! I do not know.'
    I   Asp-know Neg

4.9.7 Negators

There are four commonly used particles that express negation that can be used alone or in combination with other negators.

Negator	Aspect	Negator	Aspect
wi	imperfective		
bu	perfect	bu ... fi	finality
ti̵	perfective	bu ... ti̵	unrealized
ka	imperative		

.

The negator "wi" is used in present tense (imperfective) constructions.

236. Wù n-gvî <u>wì.</u>   'He is <u>not</u> coming.'
    he   Asp-come Neg

The negator "bu" is used in past tense (perfect) constructions.

237. Wù <u>bû</u> gvì.   'He has not come.'
    he   Neg come

The negator " ti̵ " is used in past tense (perfective) constructions.

238. Wù faŋ <u>ti̵</u> gvì.   'He did <u>not</u> come.'
    he   stay Neg come

The negators "bu" and " ti̵ " can be used in combination in a past tense construction with present implications that conveys unrealized expectations.

239. Wù <u>bu</u> du' <u>ti̵</u> gvì.   'He has <u>not yet</u> come.'
    he   Neg sit Neg come

The negator "bu" is used in combination with "wi," the repetitive morpheme, "fi," and a future tense marker to indicate a negative finality.

240. Wù n-læ <u>bu fi</u>   gvi <u>wì</u> .   'He will <u>never</u> come again.'
    he   Asp-F2 Neg again come Neg

There is also the negative imperative marker "ka" with a future sense that occupies the initial position in the clause. The fundamental role of this particle is to counter an expectation or anticipated action that is based on a previous action or stated intention.

241. Ka wa gvi.   'Don't come!'
    Neg you come

242. Ka wu n-gvì.   'He should not come.'
    Neg he Asp-come

4.9.8 Question markers

There are two types of questions in the Kom language: affirmative/negative response questions and content questions. The affirmative/negative question is formed by the addition of a clause final question marker, usually "a" but in some cases "ma." The marker "ma" occurs when the speaker is expecting some supplemental information in addition to the affirmative or negative response. The normal declarative sentence word order is maintained.

243. Wù ni meyn gàmtɨ ŋweyn a?   'Did he help him?'
     he   P1   Comp   help   him   Q

244. Wù n-lɛ̀ gvì a libɨs   ma?   'Will he come tomorrow (or ...)?'
     he   Asp-F2   come on tomorrow Q

Content question markers are words that substitute for other words in a declarative sentence, either a noun phrase, or a word, phrase or clause that expresses the idea of time, location, reason, manner, or number. This type of question anticipates a response of some specific information.

ghà	'what'			
ɨlvɨ gha	'time'	+ 'what'	=	'when'
bòm ghà	'for'	+ 'what'	=	'why'
ti a	'how'	+ question marker	=	'how'
se' a	'how many	+ question marker	=	'how many'
kà	'which'			
wo	'where'			
ndà	'who'			

245. Wu nì chuf gha?   '<u>What</u> did he carve?'   noun phrase
     he   P1 carve   what

246. A nì chùf ndà a?   '<u>Who</u> carved (it)?'   noun phrase
     it   P1 carve   who   Q

247. Wu nì chuf afo à kà?   '<u>Which</u> thing did he carve?'   noun phrase
     he   P1 carve   thing Ass which

248. Wù nì chuf ɨlvɨ gha?   '<u>When</u> did he carve (it)?'   temporal
     he   P1 carve   time   what

249. Wù nì chùf wo?   '<u>Where</u> did he carve (it)?'   locative
     he   P1 carve   where

250. Wu ni chuf bòm ghà?   '<u>Why</u> did he carve (it)?'   reason
     he   P1 carve   for   what

251. Wù nì chùf ti a?   '<u>How</u> did he carve (it)?   manner
     he   P1 carve   how Q

252. Wù nì chùf ɨswe' a?   '<u>How many</u> did he carve?'   number
     he   P1 carve   how many Q

All of these content questions markers occur in the clause final position or may be followed only by the question marker. They also maintain the word order of the declarative sentence except for the question word "ndà," 'who.' If the subject of the declarative clause is being questioned, the subject of the interrogative clause is an indefinite pronoun and the 'who' question word is clause final. If this question contains an object, the object follows the question word and the sentence ends with the question marker. If the object of the declarative clause is being questioned, the 'who' question is formed just as the other content questions, subject + verb + 'who.' If the indirect object or the object of the preposition of the declarative

clause is being questioned, the 'who' question is formed in a similar way to the object question, subject + verb + preposition + 'who.'

253. A nì gàmtì <u>ndà</u> ŋweyn a?   'Who helped him?'
     it P1 help   who him   Q
254. Wù yeyn <u>ndà</u> a?   'Whom did he see?'
     he   see who Q
255. Wù ndu àlè' ŋêyn <u>ndà</u> a?   'He went to the place with <u>whom</u>?'
     he   go   place with   who Q

An object is implied in the content questions but is not stated unless it is specifically in focus, in which case a noun or pronoun follows the question word and the sentence ends with the question marker.

256. A nì chùf nda <u>ankeyn</u> a?   'Who carved <u>it</u>?'
     it P1 carve who it (6,7)   Q

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6. Appendices
Reading text Ref: 001   **Ref:** 002

wul   nìn du' achɨ.   wul   ɨ   lùmnì   nìn du' achɨ jaŋ ŋwà'lì.
wul   nin du' achɨ   wul   ɨ   lum +nɨ nin du' achɨ jaŋ ŋwà'lì
person prog sit   chair   person Ass male+Ger prog sit   chair   read book
n   asp v   n   n   con n   +suf asp v   n   v   n

"A person is sitting on a chair. "   *"A man is sitting on a chair reading a book. "*

Ref: 003

woyn   ŋweyn nɨn ki   ɨ   ŋweyn ta   wu n-jaŋ   ŋwà'lì.
woyn   ŋweyn nɨn ki   ɨ   ŋweyn ta   wu nɨn +jaŋ   ŋwà'lì
children 3sobj   prog look.at Seq 3sobj as   3ssub prog+read book
n   pro   asp vt   con pro   conj pro asp +v   n

"His children are looking at him as he reads the book. "

Ref: 004

wù   n-ghɨ   ma wu tuŋ meyn gvɨsivì   nì ŋweyn nì
wù   nɨn +ghɨ ma wu tuŋ meyn gvɨ +sɨ +ivɨ nì ŋweyn nì
3ssub prog +be Ex 3ssub put.on Comp cover+3pl+feet of 3sobj with
pro   asp +vs   conj pro vt   asp n   +pro+n   prep pro   prep

wi   ŋweyn na jaŋ ŋwà'lì.
wi   ŋweyn na jaŋ ŋwà'lì
female 3sobj   Dur read book
n   pro   asp v   n

"He is there, having put on his shoes, with his wife reading a book. "

Ref: 005

wayn ɨ lùmnì   nìn li   meyn awu ŋweyn lem a   jem nì wayn ɨ   wi.
wayn ɨ lum +nɨ nin li   meyn awu ŋweyn lem a   jem nì wayn ɨ   wi
child Ass male+Ger prog other Comp hand 3sobj put on back of   child Ass female
n   con n   +suf asp adj asp n   pro   vi prep n   prep n   con n

"The boy took his hand and put it on the girl's back. "

Ref: 006

wayn ɨ wi nɨn ghɨ ma wu ma' gyaŋ na ki   ta bo   àŋena nin jaŋ ŋwà'lì.
wayn ɨ wi nɨn ghɨ ma wu ma' gyaŋ na ki   ta bò   àŋena nin jaŋ ŋwà'lì
child Ass fem prog be Ex 3s wear dress Dur look.at as father 3pl   prog read book
n   con n asp vs conj pro vt   n   asp vt   conj n   pro   asp v   n

"A girl is there, wearing a dress, looking as their father reads a book. "

Ref: 007

àŋena nɨn ki   ŋwà'lì ateyn no   nì   adya' a.
àŋena nɨn ki   ŋwà'lì ateyn nô   nì   adya' a
3pl   prog look.at book   there Emph with power Top
pro   asp vt   n   dem   adv prep n   asp

"They are looking at the book with great interest. "

Traditional doctor text

Ref: 001

à	n-ghɨ	a	alɨŋsɨ	afêyn,	à	n-ghɨ		wùl	ɨ	ngàŋ	ateyn.
a	nɨn +ghɨ	a	alɨŋsɨ	afêyn	a	nɨn +ghɨ	wul	ɨ	ngàŋ	ateyn
it	prog +be	in	picture	here	it	prog +be		person	Ass	medicine	there
pro	asp +vs	prep	n	loc	pro	asp+vs		n	con	n	dem

"In this picture, there is a medicine man. "

Ref: 002

wùl	ɨ	ngàŋ	nâ	wèyn	ghɨ-a	ma	wu	ndu	meyn	nì	àfɨ
wul	ɨ	ngàŋ	na	wèyn	ghɨ+a	ma	wu	ndù	meyn	nì	afɨ
person	Ass	medicine	that	this	be +Inc	Ex	3ssub	go	Comp	do	medicine
n	con	n	rel	dem	vs suf	part	pro	vi	asp	vt	n

sɨ	wùl	ɨ	iko'inɨ,		ɨwuyn	nì	wùl	ɨ	iko'inɨ.
sɨ	wul	ɨ	i +ko'i+nɨ	ɨwuyn	nì	wul	ɨ	i +ko'i+nɨ
to	person	Ass	nom+sick	+Ger	body	of	person	Ass	nom+sick +Ger
prep	n	con	pre+vi	+suf	n	prep	n	con	pre+vi +suf

"This medicine man went to apply medicine to a sick person, to the body of a sick person. "

Ref: 003

wul	ɨ	iko'inɨ		la'	nɨ	ŋweyn	nì	ngvɨsɨ.
wul	ɨ	i +ko'i+nɨ	la'	nì	ŋweyn	nì	ngvɨ +sɨ
person	Ass	nom+sick	+Ger	pay	with	3sobj	with	chicken+nc
n	con	pre+vi	+suf	v	prep	pro	prep	n +suf

"The sick person paid him with fowls. "

Ref: 004

wù	bala	meyn	ngvɨsɨ		ateyn	a	ŋweyn	a	jɨm,	ghal	ɨ	bò
wù	bala	meyn	ngvɨ +sɨ	ateyn	a	ŋweyn	a	jɨm	ghal	ɨ	bò
3ssub	carry	Comp	chicken+nc		there	on	3sobj	on	back	hold	Seq	bag
pro	v	asp	n	+suf	dem	prep	pro	prep	n	v	+con	n

àfɨ		nɨ	ŋwèyn	a	ŋweyn	awu,	waf	fɨnyùe	a	ŋweyn	a	ichibɨ
afɨ		nɨ	ŋweyn	a	ŋweyn	awu	waf	fɨnyùe	a	ŋweyn	a	ichibɨ
medicine	of	3sobj	in		3sobj	hand	hang	knife	on	3sobj	on	side
n		prep	pro	prep	pro	n	v	n		prep	pro	prep	n

na	sɨ	kasi	kfa	sɨ	a	ŋweyn	a	ndo.
na	sɨ	kasi	kfa	sɨ	a	ŋweyn	a	ndo
that	Asp	return	go.home	to	in	3sobj	in	house
rel	part	vi	vi	prep	prep	pro	prep	n

"He carried those fowls on his back, holding a bag of medicine in his hand, hanging a knife on his side and is going home to his house. "

Traditional doctor text

Ref: 005

```
wu    n-ghɨ    jela        kɨ  nɨ̀  ɨvɨ.
wu    nɨn+ghɨ  jèl +a      kɨ  nɨ̀  ɨvɨ
3ssub prog+be  walk+incomp just with feet
pro   asp +vs  vi +asp     adv prep n
```

"He is moving on foot. "

Ref: 006

```
wu    bu  la'  mɨtu   sɨ  a   jel  ateyn.
wu    bu  la'  mɨtu   sɨ  a   jèl  ateyn
3ssub neg pay  vehicle to  so  walk there
pro   adv v    n      prep conj vi dem
```

"He has not paid a car to be traveling in it. "

Ref: 007

```
wù    ndu meyn chwayntɨ ɨwuyn ɨ  wul  ɨ  iko'inɨ        nɨ̀  rèysɨ̀
wù    ndù meyn chwayntɨ ɨwuyn ɨ  wul  ɨ  i +ko'i+nɨ    nɨ̀  rèysɨ̀
3ssub go  Comp cut            body  Ass person Ass nom+sick+Ger with razor
pro   vi  asp  v              n     con n   con pre+vi  +suf prep n

bleydɨ̀ ni afɨ      sɨ  wul  ɨ  iko'inɨ        a   tɨ   kasi na
bleydɨ̀ nɨ̀ afɨ      sɨ  wul  ɨ  i +ko'i+nɨ    a   ti   kasi na
blade  do medicine to  person Ass nom+sick +Ger so  thus return Dur
n      v  n         prep n    con pre+vi  +suf conj adv vi   asp

sɨ  kfa      sɨ  a   ndo   nɨ̀  bò  àfɨ      nɨ̀  ŋweyn ta   wu    keli
sɨ  kfa      sɨ  a   ndo   nɨ̀  bò  afɨ      nɨ̀  ŋweyn ta   wu    keli
asp go.home  to  in  house with bag medicine of 3sobj as   3ssub have
part vi      prep prep n   prep n   n        prep pro   conj pro   v

sɨ  a   ŋweyn awu.
sɨ  a   ŋweyn awu
to  in  3sobj hand
prep prep pro   n
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"He went and cut the skin of the sick person with a razor blade and put medicine to the sick person and so is going back home to the house with his bag of medicine that he had in his hand. "