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A short overview of the word classes in Brokpa

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a first overview of the word classes in Brokpa and how they differ structurally from each other. Brokpa distinguishes eleven word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, copulas, relator nouns, pronouns, numerals, quantifiers, conjunctions and particles. Semantic, morphological and syntactic aspects of these word classes will be presented and set in relation to each other.

KEYWORDS

Brokpa, Tibetic languages, word classes, nominals, noun modifiers, verbs, copulas, adverbs, conjunctions, particles

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*A short overview of the word classes in Brokpa**

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1 Introduction

This paper presents word classes, also called parts of speech, of the Brokpa language of Bhutan.¹ Brokpa distinguishes nouns, relator nouns, pronouns, adjectives, numerals, quantifiers, verbs, copulas, adverbs, conjunctions and particles. The major word classes are nouns, verbs and adjectives. They constitute open-class categories, meaning that they are able to incorporate new class members. The basic word order of Brokpa is SOV. The nominal categories nouns, relator nouns and pronouns are presented in section 2. Section 3 discusses word classes which modify nouns, like adjectives, numerals and quantifiers. Section 4 turns to verbs and copulas and section 5 to adverbs. The smallest categories, conjunctions and particles, are treated in section 6 and 7, respectively.

2 Nominals

Nominals include nouns, pronouns and relator nouns. They either can constitute a noun phrase or are dependent on nouns. Nouns are discussed in more detail in section 2.1, relator nouns in 2.2 and pronouns in 2.3.

2.1 Nouns

Nouns are the heads of nominal phrases. They can occur either on their own or together with adjectives, demonstratives, possessive pronouns, numerals, quantifiers and relator nouns. Semantically, nouns denote objects and morphologically, they inflect for number and case. The basic structure of the noun phrase in Brokpa is demonstrative - possessive pronoun - noun - adjective - numeral - quantifier - relator noun or definite article. The definite article =*di*, which is

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¹For general information about the Brokpa language and the Brokpa Documentation and Description Project as well as for the list of abbreviations and the transliteration of Written Tibetan used in this issue, see Gerber & Grollmann (this issue).

a clitic, never occurs after a relator noun, therefore either a relator noun or a definite article or neither of them can be at the end of a noun phrase.

Nouns can take the plural clitic =*ba*, but the plural marker is optional if plurality can be inferred from the context (see Rüfenacht, this issue). Brokpa exhibits five different case markers: agentive =*je*², genitive =*gi*, dative =*la*³, ablative =*ne* and comitative =*daŋ*. Case and number markers are clitics. Therefore, they not only occur after a noun but generally at the end of the noun phrase. Nouns can be modified by demonstratives, adjectives, quantifiers and numerals. Demonstratives precede the noun, whereas adjectives, quantifiers and numerals follow it. For more information on nominal morphology, see Rüfenacht (this issue). The sentences in (1) - (5) show five examples of nouns with case markers.⁴

- (1) *k^hegi c^himamgi miŋ tei na*
k^hegi c^himam=gi miŋ tei na
 2SG.GEN=GEN wife=GEN name what COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘What’s your wife’s name?’
- (2) *di ri o riŋe k^hɔl k^hogi p^hoŋla niŋa kacinase*
di ri oti ri=je k^ho=la k^ho=gi
 TOP mountain DEM.PROX mountain=AGT 3SG.M=DAT 3 SG.M=GEN
p^hoŋ=la niŋa kap-cina=se
 palace=DAT sun block.PRS-PRS.ALLO=REP
 ‘The mountain, that mountain shielded him, his palace from the sun.’ [BO]
- (3) *mi ɛik tiŋe suptaŋe teŋla riga tuk*
mi=ɛik ti=je sup-taŋ-pe teŋ=la ri-ga
 person=INDF knife=AGT stab-do-NMLZ.PST plain=DAT fall.over-leave
tuk
 COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘A person was stabbed by a knife and is lying on the ground.’
- (4) *lum dukne c^hoŋpe na*
lum duk=ne c^hoŋ-pe na
 lum Bhutan=ABL bring-NMLZ.PST COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘Lum is brought from Bhutan.’
- (5) *ki mibombodaŋ nambo gasoŋ*
ki mi bombo=daŋ nambu ga-soŋ
 dog human big=COM together leave-PST.SEN
 ‘The dog and the tall man left together.’

² The agentive can also be used to mark the instrument of an action (see Rüfenacht, this issue).

³ The dative expresses locations, beneficiaries and maleficiaries, goals, possession, time-periods and final states of transformations (see Rüfenacht, this issue).

⁴ A more detailed description of the case markers is given in Rüfenacht (this issue).

Verbs differ from nouns in that they cannot take case and plural markers and occupy a different position within the sentence. But, with nominalizer suffixed to verbs they change the word class and become nouns (see also section 4).

2.2 Relator Nouns

Relator nouns are not independent nouns, because they cannot be the head of a nominal phrase by themselves. They need a lexical noun with which they occur in a genitive construction. This is comparable to DeLancey’s description for Classical and Lhasa Tibetan (2003a: 264, 2003b: 275). In everyday language the genitive case marker can be omitted, however there is no difference in the meaning of the sentence. Relator nouns always take either the ablative or the dative case marker. Semantically, they denote spatial relationships or have abstract meanings. Because of the case markers, relator nouns appear to be grammaticalized from full-fledged lexical nouns. In contrast to full-fledged lexical nouns, relator nouns never take the definite article =*di*. Examples (6) and (7) show the relator nouns *cap* ‘behind’ and *naŋ* ‘inside’ with and without a genitive construction in a spatial relationship, whereas the relator nouns *tonda* ‘in order to’ and *kor* ‘about’ in examples (8) and (9) denote abstract meanings.

- (6) *jaŋki eiŋgi capla tuk*
jaŋki eiŋ=gi cap=la tuk
 Yangki tree=GEN behind=DAT COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘Yangki is behind the tree.’
- (7) *ŋa c^him naŋla eukpe*
ŋa c^him naŋ=la euk-pe
 1SG house inside=DAT enter-NMLZ.PST
 ‘I went inside the house.’
- (8) *ŋe k^hola termi tondala kitap k^herco?*
ŋe k^ho=la ter-mi tonda=la kitap
 1SG.AGT 3SG.M=DAT give.PRS-NMLZ.ACT in.order.to=DAT book
k^her-co?
 take-PRS.EGO
 ‘I take a book with me in order to give it to him.’
- (9) *ot c^him bombogi korne lapco?*
oti c^him bombo=gi kor=ne lap-co?
 DEM.PROX house big=GEN about=ABL say-PRS.EGO
 ‘It’s the big house I am talking about.’

Table 1 shows a few relator nouns of the Brokpa language. If a relator noun can only take either the dative or the ablative marker, this marker is given in parentheses.

<i>naŋ</i>	‘in, inside’
<i>te^{hi}</i>	‘outside’
<i>tsa</i>	‘under’
<i>tsé</i>	‘on’
<i>ja</i>	‘up’
<i>ma</i>	‘down’
<i>tsu</i>	‘here’
<i>p^{ha}</i>	‘there’
<i>cap</i>	‘behind’
<i>ŋontɛo</i>	‘in front of’
<i>ho:</i>	‘downriver, downhill, below’
<i>takpa</i>	‘upriver, uphill’
<i>tonda (=la)</i>	‘in order to’
<i>kor (=ne)</i>	‘about’

Table 1. Relator nouns

2.3 Pronouns

Personal pronouns are the head of a nominal phrase. Unlike nouns, personal pronouns cannot be modified with adjectives. Personal pronouns can take the agentive and genitive case markers to form agentive pronouns and possessive pronouns, respectively. Another marker found with pronouns is derivational =*raŋ*, which is attached to the personal pronouns to generate the reflexive form. The personal pronouns are listed in Table 2.

1SG	<i>ŋa</i>	1PL.INCL	<i>neraŋ</i>
		1PL.EXCL	<i>ni</i>
2SG	<i>c^{ho}</i>	2PL	<i>k^{hi}</i>
3SG.M	<i>k^{ho}</i>	3PL	<i>k^{hoŋ}</i>
3SG.F	<i>mo</i>		

Table 2. Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns marked with the genitive case are used as possessive pronouns. They occur before a noun to indicate the possession of the noun. This is exemplified in (10) with the first person singular pronoun.

- (10) *negi c^{hi}imamgi miŋ ... na*
ne=gi *c^{hi}imam=gi* *miŋ* ... *na*
 1SG.GEN=GEN wife=GEN name ... COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘My wife’s name is...’

The adding of agentive and genitive case marker leads to a change in the stems of singular pronouns. With the genitive, even two different stems are possible, one of these two stems being

identical with the agentive stem. All personal pronouns with agentive and genitive case markers are listed in table 3.

	Agentive	Genitive
1SG	<i>ne</i>	<i>ne=gi, ne</i>
2SG	<i>k^he</i>	<i>k^he=gi, k^he</i>
3SG.M	<i>k^hoe</i>	<i>k^ho=gi, k^hoe</i>
3SG.F	<i>moe</i>	<i>mo=gi, moe</i>
1PL.INCL	<i>neraŋ=je</i>	<i>neraŋ=gi</i>
1PL.EXCL	<i>ni=je</i>	<i>ni=gi</i>
2PL	<i>k^hi=je</i>	<i>k^hi=gi</i>
3PL	<i>k^hoŋ=je</i>	<i>k^hoŋ=gi</i>

Table 3. Personal pronouns with genitive and agentive case markers

Brokpa distinguishes three different demonstratives which indicate two degrees of distance. These are *oti* ~ *ot* for proximal and *ep^{hi}* and *p^{hegi}* for distal. Of the last two *ep^{hi}* is much more used than *p^{hegi}*. The demonstratives can replace a head noun and therefore form the head of a noun phrase, or they can occur with a noun within a noun phrase in which they precede the noun as indicated in example (11). Examples (12), (13) and (14) show demonstratives forming an own noun phrase.

- (11) *ot teəgi naŋla ts^ha ɛorɛik tuk*
oti tea=gi naŋ=la ts^ha ɛorɛik tuk
 DEM.PROX tea=GEN inside=DAT salt much COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘The tea is very salty.’
- (12) *ot mogi ɛam na*
oti mo=gi ɛam na
 DEM.PROX 3SG.F=GEN traditional.brokpa.hat COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘This is her hat.’
- (13) *ot tɛi na*
oti tɛi na
 DEM.PROX what COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘What is this?’
- (14) *ɛphi təna*
ep^{hi} tá na
 DEM.DIST horse COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘That is a horse.’

Demonstratives take =*ba* in the plural. This is exemplified in (15).

- (15) *εφι batəna*
ep^{hi}=ba tá na
 DEM.DIST=PL horse COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘Those are horses.’

There are four interrogative pronouns in Brokpa. The first is *sú* ‘who’. It behaves like a personal pronoun and can constitute the head of a noun phrase, as in example (16). With the genitive case marker *sú* forms a possessive construction. This is indicated in example (17).

- (16) *k^{hi}ba kaŋjoŋe c^{hi}m teoεegin sú jo?*
k^{hi}=ba kaŋjo=ne c^{hi}m teo-εe-gin sú jo?
 2PL=PL all=ABL house make-know-NMLZ.AGT who COP.EX.EGO
 ‘Who of you all is the one who knows how to build a house?’

- (17) *syi teptem na*
sú=gi teptema na
 who=GEN slipper COP.EQ.SAM
 ‘Whose slipper is it?’

The second interrogative pronoun is *teí* ‘what’. It always constitutes the head of a noun phrase as in examples (18) and (19).

- (18) *ot teí na*
oti teí na
 DEM.PROX what COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘What is this?’
- (19) *c^{ho} teí sagin toco*
c^{ho} teí sa-gin to-co
 2SG what eat.PRS-NMLZ.AGT want-FUT
 ‘What do you want to eat?’

The interrogative pronoun *ka* ‘where’ also forms the head of a noun phrase. In contrast to the other two interrogative pronouns *ka* always needs the dative or ablative case marker, as example (20) shows.

- (20) *c^{ho} kane jin*
c^{ho} ka=ne jin
 2SG where=ABL COP.EQ.EGO
 ‘Where are you from?’

The last interrogative pronoun is *kaŋ* ‘which’. Its usage is comparable with the other interrogative pronouns, as illustrated in examples (21) with *kaŋ* ‘which’ in (21a) and *sú* ‘who’ in (21b). Both occur before the copula and after the first noun phrase.

- (21) a. *c^him nanla teindɔŋgin ki dɪ: kaŋ na*
c^him nanɣ=la teindɔŋ-gin ki=di kaŋ na
 house inside=DAT peed-NMLZ.AGT dog=DEF which COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘Which one is the dog that peed inside the house?’
- b. *ki duŋgin mi dɪ: sɯ na*
ki duŋ-gin mi=di sɯ na
 dog beat-NMLZ.AGT person=DEF who COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘Who is the man who beat the dog?’

3 Noun Modifiers

Adjectives, numerals and quantifiers are part of the noun phrase and modify the head noun. Therefore, they are summarized in one chapter as noun modifiers. Section 3.1 focuses on adjectives, followed by numerals in section 3.2 and quantifiers in 3.3.

3.1 Adjectives

Adjectives modify the noun in a noun phrase. In Brokpa they always follow the noun they modify, as can be seen in example (22).

- (22) *do bomo c^himgi tsél tuk*
do bombo c^him=gi tsé=la tuk
 stone big house=GEN on=DAT COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘The big stone is on the house.’

Adjectives can take the comparative and superlative suffixes *-ɛo* and *-da*, respectively. The comparative marker *-ɛo* is often shortened to *-ɛ*, as in example (23). For the superlative marker see example (24).

- (23) *mento marbo dɪ: mento ŋonbu ɟapne bɔmɛ tuk*
mento marbo=di mento ŋonbo ɟap-ne bombo-ɛo tuk
 flower red=DEF flower blue do-CVB2 big-COMPR COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘The red flower is bigger than the blue flower.’
- (24) *ki duŋgin dɪ: p^hrugu teuŋda na*
ki duŋ-gin=di p^hrugu teuŋku-da na
 dog beat-NMLZ.AGT=DEF child small-SUP COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘The one who hit the dog was the smallest child.’

Predicate adjectives always need a copula to complete the sentence. This can be seen in the examples (25) and (26).

(25) *me bɔm tuk*
me bombo tuk
 fire big COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘The fire is big.’

(26) *teuŋku tuk*
teuŋku tuk
 small COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘It’s small.’

Adjectives can form the head of a nominal phrase. This is possible with the adjective nominalizer *-eu*, as example (27) shows, or with the definite article *=di* as in (28).

(27) *k^he ephi riŋeuba t^hoŋco?*
k^he ep^hi riŋpo-eu=ba t^hoŋ-co?
 2SG.AGT DEM.DIST tall-NMLZ.ADJ=PL see-PRS.EGO
 ‘Can you see the tall ones?’

(28) *ot teuŋku di:*
oti teuŋku=di
 DEM.PROX small=DEF
 ‘the small one’

3.2 Numerals

Like adjectives, numerals modify the head of a noun phrase. They always occur after the noun they modify, as illustrated in the examples (29) and (30). Numerals can form ordinal numbers with the suffix *-pa* and they can also occur predicatively. The numerals from 11-19 follow a decimal system, whereas a vigesimal system is used for numerals over 20 with the word *k^ha* ‘score’ as its base. However, younger Brokpa speakers tend to count in Dzongkha or English for numbers over 20. For numerals higher than 100, two variants exist; a modern decimal system and a more archaic vigesimal system. For more detailed information, see Funk et al. (this issue). Table 4 gives an overview of the Brokpa numerals from 1 to 20.

(29) *eφila tá jí tuk*
ep^hi=la tá jí tuk
 DEM.DIST=DAT horse two COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘Those are two horses.’

(30) *ce: je teinsɔŋ*
ce: je tein-soŋ
 gift eight give-PST.SEN
 ‘I got eight gifts.’

1	<i>teik</i>	11	<i>teukeik</i>
2	<i>ni</i>	12	<i>teunni</i>
3	<i>sum</i>	13	<i>teuksum</i>
4	<i>ei</i>	14	<i>teuei</i>
5	<i>na</i>	15	<i>teena</i>
6	<i>tuk</i>	16	<i>teytuk</i>
7	<i>dyn</i>	17	<i>teupdyn</i>
8	<i>je</i>	18	<i>teupje</i>
9	<i>gu</i>	19	<i>teurgu</i>
10	<i>teut^hamba</i>	20	<i>k^haek</i>

Table 4. Numerals 1-20

3.3 Quantifiers

Quantifiers modify the head noun of a noun phrase. They follow nouns, adjectives and numerals. In contrast to numerals or adjectives no affixes are used with quantifiers. Words which quantify nouns in Brokpa are for example *kanyo* ‘all’, *-jeran* ‘all of’ (only with numerals), *eorcik* ‘much/many’ and *rikse* ‘every’. Quantifiers are not attested as predicate of a sentence. Three examples are shown in (31) - (33).

(31) *εοφ rikse na to saco?*

εοφ^ha rikse na to sa-co?
 morning every 1SG cooked.rice eat.PRS-PRS.EGO
 ‘Every morning I eat rice.’

(32) *ot lumbala c^him bom εorcik tuk*

oti lumba=la c^him bombo εorcik tuk
 DEM.PROX region=DAT house big many COP.EX.ACQ
 ‘In this region, there are many big houses.’

(33) *ot mi sumjeran dukne jonpe na*

oti mi sum-jeran duk=ne jon-pe na
 DEM.PROX person three-all.of Bhutan=ABL come-NMLZ.PST COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘All three people come from Bhutan.’

Another quantifier is the interrogative word *tsam* ‘how many’:

(34) *c^ho dukla dynta tsam teti*

c^ho duk=la dynta tsam te-pe
 2SG Bhutan=DAT week how.many stay.PST-NMLZ.PST
 ‘For how many weeks have you been in Bhutan?’

4 Verbs

Verbs form the head of a verbal clause. Lexical verbs and copulas in Brokpa differ in several aspects. The former are discussed in section 4.1 and the latter in section 4.2.

4.1 Lexical Verbs

Most Brokpa verbs have only one stem (cf. Mittaz, this issue [b]). Some few verbs, however, distinguish two or even three verb stem forms. Most of the verbs with two stems differentiate between a stem for present/future and past tense and one for the imperative. Some verbs distinguish a separate past stem, whereas the stem for present/future and imperative is the same. There is only one verb in the corpus, *ter* ‘to give’, which has a separate present/future stem and does not distinguish between a past and an imperative stem. The verbs with three stem forms distinguish stems for present/future, past and imperative. This stem alternation in Brokpa is historically conditioned (cf. Hahn 1994: 68). A list of all verb stems in Brokpa is available in the appendix of this issue (cf. Leki et al., this issue).

There are several finite and infinite affixes that can be attached to the verb stems (see Mittaz, this issue [b]; Waldis, this issue). Finite markers denote tense, aspect, mood and evidentiality. With nominalizers verbs become nouns (see examples (8), (16) and (21a)). In Table 5 all verbal markers are listed in the first column. The second column describes the functions and the third indicates whether the affix is finite or infinite, respectively. The verbs in Brokpa have a close relationship to the copulas. This can be seen in section 4.2. A more detailed description and examples of the verbal markers in Brokpa are given in Mittaz (this issue [b]) and Waldis (this issue).

Affixes	Functions	Finiteness
<i>-co²</i>	Present egophoric	FIN
<i>-cina</i>	Present allophoric	FIN
<i>-co (+Copula)</i>	Future	FIN
<i>mi-</i>	Negation of future	FIN
<i>ma-</i>	Negation of past, imperative, adhortative	FIN
<i>-soŋ</i>	Sensory past tense	FIN
<i>-ko</i>	Adhortative	FIN
<i>-ro</i>	Subjunctive	FIN
<i>-pe (+Copula)</i>	Past, past nominalizer	FIN/NFIN
<i>-gin</i>	Agentive nominalizer	NFIN
<i>-mi</i>	Action nominalizer	NFIN
<i>-sa</i>	Location nominalizer	NFIN
<i>-sin</i>	Converb 1	NFIN
<i>-ne</i>	Converb 2	NFIN

Table 5. Verbal markers

A few verbs in Brokpa can function as auxiliary verbs. This is illustrated in examples (35) and (36) with the auxiliaries *sin* ‘finish’ and *go* ‘have to’. Auxiliary verbs are conjoined to the bare stem of the main verb.

(35) *ŋa kaŋ bruxsɪni*
ŋa kaŋ bruk-sin-pe
 1SG hole dig-finish-NMLZ.PST
 ‘I finished digging a hole.’

(36) *saŋ pʰruguba ɪskur ʈogɔçna*
saŋ pʰrugu=ba eskur ʈo-go-co na
 tomorrow child=PL school go.PRS-have.to-FUT COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘The children have to go to school tomorrow.’

4.2 Copulas

Copulas form a special group of verbs. They link two nominal phrases as subject and copula complement. Unlike lexical verbs, copulas cannot take verbal markers. There are different forms for affirmative and negative copulas. The affirmatives can be seen in Table 6, and the negative copulas in Table 7. More information and examples about copulas in Brokpa are given in Funk (this issue [b]).

	Existential	Equative
Egophoric	<i>jo</i>	<i>jin</i>
Assimilated	<i>jena</i>	<i>na</i>
Acquired	<i>tuk</i>	<i>jinda</i>

Table 6. Affirmative copulas

	Existential	Equative
Egophoric	<i>me</i>	<i>man</i>
Assimilated	<i>mena</i>	<i>manda</i>
Acquired	<i>min</i>	

Table 7. Negative copulas

5 Adverbs

Adverbs modify the verb in a verbal phrase. They form lexical morphemes. The position of the adverbs in a sentence is variable. If the focus lies on the adverb, the position is at the beginning of the sentence. But adverbs can also occur in the middle of a sentence, mostly after the subject. Temporal adverbs include for example *tiriŋ* ‘today’, *ta* ‘now’, *saŋ* ‘tomorrow’, *taŋ* ‘yesterday’, *ʈopcʰo* ‘soon’, *tiriŋsaŋ* ‘nowadays’, *teitei* ‘later’, *unla* ‘previously’, etc. Other adverbs denote direction,

like *tʰur* ‘downwards’, *jen* ‘upwards’ and *pʰre* ‘horizontal (on a hillside)’. Compared to relator nouns, adverbs cannot take case markers. The sentences in (37) and (38) show two examples for the variable position of the adverbs.⁵

- (37) *saŋ ɲa cʰimla ʈoco*
saŋ ɲa cʰim=la ʈo-co
 tomorrow 1SG house=DAT go.PRS-FUT
 ‘Tomorrow, I will go home.’

- (38) *ni kaŋjo saŋ ɖukla ʈogoro*
ni kaŋjo saŋ ɖuk=la ʈo-go-ro
 1PL.EXCL all tomorrow Bhutan=DAT go.PRS-have.to-SBJ
 ‘We all have to go to Bhutan tomorrow.’

Two interrogative words in Brokpa are adverbs: *tein* ‘how’ and *tsan* ‘when’. The usage of these interrogative adverbs is shown in the examples (39) and (40).

- (39) *ɲa merakla tein ʈoena*
ɲa merak=la tein ʈo-cina
 1SG Merak=DAT how go.PRS-PRS.ALLO
 ‘How can I go to Merak?’

- (40) *cʰo tsan ʈogɔɕna*
cʰo tsan ʈo-go-co na
 2SG when go.PRS-want-FUT COP.EQ.ASM
 ‘When do you want to go?’

6 Conjunctions

The most frequently used conjunctions in Brokpa are *day* ‘and’ and *jine* ‘but’. The conjunction *day* has the same form as the comitative marker and is historically related to it (see Rufenacht, this issue), but unlike the comitative, is a free form and not a clitic. The usage of the conjunction *day* can be seen in the example (41). The use of *jine* is illustrated in example (42).

⁵ Adverbs of manner are derived adjectives. With the verb *jap* ‘to do’ and the converb marker *-ne* adverbs are derived from adjectives. This is indicated in example (i). Manner adverbs are not lexical adverbs and are therefore not explained further in this chapter.

- (i) *ɲa kitpo japne teti jo?*
ɲa kitpo jap-ne te-pe jo
 1SG comfortable do-CVB2 stay.PST-NMLZ.PST COP.EX.EGO
 ‘I am sitting comfortably.’

- (41) *ŋa daŋ c^ho*
ŋa daŋ c^ho
 1SG and 2SG
 ‘I and you’

- (42) *jaŋkila medoŋ jine ts^heringla jena*
jaŋki=la medoŋ jine ts^hering=la jena
 Yangki=DAT COP.EX.NEG.EPI but Tshering=DAT COP.EX.ASM
 ‘Yangki might not have but Tshering has.’

7 Particles

Particles in Brokpa are function words with a grammatical meaning which cannot be inflected. It seems that particles in Brokpa never occur within a sentence but always at the end or between two sentences. There are two question markers in Brokpa. The particle *e* is used for polar questions, as in examples (43) and (44).

- (43) *c^ho tɛə t^huŋ ə*
c^ho tɛə t^huŋ e
 2SG tea drink Q
 ‘Would you like to drink tea?’

- (44) *c^hola c^himam jo ə*
c^ho=la c^himam jo e
 2SG=DAT wife COP.EX.EGO Q
 ‘Do you have a wife?’

For tag questions the particle *mo* is used. This is illustrated in example (45).

- (45) *k^he ŋala ce: ɛik tɛinsəŋ mo*
k^he ŋa=la ce:=ɛik tɛin-səŋ mo
 2SG.AGT 1SG=DAT gift=INDF give-PST.SEN Q
 ‘You gave a gift to me, didn't you?’

Another particle is =*se*, which denotes hearsay evidentiality. This particle too occurs always at the end of the sentence. Unlike the other particles, =*se* is a clitic and bound to its host, as can be seen in example (46).

- (46) *jebodigi p^hoŋaŋgi ŋontɛo ta riɛik jenas*
jebo=di=gi p^hoŋaŋ=gi ŋontɛo=la ta ri=ɛik
 king=DEF=GEN palace=GEN front=DAT now mountain=INDF
jena=se
 COP.EX.ASM=REP
 ‘In front of the king's palace was a mountain.’ [BO]

The particle *one* has the function of a fill-in. It normally occurs between two sentences in narratives. This is illustrated with example (47) taken from a narrative about the *teupun*, a person from the Brokpa area with a special function.

- (47) *one: parparceuj jel lumbala mi tɔnpə jeteit dɔxsim tea:dik daŋ ɔto jəgoɕna*
one *parparceuj* *ja=la* *lumba=la* *mi* *tonpa* *jeteitpo*
and.then sometimes up=DAT region=DAT person guest important
dok-sin *teadik* *daŋ* *oɔto* *jap-go-cina*
arrive-CVB1 preparation and thus do-have.to-PRS.ALLO
“[...] And every now and then when important guests arrive up in our community, they have to do the preparations.” [VH]

8 Conclusion

The aim of this paper was to give a first overview of the word classes in Brokpa. Brokpa exhibits eleven different word classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, relator nouns, pronouns, copulas, numerals, quantifiers, conjunctions and particles. Nouns constitute the head of noun phrases. Modifiers of nouns can be adjectives, numerals and quantifiers. Brokpa distinguishes lexical verbs and copulas. Lexical verbs take verbal markers denoting tense, aspect, mood, evidentiality, epistemicity and various subordinating suffixes. Copulas cannot take any productive inflectional suffixes. Adverbs in Brokpa constitute only a secondary word class since adverbs of manner are derivations of adjectives with the verb *jap* ‘to do’ and the converb marker *-ne*. Finally, Brokpa exhibits the two functional word classes conjunctions and particles.

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