raco particles

ci

single content words or modified content words can constitute a complete sentence:
- *cami*   '[it is] new'
- *romi*   '[i am] powerful'
- *moco romo*   '[there is] a back room'

in this structure, these words constitute predicates and can be roughly equated to stative or intransitive verbs with null arguments in other languages.

however, an argument, or actant in the main event of a predicate, can be added with the particle *ci* in the following structure:

- [predicate] *ci* [**argument**]

the argument following *ci* here can be understood to participate in the predicate passively or in a relatively stationary manner, have little volition in their participation, perform the verb upon themselves, or be stimulated by some external (unstated) source of action. these can be called **abolutive** arguments.

some examples:
- *momi **ci mori***   '**the plant** is frozen'
- *moro **ci raci***   '**the group** eats'
- *rico **ci miro***   '**the creature** is asleep'

a second argument can be added to a sentence following another *ci*. this additional argument is understood to act upon the absolutive argument, carrying out the verb; it is usually understood to be volitional (i.e. it has will and/or agency), and can be called an <u>ergative</u> argument.
- *momi **ci mori** <u>ci mima</u>*   '<u>the air</u> froze **the plant**'
- *moro **ci rimo cami** <u>ci raci</u>*   '<u>the group</u> eats **a new thing**'
- *rico **ci miro** <u>ci camo</u>*   '<u>the sound</u> puts **the creature** to sleep'

mi

content words can be described, modified, or possessed by a following content word or pronoun (*ri* or *ra*).

- *moro <u>mori</u>*   '<u>plant</u> food'
- *mara <u>rima</u>*   '<u>many</u> lands'
- *moco <u>miro</u>*   '<u>a creature's</u> building'

adding more words adds additional information to the whole - that is, the modification of each word is cumulative.

- *mara <u>mari</u>*   '<u>high</u>lands'
- *mara mari <u>cora</u>*   '<u>bright</u> highlands'
- *mara mari cora <u>rima</u>*   '<u>many</u> bright highlands'

but how would one say "very bright highlands"? would it be the same? *rima* expresses 'very,' in addition to 'many.' however, *rima* above describes the entirety of what comes before it, coming ultimately back to the main word *mara*:

   (mara mari cora) rima

in "very bright highlands," 'very' directly describes 'bright,' not 'highlands.' how can the sentence be structured such that 'very' describes 'bright,' while 'bright' still can describe 'highlands'? this is done by creating a <u>subordinate</u> string, a group of words which stands as its own phrase, but is taken as a unit to describe a superordinate or **matrix** string. the particle *mi* introduces a subordinate string:

- **mara mari** *<u>mi cora rima</u>*   '<u>very bright</u> **highlands**'
                                       i.e. '**highlands** <u>which are very bright</u>'

after the main predicate of a sentence, *mi* can subordinate <u>another predicate</u>:

- **roca** *<u>mi moro</u> ci miro ma*   'nobody **finishes** <u>eating</u>'
- **como** *<u>mi rira</u> ci raci*   'the group **must** <u>move</u>'
- **rora** *<u>mi caco</u> ci mori*   ' the plants **continue** <u>to be visible</u>'

the particle *mi* can also indicate the <u>object of a positional word</u> and to introduce a positional word as a modifier one:

- **rama** *<u>mi maro</u> ci rimo ri*   'this thing **is from** <u>the document</u>'
- **mimo** *<u>mi moco</u>...*   '**using** <u>a container</u>...'
- *mori **mi momo** <u>mi mara</u>*   'the plants **upon** <u>the earth</u>'

ro

adverbs and adjuncts to the main predicate are expressed as words or phrases preceding the predicate, separated by *ro*. they are used to describe how or in what way the predicate happens, give context for the sentence, or indicate additional arguments involved with the predicate.

- **romi ro** *rira ci miro*   'the creature moves **powerfully**'
- **mori ro** *rima*   '**as for plants**, there are many'
- **mimo mi cori ro** *moca ci mori moro*   'the crops were cut **with a stick**'

multiple adjuncts can be separated by *ro*:

- <u>moco ro</u> **coca mi momo moro ro** *rico*
                                   '<u>[in the] house</u>, **under the table**, i sleep'

a full clause with a predicate and arguments can also appear before *ro*, serving as a temporal or conditional clause to which the main clause is the consequent or main occurence:

- **camo ci miro mima ro** <u>roca mi rico ci miro mi rama moro</u>
                                '**when the birds sing**, <u>the cook wakes up</u>'

finally, *ro* can be used to link a sentence to a prior sentence, roughly equating to sentential conjunctions in other languages.

- *ca ro...*   'and, ...' 'then, ...'
- *cami ro...*   'additionally, ...' 'also, ...'
- *cico ro...*   'however, ...' 'but, ...'
- *moca ro...*   'alternatively, ...' 'or, ...'

ca

the particle *ca* roughly corresponds to the english word "and," serving as a coordinating conjuntion between any part of a sentence.

- *moro ci <u>mori ca miro</u> ci miro*   'the creature eats <u>plants and creatures</u>'
- *<u>moro ca roca</u> ci mori ci miro*   'the creature <u>eats and finishes</u> the plant'
- *rico ci miro mi <u>romi ca como</u>*   'the <u>powerful and important</u> creature sleeps'

the coordinating conjunction "or" is expressed with the phrase *ca moca mi*:

- *mo <u>ca moca mi mara</u> ro rora ci raco*   'the group stays [in] water <u>or [on] land</u>'

co

the particle *co* is used to emphasize a preceding word:

- *momi*   'cold'
- *momi rima*   'very cold'
- *momi rima <u>co</u>*   'very cold <u>indeed</u>'   'very cold<u>!</u>'

co can be repeated to indicate different emotions:

- *momi <u>co</u>*   'cold<u>!</u>'
- *momi <u>co co</u>*   'cold<u>! [fear, shock, or suprise]</u>'
- *momi <u>co co co</u>*   'cold <u>haha! [laughter or humor]</u>'

co and its continuations can also be said alone as interjections:

- *co*   'ah'
- *co co*   'oh' 'uh-oh' 'aaaah!'
- *co co co*   'hahaha' 'hehe'

cari camo mi miro racoro · racoro's pronunciation

vowels
i tend to pronounce /i/ as closer to [ɪ], especially when not word-final
- ⟨rimi⟩ /rimi/ ['rɪmi]

/o/ i tend to pronounce pretty much like [o], or sometimes [ɔ] around (before or after) /r/
- ⟨camo⟩ /kamo/ ['kamo]
- ⟨moro⟩ /moro/ ['mɔɾɔ]

i sometimes raise word-final /a/ to [ə] or [ɐ]
- ⟨mara⟩ /mara/ ['maɾə]

/m/
while [b] & [β] acceptable allophones of /m/ word-initially, i rarely use them, except for using /b/ in the following pair of words:
- ⟨miro⟩ /miro/ ['bɪɾɔ]
- ⟨mori⟩ /mori/ ['bɔɾi]

/k/
before /a/, my /k/ remains [k]
- ⟨camo⟩ /kamo/ ['kamo]

word-initially before /o/, i usually fricate /k/ to [x] or [χ]
- ⟨cora⟩ /kora/ ['xɔɾə]

before /i/, i palatalize /k/ to [tʃ]
- ⟨ci⟩ /ki/ [tʃi]
- ⟨coci⟩ /koki/ ['xotʃi]

/r/
word-internally (i.e. intervocalically), and in the particle *ro*, i pronounce /r/ as a tapped [ɾ]
- ⟨mari⟩ /mari/ ['maɾi]
- ⟨ro⟩ /ro/ [ɾɔ]

word-initially, i typically pronounce /r/ as a trill [r]
- ⟨rari⟩ /rari/ ['raɾi]

an exception to initial [r] is in the three words where an initial /ra-/ is followed by a syllable with /o/, where i occasionally pronounce it as a pharyngeal fricative [ʁ ~ ʕ]
- ⟨raco⟩ /rako/ ['ʁako]
- ⟨ramo⟩ /ramo/ ['ʁamo]
- ⟨raro⟩ /raro/ ['ʁaɾɔ]

Example Sentences with Glosses

cami
NEW
'[it is] new'

romi
POWER
'[i am] powerful'

moco romo
CONTAINER REAR
'[there is] a back room'

momi ci mori
ICE *ci* PLANT
'the plant is frozen'

moro ci raci
EAT *ci* GROUP
'the group eats'

rico ci miro
SLEEP *ci* CREATURE
'the creature is asleep'

momi ci mori ci mima
ICE *ci* PLANT *ci* AIR
'the air froze the plant'

moro ci rimo cami ci raci
EAT *ci* THING NEW *ci* GROUP
'the group eats a new thing'

rico ci miro ci camo
SLEEP *ci* CREATURE *ci* SOUND
'the sound puts the creature to sleep'

rama mi maro ci rimo ri
ORIGIN *mi* DOCUMENT *ci* THING THIS
'this thing is from the document'

romi ro rira ci miro
POWER *ro* MOVE *ci* CREATURE
'the creature moves powerfully'

mori ro rima
PLANT *ro* MANY
'as for plants, there are many'

mimo mi cori ro moca ci mori moro
TOOL *mi* STICK *ro* SEPARATE *ci* PLANT EAT
'the crops were cut with a stick'

moco ro coca mi momo moro ro rico
CONTAINER *ro* LOW *mi* SURFACE EAT *ro* SLEEP
'[in the] house, under the table, i sleep'

camo ci miro mima ro roca mi rico ci miro mi rama moro
SOUND *ci* CREATURE AIR *ro* STOP *mi* SLEEP *ci* CREATURE *mi* CREATE FOOD
'when the birds sing, the cook wakes up'

moro ci mori ca miro ci miro
EAT *ci* PLANT *ca* CREATURE *ci* CREATURE
'the creature eats plants and creatures'

moro ca roca ci mori ci miro
EAT *ca* FINISH *ci* PLANT *ci* CREATURE
'the creature eats and finishes the plant'

rico ci miro mi romi ca como
SLEEP *ci* CREATURE *mi* POWER *ca* GREATNESS
'the powerful and important creature sleeps'

mo ca moca mi mara ro rora ci raci
WATER *ca moca mi* LAND *ro* REMAIN *ci* GROUP
'the group stays [in] water or [on] land'