TEASING THE A'INGAE DISCOURSE AND CONDITIONAL MARKING APART

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ABSTRACT I describe and analyze patterns of syntactically conditioned allomorphy observed in A'ingae (or Cofán, an endangered Amazonian isolate, ISO 639-3: con). Three information structural morphemes—the new topic -(ʔ)*ta* NEW, contrastive topic -(ʔ)*ja* CNTR, and exclusive focus -(ʔ)*yi* EXCL—are realized as non-preglottalized (*-ta*, *-ja*, *-yi*) when attaching to most categories, such DPs, CPs, or adverbs, but as preglottalized (*-ʔta*, *-ʔja*, *-ʔyi*) when attaching to TPs. I propose that the glottal stop (*-ʔ*) is a spell-out of T° conditioned by linear adjacency to a higher-order *discourse* feature [δ] (Bossi and Diercks, 2019; Mikkelsen, 2015) that dominates all the maximal information structural features. By documenting an overt realization of a vocabulary item conditioned by [δ], I provide novel morphological evidence for a hierarchical arrangement of discourse features (Bossi and Diercks, 2019; Mikkelsen, 2015), and of Ā-feature geometry more broadly (e. g. Aravind, 2018; Baclawski, 2019; Baier, 2018).

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper describes and analyzes patterns of allomorphy observed in the information structure (IS) domain of A'ingae (or Cofán, an endangered Amazonian isolate, ISO 639-3: con). A'ingae has four IS markers: the new topic -(ʔ)*ta* NEW,[1] contrastive topic -(ʔ)*ja* CNTR, exclusive focus -(ʔ)*yi* EXCL, and additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD. The first three of these markers show a regular alternation between plain (i. e. non-preglottalized; *-ta* NEW, *-ja* CNTR, *-yi* EXCL) and preglottalized (*-ʔta* NEW, *-ʔja* CNTR, *-ʔyi* EXCL) forms, conditioned by the syntactic category of the base of attachment. When IS morphemes are attached to phrases of most syntactic categories, including—for example—noun phrases, overtly subordinated clauses, and adverbs, they are realized as plain. However, when they are attached to infinitive verbs, finite verbs, or non-verbal predicates in subordinate clauses, they are realized as preglottalized. This may give rise to striking minimal pairs, where non-verbal predicates (1b) may be distinguished from arguments (1a) solely by the presence of glottalization before the IS marker. Here, this is illustrated with the new topic -(ʔ)*ta* NEW (realized as -(ʔ)*nda* NEW after nasal vowels).[2] The information structural markers are underlined throughout the paper.[3]

1 The following glossing abbreviations have been used: 1 = first person, 2 = second person, 3 = third person, ACC = accusative, ACC2 = accusative 2, ADD = additive focus, ADJ = adjectivizer, ADN = adnominal, ADV = adverbializer, AIMP = attenuated imperative, ANA = anaphora, ANIM = animate, APPR = apprehensional, ASSR = assertive, ATTR = attributive, AUX = auxiliary, CAUS = causative, CNTR = contrastive topic, DAT = dative, DCS = deceased, DEM = demonstrative, DIST = distal, DRN = diurnal, DS = different subject, EN = event nominalizer, EXCL = exclusive focus, FOC = focus, FRST = frustrative, HORT = hortative, IDSB = indefinite of substance, IDSL = indefinite of selection, IF = conditional, IMP = imperative, IN = individual nominalizer, INF = infinitive, INGR = ingressive, INS = instrumental, IPFV = imperfective, IRR = irrealis, ITER = iterative, LOC = locative, N = nominalizer, NEG = negative, NEW = new topic, PASS = passive, PERM = permissive, PL = plural, PLA = pluractional, PLC = place, PLS = plural subject, PROH = prohibitive, PROX = proximal, PURP = purposive, RCPR = reciprocal, RPRT = reportative, SG = singular, SML = similative, SN = subject nominalizer, SS = same subject, STA = spatial/temporal anaphora, TENT = tentative, THUS = manner demonstrative, TOP = topic, VDM = verbal diminutive, WH = content interrogative, YNQ = polar interrogative.

2 A'ingae shows iterative progressive nasal spreading (as well as non-iterative regressive nasalization) (Bennett et al., 2024; Dąbkowski, 2024c; Sanker and AnderBois, 2024). Consequently, -(ʔ)*ta* NEW, -(ʔ)*ja* CNTR, and -(ʔ)*yi* EXCL surface as -(ʔ)*nda* NEW, -(ʔ)*jan* CNTR, and -(ʔ)*ñi* EXCL after nasal vowels. The oral-nasal alternation is orthogonal to the plain–glottal alternation under scrutiny.

3 Many functional morphemes, including the four IS markers under investigation, can attach to constituents of various categories, including noun phrases—in which case they appear at their very right edge, regardless of phrase-internal word order—as well as verb phrases and adverbs—in which case they always appear on the head of the phrase, i. e. the verb or adverb itself. Correspondingly, I represent them as either clitics or affixes. This distinction does not, in itself, have any morphophonological correlates (Dąbkowski, 2021b, 2024d), nor does it correlate directly with the plain–glottal alternation of interest.

(1) MINIMAL (ʔ)*TA*-PAIR ON A NOUN

a. NOMINAL ARGUMENT + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
tíse chán=da *=tsû jí-ya-mbi*
3SG mother=NEW =3 come-IRR-NEG
"His/her mother will not come." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

b. NOMINAL PREDICATE + NEW TOPIC *-ʔTA* NEW
tíse chán=ʔda *=tsû jí-ya-mbi*
3SG mother=NEW =3 come-IRR-NEG
"If she is a mother, she won't come." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

The four markers under discussion (*-(ʔ)ta* NEW, *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR, *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL, *-ʔkhe* ADD) form a natural class—they all encode information structural meanings, attach to the same range of constituents, and always appear at the very end of a phrase, occupying the same morphosyntactic position. (For more on the similarities among the IS markers, see Section 3.) As such, the observed systematic alternation between the plain (*-ta* NEW, *-ja* CNTR, *-yi* EXCL) and preglottalized (*-ʔta* NEW, *-ʔja* CNTR, *-ʔyi* EXCL) forms should not be understood as three independent instances of allomorphy, but rather attributed to an underlying morphosyntactic property shared by all the IS markers.

Concretely, I will propose that the glottal stop (*-ʔ*) is a realization of a T-head conditioned by linear adjacency to IS morphology. The conditioning environment is formalized as a higher-order *discourse* feature [δ] (Bossi and Diercks, 2019; Mikkelsen, 2015), which dominates all the more specific information structural features, including e. g. topic [TOP], focus [FOC], and their subtypes, such as new topic [NEW], contrastive topic [CNTR], exclusive focus [EXCL], and additive focus [ADD]. (Notwithstanding, I represent the glottal stop as part of the following IS morpheme in line with general glossing conventions adopted in the literature on A'ingae). Conversely, in all the cases where the glottal stop does not appear, this condition is not met—i. e. there is no T-head directly adjacent to an IS marker.

In the previous literature, the notion of *discourse differentiation* (Mikkelsen, 2015), formalized by Bossi and Diercks (2019) as a superordinate discourse feature [δ], has been motivated by word-order facts in Kipsigis (Nilo-Saharan, Kenya; Bossi and Diercks, 2019) and Danish (North Germanic, Denmark; Mikkelsen, 2015). The current case study focuses on patterns of allomorphy in the domain of A'ingae information structure markers. By showing that all the A'ingae IS morphemes pattern alike in triggering an allomorphy of the T-head, the current paper provides novel morphological evidence for a hierarchical arrangement of discourse features (with [δ] inherited by the maximal topic and focus features), and of Ā-feature geometry more broadly (e. g. Aravind, 2018; Baclawski, 2019; Baier, 2018).

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 provides background on the language, summarizes some relevant aspects of its grammar, and lists previous descriptive and theoretical literature. Section 3 describes the patterns of *ʔ*-realization observed among the A'ingae discourse markers, and motivates certain analytical choices made along the the way. Section 4 formalizes an analysis of the plain-preglottalized allomorphy couched in Distributed Morphology (DM) (e. g. Embick, 2010, 2015; Embick and Noyer, 2007; Halle and Marantz, 1993, 1994). Section 5 discusses the findings and concludes.

2 LANGUAGE BACKGROUND

A'ingae (or Cofán ISO 639-3: con) is an endangered Amazonian language spoken by ca. 1,500 in the northeast Ecuadorian province of Sucumbíos and the southern Colombian department of Putumayo. The language remains classified as an isolate (AnderBois, Emlen, et al., 2019), despite some previous (mostly geography-driven) claims to the contrary (e. g. in Rivet, 1924, 1952; Ruhlen, 1987).

A'ingae syllable structure can be schematized as (C)V(V)(ʔ)—onsets are optional, nuclei are maximally diphthongal, and glottal stops are the only licit coda. The present article uses the practical orthography with

two deviations: glottal stops are represented with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbol (*ʔ*), not apostrophe (ʼ), and stress is marked with the acute accent (´). For more on the A'ingae orthography, see Dąbkowski (2024c), Fischer and Hengeveld (2023), and Repetti-Ludlow et al. (2019).

A'ingae is a highly agglutinating, exclusively suffixing, and encliticizing language. The vast majority of the language's functional morphemes are -CV or -ʔCV monosyllables (the preglottalization, if present, is parsed as the coda of the preceding syllable); most of the language's glottal stop tokens come from preglottalized suffixes. There are many lexically contrastive morphemes that give rise to plain–preglottalized minimal pairs, e. g. the flat classifier *-je* vs. imperfective *-ʔje* IPFV, the accusative *=ma* ACC vs. frustrative *-ʔma* FRST, the dative *=nga* DAT vs. distal *-ʔnga* DIST, the same subject *-pa* SS vs. nominalizer *-ʔpa* N, the irrealis *-ya* IRR vs. assertive *-ʔya* ASSR, or the infinitive *-ye* vs. deceased honorific *=ʔye* DCS. If you were to analyze the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW, contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR, and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL as allomorphic between the plain and glottalized versions, these would be the only instances of such an alternation.

The data presented in this paper comes from published materials written originally in A'ingae and fieldwork elicitation conducted by the author. Elicitation tasks included translation and grammaticality judgments. All the data drawn from previous publications are cited as such.[4] All the fieldwork data has been deposited in the California Language Archive (CLA) as Dąbkowski (2020) and cited with a `YYYY-MM-DD(N)_ccc` identifier.[5]

Previous descriptive work on the language includes Fischer and Hengeveld (2023) and Hengeveld and Fischer (in prep.) and chapters in Dąbkowski's (in prep.) dissertation. Aspects of the language's phonetics and phonology (including diachronic perspectives and interactions with morphosyntax) have been analyzed by Dąbkowski (2021b, 2023, 2024a,c,d, t.a.[b]), Repetti-Ludlow et al. (2019), Repetti-Ludlow (2021), and Sanker and AnderBois (2024). Various topics in the language's morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and their interfaces have been discussed by AnderBois, Altshuler, and Silva (2023), Dąbkowski and AnderBois (2024, t.a.), Fischer (2007), Fischer and van Lier (2011), Hengeveld and Fischer (2018), Kalpande (2024), Morvillo and AnderBois (2022), and Zheng and AnderBois (2023).

2.1 *Social implications*

Ever since the Spanish colonial invasion—and prominently in recent decades—the Cofán have experienced mounting economic, ecological, and political pressures, disrupting language transmission, and putting their cultural and linguistic heritage at risk. Despite the challenges, they are proud of their heritage, and welcome projects aimed at documenting their language and bolstering its status (Dąbkowski, 2021a). The very act of studying A'ingae shows that the language is worthy of scientific attention, helping valorize and elevate it within the Ecuadorian political climate.

Additionally, I focus on A'ingae glottalization. Glottal stops are central to A'ingae morphology, but they are inconsistently reflected in the practical orthography. This project helps inform the Cofán communities' goals of reforming the orthography and creating pedagogical resources for teaching the A'ingae grammar.

3 DESCRIPTION

A'ingae has four morphemes dedicated to encoding discourse-related information, such as topichood and focus. The topic of a sentence is the entity that the sentence is intuitively "about." This is to say, the topic is an entity that the rest of the sentence comments on (Krifka, 2008). A'ingae distinguishes two types of overtly marked topics. The new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW indicates that the topic was not previously present in the discourse (2a). The contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR is used in the presence of alternative topics in the discourse (with

4 Since glottalization is not reliably represented in written A'ingae (and stress is often not represented at all), I supplied this information by reeliciting the relevant data. At times, my consultants improved on the word choice or corrected some of the grammatical forms. In all such cases, the reported data reflect the choices and judgments of my consultants, not the original medium.

5 `YYYY` stands for the year, `MM` — the month, `DD` — the day, `N` — the number of the consecutive elicitation session conducted on a given day, and `ccc` — the three-letter consultant name abbreviation. File names of the CLA-deposited materials often also contain keywords, briefly summarizing the contents of the session.

which the marked topic may contrast) (2b). The contributions of the topic markers are often not reflected in translations to Spanish or English, and most sentences are also accepted as grammatical without them.

(2) TWO TOPIC MARKERS

a. NEW TOPIC -(ʔ)*TA* NEW
tayúpi(-ta) *=tsû* *Erisión* *tsáiʔmbi-ʔtshi* *teteté=ndekhû=ve* *fíthi~ʔthi*
long ago-NEW =3 Erisión many-ADJ Waorani=PL.ANIM=ACC2 kill~PLA
"Once upon a time, Erisión killed many Waoranis."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 152; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

b. CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -(ʔ)*JA* CNTR
má-ki *áʔta* *=tsû* *Chíga(=ja)* *páʔkhu* *ánde=ma* *úke* *káti-ya*
IDSL-DRN day =3 God=CNTR all land=ACC burn throw-IRR
"One day, God will burn the whole world down."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 31; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

Focus indicates that in addition to the entity denoted by the marked phrase, there are others that are also relevant to the interpretation of the sentence (Krifka, 2008, p. 247). A'ingae has two focus morphemes. The exclusive focus -(ʔ)*yi* EXCL indicates a proposition holds of the marked entity to the exclusion of the alternatives; it is often translated as "only," "just," "very (same)," or with cleft constructions (3a). The additive focus -*ʔkhe* ADD indicates that the proposition holds of the marked entity in addition to the alternatives; it is often translated as "too," "as well" or "even" (3b). Although the additive focus -*ʔkhe* ADD does not show the plain–glottal allomorphy of interest (which will be attributed to its underlying preglottalization in Section 4), I present examples with -*ʔkhe* ADD throughout for the sake of completeness.

(3) TWO FOCUS MARKERS

a. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS -(ʔ)*YI* EXCL
tsá-ʔka-en *pá-ʔfa-si* *khuánifae* *tsandié=ndekhû=yi* *khûshá-ʔfa*
ANA-SML-ADV die-PLS-DS three man=PL.ANIM=EXCL survive-PLS
"When they thus died, only three men were spared."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 37; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

b. ADDITIVE FOCUS -*ʔKHE* ADD
tsá=ma *áthe-pa* *fáesû=ma=ʔkhe* *áthe*
ANA=ACC see-SS other=ACC=ADD see
"When (he) looked, (he) also saw another one."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 38; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

The two topic markers -(ʔ)*ta* NEW and -(ʔ)*ja* CNTR are mutually incompatible. The exclusive focus -(ʔ)*yi* EXCL may be followed by the additive focus -*ʔkhe* ADD (4a), or by either topic marker (4b-c). Finally, the additive focus -*ʔkhe* ADD may be followed by the new topic -(ʔ)*ta* NEW (4d). The co-occurrence possibilities among the A'ingae information structural markers are summarized in Table 1.

(4) LICIT COMBINATIONS OF INFORMATIONAL STRUCTURAL MARKERS

a. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS -(ʔ)*YI* EXCL + ADDITIVE FOCUS -*ʔKHE* ADD
tsá-ʔma *tsé-ki* *kúse* *ni* *fáe* *ávû=ve=yi=ʔkhe* *índi-ʔfa-mbi* *=ngi*
ANA-FRST STA-DRN night neither one fish=ACC2=EXCL=ADD catch-PLS-NEG =1
"But that night we did not catch even a single fish." (John 21:3; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

b. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL + NEW TOPIC *-ta* NEW
tsá-ʔka-en *kánse-ʔfa-ʔyi-ta* *=ki ñuáʔme shaká-ʔfa-ya-mbi*
ANA-SML-ADV live-PLS-EXCL-NEW =2 truly lack-PLS-IRR-NEG
"Only if you live like this, you will truly not lack (anything)."
(Thessalonians 4:12; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

c. EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ja* CNTR
tsá-ʔkan-si *=tsû tíse-ʔsû* *áʔi=yi=ja* *má-ʔka-en* *fíʔthi-pa ávû kíniʔjin=ma júkhaningae*
ANA-SML-DS =3 3SG-ATTR person=EXCL=CNTR IDSL-SML-ADV kill-SS fish tree=ACC for later
tsún-ña-ʔchu-ve-ja *tsún-ʔfa*
do-IRR-EN-ACC2-CNTR do-PLS
"Because of that, those very same ones had to kill, ensuring the survival of the fish tree."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 25; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

d. ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔkhe* ADD + NEW TOPIC *-ta* NEW
ké=ʔkhe=ta *=ti=ki* *tsa* *áʔi=ma* *shúndu-ʔsû-mbi?*
2SG=ADD=NEW =YNQ=2 ANA person=ACC accompany-SN-NEG
"Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?" (John 18:17; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

1ST ↓ / 2ND →	*-yi* EXCL	*-ʔkhe* ADD	*-ta* NEW	*-ja* CNTR
-(ʔ)yi- EXCL	—	*-(ʔ)yiʔkhe*	*-(ʔ)yita*	*-(ʔ)yija*
-ʔkhe- ADD	✗	—	*-ʔkheta*	✗
-(ʔ)ta- NEW	✗	✗	—	✗
-(ʔ)ja- CNTR	✗	✗	✗	—

Table 1: Co-occurrence among the A'ingae information structural markers

There is no particular position that the IS-marked constituents must occupy. For example, while new topics are often the first constituent in a sentence (2a, 4b, 4d), non-initial new topics are also grammatical (5). Multiple information structurally marked constituents may appear per clause (4c, 5).

(5) NON-INITIAL NEW TOPIC *-(ʔ)ta* NEW
kéʔi=ta *=ti=ki* *séjeʔpa=ve=ta* *áʔmbian-ʔfa?*
2PL=NEW =YNQ=2 poison-N=ACC2=NEW have-PLS
"Do you have poison?" (Quenamá, 1992, pp. 21, 57; `2024-06-10(1)_mll`)

A'ingae has five sentence-level clitics which encode the person feature of the matrix subject (first person *=ngi* 1, second person *=ki* 2, third person *=tsû* 3), evidentiality (reportative *=te* RPRT), and illocutionary force (polar interrogative *=ti* YNQ). The clitics are prototypically optional in matrix clauses, disallowed in subordinate clauses, and linearized after the first clausal constituent, i. e. in the second position. (Dąbkowski, t.a.(a) analyzes them as matrix-clausal C-heads.) However, the IS markers enter into co-occurrence restrictions with the second-position (P2) clitics, causing deviations from those prototypical patterns. For example, although generally optional, P2 clitics are strongly preferred after the new topic marker *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (6), and ungrammatical immediately after constituents marked with the contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (7).

(6) P2 CLITIC PREFERRED AFTER NEW TOPIC *-(ʔ)ta* NEW

a. NEW TOPIC *-(ʔ)ta* NEW + P2 CLITIC
án-ʔnda *=ngi khipuéʔsû-ya-mbi*
eat-NEW =1 hungry-IRR-NEG
"If I eat, I won't be hungry." (`2024-05-27(2)_sia`)

b. NEW TOPIC -(ʔ)TA NEW — P2 CLITIC
?*án-ʔnda khipuéʔsû-ya-mbi*
eat-NEW hungry-IRR-NEG
"If I eat, I won't be hungry." (2024-05-27(2)_sia)

(7) P2 CLITIC DISALLOWED AFTER CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -(ʔ)JA CNTR

a. CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -(ʔ)JA CNTR + P2 CLITIC
**áʔtse=ja =tsû tsáʔu=nga káʔni*
hummingbird=CNTR =3 house=DAT enter
intended: "A hummingbird entered the house." (2024-05-27(2)_sia)

b. CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -(ʔ)JA CNTR — P2 CLITIC
áʔtse=ja tsáʔu=nga káʔni =tsû
hummingbird=CNTR house=DAT enter =3
"A hummingbird entered the house." (2024-05-27(2)_sia)

The rest of this section focuses on the functions and realizations of the A'ingae IS markers on constituents of various syntactic categories. First, I will briefly go over non-predicates (§3.1), and them look at subordinate predicates of various types (§3.2).

3.1 *Non-predicates*

The A'ingae IS morphemes are most frequently observed on arguments and adjuncts of various kinds, including e. g. bare nouns (8a, 8h), pronouns (8b), question words (8c), stand-alone adjectives functioning as headless noun phrases (8d), nouns with inflectional clitics (8e), case-marked phrases (8f), and adverbs (8g).

(8) PLAIN REALIZATION ON NON-PREDICATES

a. BARE NOUN + NEW TOPIC -TA NEW
ánde=ta =tsû aʔí=ndekhû kánse-ʔchu túyaʔkaen kukuyá=ndekhû kánse-ʔchu
land=NEW =3 person=PL.ANIM live-EN and demon=PL.ANIM live-EN
"The earth is where human beings live, but also where the demons live."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 28; 2024-06-07(2)_mll)

b. PRONOUN + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -JA CNTR
tíse=ja ñuáʔme ke pűshe =tsû
3SG=CNTR truly 2SG wife =3
"Behold, of a surety she is thy wife." (Genesis 26:9; 2024-06-10(1)_mll)

c. WH-PHRASE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS -YI EXCL
jungué-sû=yi =tsû náʔen=ni kánse?
IDSB-ATTR=EXCL =3 river=LOC live
"What is it that lives in the river?" (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

d. ADJECTIVE + NEW TOPIC -TA NEW
áʔta-tshi-a=ta =ti fáeʔngae sínthia=iʔkhû kánʔjen-ña?
day-ADJ-ADN=NEW =YNQ together darkness=INS be.ANIM-IRR
"And what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14; 2024-06-10(1)_mll)

e. INFLECTED NOUN + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC -JA CNTR
má-jan =tsû cofán=ndekhû=ja?
IDSL-CNTR =3 Cofán=PL.ANIM=CNTR
"Who are the Cofán?" (Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 10; 2024-06-10(1)_mll)

f. CASE-MARKED PHRASE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
áʔi=nga enthínge=ve=yi áfe
person=DAT half=ACC2=EXCL give
"(He) gave the (other) half to the man." (Borman and Criollo, 1990, p. 87; `2024-06-10(1)_mll`)

g. ADVERB + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
tayúpi-ta =tsû Erisión tsáiʔmbi-ʔtshi teteté=ndekhû=ve fíthi~ʔthi
long ago-NEW =3 Erisión many-ADJ Waorani=PL.ANIM=ACC2 kill~PLA
"Once upon a time, Erisión killed many Waoranis."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 152; `2024-06-07(1)_mll`)

h. BARE NOUN + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
má-ki máma=ʔkhe yáya=iʔkhû nasípa=ni já
IDSL-DRN mom=ADD dad=INS field=LOC go
"Some days, mom also goes with dad into the field."
(Borman and Chica Umenda, 1982, p. 17; `2024-06-10(1)_mll`)

Regardless of the category and the functional morphology of the base of attachment, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (8a, 8d, 8g), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (8b, 8e), and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (8c, 8f) are realized as plain (i. e. not preglottalized). The additive focus is *-ʔkhe* ADD is preglottalized (8h).

3.2 *Predicates*

In addition to arguments and adjuncts, the IS morphemes may appear on subordinate predicates, both verbal and non-verbal. In this section, I briefly summarize the basic facts of predicate morphology.

A'ingae predicates can vary greatly in morphological complexity. On one end, the head of a finite TP may consist of a bare root. On the other end, a plethora of grammatical categories can be expressed on a verb by means of suffixation (Dąbkowski, 2021b, 2024d). An example of a highly inflected verb is presented in (9).

(9) VERBAL PREDICATE STRUCTURE
[[[[[*kufi -án*]$_{\text{VceP}}$ *-ʔje -ngi*]$_{\text{AspP}}$ *-ʔfa -mbi*]$_{\text{TP}}$ *-ʔni*]$_{\text{CP}}$ *-nda*]$_{\Delta\text{P}}$
play -CAUS -IPFV -PROX -PLS -NEG -IF.DS -NEW
"now$_{\text{NEW}}$, if$_{\text{IF}}$ (they$_{\text{PLS}}$) do not$_{\text{NEG}}$ come$_{\text{PROX}}$ to be$_{\text{IPFV}}$ making$_{\text{CAUS}}$ play, (someone else$_{\text{DS}}$) ..."
(`2024-06-18(1)_mll`)

The suffixes can be grouped into five major functional projections. The voice projection (VceP) includes the causative *-ña*/*-an*/*-en* CAUS, reciprocal *-khu* RCPR, and passive *-ye* PASS. The verbal inflectional projection (AspP) encompasses the aspectual and associated motion suffixes. The situation-level projection (TP) is comprised of markers for subject number (plural *-ʔfa* PLS), reality (irrealis *-ya* IRR), finiteness (infinitive *-ye* INF), and polarity (negative *-mbi* NEG). The clause-level projection (CP) hosts suffixes that can be categorized as appearing on either matrix clauses, cosubordinate clauses or subordinate clauses. Finally, the discourse projection (ΔP) hosts the four IS markers: the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW, contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR, exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL, and additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD.

Note that A'ingae has no overt verbal morphology devoted to encoding tense. Nonetheless, I assume that every clause—by definition—contains the TP layer (Shlonsky, 1997, p. 3), so TP is universally present in all languages.

The full morphological template of the A'ingae verb is given in Table 2. The verbal root is at the bottom, and the subsequent morphosyntactic slots appear above the root, mimicking the orientation of a syntax tree.

The first two projections (VceP and AspP) are exclusive to morphological verbs. This is to say, the voice, aspect, and associated motion suffixes can appear only on verbal heads. The morphemes hosted by the latter

INFO STRUCTURAL SUFFIXES (ΔP)		
(xii)	TOPIC:	*-(ʔ)ta* NEW, *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR
(xi)	ADDITIVITY:	*-ʔkhe* ADD
(x)	EXCLUSIVITY:	*-(ʔ)yi* EXCL
CLAUSE-LEVEL SUFFIXES (CP)		
(ix)	CLAUSE TYPE	
	MATRIX:	*-ja* IMP, *-kha* AIMP, *-ʔse* PERM, *-jama* PROH, *-ʔya* ASSR
	COSUBORDINATE:	*-pa* SS, *-si* DS
	SUBORDINATE:	*-saʔne* APPR, *-khen* TENT, (*-ʔa* IF.SS,) *-ʔni* IF.DS, *-ʔma* FRST
SITUATION-LEVEL SUFFIXES (TP)		
(viii)	POLARITY:	*-mbi* NEG
(vii)	REALITY/FINITENESS:	*-ya* IRR, *-ye* INF
(vi)	SUBJECT NUMBER:	*-ʔfa* PLS
VERBAL INFLECTIONAL SUFFIXES (AspP)		
(v)	ASSOC MOTION:	*-ʔngi* PROX, *-ʔnga* DIST
(iv)	ASPECT:	*-ʔje* IPFV, *-ji* INGR, *-kha* VDM, *-ʔñakha* ITER
VOICE SUFFIXES (VceP)		
(iii)	PASSIVE:	*-ye* PASS
(ii)	RECIPROCAL:	*-khu* RCPR
(i)	CAUSATIVE:	*-ña*/*-an*/*-en* CAUS
VERBAL ROOT (√P)		
(0)	VERBAL ROOT:	√

Table 2: Morphological template of the A'ingae verb (building on Dąbkowski, 2024d)

three projections (TP, CP, and ΔP), on the other hand, can occur on both verbal and non-verbal predicates, including noun phrases and adjectives.[6]

A'ingae lacks a copula verb; as such, the TP, CP, and ΔD morphemes attach directly to the non-verbal predicates. An example of a noun phrase (with a bare possessor and the inflectional plural clitic *=ndekhû* PL.ANIM) functioning as a predicate is given in (10). IS morphemes behave in similar ways on verbal and non-verbal predicates. As such, in the rest of the paper, I group and discuss them together.

(10) NOMINAL PREDICATE STRUCTURE

tíseʔpa [[[[*ña* *yayá* *=ndekhû*]$_{DP}$ *=ʔfa* *=mbi*]$_{TP}$ *=ʔni*]$_{CP}$ *=nda*]$_{ΔP}$

3PL 1SG dad =PL.ANIM =PLS =NEG =IF.DS =NEW

"now$_{NEW}$, if$_{IF}$ they$_{3PL}$ are$_{PLS}$ not$_{NEG}$ my$_{1SG}$ parents$_{PL.ANIM}$, (someone else$_{DS}$) ..." (2024-06-18(1)_mll)

A'ingae subordinate clauses can be inflected for features such as subject plurality (*-ʔfa* PLS; 11a-11b), reality status (irrealis *-ya* IRR; 11a), polarity (negative *-mbi* NEG; 11a), and finiteness (infinitive *-ye* INF; 11b). This

6 A'ingae word order is largely free in matrix clauses, but predominantly verb-final in subordinate clauses. Consequently, I describe the IS morphemes variably as attaching to clauses, predicates, or verbs/noun phrases/adjectives without any intended difference in meaning.

suggests that subordinate clauses consist of at least the TP layer (and also may have an overt or phonologically null CP layer).

(11) SUBORDINATE CLAUSE INFLECTION

a. FINITE SUBORDINATE CLAUSE
kúfe-ʔje-ʔfa-ya-mbi-ʔma =tsû avûjá-tshi-ʔfa-ya
play-IPFV-PLS-IRR-FRST =3 rejoice-ADJ-IRR
'Even if they are not playing, they will be happy." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

b. INFINITIVE SUBORDINATE CLAUSE
mandá-ʔfa =tsû sumbú-ʔfa-ye
order-PLS =3 leave-PLS-INF
"They told them to leave." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

Below, I show the patterns -CV/-ʔCV alternation when the IS markers attach to infinitive clauses (§3.2.1) and finite clauses (with both verbal and non-verbal predicates) (§3.2.2). This is the key data that will be accounted for in Section 4.

3.2.1 *Infinitive predicates*

First, I considered the various uses of infinitive predicates. Infinitive clauses may, for example, function as subjects of stative predicates (12a), arguments selected by verbs such as the habitual auxiliary *atesû* 'know' (12b) or *seʔpi* 'forbid' (12g), same-subject rationale clauses (12c, 12d, 12h), different-subject rationale clauses (optionally introduced with the different-subject purpose subordinator *kûintsû/kaentsû* PURP.DS) (12e), or complements of the hortative operator *jinge(sû)* HORT (12f).

(12) PREGLOTTALIZED REALIZATION ON INFINITIVES WITH *-YE* INF

a. VERBAL *YE*-SUBJECT + NEW TOPIC *-ʔTA* NEW
án-ñe-ʔnda =tsû injénge-ʔchu
eat-INF-NEW =3 needed-EN
"Eating is important." (2024-05-27(2)_sia)

b. VERBAL *YE*-ARGUMENT + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ʔJA* CNTR
atésû =ngi guáʔthi-an-ñe-ʔjan
know =1 boil-CAUS-INF-CNTR
"I (habitually) boil." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

c. SAME-SUBJECT VERBAL *YE*-RATIONALE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔYI* EXCL + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
júsû afa-khú-ye-ʔyi-ta =ngi áʔingae=ma atésu-ʔje
only speak-RCPR-EXCL-NEW =1 A'ingae=ACC learn-IPFV
"I am studying A'ingae only so that I can argue (with people)." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

d. SAME-SUBJECT *YE*-RATIONALE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔYI* EXCL + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
jí =ngi afa-khú-ye-ʔyi-ja
come =1 speak-RCPR-INF-EXCL-CNTR
"I only came (here) to argue." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

e. DIFFERENT-SUBJECT *YE*-RATIONALE + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ʔJA* CNTR
tíse =tsû avûja-en (kûintsû) kúfe-ʔje-ye-ʔja
3SG =3 rejoice-CAUS PURP.DS play-IPFV-INF-CNTR
"S/he encouraged them to be playing." (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

f. ADJECTIVAL *YE*-HORTATIVE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔYI* EXCL
jingésû kíʔan-ʔfa-ye-ʔyi
HORT strong-PLS-INF-EXCL
"Let's just be strong!" (2024-06-25(1)_mll)

g. VERBAL *YE*-ARGUMENT + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
án-ñe-ʔkhe séʔpi =ngi
eat-INF-ADD forbid =1
"I also forbid eating." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

h. SAME-SUBJECT VERBAL *YE*-RATIONALE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔYI* EXCL + NEW TOPIC *-ʔTA* NEW
afa-khú-ye-ʔkhe-ta =ngi áʔingae=ma atésu-ʔje
speak-RCPR-ADD-NEW =1 A'ingae=ACC learn-IPFV
"I am studying A'ingae also so that I can argue (with people)." (2025-01-20(1)_mll)

All of these uses are compatible with IS markers. When appearing on an infinitive verb, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (12a), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (12b, 12e), exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (12c, 12d, 12f), and additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD (12g, 12h) are always realized as preglottalized.

The presence of earlier inflectional morphology appearing to the left of *-ye* INF, including VceP (12b, 12c, 12d, 12h), AspP (12e), and TP (12f) suffixes, does not affect the IS markers' realization.

If multiple IS markers appear on a predicate (such as an infinitive), a glottal stop is observed only before the first one (12c, 12d, 12h).

3.2.2 *Finite predicates*

Now, I will look at finite predicates with IS morphemes. A'ingae finite clauses may be (co)subordinated by one of the following morphemes: the same-subject marker *-pa* SS (§3.2.2.1), the different-subject marker *-si* DS (§3.2.2.2), the apprehensional *-saʔne* APPR (§3.2.2.3), the tentative *-khen* TENT (§3.2.2.4), the same-subject conditional antecedent marker realized as *-ʔa* IF.SS before the additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD and as phonologically null otherwise (§3.2.2.5), the different-subject conditional antecedent marker *-ʔni* IF.DS (§3.2.2.6), and the frustrative *-ʔma* FRST. The first six of the subordinating morphemes may be followed by discourse markers.

3.2.2.1 SAME SUBJECT

A'ingae has two switch-reference morphemes that encode whether or not the subjects of two connected clauses are the same (same subject *-pa* SS and different subject *-si* DS), and appear in three constructions: clause chaining, adverbial clauses, and "bridging" clause linkage (AnderBois, Altshuler, and Silva, 2023). The adverbial clauses, often (though not always) translated with "because," are compatible with IS markers.

The same subject *-pa* SS is used if the subject of the *pa*-marked clause and the subject of the following clause are the same (13). When appearing on a same-subject clause, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (13b), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (13c), and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (13d) surface as plain. The additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD (13e) is always preglottalized.

(13) PLAIN REALIZATION ON SAME-SUBJECT CLAUSES WITH *-PA* SS

a. VERBAL *PA*-PREDICATE
ápi=ma píʔpi-pa ísû
clay=ACC mold-SS take
"(S/he) made a clay pot and picked it up."
(Borman and Chica Umenda, 1977, p. 13; 2024-02-20(1)_sia)

b. VERBAL PREDICATE + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
amphí-pa-ta =ti=ki tsífu=ja báthi-ʔchu-mbi?
fall-SS-NEW =YNQ=2 neck=CNTR dislocate-EN-NEG
"Did you injure your neck by falling?"
(Borman, Cooper, and Criollo, 1991, p. 60; 2024-06-07(1)_mll)

c. NOMINAL *PA*-PREDICATE + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
afé-ya =ti fae regálo=ve ké=nga ke yáya-pa-ja?
give-IRR =YNQ one gift=ACC2 2SG=DAT 2SG dad-SS-CNTR
"Will he give you a gife because he's your dad?" (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

d. VERBAL *PA*-PREDICATE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
túya án-ʔjen-mba-yi =ki jí-mbi?
still eat-IPFV-SS-EXCL =2 come-NEG
"You didn't come just because you were still eating?" (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

e. VERBAL *PA*-PREDICATE + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
amphí-pa-ʔkhe =ti=ki tsífu=ja báthi-ʔchu-mbi?
fall-SS-ADD =YNQ=2 neck=CNTR dislocate-EN-NEG
"Did you injure your neck also by falling?" (2024-06-06(1)_mll)

3.2.2.2 DIFFERENT SUBJECT The different subject *-si* DS is used if the subject of the *si*-marked clause and the subject of the following clause are different (14). When appearing on a different-subject clause, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (14b), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (14c), and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (14d) are not preglottalized. (The additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD (14e) is preglottalized, as always.)

(14) PLAIN REALIZATION ON DIFFERENT-SUBJECT CLAUSES WITH *-SI* DS

a. VERBAL *SI*-PREDICATE
arápa pá-si =tsû ísû
chicken die-DS =3 take
"The chicken died and s/he picked it up."
(Borman and Chica Umenda, 1977, p. 13; 2024-02-20(1)_sia)

b. NOMINAL *SI*-PREDICATE + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
tíse ke yáya-si-ta =ti=ki isû́-ya fae regálo=ma?
3SG 2SG dad-DS-NEW =YNQ=2 get-IRR one gift=ACC
"Will you get a gift from him because he's your dad?" (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

c. VERBAL *SI*-PREDICATE + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
kéʔi atesû́-ʔfa-mbi-si-ja kéʔi=nga teváen-mbi =ngi
2PL know-PLS-NEG-DS-CNTR 2PL=DAT write-NEG =1
"I do not write to you because you do not know (the truth)." (1 John 2:21; 2024-06-10(1)_mll)

d. VERBAL *SI*-PREDICATE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
tsá=ma áthe-pa kúse índi-ye rúnʔda-ʔma áthe-mbi tíse ána-si-yi jí-pa já-ʔje-si
ANA=ACC see-SS night catch-INF wait-FRST see-NEG 3SG sleep-DS-EXCL come-SS go-IPFV-DS
"Having seen her, (he) waited to catch (her) at night, but (he) didn't see (her), because (she) would only come and go when he was asleep."
(Blaser and Chica Umenda, 2008, p. 156; 2024-06-18(1)_mll; 2025-01-20(1)_mll)

e. VERBAL *SI*-PREDICATE + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
píyi kán-si-ʔkhe =ti íñe?
turn look-DS-ADD =YNQ hurt
"Does it hurt also when you turn (your head)?" (2024-06-06(1)_mll)

3.2.2.3 APPREHENSIONAL The apprehensional *-saʔne* APPR marks undesirable potential future situations (15). Three main verbal functions of the morpheme may be distinguished: avertive precautioning (15a, 15c, 15e), in-case precautioning (15b), and *fear*-complementizer (15d) (AnderBois and Dąbkowski, 2020; Dąbkowski and AnderBois, t.a.). These three functions of *-saʔne* APPR are similar to the range of uses of the archaic English *lest* (Dąbkowski and AnderBois, 2024).

(15) PLAIN REALIZATION ON APPREHENSIONAL CLAUSES WITH *-saʔne* APPR

a. VERBAL *saʔne*-AVERTIVE PRECAUTIONING
sinthí-mb-e-ʔyi tsû kán-ña-ʔchu kháse anjámpa tshán-saʔne
blow-NEG-ADV-EXCL =3 AUX-IRR-EN again blood bleed-APPR
"You should not blow your nose, so that you don't make it bleed again."
(Pederson and Cooper, 1982, pp. 68–69; `2024-02-20(1)_sia`)

b. VERBAL *saʔne*-IN-CASE PRECAUTIONING + NEW TOPIC *-ta* NEW
ű́njin tű́i-saʔne-nda =ngi bûthú-ya
rain rain-APPR-NEW =1 run-IRR
"I will run in case it rains." (`2024-06-18(1)_mll`)

c. VERBAL *saʔne*-AVERTIVE PRECAUTIONING + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ja* CNTR
tayúpi=ja jungáe-sû=ma séma-ʔjen-ʔjan tsé-ʔthi=nga =tsû má-ʔka-en jungáe-sû=ma
long ago=CNTR IDSB-ATTR=ACC work-IPFV-CNTR STA-PLC=DAT =3 IDSL-SML-ADV IDSB-ATTR=ACC
kháʔna-saʔne-jan íyûʔû-pa kúndase-ʔfa
steal-APPR-CNTR scold-SS tell-PLS
"In the old days, when (young people) were working on something (for someone else), (their fathers) would caution them not to steal anything from there."
(Criollo and Blanco Pisabarro, 1992, pp. 43, 90; `2024-03-04(1)_sia`)

d. NOMINAL *saʔne*-COMPLEMENT OF *fear* + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-yi* EXCL
tíseʔpa ña yayá-ndekhû-ʔfa-saʔne-ñi =ngi dyúju
3PL 1SG dad-PL.ANIM-PLS-APPR-EXCL =1 be afraid
"I fear only that they are my parents." (`2024-06-11(1)_mll`)

e. VERBAL *saʔne*-AVERTIVE PRECAUTIONING + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔkhe* ADD
índi-saʔne-ʔkhe =ngi bûthú-ya
catch-APPR-ADD =1 run-IRR
"I will run also so that (s/he) doesn't catch (me)." (`2024-06-18(1)_mll`)

When appearing on an apprehensional-marked clause, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (15b), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (15c), and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (15d) surface as plain. (The additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD (15e) is preglottalized, as usual.)

3.2.2.4 TENTATIVE The tentative *-khen* TENT introduces subordinate verbs in auxiliary constructions that express an attempt or effort on the part of the subject to accomplish something (16). A *khen*-marked clause may be introduced as a complement to verbs such as *tsun* 'do' (16b, 16e), *iyikhu* 'fight' (16c), and *vana* 'suffer' (16d). They can often be translated with "try to (do sth)" or "struggle to (do sth)."

(16) PLAIN REALIZATION ON TENTATIVE CLAUSES WITH *-khen* TENT

a. VERBAL *khen*-PREDICATE
seʔjé-khen =ngi tsún-ʔjen
cure-TENT =1 do-IPFV
"I am trying to cure." (`2022-07-01(1)_jxm`)

b. VERBAL *khen*-PREDICATE + NEW TOPIC *-ta* NEW
athe-yé-khen-nda =ngi tsún-ʔjen
see-PASS-TENT-NEW =1 do-IPFV
"I am trying to be seen." (`2024-06-11(2)_mll`)

c. VERBAL *KHEN*-PREDICATE + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
in?ján-khen-jan *iyíkhu-?je* *=ngi*
believe-TENT-CNTR fight-IPFV =1
"I am wrestling to believe." (2024-06-18(1)_mll)

d. NOMINAL *KHEN*-PREDICATE + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
vána-?jen *=ngi iñajam-paña-fasi-mbí-khen-ñi*
suffer-IPFV =1 ask-hear-IN-NEG-TENT-EXCL
"I am only struggling not to be nosy." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

e. VERBAL *KHEN*-PREDICATE + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-?KHE* ADD
athé-khen-?khe *=ngi tsún-?jen*
see-TENT-ADD =1 do-IPFV
"I am also trying to see." (2024-06-18(1)_mll)

When appearing on a tentative clause, the new topic *-(?)ta* NEW (16b), contrastive topic *-(?)ja* CNTR (16c), and exclusive focus *-(?)yi* EXCL (16d) surface as not preglottalized. (The additive focus *-?khe* ADD (16e) surfaces as preglottalized.)

In an interim summary, so far we have seen that when an IS morpheme appears on a subordinate clause, it is not preceded by a glottal stop *-?*.

3.2.2.5 SAME-SUBJECT CONDITIONAL Now, I move on to the A'ingae conditional constructions, where a different pattern is seen. The A'ingae conditionals may have afactual and factual interpretations. Afactual conditionals do not presuppose that the antecedent will obtain and can often be translated with "if." Factual conditionals presuppose that the antecedent will obtain and can be translated with "when." There is no morphological distinction between afactual and factual conditionals.

There is, however, a morphological distinction that tracks whether the subject of the antecedent is the same or different from the subject of the consequent. As such, A'ingae conditionals participate in the same switch-reference system as that encoded by *-pa* SS and *-si* DS in non-conditional constructions.

Same-subject antecedents do not, in most circumstances, receive any overt dedicated marking. Rather, they are distinguished by carrying only IS marking. When introducing a same-subject conditional antecedent, the first IS marker, be it the new topic *-(?)ta* NEW (17a), contrastive topic *-(?)ja* CNTR (17b), or exclusive focus *-(?)yi* EXCL (17c), is always preglottalized. The following IS markers (other than the additive focus *-?khe* ADD; 17f), if present, surface without an additional glottal stop (17d-e). Note that although in most other constructions the IS morphemes are optional, a same-subject antecedent is always introduced by at least one IS morpheme.

(17) PREGLOTTALIZED REALIZATION ON SAME-SUBJECT CONDITIONALS

a. NOMINAL ANTECEDENT + NEW TOPIC *-?TA* NEW
ña *yáya=?ta* *=tsû* *afé-ya* *fae* *regálo=ve* *ña=nga*
1SG dad=NEW =3 give-IRR one gift=ACC2 1SG=DAT
"If it's my dad, he'll give me a gift." (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

b. VERBAL ANTECEDENT + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-?JA* CNTR
afa-khú-?ja *sumbú-ya* *=ngi*
speak-RCPR-CNTR leave-IRR =1
"If I argue, I will leave." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

c. VERBAL ANTECEDENT + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-?YI* EXCL
thési=ma *afáse-?je-?yi* *=ngi* *bûthú-ya*
jaguar=ACC criticize-IPFV-EXCL =1 run-IRR
"I will run criticizing only the jaguar." (2024-06-06(2)_mll)

d. VERBAL ANTECEDENT + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔyi* EXCL + NEW TOPIC *-ta* NEW
tsá-ʔka-en *kánse-ʔfa-ʔyi-ta* *=ki ñuáʔme shaká-ʔfa-ya-mbi*
ANA-SML-ADV live-PLS-EXCL-NEW =2 truly lack-PLS-IRR-NEG
"Only if you live like this, you will truly not lack (anything)."
(Thessalonians 4:12; 2024-06-07(1)_mll)

e. VERBAL ANTECEDENT + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔyi* EXCL + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ja* CNTR
thési=ma *áfase-ʔyi-ja* *bûthú-ya =ngi*
jaguar=ACC criticize-EXCL-CNTR run-IRR =1
"Only if I criticize a jaguar, I will run." (2024-06-06(2)_mll)

f. NOMINAL ANTECEDENT + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-ʔyi* EXCL + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔkhe* ADD
va *ni* *fae* *ávû=mbi=ʔyi=ʔkhe* *=tsû ami-án-ña-mbi*
DEM neither one fish=NEG=EXCL=ADD =3 fill up-CAUS-IRR-NEG
"If this is not even a single fish, it won't fill me up." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

A different structure is seen with the additive focus marker *-ʔkhe* ADD: If the same-subject conditional carries the additive focus marker *-ʔkhe* ADD (where *-ʔkhe* ADD is not preceded by any other IS marker), the morpheme *-ʔa* IF.SS appears obligatorily between the subordinated verb and *-ʔkhe* ADD (18).

(18) SAME-SUBJECT CONDITIONAL MARKED WITH *-ʔa* IF.SS WHEN FOLLOWED BY *-ʔkhe* ADD

a. VERBAL *ʔa*-ANTECEDENT + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔkhe* ADD
khúpa-ʔnga-pa *jí-ʔa-ʔkhe* *=tsû utishí-ya-ʔchu*
defecate-DIST-SS come-IF.SS-ADD =3 wash hands-IRR-EN
"After using the restroom, one must also wash hands."
(Borman and Chica Umenda, 1982, p. 27; 2024-06-07(1)_mll)

b. VERBAL *ʔa*-ANTECEDENT + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔkhe* ADD
kuénza áʔi=ve *dá-ʔa-ʔkhe* *ñú-ʔa* *áʔi-ya* *=tsû*
old person=ACC2 become-IF.SS-ADD good-ADN person-IRR =3
"Also when s/he grows old, s/he will be a good person."
(Borman, 1981, pp. 16–17; 2025-01-20(1)_mll)

In modern A'ingae, the morpheme *-ʔa* does not (often) appear in circumstances other than before *-ʔkhe* ADD in same-subject conditional clauses. In addition, it is disallowed before the other IS markers (19). As such, in Section 4, I will analyze it as an allomorph of the (otherwise phonologically null) feature bundle [IF, SS] selected specifically when adjacent to *-ʔkhe* ADD.

(19) OVERT *-ʔa* IF.SS ALLOWED AND REQUIRED ONLY WITH *-ʔkhe* ADD

a. **jí-ʔa-(ʔ)ta*	b. **jí-ʔa-(ʔ)ja*	c. **jí-ʔa-(ʔ)yi*	d. **jí-ʔkhe*
come-IF.SS-NEW	come-IF.SS-CNTR	come-IF.SS-NEW	come-NEW
intended: "if (sb) comes"	intended: "if (sb) comes"	intended: "only if (sb) comes"	intended: "only if (sb) comes"

(2025-01-20(1)_mll)

3.2.2.6 DIFFERENT-SUBJECT CONDITIONAL Finally, different-subject conditional antecedents are introduced by the always overt *-ʔni* IF.DS (20). Different-subject antecedents are frequently accompanied by an IS marker (20b-e), but that is not obligatory (20a). When appearing after *-ʔni* IF.DS, the new topic *-(ʔ)ta* NEW (20b), contrastive topic *-(ʔ)ja* CNTR (20c), and exclusive focus *-(ʔ)yi* EXCL (20d) surface as plain. (The additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD (20e) surfaces as preglottalized.)

(20) PLAIN REALIZATION ON DIFFERENT-SUBJECT CONDITIONALS WITH *-ʔNI* IF.DS

a. VERBAL *ʔNI*-ANTECEDENT
khén íngi sû-ʔje-ʔni fáeʔkhu-e-ta púʔtaen-ʔfa-ʔya
THUS 1PL say-IPFV-IF.DS one-ADV-NEW shoot-PLS-ASSR
"While we were saying this, there was one gunshot."
(Quenamá, 1992, pp. 25, 42; 2025-01-20(1)_mll)

b. VERBAL *ʔNI*-ANTECEDENT + NEW TOPIC *-TA* NEW
ñá náʔen=nga kháya-ʔje-ʔni-nda =tsû tíseʔpa séma-ʔjen-ʔfa
1SG iriver=DAT swim-IPFV-IF.DS-NEW =3 3PL work-IPFV-PLS
"When I swim in the river, they work." (2022-07-01(2)_sia)

c. ADJECTIVAL *ʔNI*-ANTECEDENT + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
ránde=ʔni=jan chavá-ya =ngi
large=IF.DS=CNTR buy-IRR =1
"If it's large, I'll buy it." (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

d. VERBAL *ʔNI*-ANTECEDENT + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
thési=ma áthe-ʔfa-ʔni-ñi =tsû bûthu
jaguar=ACC see-PLS-IF.DS-EXCL =3 run
"As soon as they saw a jaguar, (another person) ran." (2024-06-18(1)_mll)

e. VERBAL *ʔNI*-ANTECEDENT + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
kúndase khûi, tíse dyú-ʔni-ʔkhe
tell lie down 3SG fear-IF.DS-ADD
"While lying (on the ground, the severed head) talked to (him/her), even though s/he was scared." (Chica Umenda, 1980, p. 26; 2024-03-04(1)_sia)

In an interim summary, in most contexts, the IS markers are not preceded by a glottal stop. The glottal stop appears only if an IS marker attaches directly to a predicate. Those cases include attaching to infinitival clauses and morphologically unmarked same-subject conditional antecedents (including both verbal and nominal predicates). The environments where the IS markers are preglottalized are repeated in (21).

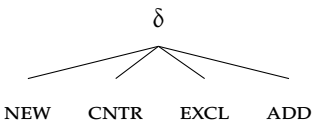
(21) ENVIRONMENTS FOR IS MARKER PREGLOTTALIZATION
The IS morphemes are preglottalized only when attaching to:
a. *infinitival clauses, and*
b. *finite subordinate clauses which do not have an overt subordinator (i.e. same-subject conditional antecedents).*

4 ANALYSIS

In this section, I provide a DM analysis of the A'ingae IS-preglottalization pattern, which draws on the insights of Bossi and Diercks (2019) and Mikkelsen (2015) regarding the organization of discourse features.

First, I propose that the four IS morphemes (*-ta* NEW, *-ja* CNTR, *-yi* EXCL, *-ʔkhe* ADD) are the exponents of four discourse features: [NEW], [CNTR], [EXCL], and [ADD]. The discourse features are organized hierarchically, with a superordinate *discourse* feature [δ] (Bossi and Diercks, 2019; Mikkelsen, 2015) dominating all the more specific IS features. A tree representing a minimally differentiated organization of the relevant IS features is given in (22).

(22) DISCOURSE FEATURE HIERARCHY



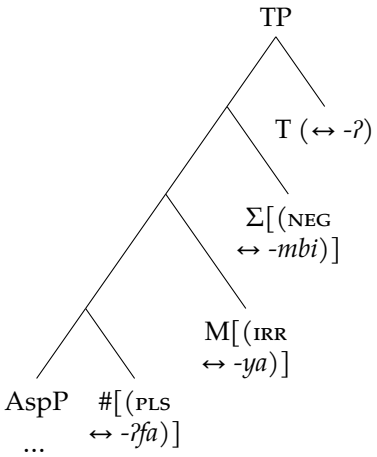
The above hierarchy draws on Mikkelsen (2015) and Bossi and Diercks's (2019) accounts of word order in Danish and Kipsigis. In Danish (North Germanic, Denmark), the subject-initial position may be filled by different phrases, including e. g. a WH-word, topic, or focus. Mikkelsen (2015) observes that "[in] Danish, Spec,CP must be occupied by an information-structurally distinguished element, but is not dedicated to a particular function" (p. 634) and proposes that the relevant notion for capturing the word-order patterns is *information structural differentiation*.

In Kipsigis (Nilo-Saharan, Kenya), the immediately post-verbal position is occupied by a discourse-prominent item (Bossi and Diercks, 2019). To account for the empirically similar pattern, Bossi and Diercks (2019) build on Mikkelsen's (2015) and formalize this with "an underspecified [δ] (discourse) feature that can be satisfied by phrases of any information structure designation or—even more generally—by any phrase that is sufficiently discourse-differentiated" (p. 30). My proposal directly adopts their feature hierarchy.

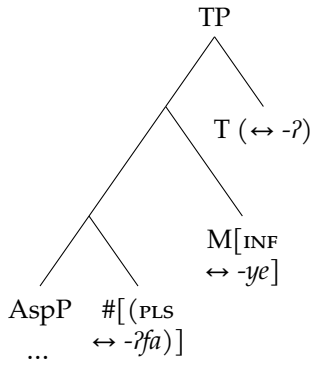
I assume a decompositional approach to T, where overt TAM suffixes are realized as heads below T. Specifically, I assume that every clause—by definition—contains the TP layer (Shlonsky, 1997, p. 3). Additionally, I assume that TP dominates the projections which realize negation (Laka Mugarza, 1990; Pollock, 1989), irrealis mood (Cinque, 1999), and finiteness (Wurmbrand, 1998). Finally, I assume that the hierarchical order of the number (#P), mood (MP), and polarity (ΣP) projections mirrors the linear order of suffixes they introduce (*-ʔfa* PLS, *-ya* IRR, and *-mbi* NEG). Taken together, the above premises zero in on the TP structures given in (23).[7]

(23) TP STRUCTURE

a. FINITE TPs



b. INFINITIVE TPs



Crucially (and as the trees above already anticipate), I propose that the glottal stop *-ʔ* is a contextual realization of T°. Specifically, T° is realized as a glottal stop *-ʔ* when linearly adjacent to the discourse feature [δ]. The critical vocabulary item (VI) is given in (24a). Since *-ta* NEW, *-ja* CNTR, *-yi* EXCL, and *-ʔkhe* ADD all inherit from [δ], they all satisfy this environment condition. Otherwise, T° is realized as phonologically null (24b). This derives the observed distribution of the IS-conditioned *-ʔ*. All of the VIs relevant to the analysis are given in (24-26).

(24) FEATURES ≤ TP

a. T ⟷ *-ʔ* / _ δ
b. T ⟷ *-∅* / elsw.
c. PLS ⟷ *-ʔfa*
d. IRR ⟷ *-ya*
e. INF ⟷ *-ye*
f. NEG ⟷ *-mbi*

(25) FEATURES ≤ CP

a. IF, SS ⟷ *-ʔa* / _ ADD
b. IF, SS ⟷ *-∅* / elsw.
c. SS ⟷ *-pa*
d. IF, DS ⟷ *-ʔni*
e. DS ⟷ *-si*
f. APPR ⟷ *-saʔne*
g. TENT ⟷ *-khen*

(26) FEATURES ≤ ΔP

a. NEW ⟷ *-ta*
b. CNTR ⟷ *-ja*
c. EXCL ⟷ *-yi*
d. ADD ⟷ *-ʔkhe*

Now, I will demonstrate how the proposed analysis accounts for the data. When an IS marker attaches to most syntactic categories, including DPs (27a) and adverbs (27b), there is no T° adjacent to a discourse-marked morpheme. As such, *-ʔ* is not realized. The constituent to which an IS marker is attached is bracketed [ ].

(27) MOST CATEGORIES: *-ʔ* NOT REALIZED

a. DP + NEW TOPIC *-TA* CNTR
[*yáya*]$_{DP}$*=ta* *=tsû* *tsámpi=ni* *já*
dad=NEW =3 forest=LOC go
"Dad went hunting." (2024-06-10(1)_mll)

b. ADVERB + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA* CNTR
[*tayúpi*]$_{advP}$*-ja* *fíthi~ʔthi* *=tsû*
long ago-CNTR kill~PLA =3
"Once upon a time, s/he killed (many)." (2024-10-08(1)_mll)

When an IS marker attaches immediately to an infinitive TP (e. g. a complement of a raising predicate) (28a), the adjacent T-head is realized as *-ʔ* (24a).

(28) RAISING PREDICATE COMPLEMENT: *-ʔ* REALIZED

a. TP + NEW TOPIC *-ʔTA* NEW
[*ñúʔfa-ye-ʔ*]$_{TP}$*-ta* *=ngi* *atésû*
rest-INF-T-NEW =1 know
"I (habitually) rest." (2024-10-08(1)_mll)

When an IS marker attaches to CP with overt subordinating C°, there is overt material intervening between T° and the IS marker (29a). Now, since environments conditioning allomorphy are strictly local (Embick, 2010, 2015), *-ʔ* is not realized (24b). (The assumption that infinitival morphology is TP-internal, while subordinating morphemes are C-heads, is widely accepted cross-linguistically (Adger, 2003), and corroborated for A'ingae by Dąbkowski, 2022, 2024d.)

(29) OVERTLY-SUBORDINATED CLAUSE: *-ʔ* NOT REALIZED

a. OVERTLY SUBODINATE CP + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI* EXCL
[*já-ya-∅-pa*]$_{CP}$*-yi* *=ngi* *ína-ʔjen*
go-IRR-T-SS-EXCL =1 cry-IPFV
"I'm crying only because I will leave." (2024-10-08(1)_mll)

However, when an IS marker attaches to a CP with a null C°, such as a complement of a control predicate (30a), there is no overt morphology intervening between T° and the IS marker. Since phonologically unrealized material is ignored for purposes of satisfying allomorphy environments (*pruning* in Embick, 2010, 2015), T° is realized as *-ʔ*.

(30) CONTROL PREDICATE COMPLEMENT: *-ʔ* REALIZED

a. NULL-C° CP + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-ʔJA* CNTR
[*kéʔi* *án-ʔfa-ye-ʔ-∅*]$_{CP}$*-ja* *séʔpi* *=ngi*
2PL eat-PL-INF-T-C-CNTR forbid =1
"I prohibit y'all from eating." (2024-10-08(1)_mll)

7 While T° is often silent, its presence correlates in A'ingae with specific temporal interpretations. For example, while uninflected stative and non-verbal TPs are interpreted as present, uninflected eventive verbs are interpreted as realis, perfective, and past. For more, see Dąbkowski (2024b).

Next, I propose that same-subject conditional antecedents are likewise introduced by a head that is phonologically unrealized in most environments (25b). Since, again, null material is ignored for the purposes of allomorphy (Embick, 2010, 2015), T° is realized as *-ʔ* (31a-31b).

(31) SAME SUBJECT CONDITIONAL ANTECEDENT: *-ʔ* REALIZED

a. NULL-C° CP + CONTRASTIVE TOPIC *-JA CNTR*
[*afa-khú-ʔ-∅*]$_{CP}$*-ja* *sumbú-ya =ngi*
speak-RCPR-T-IF.SS-CNTR leave-IRR =1
"If I argue, I will leave." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

b. NULL-C° CP + EXCLUSIVE FOCUS *-YI EXCL*
[*thési-ma* *áthe-ʔ-∅*]$_{CP}$*-yi* *=ngi bûthú-ya*
jaguar-ACC see-T-IF.SS-EXCL =1 run-IRR
"As soon as I see a jaguar, I will run." (2024-10-08(1)_mll)

This derives the fact that preglottalization is realized on same-subject antecedents, but not on other types of subordinate clauses—only the same-subject antecedents are introduced by a phonologically unrealized feature bundle.

When a same-subject antecedent hosts the additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD, the morpheme *-ʔa* appears before it (32a). I propose that *-ʔa* is an allomorph of the same-subject conditional feature bundle introduced specifically in the context of *-ʔkhe* ADD (25a).

(32) SAME-SUBJECT CONDITIONAL ANTECEDENT REALIZED AS *-ʔA* BEFORE *-ʔKHE* ADD

a. SAME-SUBJECT ANTECEDENT + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
[*khúpa-ʔnga-pa* *jí-∅-ʔa*]$_{CP}$*-ʔkhe* *=tsû utishí-ya-ʔchu*
defecate-DIST-SS come-T-IF.SS-ADD =3 wash hands-IRR-EN
"After using the restroom, one must also wash hands."
(Borman and Chica Umenda, 1982, p. 27; 2024-06-07(1)_mll)

Finally, the additive focus *-ʔkhe* ADD is always realized as preglottalized. I propose that *-ʔkhe* ADD is underlyingly preglottalized (26d). I assume that it participates in the same triggering of T-allomorphy as the other IS morphemes (33a), but two contiguous glottal stops are later phonologically reduced to one.

(33) ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD: UNDERLYINGLY PREGLOTTALIZED

a. TP + ADDITIVE FOCUS *-ʔKHE* ADD
[*án-ñe-ʔ-∅*]$_{CP}$*-ʔkhe* *séʔpi* *=ngi*
eat-INF-T-C-ADD forbid =1
"I also forbid eating." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The above analysis draws on the notion of *discourse differentiation*, proposed by Mikkelsen (2015) to account for word order in Danish, and formalized as a superordinate discourse feature [δ] by Bossi and Diercks (2019) to capture the word order in Kipsigis. By showing that all of the A'ingae IS morphemes pattern alike in triggering an allomorphy of T°, I provide novel morphological evidence for a hierarchical arrangement of discourse features, with [δ] inherited by all the maximal ones.

Observe that descriptively, the proposed analysis makes an unobvious claim: Even though same-subject conditionals are most often introduced by the preglottalized *-ʔta* NEW and *-ʔja* CNTR, neither morpheme is analyzed as contributing the conditional meaning. Rather, the glottal stop is proposed to be a syntactically-conditioned spell-out of the predicate head, the IS marker is taken to contribute to the regular discourse meaning, and the same-subject conditional morpheme is taken to be actually phonologically silent (34).

(34) ANALYZING *-ʔja* AS *-ʔ-∅-ja* T-IF.SS-CNTR
[*afa-khú-ʔ-∅*]$_{CP}$-*ja* *sumbú-ya =ngi*
speak-RCPR-T-IF.SS-CNTR leave-IRR =1
"If I argue, I will leave." (2024-06-11(2)_mll)

This supports the important though perhaps no longer controversial perspective that language description and theoretical analysis are not two separate endeavors, and that they must mutually inform each other.

Finally, I note that cross-linguistically, conditionals and topics are marked in similar, often identical, ways (Haiman, 1978). In A'ingae, the IS morphemes appear optionally (though frequently) on different-subject antecedents (§3.2.2.6), and obligatorily on same-subject antecedents (§3.2.2.5). Nonetheless, conditionality is expressed with separate morphosyntactic features (25a-b, 25d).

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