**Summary of Bongo Narrative discourse grammar**

(from the Feb 2016 discourse workshop)

Connectors (There is always a comma or full stop before these connectors)

**Ki** ‘if (certain), when, after’ introduces a dependent clause that is a condition for the result in the following main clause. The condition may or may not happen. If it does happen, the following result will definitely happen. **Ki** follows the subject of the clause and only comes before complete verbs.

**Kaana** ‘if (uncertain), when, after’ introduces a dependent clause that is a condition for the result in the following main clause. The condition may or may not happen. If it does happen, the following result may or may not happen. **Kaana** is first in the clause after a comma or full stop and comes before complete or incomplete verbs.

**Man ka** ‘even if (unlikely)’ introduces a dependent clause that is a condition for the result in the following main clause. The condition may or may not happen. If it does happen, the following result is the least likely action to happen. **Man ka** is first in the clause after a comma or full stop.

**Kaa** ‘whenever, if’ introduces a dependent clause that happens more than once over time or not at any specific time. **Kaa** follows the subject and only comes before incomplete verbs.

**Da/di** ‘when, after’ introduce old information (that is known to the listeners) before a main clause with new information. Both **da** and **di** follow the subject of the dependent clause, but **da** comes before incomplete verbs and **di** comes before complete verbs.

**Ka** ‘when’ introduces a dependent clause with old information before a main clause with new information. **Ka** ‘when’ follows the subject of a dependent clause and only comes before incomplete verbs.

**Ka . . . di** ‘since, after’ introduces a dependent clause with an action that happens before the action in the following main clause. The dependent connector **di** ‘when’ follows **ka** ‘and, then’ and a subject to make this group of dependent clause connectors **ka (subject) di** ‘since, after’, which is first in the clause after a comma or full stop.

**Diji . . . di** ‘since, because’ introduces a dependent clause with a reason for the following main clause. The dependent connector **di** ‘when’ follows **diji** ‘because’ and a subject to make the group of dependent clause connectors **diji (subject) di** ‘since, because’, which is first in the clause after a comma or full stop.

**Ka** ‘and’ joins two noun phrases or two main clauses. When it introduces a main clause, the clause continues the action or idea of the previous clause. The same word can also mean ‘in order to’ and introduces a main clause that tells the purpose of the previous action. **Ka** ‘and, in order to’ is always the first word of the clause and only comes before incomplete verbs.

**Da** ‘then, but, instead’ introduces a main clause with an action or idea that does not continue from the previous clause. It introduces a clause with new, unexpected or surprising information. **Da** always comes first in the clause and before a complete or incomplete verb.

**Damayi/dayi** ‘afterwards, then, later’ introduce an action that happens after a gap in time following the action of the previous clause. **Damayi/dayi** always come first in the clause and before a complete or incomplete verb.

**Dibina/dibinika** ‘so, as a result’ introduce a main clause with a result of what happened in the previous clause. Both can come first in the clause and before a complete or incomplete verb. However, **dibina** sometimes follows the subject or other words of the clause. It only has a full stop or comma when it is first in the clause.

**Dihikoree** ‘that is why, therefore’ introduces a main clause, and the previous clause is the reason for the clause introduced by **dihikoree**. **Dihikoree** comes first in the clause and before a complete or incomplete verb.

**Kaꞌda ‘**so, as a result’ introduces a main clause that tells the result of what happened before. What happened before is the reason for the statement of the main clause introduced by **kaꞌda**. It is only used in a limited way so that it sometimes negates the clause. **Kaꞌda** comes first in the clause.

**Dibi** ‘otherwise, if not’ introduces a main clause with what will happen if the previous action doesn’t happen. **Dibi** comes first in the sentence and before an incomplete verb.

**Nabi** ‘then, did’ is a helping verb that is used as a connector. It introduces a clause with an important new step forward that develops the story. **Nabi** follows the subject and only comes before incomplete verbs.

**Raa ‘**then, after, later’ is a helping verb that is used as a connector. It introduces a main clause with the next action in a sequence of actions. **Raa** follows the subject and only comes before incomplete verbs.

**(no connector)** No connector means ‘and, then’ and is used to introduce a clause with an important speech or action. Nearly all clauses are joined with a connector. So, the few clauses that are not joined with a connector stand out to listeners as being important for the development of the story.

**Diji** ‘because, for’ introduces a dependent clause that tells the reason for the action of the previous main clause. **Diji** comes first in the clause and comes before an incomplete or complete verb.

**Nya** ‘as, while’ introduces a dependent clause that happens at the same time as that of the previous main clause. **Nya** comes first in the clause and only comes before incomplete clauses.

**Da/di** ‘who, that, which, where, when’ introduce a relative clause inside a larger clause. The relative clause describes or identifies a noun or pronoun in the larger clause. **Da** and **di** both follow the subject of the relative clause, and **da** only comes before incomplete verbs, whereas **di** only comes before complete verbs.

**Amile** ‘that’ introduces a dependent clause used as an object of the larger clause. **Amile** comes first in the clause and before an incomplete or complete verb.

Introducing new scene/paragraph (with a change in participant, time, place or situation):

The following are most common to least common ways of introducing a new paragraph:

1. **Damayi/dayi** ‘afterwards, then’
2. **Da** ‘which, who (incomplete)’, **Di** ‘which, who (complete)’
3. **Ba/Hu/Ye . . . na (definite noun)** ‘this . . .’
4. **Raa** ‘then, after, later’
5. **Ka** ‘and, then’
6. **Maa** ‘did’

Using Demonstratives

**na** ‘this, these’: Points to a noun in stories that has previously been mentioned, often recently mentioned, and often a noun important in the story.

**nika** ‘that, those’: Points to a noun in stories that is known to listeners from a previous mention or from general knowledge, used to remind listeners of the noun or to emphasize the noun.

**monoo** ‘certain, other, others’: Introduces a noun for the first time and shows it will be important in the story.

Participant reference rules

1. For the **same subject** as in the previous clause, only use the pronouns **ba, hu, ye** ‘he, she, they’ (and not also the noun).
2. For a **subject in an indirect speech** that is the **same** as the one reporting, use **ni** ‘he, she’
3. For an **object, possessor or noun introduced by a preposition** that is the **same** as the subject or the one reporting, use **ne** ‘he, she’
4. For a **different subject** as in the previous clause, and for objects, possessors and nouns introduced by prepositions that are unclear, use a noun phrase (such as **ba/hu/ye . . . na** ‘this . . .’).

Break rules 1-3 by using no pronoun to show an important action or speech (Only do this if the meaning is still clear from context).

Break rule 4 by using only a pronoun (instead of a noun phrase) to emphasize the action (Only do this if the meaning is still clear from context).

Introducing speech

Only introduce a direct or indirect speech before the speech, and never after the speech.

Speech rules

1. Use a noun phrase to mention both the speaker and hearer when introducing the first speech of a conversation (a speech between two participants) if the speaker is different than the subject of the previous clause, and do not mention the speaker if the same as the subject of the previous clause.
2. When a speaker responds to the person who spoke to him/her, do not mention the speaker or the person spoken to, and only use the speech introducer **naa** ‘say’ (or no speech introducer).
3. When beginning the second round of a conversation between the same two people, do not mention either the speaker or the one spoken to or any speech introducer.

More information than required by the rules is used to show emphasis to the speech. Less information than required is used to show a more exciting pace.

Foreground

The following connectors move the story forward (show a foreground action)

1. **Damayi/dayi** ‘afterwards, then’
2. **Roo** ‘only, just, completely, then’
3. **Raa** ‘then, after, later’
4. **Nabi** ‘then, did’
5. **Ka** ‘and, then’

Background

The following connectors show background information in a story

1. **nya .** . . . ‘as, while’
2. **ka** . . . ‘as, be’

Emphasis/Focus

To emphasis a participant or show the following paragraph is about this participant, use a noun phrase along with an extra pronoun to introduce that participant. Subjects or objects can be shown to be important by putting them in focus--a noun at the beginning of the sentence, followed by a relative clause beginning with **na** ‘this, which’

Contrast

The following can show contrast (as with the English word ‘but’):

1. **(no connector)** ‘and, but’ (?)
2. not X, Y