# Noun coordination in Namibian Khoekhoe 

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## Ti /hogu ge Festub,Reinharti,Axarob,Lazarub tsiga

(1)

| Tï | \|höo-gù | gè | Festub, Reinharti, Axarob, Lazarub |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ti | \|hō-gu | ge | Festub, Reinharti, Axarob, Lazarub |
| my | friend-3PL.m | IND | Festus, Reinhart, Axarob, Lazarus |

my friend-3PL.m IND Festus, Reinhart, Axarob, Lazarus and-3PL.m-ACC

## 1. What is coordination

Definition (cf. Zhang 2010, p. 9). A coordinate complex is a syntactic constituent consisting of two or more functionally equivalent units (called conjuncts) without semantic hierarchization, and its category is identical to that of at least one of the conjuncts. Generally, there is an element (particle, clitic, affix) called coordinator to link the conjuncts. Coordinators can be further classified as


In many languages, the conjunctive coordinator is used very frequently: in Swahili, na 'and, with' is the most frequent word (Hurskainen 2021). g wa and, with' is the second most frequent word in Arabic (after J al, the definite article). In English, and is the third most frequent word (after the and of); the conjunctive coordinator is fourth in German (1. der/die/das, 2. in, 3. sein (AUX), 4. und) and Spanish (1. el/la, 2. de, 3. que, 4. y). But the conjunctive coordinator is not so frequent e.g. in Chinese or Māori.

## 2. Typology of coordination

The following terminology has been compiled by Haspelmath (e.g. 2004) and is now widely used.

### 2.1 Use of coordinator

- A coordinate complex is called syndetic, if one or more coordinators occur: your blankets are covered in buchu and mint
- If there is no particle or morpheme (e.g. tone) joining the conjuncts, the coordination is asyndetic: remember the veld, the lush green grass

There are a few languages with exclusively asyndetic noun coordination, e.g. Gumbaynggir (Australia).
Syndetic coordination can be subdivided in

- monosyndetic coordination, which involves only a single coordinator for two conjuncts, and
- bisyndetic coordination, using one coordinator per conjunct

The Northern Cushitic language Beja is predominantly bisyndetic: "La conjonction =wa (var. =wwa), un emprunt à l'arabe, est enclitique de chacun des éléments conjoints." (Vanhove 2017, p. 160)

| (2) | ani=wa | baru:k=wa |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Beja | 1SG.NOM=COORD | 2SG.m.NOM=COORD |

(Vanhove 2017, S. 239)

It is interesting to analyze multiple conjuncts, i.e. conjunction complexes with more than two conjuncts. "In many languages, all but the last coordinator can be omitted in monosyndetic constructions." (Haspelmath 2004, p. 5) However, coordinator omission is not possible in Arabic (Selmani 2012, p. 244):
wa-id akhad̃nā mina an-nab-bīyyinā mitaqahum wa minka wa min Nuḥin wa Ibrahimā wa Musā wa'Isā ibni Maryamā wa akhad̃nā minhum mitaqan galizāā (...). ${ }^{373}$
(Qur'ān 33:7)
Und dann gingen Wir mit den Propheten den Bund ein und mit dir und mit Noah und Abraham und Moses und Jesus, dem Sohn der Maria. Und Wir gingen mit ihnen einen gewaltigen Bund ein (...).
(Übersetzung v. Ibn Rassoul)
"It seems that in bisyndetic constructions, coordinator
 omission is generally not possible with multiple coordinands." (Haspelmath 2004, p. 5)

### 2.2 Coordinator position

The coordinator often forms a closer association with one of the conjuncts. A coordinator is called - prepositive, if it precedes this conjunct, and - postpositive, if it follows this conjunct.

In monosyndetic coordination, this gives four logically possible types:

| [CONJ1] | [co CONJ2] | e.g. English, German, Hausa |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| [CONJ1 co] | [CONJ2] | e.g. Japanese: | Nara-ka Kobe Nara or Kobe |
| [CONJ1] | [CONJ2 co] | rare, e.g. Latin -que: poena metusque (Ovid) punishment and fear |  |
| [Co CONJ1] | [CONJ2] | not attested so far |  |

### 2.3 Meanings of conjunctive coordination from a cognitive point of view

The essence of conjunctive coordination has several elements being conceived together: The conjuncts are equivalent in status and in their role in the sentence structure. But even in the case of the neutral conjunctive coordinator and, there is often not full equivalence and symmetry between the conjuncts. More often than not there seems to be a preferred order between the conjuncts. (Cf. Langacker 2008.)

Upon closer reflection, it becomes apparent that sometimes the semantic prototype addition/supplement is only part of a more complex range of meaning. In her dissertation, $\operatorname{Vaz}$ (2014) has established an exhaustive list of shades of meaning of the conjunctive coordination as well as an indication of the relative frequency based on an English language corpus. In the following list I have combined written and spoken language results; most examples are taken from (Vaz 2014). The overwhelming majority of utterances uses (only) the prototypical meaning, and several meanings account for less than $1 \%$.


[^0]
## 3. Noun coordination in Namibian Khoekhoe

### 3.1 Structure of noun coordination



Images: Carvalho 1996, S. $16+26$. Text has been replaced by Khoekhoe.
(3)


### 3.2 Examples (written literature)

The following examples are extracted from a modern medical novel, written in Khoekhoe: Dâureb |Ae\||gâub von I. F. H. ||Garoeb, Windhoek $1998{ }^{2}$.

| 6 | \|Aedī-aob ||Hamaseb tsî dana|ae!khōaos Kaibes tsî nau |ae!khō-aodi tsîn ge キоаха ! goaxa. | The nurse \||Hamaseb, the senior nursing officer Kaibe und the other nurses came out and approached. | Daureb S. 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | Tsaras tsî \|uigu tsî $\ddagger$ goas tsîn ... | Dust, stones und clay soil ... | Daureb S. 8 |
| 8 | ... donkikha tsî kunis tsîn \|kha ... | ... with the two donkeys and the wagon ... | Daureb S. 8 |
| 9 | Sim, tita tsî Todos tsîm ge a !norasa. | We two, me and Todos, have free time. | Daureb S. 11 |
| 10 | Kaibes tsî Todos tsîro !noesase !hôa!nā-omsa †homi. | Kaibe and Todos, prepare the operation room hurriedly! | Daureb S. 14 |
| 11 | Aubes tsî Linas tsîra ge ra kōgu. | Aube and Lina look upon each other. | Daureb S. 16 |
| 12 | Sauli tsî †Kharib tsîkha ge ofonsa !am. | Saul and $\ddagger$ Kharib turn on the oven. | Daureb S. 16 |
| 13 | Tita, \||Hamaseb tsî Kaibes tsî da ge ti beros |lga nî !gû. | I, \||Hamaseb and Kaibe will go to my office. | Daureb S. 19 |
| 14 | \|Heros tsî Todos tsîra ge sîsenni !uri sarakha go $\ddagger$ gae $\ddagger$ ui. | \|Hero and Todos took off their white work clothes. | Daureb S. 21 |
| 15 | Tita tsî Kaibes tsîm ge \||Hamaseba gere māxō|khā. | I and Kaibe stand next to \|| Hamaseb. | Daureb S. 21 |
| 16 | \||Hamaseb, Kaibes tsî tita tsî da ge hâ. | \||Hamaseb, Kaibe and I are staying. | Daureb S. 21 |
| 17 | \||Hamaseb tsî Kaibes tsîra ge !gûxō |khāgu garu. | \||Hamaseb and Kaibe are walking side by side. | Daureb S. 23 |
| 18 | $\ddagger$ Gabis, Linas tsî Aubes tsîdi ge \|ae!khō-aodi beros ||ga garu. | $\ddagger$ Gabi, Lina und Aube are on their way to the office of the (traditional) healer. | Daureb S. 31 |
| 19 | \||Hamaseb tsî |ae!khō-aodi tsîn ge ||în tē-oms !nâ go |hao. | \||Hamaseb and the healers met in their tea room. | Daureb S. 36 |
| 20 | Tā toxoba $\ddagger$ Gabis tsî $\ddagger$ Kharib tsîra \|hao|hao re. | But $\ddagger$ Gabi und $\ddagger$ Kharib should never meet. | Daureb S. 37/38 |
| 21 | Oan garu soab !nâs ge $\ddagger G a b i s a$, \|Heros tsî Todos tsîra |kha ra |hao. | On the way back, $\ddagger$ Gabi meets \|Heros and Todos in the corridor. | Daureb S. 41 |
| 22 | $\ddagger$ €abis tsî \|Heros tsîra ge |guiba hâ. | $\ddagger$ Gabi and \|Heros agreed. | Daureb S. 41 |
| 23 | Sats tsî tita tsîm ... | You and me ... | Daureb S. 43 |

[^1]| 24 | Linas tsî $\ddagger G a b i s ~ t s i ̂ r a ~ g e ~ \mid g u i b a ~ r a ~ o a . ~$ <br> Au Sauli tsî $\ddagger$ Kharib tsîkha ge \|nai sī <br> foa tsî garu. Jafeb tsî Aubes tsîra ge <br> \\|îkha khaos ai hâ. Linas tsî $\ddagger G a b i s$ <br> tsîra ge garu. | Lina and $\ddagger$ Gabi are coming back <br> together. Saul and $\ddagger$ Kharib, too, are on <br> their way out. Jafeb and Aube are <br> behind them. Lina and $\ddagger$ Gabis are <br> approaching. | Daureb S. <br> $44 / 45$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 25 | $\\|$ îb ge gurisab tsî nau khoen tsîna <br> tawede. | He greets the friend and the other <br> people. | Daureb S. 47 |

From a typological point of view, conjunctive noun coordination in Namibian Khoekhoe is

- postpositive
- bisyndetic
- in multiple coordination, coordinators can be omitted except for the last two (cp. 13, 16, 18)

From a syntactical point of view, in a first step, words (but not roots) are conjoined by tsî:
(26) Buruxa hais tsî |nî Sa |garuben ,The miracle tree and other San-folktales'. (Windhoek 2012)


Answers and book titles are not necessary noun phrases. But if a coordinative complex is to be used as a noun phrase (or, depending on the syntax theory, as a determiner phrase), it must be terminated by another tsî and be suffixed by a PGN-suffix ('nominalizer' according to Haacke) referring to the overall expression. Case assignment, postpositions etc. do not refer to the individual components (in contrast to European languages):

(IJR, p. 49)
Today, the lexeme tsî has a much wider range of uses than just nominal coordination, e.g. the coordination of verbs and verb phrases (albeit monosyndetic), also subordinate or in the meaning of "then":

| 29 | Tē-ās tsî \||goa-ams di ||aexa go. | It was time for [drinking] tea and breakfast. | Daureb S. 36 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 30 | Tē\||aeb ge ra |am tsîn ge go khâima. | Tea time is over and they got up. | Daureb S. 37 |
| 31 | ... !âu tsî $\ddagger n o ̂ a$ | ... waited and sat | Daureb S. 5 |
| 32 | Sores ge hoaragase go \|gawi tsîb ge llaube kai-am sîsenna garu ra |oro. | The sun was now fully high and about most of the work is getting less and less. | Daureb S. 5 |
| 33 | „Hî-î hoan ge nepa hâ" ti mî tsîs ge \||amas hâ xūrona ra !nao||nâ. | „No, all is here" she says and unloads the (little) things she bought. | Daureb S. 28 |

### 3.3 Other Khoe languages


!Ora has a cognate coordinator tsĩ/thi:
(34) Tarakhoedi na !ōkua !khares thi haib thikha khau|kwa.
!Ora ‘The women (tarakhoedi) for wild bulbs (!’okua) the bored stone (!xares) and the stick (haib) would dig with (khao|xoa).' (du Plessis 2019, p. 206/Maingard 1932)

According to du Plessis (2019, p. 165), the 'pattern with the final resumption [...] is possibly an archaic formulation'.

Khwe has a lot of coordination strategies (Kilian-Hatz 2008). Formerly, people seemed to prefer to use a postpositive bisyndetic element /xòà(xá):
(35) Khwe-|ốắ-ǹ |xòà Xũû́-|ốắ-ǹ |xòà

Khwe Khwe-child-3PL.c and !Xun-child-3PL.c and 'the Khwe children and the !Xun children'
(Köhler 2018, p. 217)
Recently, /xòà has often been replaced by a monosyndetic conjunction nà/nò, which is placed between the (last) two conjoints - both form and construction are probably a loan from Bantu (Mbukushu). Interesting, but rarely used and partly ambiguous, is forming a pair of two nouns by marking each conjunct by the same dual PGN-suffix referring to both of them:

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(36) ndée-khà mbáa-khà
Khwe mother-2DU.c father-2DU.c
    'Mom and Dad!'
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(Kilian-Hatz 2008, p. 284)
Ts'ixa is the exception as it makes use of a circumfixal strategy in noun coordination according to the template
$\mathrm{CONJ}_{1}$ kòrè $\mathrm{CONJ}_{2}$ xàè kòrè $\mathrm{CONJ}_{3}$ xàè ... (Fehn 2014, p. 128).
Steeman (2011, p. 207) reports that Sandawe, too, conjoins nouns using a complex coordinate construction consisting of two different elements:

| (37) | Lèébà- $\eta$ | K'àts'àwà- $\eta$ | m̀ | Gélé |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Sandawe | Leeba-and | K'ats'awa-and | and | Gele |

(Steeman 2011, p. 207)
'The coordinating conjunction $\dot{m}$ is used as a final conjunction in enumerations. The preceding elements in the list are conjoined by the linker- $\quad$ Ø.'

No clear historical explanation emerges from these scattered observations, but it seems obvious that bisyndetic postpositive noun coordination is not unexpected in Khoe languages.

### 3.4 Recent developments

Postpositive bisyndetic noun coordination is not rare in verb-final languages, e.g. in the Dravidian language family, cf. Sanjay $2017^{3}$. While there are other coordination strategies in Tamil, too, the multiple -um construction continuous to be used today in written as well as in spoken Tamil (Anil Hariharakrishnan, p.c.):

|  | குமாரும் | கமலாவும் | வ-ந்தார்கள். |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (38) | Kumār-um | kamalā-vum | va-nt-ārkal. |  |
| Tamil | Kumar-and | Kamala-and | come-PST-3PL.H |  |
|  | 'Kumar and | mala came.' |  | (Krishnamurti/Sarveswaran 2021, p. 63) |
|  | அவனும் | அவளும் | அவளுடைய | தங்கமும் |
| (39) | avan-um | aval-um | aval-uțaiya | taṅkam-um |
| Tamil | he-and | she-and | she-POSS | younger sister-and |
|  | 'he, she and | sister' [are go | ing to ...] | (Vidya K. Ramasubramanian, p.c.) |

Postpositive bisyndetic noun coordination is common in other African language families, too, as is the case in Dazaga, a Saharan language spoken in Chad and Niger:
(426) làớ nírờ òrkójè g ${ }^{w}$ ̀níjè áskíjè ffóbù

| là | núf=ò | غ̀ | $\mathrm{g}^{\text {wòní }}$ ¢ $\mathfrak{j}$ ¢ | áskí=jè | Ø-j-jób |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{ntr}=0$ | $\varepsilon$ |  |  |  |  | friend 1 S.POSS=DET goat=and camel=and horse=and 3.OBJ-3-buy 'My friend bought a goat, a camel, and a horse.'


(Josiah Walters: A grammar of Dazaga. Leiden, Boston 2016. S. 176)

But the bisyndetic construction in Khoekhoe seems to come under pressure from contact languages. In the 2020s, in media language, I noticed that the last tsî tended to be replaced by hâ 'to be':
(40) Omahekeb tsî ||Kharas hâ-kha ge ... 'Omaheke and \|Kharas be-2DU.m4 IND [did ...]'
(New Era 19.1.2021)
https://neweralive.na/posts/3-500-xa-a-nasa-solgoadi-ge-ge-gamkha
(41) Stellenbosch Universitaits tsî Stellenbosch !ā!khōmais hâra
'The university of Stellenbosch and the municipality of Stellenbosch ...' (New Era 9.3.2021)
https://neweralive.na/in/posts/1-400-namibiain-ge-stellenbosch-tawa-ra-khakhasen

| ail\\|gause | Chinab | tsî | Amerikab hâkha |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| as for example | China | and | America | (New Era 22.6.2021) |

https://neweralive.na/in/posts/khakhaede-us-ge-nahanas-ai-garu
(43) aillgause Chinab, Russiab, Indiab tsî Amerikab hâga
as for example China, Russia, India and America (New Era 23.2.2021)
https://neweralive.na/in/posts/china-donates-100-000-vaccine-doses-1

[^2]（44）$\ddagger$ gailons ai Botswanab，Suid－Afrikab，Malawib，Ugandab，Nigeriab，Kameruni，Djiboutib， Gabonni，Ghanab，Ivory Coasti，Mauritaniab，Mauritiusi，Zambiab，Sao Tomeb tsî Principeb，Cape Verdeb，Guinea－Bissaub，Lesothob，Nigeri tsî Sierra Leone hâga．
such as Botswana，South Africa，Malawi，Uganda，Nigeria，Cameroon，Djibouti，Gabon，Ghana，Ivory Coast， Mauritania，Mauritius，Zambia，Sao Tome and Principe，Cape Verde，Guinea－Bissau，Lesotho，Niger and Sierra Leone．
（New Era 23．11．2021）
https：／／neweralive．na／posts／asa－gaugausenkhanidi－ge－narisarimas－aromas－tsina－ni－sisenxa
（45）Oshanab，Erongob tsî｜Khomas｜kharihâgu ge ．．．｜khari－g－a
Oshana，Erongo and｜Khomas district－be－3PL．m IND ．．．districts－3PL．m－ACC
＇Oshana，Erongo and｜Khomas district are districts that ．．．＇（New Era 18．1．2022）
https：／／neweralive．na／posts／mariona－gaunas－ge－xoa－uxun－tsi－xoa－aixun－xa－a－kai－steenkamps
While avoiding the last repetition of tsî，these constructions still preserve the fundamental syntactic structure of the coordination complex as a single desentential noun in the sense of Haacke（2006）， distinguished by the combined PGN－suffix．

Nowadays，even this syntactic structure seems on the verge of extinction：The construction A［，B］tsî C spreads from verbal phrases to nouns，e．g．with postpositions：
（46）Khoe－n tsî laub－｜guru－n \｜aegu ．．．
people－PL．c and veld－animal－PL．c between ．．．
（New Era 5．7．2022）
https：／／neweralive．na／in／posts／duitshub－ge－namibiab－narisarimasa－omkhai－kais－na－gaigaibasensa－uha
（47）Afrika－b｜Gôa－n－a \｜Khau－ba－s Xoa\｜gui－b tsî Namibia－b ！Hūキhanu－b ！nâ ．．． Africa－SG．m child－PL．c－ACC defend－APPL－SG．f rule－SG．$m$ and Namibia－SG．m constitution－SG．m in．．． https：／／neweralive．na／in／posts／geingob－namibiab－ge－goan－oagu－ha－tsutsu－aina－ni－ariui（New Era 21．6．2022）
（48）Ministeris｜Gapi｜｜Gau！nâs，Texnoloxib tsî｜Asa キâiキui｜gaugu di ministers，Itah Kandjii－ Murangis

The Minister of Higher Education，Technology and Innovation，Itah Kandjii－Murangi（New Era 27．5．2022）
（49）｜Gurun hîa nēpa a ！khōキgāsan ge $\ddagger k h o a n$, ！napan，\｜nâsen，lechwen，xain，impalan，！airin， ！nopodi tsî｜khenadi，tsî noxopa｜nîna．

The allocated animals comprise different species like elephants，hippos，crocodiles，lechwe，kudus， impala，steenboks，sable and guinea fowls，amongst others．
（New Era 29．3．2022）
https：／／neweralive．na／posts／namipeb－ministeris－ge－matiko－goab－aubgurun－ni－auhes－goaga－go－ma

It is not easy to find recent examples of a last tsî with a PGN－suffix：
（50）．．．｜nâse－n tsî hippo－n tsî－n－a｜î̀n hoa－n xa ．．． crocodile－PL．c and hippo－PL．c and－PL．c－ACC they－PL．c all－PL．c by ．．．
．．．crocodiles and hippos，from them all，．．．
（New Era 21．6．2022）
https：／／neweralive．na／posts／gam－i－di－masib－ge－khoen－tsi－aubgurun－omgude－ra－arona
（51）｜｜Nā koro ministeridi hîa ！nan｜gaiba ge \｜ara－aihedi ge：！hūde｜｜khawa kō！gâs， ！norasasib tsî｜lawosasib，maindi tsî｜gaib，\＃khamkhoen tsî キgamキgamsens tsî ｜｜khaubasens tsîna．
The five ministries that were affected by the power cuts include land reform，safety and security，mines and energy，youth and sport as well as defence．
（New Era 2．3．2022）
https：／／neweralive．na／posts／aegams－akhomais－ge－surudeb－kha－khao－ha－han－kha－a－axa，aufgerufen

But the word tsí^iñ̀(ä) cannot be considered as convincing evidence for a desentential construction, because it has grammaticalized to an independent meaning 'also, too'5. Its use is reminiscent of German 'auch', i.e. it is used more often and in more contexts than the English equivalents:

| 52 | Tita tsíltr" !gáisè キkha̋i hà~ä. | I woke up fine, too. | Daureb S. 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 53 | lAedī-aob tsî Kaibes tsîra tsîn ge <br> lae!nā-omde xu !khō!oa <br> \|khāb llga !goaxa. | The (male) nurse and Kaibe also <br> approached reception from the <br> sickrooms. | Daureb S. 5 |
| 54 | Nēsi go \||îs tsîna ¥oaxa Kaibes ge <br> khoena mâ ra \||khaełgao. | Now that she is out, [too,] Kaibe stops <br> comforting people. | Daureb S. 15 |
| 55 | "Tsî tari-i tsîna ge hâ i?" | "And who else is there?" | Daureb S. 19 |
| 56 | Nēsis tsîna ... | Right now ... | \||ÂtarasS.207 |

Adrianus, Hendry: A short video about me. Baumgartsbrunn (Namibia) 24.02.2009. https://youtu.be/gWeEy3fAvlc Amadi, Elechi: ||Âtaras. Translated by L. Namaseb. Windhoek: Gamsberg Macmillan 1997.
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2019.4. https://dx.doi.org/10.3176/lu.2019.4.04

[^3]
[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Khôa!harus Khômail|hasib !na. [Breakthrough to Nama.] |Gôan キkhanis. Xrat 1. Cape Town ²2005, p. 90.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ "Set in a hospital at the Brandberg, this novel sketches the experiences of an overworked doctor and his nursing staff as they endeavour to cope not only with the setbacks in the management of the hospital and treatment of patients, but also with the generally inquisitive and interfering nature of the locals. However, the resulting differences and clashes, played out against a background which is a mixture of the modern and the traditional, do not result in permanent rifts; rather, they serve to forge even stronger bonds in an already close-knit society."

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$, In English when a group of nouns is conjoined together we add 'and' at the end [...] But whereas in Tamil you have to add the suffix உ(ம்) to each and every noun.' (p. 275): Phonetically, the final consonant -m seems to become eroded, but not the bisyndetic principle of the suffix.
    ${ }^{4}$ The unexpected use of the masculine gender seems to be motivated by the fact that both conjuncts are districts, which is a masculine word in Khoekhoe.

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ it is not fully grammaticalized to a particle, though, as can be seen by the case variation NOM tsîn / ACC tsîna which takes up the case of a noun or pronoun referred to, whereas the (pro)noun is in nominative case only, see ex. (54)-(55)

