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4 A medial clause does it all: Coherence, continuity, and addressee involvement in Manambu

Telling a story in Manambu, a Papuan language from the Sepik region of New Guinea, involves extensive clause chains. Within a clause chain, a series of events is expressed with a sequence of dependent, or medial, clauses leading up to a main, typically “final” clause. This is a common feature of Papuan languages. Completive medial clauses stand out as being most versatile. They are employed in recapitulating linkage – serving as a transition between the two clause chains and expressing thematic continuity between the episodes in the linked clause chains. When used non-canonically – on their own and at the end of truncated clause chains – they contribute to coherence and continuity of narratives, and to conversational interactions. Non-canonical medial clauses signal continuity, addressee involvement, and invite a turn-take in conversation. Clause chaining and medial clauses are all but absent from messages on Facebook and social media in Manambu.

4.1 Preamble: What is a clause chain

Telling a story – or reporting a string of related events – in Manambu involves clause chains. Within a clause chain, a sequence of subevents will be expressed with a sequence of dependent, or medial, clauses leading up to a main, typically “final” clause. This is a common feature of Papuan languages.

Clause chains have two major properties (Sarvasy and Aikhenvald forthcoming offer an up-to-date cross-linguistic survey of clause chaining).

First, a clause chain consists of one or more medial (non-final) clauses combined with one final clause. The final clause bears the full specification for tense, aspect, mood, reality status, and subject and other participants. A medial clause

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contains a special marker of dependency. The predicate of a medial clause is typically marked for:

- (a) tense relative with regard to the final clause;
- (b) same-subject or different subject with regard to the following medial clause or to the final clause;
- (c) subject reference, typically for clauses marked for “different subject”. (In some languages, such as Hua, Yagaria, Amele, and Yalaku, a medial clause can be marked for imperative mood; at present, we will abstract ourselves from these rarities).

The clause within which switch reference is marked is referred to as “marking clause”; and the clause (main or dependent) which determines switch reference as “reference clause” (following the conventions in Haiman and Munro 1983).

Second, the syntactic relationship between clauses within a chain is dependent, but clauses within the chain are not embedded within each other.

Clause chains always have to be distinguished from serial verb constructions which never contain markers of syntactic dependency. These constitute a defining feature of clause chains (further discussion is in Aikhenvald 2018: 124–138).

The final clause can be considered the main clause, since it carries the full set of specifications for clausal categories (such as tense, aspect, mood, modality, evidentiality, and also person). Following Dixon’s (2009) definition, the final clause is the focal clause, and medial clauses can be considered supporting clauses.

Organizing clauses into clause chains is a means of packaging information and structuring an event. In a straightforward, canonical situation, the final, focal clause will carry the main event line (see Dixon 2009; and also Longacre 1983: 14–17). Non-main clauses, or supporting clauses, will carry the supporting line and add backgrounded, or explanatory, information (see also Guérin and Aiton 2019: 27; Watters 2009: 99–100 on Kham, and Post 2009: 77 on Galo). Medial clauses are used in bridging constructions, connecting sentences within a narrative. They then serve to highlight continuity or discontinuity between events (see Guérin and Aiton 2019; Aikhenvald 2009, 2019 on the definitional and discourse-related properties of bridging constructions).

A medial clause may occur on its own, with a special pragmatic or semantic effect (an analysis of such non-canonical medial clauses is in Sarvasy 2015 for Nungon and a few other Papuan languages; and also Watters 2009: 99–100 for Kham, a Tibeto-Burman language). Alternatively, a medial clause may follow the final clause, creating a special effect, making the narrative flow and keeping the listener on track (see Sarvasy 2015; and also Aikhenvald 2009, 2008: 455, 493). The focus of this paper is on one subtype of medial clauses in Manambu which stands apart from the rest in its frequency and in the gamut of its non-canonical uses.

In §4.2, we start with background information on Manambu and an overview of clause chains and medial clauses in the language. In §4.3, we turn to a brief survey of recapitulating linkage. Summary linkage between clause chains and within them is the topic of §4.4. Non-canonical uses of medial clauses and their effects in marking continuity in discourse and listeners involvement are discussed in §4.5. The final section offers a summary.

4.2 The Manambu language: A backdrop

Manambu is spoken by c. 3,000 people in five villages (Avatip, Yawabak, Malu, Apa:n and Yuanab (Yambon)) in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea, plus expatriate communities in Port Moresby and in Wewak. Other languages of the Ndu family are Iatmul, Boiken varieties, the Wosera-Abelam dialect continuum, Gala (or Swakap) and Yalaku.

Manambu has a large phonological system (by the Ndu standards: Appendix 1). The language is predominantly suffixing (two prefixes and several dozen suffixes), with productive verb compounding and single-word verb serialization. Grammatical relations are expressed through cases on nouns (see Appendix 2) and also through cross-referencing on a fully inflected verb. Final or fully inflected verbs can have:

- A. One cross-referencing position: the subject (transitive subject A or intransitive subject S, abbreviated as A/S) (if there is no other constituent more topical than the subject), or
- B. Two cross-referencing positions: the subject A/S and almost any other constituent (O, Addressee, Location, Time, etc.) if more topical than the subject.

Uninflected verbs do not take any person-number cross-referencing markers; they include desiderative and purposive modalities and a few aspectual forms.

A member of any word class can occupy the predicate slot within a main clause. Within a main clause, a non-verb takes a special set of nominal predicative cross-referencing enclitics. Within a non-main clause, a non-verb or an uninflected verb will have to occur with the multifunctional support verb *te-* ‘be, become; have’.

Any constituent (including the predicate) can be put in a focus construction, roughly translated as ‘this is what it is . . .’. This is achieved by attaching nominal predicative cross-referencing enclitics to it. There may be more than one focussed constituent in one clause. Focus constructions do not occur in medial clauses. Constituent order in main clauses tends to be verb final, but is not exclusively so. In contrast, constituent order in non-main clauses of all types is verb-final.

A further feature of the language – and the one most relevant to us here – is extensive clause-chaining with numerous markers of switch-reference (see also Aikhenvald 2008, 2009). Other means of clause-linking in Manambu include conjoined dependent clauses and clauses with heterosemous case markers as linkers. These stand apart from clause chains in their semantics and co-occurrence with each other and clause chains (as do relative clauses).

The meanings and the marking of medial clauses are summarised in Table 4.1. As expected, the subject acquires overt marking only in those clauses where it is different from that in the subsequent, reference clause (following the principles formulated in Haiman and Munro 1983; see also Roberts 1997, 2017).

Table 4.1: Medial clauses in Manambu: meanings and markers.

MARKING	SWITCH-REFERENCE	SEMANTICS	SUBJECT MARKING IN MARKING CLAUSE
1. <i>-n</i>	n/a	simultaneous; manner	no
2a. <i>-ku</i>	SS	(i) temporal	no
2b. <i>-k</i>	DS	completive ‘after’ (ii) reason	yes
3. <i>-ta:y</i>	SS	cotemporaneous	no
4. <i>-taka</i>	SS	immediate sequence	no
5. <i>-keb</i>	DS	as soon as: a brief temporal overlap	yes
6. <i>-ta:y-keb</i>	SS		no

The average number of medial clauses per sentence is two or three (about 60% of the narrative corpus); sequences with up to six clauses have been attested. A medial clause marked for switch-reference can be postposed to the main or “final” clause (see §4.4.2). Only one clause within a long sequence of medial clauses can occur in the “wrong” place – and with a discourse effect which we discuss in §4.4.2.¹

¹ My corpus of Manambu contains over 35 hours of transcribed stories of various genres and conversations, and fieldnotes (from participant-observation-based work). I started working on Manambu in 1995. The bulk of the corpus was collected during four lengthy periods of fieldwork in Avatip and surrounding villages in 2001–2016. This corpus is being constantly expanded by on-going interaction with speakers of Manambu. The orthographic conventions here follow Aikhenvald (2008), a comprehensive grammar of the language.

General properties of medial clauses are (Aikhenvald 2009: 122):

- verb-final constituent order stricter than in main clauses;
- only verbs can be heads of predicate of a medial clause;
- a non-verb heading the predicate will have to occur with a support verb within a complex predicate;
- all medial clauses are negated with the suffix *-ma:r-* ‘dependent clause negator’ (in contrast to main clauses which are negated with various particles, depending on tense, mood, and modality).

The strict differentiation between same-subject versus different-subject may be occasionally overridden by same topic versus different topic. In other words, a same-subject marker may also serve to indicate topic continuity within a clause chain (even if the overt subjects are different: see Aikhenvald 2008: 531–533, resonating with Reesink 1983).

The completive medial clause (2a: *-ku* SS / 2b: *-k* DS) is highly versatile. This is the most frequent type of medial clause (found in over 90% of the corpus). It stands apart from other medial clauses in that a constituent within it can be questioned, without questioning a constituent in the main clause. Its many functions in narratives and in conversations are the topic of this paper.

4.3 What is a medial clause good for?

Packaging information into clause chains helps organise different subevents included in the chain and prioritise them. Typically, backgrounded information, additional comments, or “asides”, appear within medial clauses. The main, or the focal, clause presents the main story line. The medial clause will contain supporting, or backgrounded, information.

An example is in (1), from a story about a revolt of women against men. The main story line can be traced through the main (“final” and fully inflected) clauses (their predicates are in italics). There is an intonation rise and a brief pause after each medial clause (typical for all non-main clauses), and a falling intonation at the end of the chain. Boundaries between medial clauses are shown with /. A final (or “reference”) clause is set off with //.

- (1) [*Leplep yaku-le-k*]_{MDC} /,
 swing throw-3fem.sg-COMPL.DS
 ‘After she (one of the women) had swung (her leg),

[*a-di ta:kw yu-ku*]_{MDC}/,
 that-pl woman go-COMPL.SS
 those women having gone,

[*kep-a kwarbam laki ke-kwa-dana*]_{MC}//
 only-LK bush+LOC ginger eat-HAB-3pl
 (they) ate just ginger in the bushland

[*laki gepi-ba-k*]_{MDC}/ [*ke-ta:y*]_{MDC}/
 ginger be.sick-1pl-COMPL.DS eat-COTEMP.SS
 ginger, as when we are sick, (they) having been eating (it),

[*yi-sewul-yak-yi-sewul-yake-dana*]_{MC}//
 go-turn-fully-go-turn-fully-3pl
 they transformed fully (into ginger plants).'

The completive medial clause has a number of further functions. It takes part in recapitulating linkage. The function of recapitulating linkage is to indicate continuity within the main story line, while at the same time showing that the story-line is moving ahead. Recapitulating linkage involves partial or full repetition of the last, or “final” clause of a preceding chain as the first (“medial”) clause of the following chain (see further examples and details in Aikhenvald 2019; an Appendix there outlines the main terminological issues used by previous authors, include “head-tail”, “tail-head”, “backgrounding repetition”, and “recapitulation”; see also Dixon 2009: 8 and Guérin and Aiton 2019: 4).

The repeated verbs within recapitulating linkage in (2) are in bold throughout this chapter. Rising intonation after the repeated verb in the recapitulating medial clause is typical of a dependent clause. There is a pause after it, indicated with a comma. The final verb of the preceding clause in (2a) forms one intonation unit with the verb in the recapitulating clause in (2b) (this is indicated with //). The same applies to (2b) and (2c).

(2) a. [*day-a-di ñan-ugw du-a-ñanugw-a-deka tabati te-di*]_{MC}//
 they-LK-PL child-PL man-LK-child-LK-ONLY ten be/have-3pl
 ‘They had their only male children, ten.’

b. [***Te-ku***]_{RECAP.CL}/,
 be/have-COMPL.SS

[*day-a amæy kwasa ñan ta:l*]_{MC}//
 they-LK-fem.sg mother small.fem.sg child be/have+3fem.sg
 ‘Having had (the children), their mother had a little girl.’

- c. [**Te-le-k**]_{RECAP.CL}/
be/have-3fem.sg-COMPL.DS

[*asa:y ata wa-de-di*]_{MC}//

father thus say-3masc.sg.past.A-3pl.O

‘After she had (a little girl), father said to them (the children) thus . . .’

The recapitulating clause consists of just the verb, and does not include any overt arguments. In this way, it can be considered a reduced, or a minimal, clause. (This is in contrast to other languages, where a recapitulating clause may include some if not all arguments from the main clause, e.g. Ma Manda, a Huon-Finisterre language from Morobe province in Papua New Guinea: Pennington 2016: 490, or a linker, as in Tariana, an Arawak language from Brazil: Aikhenvald 2019).

A recapitulating clause always occurs sentence-initially. In contrast to other clauses containing medial clause markers, it always has a fixed position. Even if the, main, reference, clause is not verb-final, just the verb gets repeated, and the intervening material is skipped. This is what we see in (3). The subject of the reference clause is postposed to the predicate, as a reactivated topic of this stretch of the narrative.

- (3) [*adiya* **re-na-di** *a-di* *Suruali*]_{MC}//,
DIST.DEM.REACT.TOP.PL stay-ACT.FOC-3pl DIST.DEM-pl Suruali
[**re-da-k**]_{RECAP.CL}, [*katela-le-k*]_{MDC}, [*kaw*
stay-3pl-COMPL.DS dawn-3fem.sg-COMPL.DS batalion
waku-d-el]_{MC}//
go.out-3masc.sg-3fem.sg

‘They stayed, those Suruali, they having stayed, after it had dawned, the batalion (of the Manambu) went out (at that time).’

Using Stenzel’s (2016: 437) words, recapitulating linkage works like “a spotlight in an unfolding theatrical production, directing the audience’s attention to specific scenes on the stage”. Recapitulating linkage serves as a transition between the two clause chains, expressing thematic continuity between the episodes in the linked clause chains.

We now turn to the non-canonical uses of the completive medial clause in Manambu.

4.4 Non-canonical uses of the completive medial clause

The non-canonical uses of the polyfunctional completive medial clause go along two lines (a general discussion is in Sarvasy 2015). The medial clause can be used as an independent clause on its own (without the main clause) – §4.4.1. Or it can occur in a non-medial position, postposed to the main clause – §4.4.2.

4.4.1 A medial clause on its own

A completive medial clause occurs on its own, without a main or a final clause following it, in the following circumstances. These can be described as instances of “desubordination” of dependent clauses whereby a dependent clause acquires the status of a main clause (see Aikhenvald 2010, 2016 on this term). Free-standing, or desubordinated, medial clauses are different from those instances where the main final clause is omitted but is fully retrievable from the context. In the instances A–C within this section a final clause cannot be supplied: each instance represents an independent clause used on its own, notwithstanding the fact that its predicate bears medial clause marking (see also Aikhenvald 2008: 505).

A. Addressee-oriented commands

A completive same-subject medial clause can be used in abrupt and oftentimes stern commands, to be followed up immediately (see Aikhenvald 2008: 594–595, 2016: 658).

They are typically addressed to a child, or to a peer. (4) was a stern and annoyed command to a child to get dressed immediately:

- (4) *Wapwi kusu-ku!*
 clothes put.on-COMPLETIVE.SS
 ‘Put your clothes on!’ (Lit. ‘Having put your clothes on!’)

This was pronounced with a sharp rise at the end, typical of imperatives. Note that the command in (4) consists just of a medial clause on its own, with no imperative main clause. The command meaning is understood. The completive meaning of the clause in (4) imparts somewhat peremptory overtones to the command: this is reminiscent of the meaning of urgency, brusqueness and abruptness of commands

cast in perfective aspect across a number of languages (Aikhenvald 2010: 127–129; see Aikhenvald 2010: 275–279, for a survey of free-standing dependent clauses as directives; see also Stirling 1998, for a different effect of desubordinated *if* clauses as commands and requests in English).

A similar form can be addressed to one's peers, requesting and presupposing immediate compliance. A group of women sat down for a meal; (5) was a command for the audience (including the speaker) to pray before eating.

- (5) *Mel kuse-ku!*
 eye close-COMPLETIVE.SS
 'Let's pray.' (Lit. 'Having closed eye.')

Such commands are almost exclusively used by women addressing children, or other women in a peer group – that is, to someone one can easily ask to comply. A free-standing same subject completive clause – addressed to a child or a junior person – can be used as a negative command. (6) was shouted by a mother to her teenage daughter, accusing her of being too lazy and urging her to change her ways. The completive clause on its own does not contain a negator. Its prohibitive meaning is understood within the context.

- (6) *Les yi-ku!*
 lazy go-COMPLETIVE.SS
 'Stop being lazy!' (Lit. 'Having been lazy!')

The girl did not obey. The mother continued, using another completive medial clause on its own, with peremptory intonation typical for a stern command.

- (7) *wiya:r vara-ku!*
 house+ALLATIVE come-COMPLETIVE.SS
 'Return home!' (Lit. 'Having returned home!')

Different subject completive clauses are never used as command strategies of any sort. This is in contrast to a number of other Papuan languages, including Nungon, a Papuan language from Morobe province (Sarvasy 2015), Mauwake (Berghäll 2010), a Papuan language from the Madang province, or Usan, from the PNG Highlands (Reesink 1987: 87, 307–309).

Free-standing same-subject medial clauses in Nungon are used as commands from parent to child. A comparison between a same-subject and different-subject free-standing medial clause in Nungon reveals a difference in illocutionary force: the same-subject form “seems to be brusquer and more urgent than the different

C. Resultative meaning: Inviting the audience to join in

Medial completed clauses marked for same subject are often used on their own with a completive, or resultative, meaning. A speaker came into our house, sat down and said (11). This had the falling intonation of a main clause.

- (11) *marketam kami yapi-ku*
 market fish buy-COMPL.SS
 ‘I have bought fish at the market.’ (Lit. ‘Having bought fish at the market’;
 same subject.)

This was of interest to everyone, and there followed a vivid discussion of how difficult it was to obtain fish, during the dry season. Same-subject marking on the independent medial clause with resultative meaning implies that the same participants will be involved in the action, and the situation, the clause described.

On another occasion, another speaker was showing us a shell she has sewn onto her daughter’s dress, in lieu of a button.

- (12) *batten-a-yai ata tepe-taka-ku*
 button-LINKER-SUBST then sew-put-COMPL.SS
 ‘I have sewn it on in place of button.’ (Lit. ‘Having sewn it on in place of a
 button.’)

This was said within the context of discussing the qualities of the sewing machine and mending clothes. Manambu does not have a dedicated resultative form, so a free-standing medial clause fills this gap – not unlike the way in which a free-standing medial clause is used in Nungon, to express perfect or completive meaning (Sarvasy 2015: 688). In all the instances, the sentence was accompanied by an eye-gaze, inviting the interlocutors to join in.

The resultative use of the completive medial clause on its own in Manambu differs from Nungon, in two respects.

First, only same-subject completive medial clauses occur in this meaning in Manambu. In contrast, Nungon employs different-subject clauses in similar contexts.

Secondly, a same-subject completive medial clause used on its own in its resultative meaning is limited to conversational contexts (and does not occur in planned narratives). This is in contrast to Nungon, where no such restriction applies. It appears that the function of the free-standing clause is not just to express the result of an action: it is a means of inviting, or inciting, the audience and the addressee to join in. This is similar to the way in which free-stand-

ing same-subject medial clauses are used to express commands requiring addressee's compliance (in A) and the addressee's involvement in questions 'where from' (in B).

In each instance in Manambu, a same-subject completive clause on its own involves participation of the addressee(s).

4.4.2 A sentence-final medial clause

Manambu has a tendency towards verb-final order. About 20% of sentences within the corpus contain a constituent postposed to the final verb within a main clause. A medial clause may follow the final, or main, clause, under the following circumstances.

I Clarification and elaboration

The post-verbal position tends to be reserved for constituents – noun phrases, adverbial modifiers, and medial clauses – which provide supplementary information and clarification. Such information may be new and unexpected, or it can provide a further background comment (some examples are in Aikhenvald 2008: 536–538). This is reminiscent of numerous Papuan languages, where putting a medial clause after the final clause is used as a means of clarification (see examples in Sarvasy 2015: 684).

Example (13) comes from a story about two sisters who had been mistreated by their paternal uncle. The uncle understands this and says (13) to the girl's brother (for whom the fact that the girl is angry is also no news).

- (13) [le [le-ke se kwa:l-a tamiya:b]_{REL.CL}/
 she she-OBL+fem.sg sleep stay+3fem.sg-LK area+LK+TERM
 kwa:l aka]_{MC}// [wuna:k
 stay+3fem.sg DIST.DEM.REACT.TOP.fem.sg I+LK+DAT
 warsama-ku]_{MDC}/
 be.angry-COMPL.SS
 'She is in the place where she sleeps, having got angry with me.'

The medial clause 'having got angry with me' is postposed to the main clause, as a reminder and a clarification why the girl wouldn't come out and greet her relative.

the afternoon) and he cannot see properly. The additional information ('afternoon having finished') offers a lead into Wulabikaman's further actions – that is, his failure to distinguish a man from a woman in the dark.

III Completed action presupposing continuation

A medial same subject clause postposed to the final clause and containing the same verb as that in the final clause marks completed action. This action creates a background for the next subevent.

An example of this phenomenon is in (15), from the same story as (14). The man disguised as a woman got up and ran away; the man who had played the practical joke on Wulabikaman ran away. In the second line of the example this is phrased as 'ran away having run away'. The use of the completive same-subject medial clause after the final, inflected verb emphasizes the completion of 'running away'. (Wulabikaman stayed back and didn't sleep, thinking of how he could get his own back.)

- (15) [de a-de du ada
 he DIST.DEM-masc.sg man REACT.TOP.DIST.DEM.masc.sg
*rased-ku*_{MDC/}
 get.up-COMPL.SS
 'That man (disguised as a woman) having got up,
{[*tabu-waku-d*]_{MC//} [*tabu-waku-ku*]_{MDC/}.
 run-go.out-3masc.sg run-go.out-COMPL.SS
 ran out completely (lit. ran out having run out).'

The two instances of the repeated verb form one intonation unit (captured by curly brackets {} and bolded). There is a pause after the medial clause with the repeated verb. That this is not an instance of recapitulating linkage is indicated by

- (a) sentence final intonation after the sentence-final medial clause with the repeated verb (*tabu-waku-ku*) and
- (b) the same-subject marking on the repeated verb; note that the subject of the next clause is different.

A repeated same subject medial clause at the end of a sentence never occurs at the end of a narrative. It signals that one thing is completed and something – and often something dramatic and linked to the preceding event – is to follow.

IV Addressee involvement and turn-take in conversations

Repeating the verb of a final clause cast as a same subject medial completive clause is very frequent in conversations, and especially so with speech reports. Similar to what we saw in (15), the completive clause forms one intonation unit with the preceding final clause. An example is in (16), a part of a dialogue recounted by a speaker within a conversation (further examples are in Aikhenvald 2008: 455, 493).

- (16) a. [le ata wa-l-ek]_{MDC}/
 she then say-3fem.sg-COMPL.DS
 ‘She then having said,
- b. [wa:l ja-kna-d, yi-tukwa]_{SP.REP}
 rain fall-fut-3masc.sg go-PROH
 it will rain, don’t go
- c. [[wa:l je ma:]_{SP.REP}
 rain fall.NEG NEG
 It won’t rain,
- d. {wa-tua}_{MC}// {wa-ku}_{MDC}/
 say-1sgA/S+3fem.sgO say-COMPL.SS
 I said.’ (Lit. ‘I said having said.’)

Sequences of a fully inflected verb *wa-* ‘say, speak’ followed by the completive same subject medial form of the same verb – pronounced as one intonation unit – have sentence final intonation. They are always used at the end of a speaker’s turn. They are usually accompanied with an eye-gaze by the speaker to the interlocutors, as a means of inviting them to contribute: “this is what I said, over to you to say what you have to say now”.

Similar to free-standing commands (A in §4.4.1), a free-standing content interrogative (under B in §4.4.1) and resultative free-standing medial clauses with resultative meaning (under C in §4.4.1), the same-subject completive medial clause sentence presupposes and invites addressee involvement.

The addressee will obviously be a different subject than the speaker. The use of the same-subject form is reminiscent of same-topic continuity – one of the principles of switch-reference in Manambu (along the lines of Reesink 1983 and de Sousa 2006, among others).

We can recall, from §4.3 (example (1)), that medial clauses typically include backgrounded events. In examples like the one in (16), the repeated medial clause

backgrounds what the previous speaker has said, as they offer their turn to their interlocutor, inviting them to follow on.

The instances in III and in IV have two features in common.

Firstly, both involve reduced same subject medial clauses, as no further specifications or participants can be included in the medial clause. Secondly, in both cases sentences end in a completive medial clause – but something has to follow.

This is reminiscent of the phenomenon of grammaticalized, or conventionalised, incompleteness. In many languages, a dependent clause can be used on its own to achieve a special performative effect. For instance, a mild directive in English can be cast as an *if*-clause without a main clause (see, for instance, Stirling 1998 for Australian English, Ford and Thompson 1986: 365 for American English, and Quirk et al. 1985: §11.38, §11.41 for British English, and Lombardi Vallauri 2004: 210–211 for instances in other languages, including Finnish and Japanese). An incomplete utterance can come to be associated with lesser force of a command or a request, leaving the ‘implicature “hanging in the air”’ (see Brown and Levinson 1987: 227; and further examples and discussion in Aikhenvald 2010: 275–279). The effect of what looks like an incomplete sentence – ending in a medial clause in Manambu – is an implicit implicature of something else to come, and an invitation for the addressee to join and to continue what has been left for them to continue.

4.5 To conclude: The medial clause does it all

Clause-chaining in Manambu does many jobs. It is crucial for organizing a narrative by backgrounding actions or states outside the main event line with a clause chain. Completive medial clauses – the most frequent type – stand out as being most versatile.

First, they are employed in recapitulating linkage serving as a transition between the two clause chains and expressing thematic continuity between the episodes in the linked clause chains – §4.3, example (2).

Secondly, they can be used non-canonically – on their own and within truncated clause chains at the end of a chain. They then contribute to coherence and continuity of narratives and to conversational interactions. Non-canonical medial clauses signal continuity, addressee involvement, and invite a turn-take in conversation.

These functions of the completive medial clause are summarised in Figure 4.1.

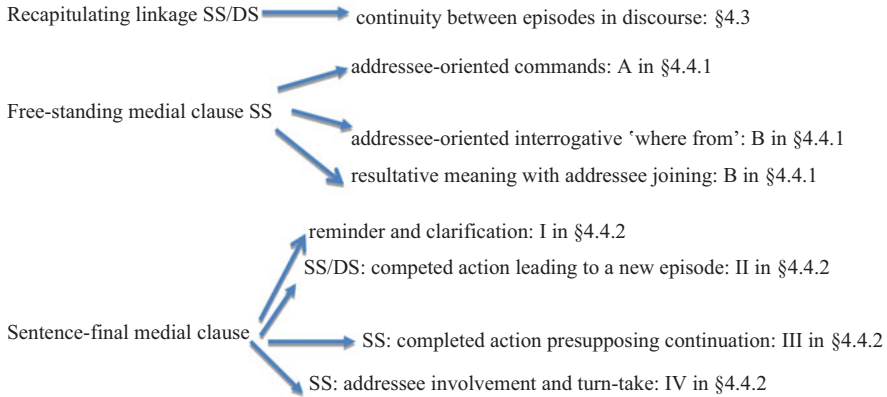


Figure 4.1: The medial clause does it all.

To reiterate: a major function of clause chaining is to provide discourse continuity, coherence, and breaks in the right place. And the medial clause – in its many guises – does it all. The same-subject clause is the most versatile. As a reduced clause – with no other participants or constituents – is the glue that keeps the story going, and the interlocutor alert.

A brief post-scriptum. The introduction of new means of communication – writing, internet, and social media – results in creating new genres, and new linguistic means for their expression. Short sentences with little if any chaining are a feature of new genres – messages on social media such as Facebook and on WhatsApp, and also personal letters. Reduced clauses addressed throughout this paper do not tend to occur in any of these, possibly, under the impact of Tok Pisin and English, the two national languages whose influence is tangible in the evolution of the written language and communication via social media.

Abbreviations

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
A	transitive subject
ACT.FOC	action focus
ALL	allative
COMIT	comitative case
COMP	comparative
COMPL.DS	completive medial clause marked for different subject

COMPL.SS	completive medial clause marked for same subject
COMPL.VB	completive verb
COTEMP.SS	cotemporaneous medial clause marked for same subject
DAT	dative
DEM.DIST	distal demonstrative
du	dual
EMPH	emphatic
fem	feminine
FUT	future
FUT/IRR	future/irrealis
HAB	habitual
IMPV	imperative
LK	linker
LOC	locative
maSC	masculine
MDC	medial clause
MC	main clause
NEG	negative
O	object
OBL	oblique marker
pl	plural
PROH	prohibitive
PROX.DEM	proximal demonstrative
REACT.TOP.DIST.DEM	reactivated topic distal demonstrative
REACT.TOP.PROX.DEM	reactivated topic proximal demonstrative
RECAP.CL	recapitulating clause
REL.CL	relative clause
S	intransitive subject
SEQ	sequential
sg	singular
SP.REP	speech report
SUBJ	subject
SUBST	substitutive case
TERM	terminative case

Appendix 1: The phonological system of Manambu

Table 4.2: Consonant phonemes in Manambu.

	bilabial	labiodent	apico-dental	apico-alveolar	post-alveolar	lamino-palatal	dorso-velar	glottal
voiceless non-labialized stops	<i>p</i>		<i>t</i>				<i>k</i>	
voiceless labialized stops	<i>p^w</i>						<i>k^w</i>	
voiced non-labialized stops	<i>b</i> [^m b]		<i>d</i> [ⁿ d]				<i>g</i> [ⁿ g]	
voiced labialized stops	<i>b^w</i> [^m b ^w]						<i>g^w</i> [ⁿ g ^w]	
voiced fricative		<i>v</i>						
voiceless fricatives				<i>s</i>				<i>h</i>
voiced affricate					<i>j</i>			
lateral trilled rhotic			<i>l</i>					
nasals	<i>m</i>		<i>n</i>				<i>ɲ</i>	
glides	<i>w</i>						<i>y</i>	

Table 4.3: Vowel phonemes in Manambu.

	Short vowels			Long vowels		
	front	central	back	front	central	back
high	<i>i</i>		<i>u</i>	<i>i:</i>		<i>u</i>
middle		<i>e</i>				
low	<i>æ</i>	<i>a</i>		<i>æ:</i>		<i>a:</i>

Appendix 2: Cases in Manambu

- A/S case: formally unmarked
- O case -*Vm*: for personal pronouns, and definite participants which are completely involved in the action (DOM)
- Locative case -*Vm*: location and a constituent completely involved in the action
- Dative/aversive ‘for fear of’ -*Vk*

- Allative/instrumental *-Vr*
- Comitative/perlative ‘along, throughout’ *-wa*
- Terminative ‘until the very point’ *-Vb*
- Two transportative cases *-say* and *-sap* ‘by means of transport, or any object’ (a bit like the instrumental)
- Substitutive case *-yaey* ‘instead of; for something (in exchange)’.

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