

Introduction to Manmino

1 What is Manmino?

Manmino is a constructed language that draws upon a range of East Asian languages for its vocabulary, grammar, and phonetic inventory. Words are drawn from a mix of languages including classical Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Sanskrit, and other regional languages.

Sinitic words are based on Middle Chinese phonology (approximately Tang to Song era), which has fewer tones and a greater variety of word-ending consonants. As a result, pronunciations of words drawn from Chinese tend to fall somewhere between modern Mandarin and Cantonese.

By default, Manmino uses a sentence structure similar to Japanese or Korean. However, sentences have a high degree of structural flexibility. This is primarily due to Manmino's use of a fully-realised particle system that bears a strong resemblance to those found in its source East Asian languages.

By highlighting commonalities in language and the diverse but interconnected cultural histories of East Asia, the team behind Manmino seeks to foster a sense of unity that can triumph over historic tensions and rivalries, creating a free flow of information, ideas, and cultural exchange in the region.

2 Basics

2.1 Alphabet

Manmino is written using the following letters of the standard Latin alphabet. The standard IPA pronunciation is shown below each character, with \sim denoting a range of acceptable pronunciations:

Character	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
IPA	a	b	t ϕ^h	d	e _r	$\phi \sim f$	g	x \sim h	i	d ζ	k \sim k ^h
Character	l	m	n	o	p	s	t	u	w	y	'
IPA	l \sim r	m	n	o _r	p \sim p ^h	s, \mathfrak{s}^*	t \sim t ^h	u	w	j	?

* (s) is pronounced as [ʂ] when preceding (y) or (i).

Glottal stops may be added at the end of syllables where necessary for disambiguation. Where a pronounced glottal stop is non-phonemic (ie does not change the meaning of the word), they are optional to write and are increasingly omitted in modern usage.

Other letters of the Latin Alphabet such as q, x, z, may be used to write words not defined in Manmino, such as proper nouns. Foreign words and proper nouns are always pronounced as closely as possible to their native pronunciation.

2.2 Complex vowels

Although Manmino only has five vowel sounds, it uses an extensive vowel system of single vowels, diphthongs, or triphthongs.

Possible sequences found in Manmino are listed in the following table, with one special case: The letter sequence *{ye}* is only pronounced as a diphthong when preceded by *{s}*. In all other circumstances, the *{y}* in *{ye}* is treated and pronounced as a consonant.

Cluster	IPA	Cluster	IPA	Cluster	IPA	Cluster	IPA	Cluster	IPA
a	/a/	i	/i/	u	/u/	e	/e/	o	/o/
aw	/aw/	yu	/ju/			ew	/e_w/	ow	/o_w/
ay	/aj/					ey	/ej/	oy	/oj/
ya	/ja/					we	/we/		
wa	/wa/			wi	/wi/	(s)ye*	/je/	yo	/jo/
yaw	/jaw/					yew	/jew/	yow	/jow/
yay	/jaj/					yej	/jej/		
waw	/waw/								
way	/waj/					wej	/wej/		

2.3 Pronunciation exceptions

Manmino syllables consist of vowels and consonants in one of the patterns V, CV, VC, or CVC, where V is a single vowel, diphthong, or triphthong.

While specified as aspirated, the precise pronunciation of plosives *{p, t, k, b, d, g}* and affricates *{c, j}* is somewhat flexible due to different pronunciation preferences in East Asia.

In almost all cases, letters are pronounced as written. However, several allophonic rules may be adopted where they make the pronunciation of words by speakers of the various native tongues more straightforward:

Rule	Description	Example
Nasal assimilation	A syllable-final <i>{m, n, ng}</i> may be substituted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with [m] where followed by <i>{p, b}</i> with [n] where followed by <i>{t, d, tç, dž}</i> with [ŋ] where followed by <i>{k, g}</i> 	<i>namta</i> (cry) pronounced /nanta/
Consonant Elision	If a syllable-final <i>{p, t, k}</i> is followed by <i>{b, d, j, g}</i> , the initial letter is dropped and the following consonant pronounced tense or fortis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [b] becomes [p] [d] becomes [t] [dž] becomes [tç] [g] becomes [k] 	<i>yeysut-dek</i> (artistic) pronounced /yeysutek/
Palatalization	If a <i>t, d</i> is followed by <i>y</i> or <i>i</i> , the cluster may be pronounced to become easier to pronounce. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>{ty}</i> may be pronounced as [tç] 	<i>dyawmu</i> (dance) pronounced /džawmwu/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⟨dy⟩ may be pronounced as [dʒ] 	bityaw (need) pronounced /bitʃaw/
Substitutions	<p>Certain other digraphs have permissible alternate pronunciations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⟨ph⟩ may be pronounced as [f] ⟨kh⟩ may be pronounced [h] 	hakhaw (school) pronounced /hahaw/

2.4 Word order

Sentences and clauses in Manmino are arranged in subject-object-verb (SOV) order by default.

There is substantial flexibility to reorder sentences, as long as particles are appropriately used to more precisely specify the function of words in a sentence.

Examples are provided in the table below (use of particles will be discussed in greater detail later).

Word order	Example	Notes
subject-object-verb SOV	<i>Manmin sin yenghwa gen.</i> Everyone is watching the new movie.	Default order, no particles needed
subject-verb-object SVO	<i>A-ji gwao, a sonsit-le kamela.</i> Sorry (my bad), I lost the camera.	-le marks verb as past tense
object-verb-subject OVS	<i>Ni-lu ay ta-na sata ne?</i> You know he loves you, right?	-na marks subject noun -lu marks object noun
object-subject-verb OSV	<i>A co butaw, dan ko-lu a-na amahi.</i> I dislike that, but this I find delicious.	-na and -lu mark nouns
verb-subject-object VSO	<i>Dawmang-ye ni gengcat-lu!</i> You must flee (from) the police!	-ya marks verb with emphasis -lu marks object noun

Manmino is head-final, meaning that modifier words such as adjectives and adverbs are placed before the parent noun or verb. This is not prescriptive but is strongly recommended to align with the expectations of other East Asian language speakers.

When an adjective forms part of a compound noun, the relationship may be made more explicit with the use of hyphens, thus:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Manmino-lu calat-manusya haksip-jung.</i>	Intelligent people are learning Manmino.
<i>Pacim-angin dingin cey.</i>	The west wind is chilly.

In simple sentences, the verb can be omitted altogether. For example, **ni asu bawyu** (You have a dog) can be shortened to **ni asu**.

3 Words

3.1 Classification

In Manmino, words broadly follow the same distinctions of Chinese in having **hosí** (function words) and **syeksi** (content words).

The part of speech that a content word belongs to is determined through context, by its sentence position and the *particles* (modifiers) attached before and after the word.

Particles are a very common type of function word in Manmino, used to remove ambiguity and flexibly reorder sentences for emphasis and personal expression. For example:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Co kucing-lu a gowmay-ye.</i>	That cat, I am buying [it]!
<i>Sala, Tom-na co kucing gowmay wan.</i>	No, Tom wants to buy that cat.

In these sentences, **-na** and **-lu** are particles marking the subject and object nouns respectively. The **-ye** particle adds emphasis to the verb.

These particle suffixes are **not** part of the content word. This is different to English where (for example) the *-ment* suffix is necessary to make the verb *excite* into the noun *excitement*, and the result is a single word rather than two.

In isolation, content words are classified as:

- objects and concepts
- actions and phenomena, or
- qualities

While these categories *ordinarily* correspond to nouns, verbs and adjectives/adverbs respectively, these are not intrinsic properties of the words themselves.

Where meaning can be correctly inferred without the particle, dropping is encouraged, especially in casual speech and conversation. More about Manmino's sentence structure and the function of its particles will be examined in greater detail in later sections of this guide.

3.2 Nouns

Nouns are used in their bare forms and do not require any specific markers relating to gender, definiteness, or plurality. To emphasise or distinguish that a noun is plural, either reduplicate the noun or add the suffix **-tat**.

The function of nouns in a sentence may be additionally specified through the use of a postpositional particle from the following table:

Particle	Function	Example
-na	Topic of the clause or sentence	<i>Ka-ji Jon-na naman cey.</i> His name is Jon.
-lu	Direct object of the verb	<i>Yo pal-lu Jon sik haw.</i> That fruit there, Jon likes to eat.
-ne	The target, origin, or agent of a verb, most similar to Japanese に and French à	<i>A pang-lu sijang-ne gowmay-le.</i> I bought the bread at the market.
-ji	Specifies an attributive relationship to the next noun (including possessive)	<i>Fong-ji lantay da dolong cey.</i> The floor of this room is very dirty.
-bat	The origin of a verb, as in "from [x]"	<i>Ko yulopa-bat kamela.</i> This camera is from Europe.
-bang	The destination of a verb, as in "to [x]"	<i>A leymut mama-bang batsyong-jung.</i> I am sending a gift to mother.
-nay	The location of an action, as in "at [x]" or "in [x]"	<i>Atat Bekhong Bekhap-nay sik-kalu.</i> We will eat at the Pink Lily.

The topic marker **-na** may be applied to the subject of a sentence, but it is not necessary except:

- where a focus or emphasis on that subject is indicated, similar to English “as for”.
- when continuing to talk about something that’s already understood to be the subject
- in dual subject sentences

Manmino	Translation
Hokko ka? Pizza-na Itali-bat cey.	What is this? It is pizza from Italy.
Hanin pan sik? Tom-na pan sik-le.	Who ate the bread? Tom ate the bread.
Hokko ni mengji? A-na Luke mengji.	What’s your name? My name is Luke.
Nami-na jimun ta hayben hang.	Nami asked her to go to the beach.

The object marker **-lu** is used to specify the object if a sentence deviates from the standard SOV structure and the object is not otherwise clarified by other noun markers used in a sentence. In general, it may be omitted unless there is ambiguity in interpretation.

Manmino	Translation
Ni-lu ay ta-na sata ne?	(You) know he loves you , right?
Ko-lu a amahi.	This I find delicious.
Dawmang-ye ni gengcat-lu!	You must flee the police!

The **-ji** particle indicates an attributive relationship and is placed immediately to the left of the related item. The attributive **-ji** is broader than the English possessive sense seen in *their* or *cats*, and can be used for many “X is Y” style statements. The copular usage of **-ji** is discussed in detail later.

Manmino	Translation
Ka-ji denggek da duka-le.	Her punch really hurt.
Luk-ji honi man fuca sik-le.	Luke’s sheep ate all the grass.
Gajek hwaylay wi gyasyok-ji nala s’wa.	Go home and be a family man .

3.3 Verbs

In their plain form, Manmino verbs are present tense. Their tense, aspect and/or mood can be indicated by adding one or more particles, as per the table below:

Particle	Function	Example
Voice particles		
-li	Passive voice, similar to “to be [x]” in English	<i>Ni ka da ay-li.</i> He really loved you.
-hi	Causative voice, similar to “to make [x]” in English	<i>Ka a kijang-hi.</i> She woke me up.
-si	Polite voice, similar to Japanese <i>-masu</i> or Korean <i>-si-</i>	<i>Senseng, penan si ka?</i> Sir, I hope you are well ?
-ye	Imperative voice, similar to Chinese <i>-ā</i> . No other particle may follow if this is used	<i>A ji fong bat kyo ye!</i> Get out of my room (now)!
Aspect particles		
-jung	A continuous or ongoing occurrence, similar to “-ing” verb suffix in English	<i>Gatek nay a keik jak-jung.</i> I’m making a cake at home
-kay	Indicates a habitual or repeated occurrence	<i>Kapaydem kyo-kay.</i> I usually go to the café.
Tense / completion particles		
-le	Indicates a past occurrence, or in combination, that an event has been completed	<i>Ni cut-le ka?</i> When did you leave ?

<i>-kalu</i>	Indicates a future occurrence, or in combination, that an event is predicted or expected to occur	<i>Gwao, a jikep jay-kalu.</i> Sorry, I will be at work.
Register particles		
<i>-ya</i>	Strong emphasis or conviction by the speaker	<i>Ko haw cey ya!</i> That's great!
<i>-ka</i>	Statement is to be interpreted as a question	<i>Ni Inggok-bat lay ka?</i> Do you come from England?
<i>-ne</i>	A suggestive or rhetorical statement	<i>Ayam da haw cey, ne?</i> The chicken's really good, right ?
<i>-mi</i>	Use to ask if a pending action has been completed yet	<i>Ka hwaylay kaday-bat mi?</i> Is he back from the store yet ?

If *multiple* suffix particles are required, they should be added in the order listed above, ie:

- Voice
- Aspect
- Tense
- Register

In addition:

- If multiple voice markers are used, **-li** is placed before **-si** and **-ye**, and **-si** comes before **-ye**
- A maximum of one aspect and one register particle can be used
- If **-ye** is used, **no** aspect, tense, or register markers can follow

Prefix a verb with *but* in order to negate it:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Bong but wankuk mala.</i>	He is unbending despite their stares.
<i>Ni-lu ka-na but ay.</i>	He doesn't love you.

The use of **-si** in polite discourse is particularly important for respectful discourse, with **-siye** used for polite requests:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Gudu hayang a-bang batsyong-si.</i>	Please send the shoes to me quickly.
<i>Bay-ji kafi wan-si ka?</i>	Would you like a cup of coffee?
<i>Kodi-bang lay-siye.</i>	Come this way, please .

The simple tense markers or **-le** and **-kalu** may be combined with each other to indicate whether an event is completed or there is a prospect of it occurring. If it is desired to express that an action commences in the past or future but is continuous, **-le** or **-kalu** may also be combined with **-jung**.

Manmino	Translation
<i>A hakhaw kyo-le kalu, dan da hujan-le.</i>	I would have gone to school, but it was raining a lot.
<i>A sikko gowmay-kalu le dan manggak le.</i>	I was going to buy food, but I forgot.
<i>Ka pati kyo-le kalu dan ka jimun-le kalu.</i>	She would have gone to the party, if only she had been asked .
<i>Atat geymu ken-jung le. Ni atat-nay sigma ka?</i>	We were watching the game. Will you join us?
<i>Nitat gajek nenhaw sikcit-jung kalu.</i>	You all will be painting the house later.

To express information about a retrospective event taking place in the past (sometimes known as *past perfect* or *pluperfect*), or a prospective event taking place in the future (sometimes known as *future continuous*), use the **atwi ne ... kalu** and **apae ne ... le** formulations respectively:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Ni yo atwi syumen-kalu.</i>	You will be sleeping over there later .
<i>Ka apae ne but ligay-le co heng neng-lu.</i>	He had not realised before that could be done.

3.4 Adjectives and adverbs

All words classed as a “quality” can be used as adjectives and adverbs to modify nouns and verbs, respectively, by being placed immediately to the left of the word being modified.

Manmino	Translation
<i>A cenglok katak ken-le.</i>	I saw a green frog.
<i>Ka mama-ne hayang hwaybi.</i>	He had to hide from mother quickly .
<i>Ni bana gwetdeng jiman lay-le.</i>	You eventually arrived at the right decision.
<i>Amnen-ne da geylwan jay ka?</i>	Do I have much egg on my face?

3.5 Part of speech modifiers

Manmino has a system for suffix particles that are used to specify that a word’s default part of speech must be interpreted differently in context. In theory these particles can be omitted when the meaning is clear, but particularly in written Manmino it is recommended that they be included.

If a word is being modified to take on a different function, one of these modifiers should be used:

Particle	Function	Example
<i>-em</i>	Use an action / phenomenon or quality as a verbal noun	<i>A seydek-em butaw.</i> I dislike cleaning .
<i>-ji</i>	Use an action / phenomenon as an adjective	<i>Ben-ji kado cey.</i> (This) is a marked card.
<i>-dek</i>	Use an object / concept word as an adjective	<i>A-ji kado-dek ge'm.</i> My card game.
<i>-yang</i>	Use an object / concept or action / phenomenon as an adverb	<i>Tatat haksip-yang jikep.</i> They (all) are working studiously.

Perfective verbal nouns and adjectives can either be specified by combining a past tense verb with the relevant **-em** and **-ji** particle, or through use of a short particle version:

Particle	Function	Example
<i>-le-em,</i> <i>-lem</i>	Use an action / phenomenon or quality as a verbal noun	<i>Ka busying-lem but-sap.</i> He didn’t say (he) had been injured .
<i>-le-ji,</i> <i>-in</i>	Use an action / phenomenon in perfective (completed) aspect as an adjective	<i>Simang-in sikmut cucut.</i> Remove that dead plant.

Although not normally written as suffix particles, the words **heng** and **cey** function similarly in allowing objects / concepts and qualities to be treated in a verb-like way.

Manmino	Function	Example
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<i>heng</i>	Use an object / concept in a verbal participial form.	<i>A gimya sikko heng.</i> I made food tonight.
<i>cey</i>	Use a quality in a verbal participial form.	<i>A geymu laki cey.</i> I am lucky at games.

Where a word has multiple definitions or could be interpreted in another function, attaching a noun particle such as **-na** or **-lu** to that word reinforces that it should be interpreted as a noun.

3.6 Pronouns

Manmino has a very simple pronoun system in most circumstances, with no distinction between subject and object forms.

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>a</i>	I, me	<i>atat</i>	we
<i>ni</i>	you	<i>nitat</i>	you (all)
<i>ka</i>	he/him, she/her, they/them	<i>katat</i>	they/them (all)

<u>Possessive</u>		<u>Reflexive</u>	
Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>aji, a ji</i>	my	<i>a jisin-na</i>	myself
<i>niji, ni ji</i>	your	<i>ni jisin-na</i>	yourself
<i>kaji, ka ji</i>	his/hers/theirs	<i>ka jisin-na</i>	himself/herself/themself

As with ordinary plural pronouns, possessive and reflexive pronouns can be made plural by adding **-tat** to the root pronouns. That is, **atat ji** translates as “our” and so on.

Because of the added emphasis on the person when using reflexive pronouns, reflexive forms are always expressed as the topic of a sentence.

Manmino	Translation
A jisin-na keik geysuk.	I kept all the cake for myself .
Wan'gu ni jisin-na jak ka?	Is that toy one you made yourself ?

Manmino does have several familiar pronouns, which can be used with close friends or family. Outside of these contexts, their use conveys an air of superiority or disrespect:

Manmino	Meaning	Example
<i>kun</i>	you (male, informal)	Kun yuhi wan ka? You want to play?
<i>nyang</i>	you (female, informal)	Nyang ken-em haw cey. Good to see you .
<i>ini</i>	you (gender-neutral, informal)	Initat, cengcu-ye! All of you , listen up!

These can be substituted for *ni* in any of the pronouns forms above.

3.7 Determiners

Manmino uses the three-way distinction of *this*, *that*, and *over there* for demonstratives, as seen in Japanese and other East Asian languages.

<u>Things</u>		<u>Places</u>	
Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>ko</i>	this	<i>kodi</i>	here
<i>co</i>	that (nearby)	<i>codi</i>	there (nearby)
<i>yo</i>	yon (at a distance)	<i>yodi</i>	yonder (at a distance)

To be more specific about how many of a particular group or person you are referring to, any of the following quantitative determiners can assist.

Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>mu</i>	none	<i>da</i>	many
<i>dwa</i>	both (lit. 'two')	<i>geli-man</i>	most (lit. 'almost all')
<i>hok</i>	some	<i>man</i>	all / every

Following normal Manmino rules, these terms can be used independently, or as qualifiers before noun phrases by adding a **-dek** suffix.

Manmino	Translation
<i>Da-dek kom-tat gudu but cwen.</i>	Many children were not wearing shoes.
<i>Ajat ji dawtat-lu geli'man mi syumen.</i>	When we arrived, most were still sleeping.
<i>Mu-dek badak jihongsik cey.</i>	No rhinos are purple.
<i>Man kilesa cey.</i>	All are sinners.

3.8 Articles

The definite and indefinite articles *the* and *a* do not exist in Manmino. Where necessary, a relative pronoun such as *co* (that), or a clause specifying a quantity like **itgayji** (literally, 'one of these things') can be placed before a noun to convey similar concepts. Both are optional, and the latter rarely used in practice.

3.9 Indefinite pronouns

In addition to the interrogatives, Manmino has a rich range of indefinite pronouns. There are four distinct classes of pronouns. Each follow similar patterns depending on the type of entity being referred to.

<u>Relative</u>		<u>Alternative</u>	
Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>hok</i>	which	<i>ta</i>	other
<i>hokko</i>	what/that	<i>takka</i>	other thing
<i>hoknin</i>	who	<i>tanin</i>	another
<i>hoksi</i>	when	<i>tasi</i>	not now
<i>hokdi</i>	where	<i>tadi</i>	elsewhere
<i>hokyu</i>	why	<i>tayu</i>	otherwise
<i>hok'i</i>	how	<i>ta'i</i>	other means

Note that the words for relative / particular pronouns in Manmino are not the same as the words used for interrogative pronouns (covered in next section).

Manmino	Translation
<i>A ni hok i'buk wan-lu but sata.</i>	I don't know which clothes she wants.
<i>Hokyu ka co heng-na butkasi'i cey.</i>	Why they did that is a mystery.
<i>Ni hokdi kyo-lu sata ka?</i>	Do you know where to go?
<i>Ni ko tasi gowmay-neng.</i>	You can buy that another time .
<i>Tanin itban cu-le.</i>	Someone else grabbed it first.

Universal	Negative		
Manmino	Translation	Manmino	Translation
<i>man</i>	every	<i>mu</i>	none
<i>manmut</i>	everything	<i>mukku</i>	nothing
<i>manmin</i>	everyone	<i>munin</i>	no-one
<i>mansi</i>	all time	<i>musi</i>	never
<i>mandi</i>	everywhere	<i>mudi</i>	nowhere
<i>manyu</i>	all reason	<i>muyu</i>	no reason
<i>man'i</i>	all means	<i>mu'i</i>	no means

Further examples of indefinite pronouns in use:

Manmino	Translation
<i>A ka musi ken wan.</i>	I never want to see him.
<i>Man'i singli siyong ye!</i>	Win by all means!
<i>Munin ko sap-le.</i>	No-one said that.

3.10 Interrogatives

Interrogative pronouns in Manmino follow the same pattern as indefinite pronouns.

Manmino	Translation	
<i>ha</i>	which	Forming questions in Manmino is easy, with the corresponding interrogative pronouns substituted for the relevant part of a statement, and ka added as the ending particle.
<i>hakka</i>	what	
<i>hanin</i>	who	
<i>hasi</i>	when	
<i>hadi</i>	where	
<i>hayu</i>	why	
<i>ha'i</i>	how	
Manmino	Translation	
<i>A jisin-na keik geysuk.</i>	I kept all the cake for myself .	
<i>Wan'gu ni jisin-na jak ka?</i>	Is that toy one you made yourself ?	

4 Sentence construction

4.1 Use of copulas

Unlike English with its single copula “to be”, Manmino has two distinct copulas. Each can be paired with a predicative statement that expresses a relationship or property to the subject noun.

Copula	Function	Examples
<i>cey</i>	Used to assign a property to the subject, or to denote an equative relationship.	<i>Luk-ji tay leng cey.</i> Luke's hand is cool. <i>Gim, co bandal mun cey-ya.</i> Now, that is true art!
<i>jay</i>	Locative copula, used to express some state of the subject relative to space and time.	<i>A jikep-nay jay ji tahi bang da jiman.</i> I will be at work until very late. <i>I'buk-ne dolong jay ka?</i> Do I have dirt on my clothes?

Copulas are used when the focus is intended to be on the property or relationship being expressed. Where the descriptions are simple and/or ancillary to the point being communicated, it is generally sufficient to use the standard noun marking particles like **-dek**, **-ji** and **-nay** instead. Compare:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Ka-ji kucing-dek sanbo-em ...</i>	Her cat-like walking ...
<i>Ka-ji sanbo-em kucing-dek cey-le.</i>	Her walking was cat-like .
<i>Co kosong bay ...</i>	That empty cup ...
<i>Co bay kosong cey.</i>	This cup is empty .
<i>Heta'e sapan-nay bu'e ...</i>	The boat under the bridge ...
<i>Bu'e heta'e sapan-nay kyo jay-le.</i>	The boat has gone under the bridge .

4.2 Conjunctions

Conjunctions are placed between clauses (similarly to English). Manmino makes a distinction between **hwa** (used to join items in a list) and **i** (used to join clauses).

Manmino	Translation
<i>Ko kentang hwa bunci.</i>	That is potatoes and beans
<i>I manmin wajaw bityaw, haw sengmeng yu.</i>	Everyone needs to laugh and have a good life.

Manmino also has two words for alternative clauses (*or* in English). These are not so strictly separated in usage but **pi** explicitly denotes a comparison between the two clauses whereas **hok** does not.

Manmino	Translation
<i>Munin sap hok fong cut neng, samsip menit kyo ji tahi bang.</i>	No one may speak or leave the room for 30 minutes.
<i>Ikan pi ayam haw?</i>	(Do you) like chicken or fish more ?

4.3 Functional phrase markers

Functional phrase markers are used to indicate a particular relationship between a primary and secondary (participial) clause indicating some kind of functional relationship.

The phrase marker attaches to the secondary clause and may be placed before or after it. The primary and secondary clauses may be in either order. However in the case of a verb with no particle (ie present tense), it is more unambiguous to put the functional marker at the start of the phrase.

Manmino	Translation
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<i>Tali siyong-ye mon hangha wi.</i>	Use the rope to close the gate!
<i>Mon hangha wi tali siyong-le.</i>	The gate was closed by using the rope.
<i>Wi mon hanga tali siyong.</i>	Close the gate by using the rope.

All functional particles can be negated with a *but-* prefix. It is assumed that the pragmatics of the sentence will clarify the intent of any negated functional claim.

Particle	Function	Example
<i>dan</i>	Equivalent to <i>but</i> or <i>if only</i> , marks secondary clause as an exceptional statement to the primary.	<i>A coy wan dan a tiku-ne takut.</i> I want to help but I'm afraid of mice.
<i>nyak</i>	Equivalent to <i>if</i> , marks secondary clause as a hypothetical statement to the primary.	<i>A lyawli-kalu nyak ni kaday-nay heng.</i> I will cook if you go to the shops.
<i>syuy</i>	Equivalent to <i>even if</i> , marks the primary clause as an obstructing clause and the secondary clause as a prevailing clause.	<i>Ni cut syuy a ni ay-kalu.</i> Even if you leave, I will love you.
<i>yu</i>	Equivalent to <i>because</i> , marks primary clause as the cause and the secondary clause as an entailed effect of the cause.	<i>Yu niji simang, a singli-kalu.</i> Because of your death, I will win.
<i>wi</i>	Equivalent to <i>in order that</i> or <i>for</i> , marks the primary clause as the method through which the secondary clause objective will be achieved.	<i>Ni jisin-na seydek wi ni nay lay.</i> Wash yourself so you can come inside.

4.4 Prepositions

Noun particles in Manmino such as **-ne**, **-bat**, **-bang**, and **-nay** account for many of the most common instances of prepositions in English. Where it is necessary to describe a relationship more precisely, a prepositional noun may be used along with **-ji** for the primary noun. Thus:

Manmino	Translation
<i>John kaday-nay jay.</i>	John is at the shops.
<i>Manmin laot-bang jay-jung.</i>	Everyone is going to the beach.
<i>Kim-ji bihwa, a kyo but-wan.</i>	Without money, I can't go.
<i>Ka busying-le manaka tosu-ji.</i>	He was hurt during the fight.
<i>A lip gado-ji mukay.</i>	I am standing across the street.

When less formally expressing these relationships, the **-ji** may be omitted.

Manmino	Translation
<i>Ka busying-le manaka tosu.</i>	He was hurt during the fight.
<i>A lip gado mukay.</i>	I am standing across the street.

4.5 Quoting others

The marker **la** can be used to indicate a statement or hypothesis, including marking direct speech. Functionally the particle represents the conjunctive form of “that” in the English language, as seen in the examples below:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Ka-na John senang cey la sap-le.</i>	She said that John was happy.
<i>Baba-na la sap-le a gongwon-bang jay-bitsu.</i>	My father told me I must go to the park.
<i>A beng cey la sikaw.</i>	I think that I'm sick.
<i>Han'gwan ka ko butheng la cengcu-le.</i>	The judge heard that he did not do it.

Where a clause can be substituted for a direct object in a sentence, the use of **la** is generally optional, depending on the sentence context (see following section about complex sentences).

Manmino	Translation
<i>Paul-na a asu bawyu sikaw.</i>	<i>Paul thinks I have a dog.</i>
<i>Paul-na a asu bawyu la sikaw.</i>	<i>Paul thinks that I have a dog.</i>

4.6 Complex sentences

Manmino allows the use of clauses in the place of the direct object without any special indicators, where English might instead use a complementizer such as “that”:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Takashi-na ka hayang dawtat-lu ay-le.</i>	Takashi loved that she arrived quickly .
<i>Ni a-bat cetcu-lu sikaw ka?</i>	You thought (you) could steal from me?

Similarly, complex phrases may be substituted for the sentence topic with the **-na** marker:

Manmino	Translation
<i>Sipsi-meng dawtat-in kom-na leymut syowcu.</i>	The fourteenth child who arrived received a gift.
<i>Imak cengcu-na a-lu senang swa.</i>	Listening to music makes me happy.

5 Ordering and counting

5.1 Numbers

Number	Manmino	Number	Manmino	Number	Manmino
1	<i>it</i>	11	<i>sipit</i>	21	<i>nisipit</i>
2	<i>ni (dwi)</i>	12	<i>sipni</i>	22	<i>nisipni</i>
3	<i>sam</i>	13	<i>sipsam</i>	30	<i>samsip</i>
4	<i>si</i>	14	<i>sipsi</i>	40	<i>sisip</i>
5	<i>o</i>	15	<i>sip'o</i>	50	<i>osip</i>
6	<i>luk</i>	16	<i>sipluk</i>	100	<i>bek</i>
7	<i>cit</i>	17	<i>sipcit</i>	111	<i>bek sipit</i>
8	<i>bat</i>	18	<i>sipbat</i>	200	<i>nibek</i>
9	<i>kow</i>	19	<i>sipkow</i>	222	<i>nibek nisip ni</i>
10	<i>sip</i>	20	<i>nisip</i>	1000	<i>cen</i>

When used in sentences, different count markers need to be appended – depending on the type of object, place, person, or event being counted.

Particle	Function
-meng	human count marker
-dow	animal count marker
-gay	inanimate count marker
-hway	event count marker
-ban	ordinal suffix (first, second, etc)

5.2 Weekdays and months

Manmino uses the same naming scheme as the Japanese days of the week, but using native Manmino terms, so **candahali** is “moon day”, **mwisuhalı** is “water day”, and so forth. Names of months follow the usual Asian tradition of simply combining the number of the month + **canda** (month).

English	Manmino
Monday	<i>candahali</i>
Tuesday	<i>apwihali</i>
Wednesday	<i>mwisuhalı</i>
Thursday	<i>ponjihali</i>
Friday	<i>gamjihali</i>
Saturday	<i>tanahali</i>
Sunday	<i>nitjihali</i>

English	Manmino
January	<i>itcanda</i>
February	<i>ercanda</i>
March	<i>samcanda</i>
April	<i>sicanda</i>
May	<i>ocanda</i>
June	<i>lucanda</i>
July	<i>cicanda</i>
August	<i>batcanda</i>
September	<i>kowcanda</i>
October	<i>sipcanda</i>
November	<i>simocanda</i>
December	<i>sipercanda</i>

5.3 Comparisons

Comparatives and superlatives in Manmino have slightly different forms depending upon whether the ordering is implicit or explicit.

Comparisons between two things use the functional **pi** form, whereas a general statement about uses the simple qualifiers **da** (more), **itban** (first, most), **syaw** (less) and **jisyaw** (least) along with the corresponding simple adjective. For example:

Manmino	Translation
A da day keik bawyu.	<i>I have a bigger cake.</i>
A jisyaw day keik bawyu.	<i>I have the smallest cake.</i>
A-ji keik pi ni-ji keik day cey.	<i>My cake is bigger than your cake.</i>
A-ji keik pi takka-takka itban day cey.	<i>My cake versus all those is the biggest.</i>

As in other similar constructions, the verbs **bawyu** and **cey** may be omitted for simplicity.