

## 41. Enkontru (*Meetings*)



### Objetivu

In this chapter you will learn to:

- Participate in meetings: open a meeting, close it, ask a question, agree or disagree with a previous speaker, and conclude a discussion.
- Express ‘There are many .... who...’
- Recognise verb-subject clauses, and when they can be used
- Use *hodi* ‘in order to/and’
- Express comparisons using *liu...duké*.
- Use *hela* ‘stay’ after transfer verbs to mean ‘and the object stays there’

### Liafuan foun

Note that many of the words in the list below, though used in formal contexts, are uncommon in informal conversation, and not necessarily widely known.

#### Nouns

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>abertura</b>              | opening (of meeting...)         |
| <b>ajenda</b>                | agenda                          |
| <b>asuntu</b>                | topic (of discussion),<br>issue |
| <b>avizu</b>                 | notice, announcement            |
| <b>debate</b>                | debate; <i>Verb</i> debate      |
| <b>ezemplu</b>               | example                         |
| <b>rapat (I)</b>             | meeting                         |
| <b>komentáriu</b>            | comment                         |
| <b>mensajen</b>              | message                         |
| <b>partisipasaun</b>         | participation                   |
| <b>pergunta</b> <sup>1</sup> | question (in formal<br>context) |
| <b>polítika</b>              | policy; politics                |
| <b>pontu</b>                 | point; stitch                   |
| <b>portavós</b>              | spokesperson                    |
| <b>resposta</b>              | reply, response                 |
| <b>MC [ém sí] (I)</b>        | MC; chair (of meeting)          |
| <b>protokól (I)</b>          | MC; chair (of meeting)          |
| <b>rezumu</b>                | summary                         |
| <b>saudasaun</b>             | greeting (very formal)          |
| <b>snek</b>                  | snack (at meeting)              |

#### Examples

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>halo abertura ba...</b> | open (conference...)         |
| <b>foti asuntu</b>         | raise an issue               |
| <b>hatoofoo avizu</b>      | make/post up an announcement |
| <b>avizu sai ona</b>       | announcement is made/posted  |
| <b>halo/foo k~</b>         | make a comment               |
| <b>hatoofoo mensajen</b>   | deliver a message            |
| <b>husu/hatoofoo p~</b>    | ask a question               |
| <b>foo resposta ba...</b>  | reply to...                  |
| <b>halo rezumu</b>         | summarise                    |

<sup>1</sup> The Portuguese plural form *perguntas* is often used.

Verbs

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>akontese</b>       | happen                   |
| <b>aseita</b>         | accept, agree to         |
| <b>hatutan</b>        | extend                   |
| <b>hela</b>           | remain                   |
| <b>konkorda</b>       | assent, agree to         |
| <b>loke reuniaun</b>  | open a meeting           |
| <b>mehi</b>           | dream; <i>Noun</i> dream |
| <b>mosu</b>           | appear, happen           |
| <b>prontu</b>         | ready, prepared          |
| <b>taka reuniaun</b>  | close a meeting          |
| <u>Other</u>          |                          |
| <b>duké</b>           | than (comparison)        |
| <b>hodi</b>           | so that / and            |
| <b>nar-naran deit</b> | any old how, arbitrarily |
| <b>por ezemplu</b>    | for example              |
| <b>tuir mai</b>       | and next                 |

**Saida mak a~?** What happened?  
**aseita pedidu** agree to a request  
**h~ lia** pass on/add to what is said

**k~ ho José** agree (verbally) with José  
**k~ katak...** agree that...



**koalia n~** talk nonsense, talk unsuitably

**Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun**

- ❖ *Pontu* ‘point’ includes: full-stop; stitch (in sewing), and:
  - points made during a discussion; e.g. *Hau hakarak hatoo pontu tolu* ‘I wish to make three points.’
  - *pontu de vista* ‘point of view’
- ❖ English ‘snack’ (pronounced ‘snek’ and borrowed via Indonesian) is often used for the snacks which are provided to participants at some meetings and seminars.
- ❖ *Tuir mai* often introduces the next item in a program, such as the next speaker at a funeral, the next player in a game, or the next statistic to be elaborated on from a set of statistics.

**Kostumi**

- ❖ While many meetings are now held in Tetun, or largely in Tetun, most associated writing, such as minutes and notes, is still in Indonesian or Portuguese.
- ❖ In meetings, it is impolite to use *imi* to address the other meeting participants. Instead, for plural ‘you’, you can use *ita boot sira*, or expressions such as *maluk sira*, or (for less formal meetings) *maun-alin sira*; e.g. *Maluk sira nia hanoin oinsaa?* ‘What do you all think?’
- ❖ You also cannot refer to fellow participants as *nia*. Instead, where possible use the person’s title and name, or simply their title; e.g. *Ohin Senyór Jorge hatete katak...*

### **Kostumi ba reuniaun boot**

- ❖ Question time: When the floor is opened to questions, the chair asks those who want to raise questions to raise their hands, then selects a predetermined number (e.g. 3 or 5) to ask their questions in order. The questions are only addressed after they have all been asked. Question time is often used by participants to present their own comments. Before starting, questioners commonly state their name and organisation (if the meeting is large), and say something like *Obrigadu ba tempu nebee foo mai hau* ‘Thank you for giving me this time/opportunity.’ When you have finished expressing your question, say something like *Hau nia pergunta mak nee deit, obrigadu.*
- ❖ When disagreeing with a previous speaker, some people first agree with parts of the preceding speakers’ views, then state how they disagree or add further thoughts of their own. Of course not everyone is that diplomatic!
- ❖ During the welcoming speech, dignitaries are acknowledged in decreasing order of seniority, and according to a rather fixed formula. In such highly formal contexts, it is common to use the plural forms of Portuguese nouns; e.g. *profesores* is the plural form of *profesor*.
- ❖ Before closing the meeting, the chair presents a formal vote of thanks.
- ❖ For a sample meeting invitation and agenda, see chapter 32.

### **Tekstu: enkontru kiik**

Iha Tibar, senyór Antonio nudar kordenadór ba juventude nian, halo enkontru hamutuk ho juventude sira atu koalia kona ba halo sentina jerál.

#### Kordenadór loke enkontru

“Botardi ba maluk sira hotu nebee oras nee marka prezensa iha fatin ida nee. Hau fiar katak enkontru nee importanti tebes ba ita nia komunidade. Hau moos hein katak maluk sira hotu prontu atu foo sujestaun, atu ita bele hetan rezultadu kapaas.

Ohin lokraik ita halibur malu iha nee atu koalia hamutuk, tau ideia hamutuk, tanba xefi suku husu ba ita juventude sira atu bele harii sentina jerál ida ba ita nia aldeia. Too agora, povu iha nee seidauk iha sentina diak ida.

Agora hau foo tempu ba maluk sira atu hatoo imi nia hanoin, oinsaa atu realiza mehi nee, oinsaa atu halo ita nia aldeia bele sai diak liu tan.”

#### Leo foo sujestaun

Leo foti liman hodi dehan,

“Hau konkorda ho ideia nee, tanba ita hotu hatene, povu iha aldeia nee seidauk iha sentina ida mak ijiéniku. Nee importanti ba ita hotu. Se lae, ema baa sentina nar-naran deit, foo moras oi-oin.

Hau nia hanoin, se bele, halo sentina ida nebee diak i modernu, hada blok, tau azuleju, iha ventilasi, i pinta.”

#### Filomena suporta Leo nia ideia

“Hau moos aseita ideia nee, tanba povu sei kontenti teb-tebes ho sentina modernu hanesan nee, tanba aban-bainrua se iha turista ruma ka bainaka foun ruma mai, sira moos bele uza sentina ida ke diak.”



followed by more information about that person or thing – often the quantity (e.g. *Iha ema balu, Iha buat barak*), and what they do.<sup>2</sup>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. <b>Kalo ita fani, ema dehan “<u>Tha</u> ema balu temi ita.”</b></li> <li>. <b>Horiseik <u>iha</u> malae ida mai iha uma.</b></li> <li>. <b><u>Iha</u> ema balu hemu aimoruk tradisionál hodi prevene malaria.</b></li> <li>. <b>Iha <u>buat</u> barak falta.</b></li> <li>. <b>Depois komesa <u>iha</u> funu.</b></li> </ul> | <p>When you sneeze, people say “Someone has said your name.”</p> <p>Yesterday there was a foreigner who came to (our) house.</p> <p>There are some people who use traditional medicine to prevent malaria.</p> <p>There are still many things lacking.</p> <p>Then there started to be war.</p> |
|---|---|

## 2. Other verb–subject clauses

There are a few other intransitive verbs which can, like *iha*, come before the subject.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. <b>Agora <u>mosu</u> problema barak tebes iha ita nia partidu laran.</b></li> <li>. <b>Kuandu inan isin rua tinan-tinan, bele <u>akontese</u> problema, hanesan inan raan menus, ...</b></li> <li>. <b>Agora <u>hela</u> ema ida deit, toos nain nia oan mane.</b></li> </ul> | <p>Now a great many problems have arisen within our (political) party.</p> <p>If a mother is pregnant year after year, problems can occur, such as the mother being anaemic, ...</p> <p>Now there remained only one person – the farmer’s son.</p> |
|--|--|

Verbs that allow this order include *mosu* ‘appear’, *akontese* ‘happen’, *moris* ‘live’, *hela* ‘remain’ and *falta* ‘be absent, be missing’.

This order occurs in writing and formal speech, but rarely in everyday speech. As with *iha*, the verb-first order occurs only when the subject is not definite (e.g. doesn’t contain *nee* ‘this’) and presents something that hasn’t yet been mentioned in this discourse.

Note that this order is not obligatory; for instance, the first example above can be rephrased as: *Agora problema barak tebes mosu iha ita nia partidu laran*.

## 3. hodi ‘to/and’

You have already learned *hodi* to mean ‘be used for’:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. <b>Hau presiza osan <u>hodi</u> selu eskola.</b></li> <li>. <b>Baa foti sanan boot mai <u>hodi</u> tein etu.</b></li> </ul> | <p>I need money to pay for school.</p> <p>Go and fetch the large saucepan to cook the rice in.</p> |
|--|--|

*Hodi* can also be used to connect to verb phrases, where the first one describes something that is done in order to achieve the second. In this it is rather like *para* and *atu* ‘so that’. The difference is that *hodi* gives the strong implication that the purpose was achieved, while *para* and *atu* have no such implication.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. <b>Horiseik Ina baa loja <u>hodi</u> sosa livru.</b></li> <li>. <b>Horiseik Ina baa loja <u>para/atu</u> sosa livru.</b></li> </ul> | <p>Yesterday Ina went to the shop to buy books (and she indeed bought them).</p> <p>Yesterday Ina went to the shop to buy books. (There is no indication as to whether she bought them.)</p> |
|--|--|

<sup>2</sup> These clauses are not introduced by *nebee*, like other relative clauses are.

Because of this strong implication that the purpose actually happened, *hodi* is sometimes better translated as ‘and’ than as ‘in order to’. Here are some more examples.

- . **Nia bolu ema moras nee mai hodi dehan “...”** He called the sick person over to say / and said “...”
- . **Kuandu moras, tenki baa konsulta hodi bele hetan tratamentu hosi doutór sira.** When you are sick, you must go for a medical consultation so that / and you will be treated by the doctors.
- . **Ami lor-loron faan sasaan hodi hetan osan ba sustenta uma laran.** Every day we sell things to earn money to sustain the household.

#### 4. liu ... duké ‘more than’

You have already learned to express comparisons using *liu*. This is most common when it is the subject that is compared with something else.

- . **Nia ulun mamar liu hau.** He is quicker to learn than I am.
- . **Hau boot liu nia lori tinan neen.** I am six years older than he is.
- . **Ba fetu isin rua, kuandu deskansa, se bele, tula ain halo aas liu ita nia ulun.** For pregnant women, when resting, if possible, raise your legs higher than your head.

For other comparatives, the object of comparison is usually introduced by *duké*.

- . **Iha 1999, ema barak liu hili independénsia duké autonomia.** In 1999, more people chose independence than autonomy.
- . **Diak liu ita haan lai, mak baa, duké orsida hamlaha iha dalan.** It would be better to eat before going, than to be hungry during our trip.
- . **Hau gosta liu joga basket duké joga voli.** I prefer playing basketball to volleyball.

#### 5. husik hela ‘leave behind’

*Hela* ‘stay’ comes after verbs of giving, putting, leaving, or throwing, to indicate that the object being moved stays in its new location, at least temporarily.<sup>3</sup>

- . **Hau halai ba Atambua, hau nia feen, hau nia oan, hau husik hela iha Timor.** When I escaped to Atambua, I left my wife and children behind in Timor.
- . **Hahaan nee tenki haan kedas; la bele rai hela.** This food must be eaten immediately; it can’t be put aside.
- . **Orsida, lori hela ema nia bikan sira nee ba entrega.** Later, take these plates and deliver them to the owner. (Lit. ‘Take these plates belonging to someone else and deliver them.’)

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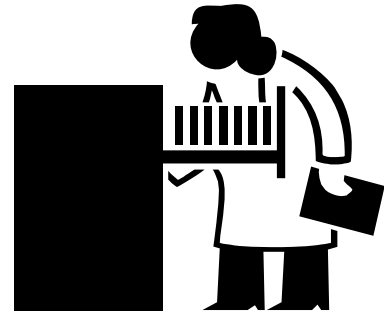
<sup>3</sup> Note that in principle this *hela* is ambiguous between a progressive aspect interpretation and a ‘leave it there’ interpretation. e.g. *Sira soe hela dai* could mean either ‘They were casting a net’ (with progressive *hela*), or ‘They threw the net down (with *hela* meaning ‘stay’).

## 42. Administrasaun (*Administration*)

### Objetivu

In this chapter you will learn to:

- Talk about office equipment and administrative procedures
- Express in Tetun what English handles by passive constructions



### Liafuan foun

Since Indonesian was the language of administration for many years, some things are more widely known by their Indonesian than their Portuguese names.

#### Office equipment

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>agrafadór</b>      | stapler                        |
| <b>hektek (I)</b>     | stapler                        |
| <b>alfabetu</b>       | alphabet                       |
| <b>arkivu (P)</b>     | file; <i>Verb</i> file         |
| <b>arsip (I)</b>      | file; <i>Verb</i> file         |
| <b>fail (Eng)</b>     | file; <i>Verb</i> file         |
| <b>boraixa</b>        | rubber, rubber band,<br>eraser |
| <b>apagadór</b>       | eraser                         |
| <b>dezenyu</b>        | drawing, picture               |
| <b>dokumentu</b>      | document                       |
| <b>envelope</b>       | envelope                       |
| <b>amplop (I)</b>     | envelope                       |
| <b>fita kola (P)</b>  | sticky tape                    |
| <b>isolasi (I)</b>    | sticky tape                    |
| <b>foer fatin</b>     | rubbish bin                    |
| <b>foto</b>           | photo                          |
| <b>gaveta</b>         | drawer                         |
| <b>goma</b>           | glue; <i>Verb</i> glue         |
| <b>kola</b>           | glue; <i>Verb</i> glue         |
| <b>kalendáriu</b>     | calendar                       |
| <b>kalender (I)</b>   | calendar                       |
| <b>kalkulatór (I)</b> | calculator                     |
| <b>karimbu</b>        | stamp (rubber)                 |
| <b>kartaun</b>        | card                           |
| <b>kateri</b>         | scissors                       |
| <b>tezoura</b>        | scissors                       |
| <b>klip (I)</b>       | paper clip; <i>Verb</i> clip   |
| <b>komputadór</b>     | computer                       |
| <b>komputer (I)</b>   | computer                       |
| <b>kuadru</b>         | board                          |
| <b>lapis</b>          | pencil                         |

#### Associated activities

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>agrafa surat</b>                | staple papers                     |
| <b>habit surat</b>                 | staple/clip papers                |
| <b>tau tuir alfabetu</b>           | sort alphabetically               |
| <b>tau dokumentu iha a~</b>        | place a document in a file        |
| <b>foti surat hosi a~</b>          | retrieve a letter out of the file |
| <b>arsip laporan iha nee</b>       | file the report here              |
| <b>kesi fuuk ho boraixa</b>        | tie hair with a rubber band       |
| <b>apaga liafuan ke sala</b>       | erase a wrong word                |
| <b>tau surat ba envelope</b>       | put a letter in an envelope       |
| <b>taka dezenyu ba didin lolon</b> | stick a picture on the wall       |
| <b>tau foer ba foer fatin</b>      | put rubbish in the bin.           |
| <b>hasai foto</b>                  | take a photo                      |
| <b>goma envelope</b>               | glue up an envelope               |
| <b>kola foto ba formuláriu</b>     | paste a photo to a form           |
| <b>konta osan</b>                  | add up/count money                |
| <b>tau karimbu ba surat</b>        | stamp a document                  |
| <b>tesi surat tahan ho k~</b>      | cut a piece of paper              |
| <b>k~ surat tahan hamutuk</b>      | clip pages together               |
| <b>pasa laporan ba k~</b>          | type a report into the computer   |
| <b>pinta dezenyu</b>               | draw a picture                    |

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>lapizeira</b>        | pen, biro                             |
| <b>mákina</b>           | photocopy machine                     |
| <b>fotokopi</b>         |                                       |
| <b>map (I)</b>          | folder                                |
| <b>mapa (P)</b>         | folder; map                           |
| <b>petá (I)</b>         | map                                   |
| <b>nota</b>             | memo                                  |
| <b>mesín ketík (I)</b>  | typewriter                            |
| <b>poster (I)</b>       | poster                                |
| <b>régua</b>            | ruler                                 |
| <b>spidól (I)</b>       | permanent marker, whiteboard marker   |
| <b>surat</b>            | letter, document                      |
| <b>surat tahan</b>      | sheet of paper                        |
| <b>tahan</b>            | sheet                                 |
| <b>tipeks</b>           | liquid paper, whiteout <sup>1</sup>   |
| <i>Other nouns</i>      |                                       |
| <b>asinatura</b>        | signature                             |
| <b>daftar (I)</b>       | registration;<br><i>Verb</i> register |
| <b>fotokopi (I)</b>     | photocopy; <i>Verb</i>                |
| <b>fotokópia (P)</b>    | photocopy; <i>Verb</i> <sup>2</sup>   |
| <b>laporan (I)</b>      | report                                |
| <b>relatóriu</b>        | progress report                       |
| <i>Transitive verbs</i> |                                       |
| <b>agrafa</b>           | staple                                |
| <b>apaga</b>            | erase                                 |
| <b>aruma</b>            | tidy up, put away                     |
| <b>asina</b>            | sign (your name)                      |
| <b>cek (I)</b>          | check                                 |
| <b>entrega</b>          | deliver, hand over                    |
| <b>habit</b>            | squeeze, clip, peg                    |
| <b>haloos</b>           | correct; straighten                   |
| <b>haloot</b>           | tidy up, put away                     |
| <b>hanehan</b>          | place a fingerprint                   |
| <b>liman</b>            |                                       |
| <b>ketík (I)</b>        | type                                  |
| <b>koriji</b>           | correct                               |
| <b>lakon</b>            | lose; lost, defeated                  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>fotokopi dokumentu</b>                    | photocopy a document                        |
| <b>tau surat iha mapa</b>                    | place a letter in a folder                  |
| <b>ketík surat</b>                           | type a letter                               |
| <b>taka poster ba didin lolon</b>            | stick a poster to the wall                  |
| <b>riska surat tahan hakerek ba kuadru</b>   | draw a line on a page<br>write on the board |
| <b>hamoos letra nebee sala</b>               | delete erroneous letters                    |
| <b>hau presiza ita nia a~</b>                | I need your signature                       |
| <b>fotokopi livru nee halo fotokópia rua</b> | photocopy this book<br>make two photocopies |
| <b>Asina iha nee.</b>                        | Sign here.                                  |
| <b>entrega laporan ba xefi</b>               | hand in a report to the boss                |



<sup>1</sup> This is one of several things for which Timorese use brand names, even if the particular object being referred to is not of that brand. Other examples where brand names are commonly used are clothes-washing powder (e.g. *Rinso*, *Klin*, *Omo*), fly spray (*Baygon*), and water pumps (*Sanyo*, *Dap*).

<sup>2</sup> In Portuguese, the noun is stressed as *fotokópia*, and the verb as *fotokopia*. In Tetun, both are stressed on the 'o'.

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>pasa</b>        | pass                                |
| <b>print</b> (Eng) | print                               |
| <b>prova</b>       | test; prove                         |
| <b>rejista</b>     | register                            |
| <b>riska</b>       | draw a line on;<br><i>Noun</i> line |
| <b>trata</b>       | arrange; treat                      |
| <b>urus</b> (I)    | arrange (bureaucratic)              |

Intransitive verbs/adjectives

**dúvida** doubtful, unsure;  
*Noun* doubt

**klaru** clear

**tau naran** register

Other

**keta halo** (be) lest

**r~ partidu foun**

register a new party



**tau naran iha misaun**

register at the mission

**Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun: nominál**

- ❖ *Boraixa* is rubber, as a substance (e.g. *Sapatu nee halo hosi boraixa* ‘These shoes are made of rubber’), as ‘rubber band’, and as ‘eraser’.
- ❖ Computer terms: Most computer users have learned to use computers since 1999. Since most use English-language software, they use tend to use English terms like ‘print’ and ‘file’, which also occur in Indonesian.
- ❖ Reports: Indonesian *laporan* is used for a wide range of written and oral reports. *Relatóriu* is mainly used of progress reports, such as reports to a meeting of what one has done or observed.
- ❖ *Kuadru* includes blackboard, whiteboard, noticeboard.
- ❖ *Tahan* is used for counting flat sheet-like objects, such as paper, roofing iron, or playing cards; e.g. *kaleeng tahan tolu* ‘three sheets of iron’, *fotokopi tahan haat* ‘four pages of photocopy’. *Tahan* literally means ‘leaf’.

**Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun: verbu ho selu-seluk tan**

- ❖ *Habit* refers to squeezing something between two things; hence:
  - *Habit hamutuk surat vota lima-nulu* ‘Staple/clip fifty ballot papers together.’
  - *Lori au habit ain tohar nee* ‘Use bamboo to splint the broken leg.’
  - *Habit ropa ba arame* ‘Peg clothes on a line.’
- ❖ *Haloot* (native Tetun) and *aruma* (from Portuguese *arrumar*) both mean ‘put in its right place, tidy up’.
  - *Fasi bikan hotu, haloot/aruma tia ba armáriu* ‘After washing the dishes, put them away in the cupboard.’
  - *Molok atu baa eskola, aruma tia kama lai.* ‘Before going to school, tidy up (your) bed.’
- ❖ *Lakon* is both transitive ‘lose’ and intransitive ‘be lost’.
  - Transitivity, it includes losing something permanently (e.g. through gambling one’s money away), losing someone (through death), and failing (an exam).

- Intransitively, it includes getting lost, being misplaced, disappearing, and being defeated (in sports or war).
- ❖ *Pasa* ‘pass’ has a range of transitive uses:
  - *pasa bola ba kolega* ‘pass the ball to a team mate’
  - *pasa informasaun ba komputadór* ‘type information into the computer’
  - *pasa Natál iha Dare* ‘spend Christmas in Dare’; *pasa semana tolu iha Bali* ‘spend three weeks in Bali’
  - *pasa ezame* ‘pass an exam’ (= *liu ezame*)
- Intransitively it means ‘pass, be cured’: *Moras nee pasa tia ona*. ‘The illness was cured’
- ❖ *Prova* includes both ‘prove’ and ‘test (to see whether something is correct)’. For instance, a teacher may *prova* a student to determine whether she has learned her work.
- ❖ *Trata / urus*: When you *urus* an official document (such as a visa, drivers’ licence, or birth certificate) you pursue it through the bureaucracy. This Indonesian loan has connotations of working your way through multiple offices on multiple occasions. *Trata surat* is the same as *urus surat*. Note that *tarata* means ‘insult, speak badly about’.
- ❖ *Keta halo* and *keta halo be* ‘lest’ are primarily used in speaking.
  - *Diak liu foo aimoruk kedas ba labarik hemu. Keta halo be nia orsida isin manas liu tan!* ‘It would be better to give the child medicine immediately, lest the fever get even worse.’
  - *Diak liu servisu! Keta halo be xefi fila derepenti, haree ita halimar hela deit!* ‘You’d better work, lest the boss suddenly return and find you just hanging around.’
  - *Kalan ona, ami hanoin hela deit. Keta halo orsida milísia mai.* ‘It was already evening, and we were worried: what if the militia would come later.’

## Diálogu

### (1) Rui husu kartaun rejistu foun

**Rui nia kartaun rejistu lakon. Nia baa kantor rejistu iha Dili atu hasai foun. Too iha kantor rejistu, nia hasoru malu ho nia kolega eskola uluk, i nia husu ajuda ba kolega nee.**

Rangel: **Hai Rui! Diak ka lae? Kleur ona ita la hasoru malu.**

Rui: **Sín, tanba hau agora hela iha Metinaro.**

Rangel: **Ita mai iha Dili, halo saida?**

Rui: **Hau mai atu trata hau nia kartaun rejistu, tanba lakon. Ita bele ajuda hau ka lae?**

Rangel: **Tansaa mak la bele? Lori sertidaun batizmu ho surat hosi xefi suku ka lae?**

Rui: **Hau tenki lori sertidaun ho surat hosi xefi suku?**

Rui’s registration card is lost. He goes to the registration office in Dili to get a new one. When he reaches the registration office, he meets an old school friend, and asks this friend for help.

Hey, Rui! How are you? We haven’t met for a long time.

Yes, because I live in Metinaro now.

What have you come to Dili for?

I came to get a (new) identity card, because (my old one) is lost. Can you help me?

Why couldn’t I? Did you bring your baptism certificate and a letter from the village head?

Did I need to bring a certificate and a letter from the village head?

- Rangel: **Sín. Ami presiza sertidaun atu bele hatene ita nia data moris. Lori surat hosi xefi suku atu bele prova ita nia hela fatin.** Yes. We need the certificate so we can tell your birth date. Bring a letter from your village head to prove where you live.
- Rui: **Se nunee, hau tenki fila fali ba Metinaro lai. Obrigadu. Adeus.** In that case, I must return to Metinaro first. Thanks. Good-bye.

## (2) Prepara laporan

- Senyora Fatima koalia ho Lucrecia kona ba servisu ke nia tenki halo ohin loron iha kantor distritu Dili.** Mrs Fatima talks with Lucrecia concerning the work which she needs to do today in the Dili district office.
- Fatima: **Senyora Lucrecia, hau koriji tia ona laporan orsamentu nebee ita boot halo horiseik.** Mrs Lucrecia, I have corrected the budget report which you produced yesterday.
- Lucrecia: **Loos hotu ka, lae? Tanba hau dúvida hela, keta halo be númeru nebee mak hau hetan la kompletu.** Was it correct? Because I was still unsure, what if I had received incomplete numbers.
- Fatima: **Sín. Ida-rua falta duni. Maibee hau aumenta tia ona. Agora ita boot hadia fali iha komputadór, depois print tahan haat, lori ba xefi asina.** Yes, there were a few missing. But I have added them. And now, please correct it in the computer, then print four copies, and take them to the boss to sign.
- Lucrecia: **Ita boot agora atu baa nebee?** Where are you going now?
- Fatima: **Ami iha reuniaun ida iha ministériu. Kala too tuku sanulu resin ida karik. Favór ida, orsida, ita boot agrafa hamutuk surat hirak nebee horiseik simu hosi ministériu, depois arkivu.** We have a meeting at the ministry. Until about eleven o'clock. Please, staple together the papers which we received yesterday from the ministry, then file them.
- Lucrecia: **Laporan nebee asina tia, tahan ida haruka keda ba finansa ka?** Once the reports are signed, do you want me to send one copy to finance immediately?
- Fatima: **Prepara tia, aban mak hau haruka. Diak. Entaun klaru ona, hau baa lai, atelogu.** After you've prepared it, wait until tomorrow and then I'll send it. So, if that's all clear, I'll go now. See you later.
- Lucrecia: **Atelogu.** See you later.

## Estrutura língua nian

### 1. *Detransitivising prefixes nak-, nam-*

Tetun does not have true passives. However there are several ways in which passive-like clauses can be created.

One is to use the prefix *nak-* or *nam-* to derive an intransitive passive-like verb. Not many words use these prefixes in Tetun Dili. Here are some common examples:

Transitive verbs

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>doko</b>  | shake, rock (something), nod (head) |
| <b>duir</b>  | roll (something)                    |
| <b>fakar</b> | spill (something), tip out          |
| <b>fera</b>  | split (something)                   |
| <b>lees</b>  | tear (something)                    |
| <b>loke</b>  | open (something)                    |
| <b>sobu</b>  | demolish, take to pieces, break up  |
| <b>kari</b>  | scatter (e.g. seeds for planting)   |
| <b>kore</b>  | undo (e.g. a button), untie         |

Intransitive verb

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>nakdoko</b>  | shake, be shaken, rock       |
| <b>nakduir</b>  | roll                         |
| <b>nakfakar</b> | spill, be spilled            |
| <b>nakfera</b>  | split open, shatter, explode |
| <b>naklees</b>  | tear, be torn                |
| <b>nakloke</b>  | open, be opened              |
| <b>naksobu</b>  | come apart, be demolished    |
| <b>namkari</b>  | scatter, be scattered        |
| <b>namkore</b>  | come undone                  |

Note that *doko ulun* includes both ‘shake head’ (meaning ‘no’) and ‘nod head’ (meaning ‘yes’).

The following examples illustrate the difference between the root and the derived verb:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| . <b>Loke odamatan lai.</b>                                | Open the door.   |
| . <b>Odamatan <u>nakloke</u> ba ita boot sira hotu.</b>    | The door is open to all of you.                          |
| . <b>Nia <u>fakar</u> bee ba rai.</b>                      | He spilled water onto the ground (on purpose).           |
| . <b>Bee nee <u>nakfakar</u> hotu bainhira baldi monu.</b> | The water all spilled out when the bucket fell.          |
| . <b>La bele <u>doko</u> bebee hanesan nee!</b>            | Don’t shake/rock the baby like that!                     |
| . <b>Kareta <u>nakdoko</u> tanba dalam aat.</b>            | The car shakes/bounces around because the road is rough. |

The derived *nak-* (or *nam-*) verb does not imply that anyone caused the situation. For instance, *hau nia ropa naklees* ‘my clothes tore’ can be used if the cloth tore of its own accord (perhaps because it was so worn out, or was caught on a thorn), but can also be used if someone tore it; in the latter case, using *naklees* usually implies that whoever tore it did not intend to do so. If someone tore it on purpose, you would more likely say something like *Emalees hau nia ropa* ‘Someone tore my clothes.’

## 2. Topicalise the object

A major function of passives in other languages is to make the ‘patient’ noun phrase (identifying the person or thing to which the action is done) the subject. As subject, it tells you what the clause is about. For instance, if when discussing Italian soccer (a popular topic in Timor) you say *AC Milan defeated Juventus yesterday*, you are focusing on the AC Milan team; however if you use the passive and say *Juventus was defeated (by AC Milan) yesterday*, it is instead the *Juventus* team that is foregrounded.

In Tetun, the patient cannot be made the subject, but it can be placed in front of the clause as a ‘topic’.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| . <b>Hau nia oan nain tolu nee, hau la bele husik mesak deit.</b> | These three children of mine – I can’t just leave them on their own.            |
| . <b>Hau nia uma ahi haan.</b>                                    | My house was burned down (lit. ‘fire ate it’).                                  |
| . <b>João ho José nee, polísia baku too tasak.</b>                | João and José were bashed by the police till they were black and blue all over. |

## 3. Omit the subject

Another function of passives in many languages is to let you avoid saying ‘who did it’.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Omitting the agent is very common in academic, technical and bureaucratic writing. For instance, in these genres one is more likely to write ‘This research was conducted in 1987’ than ‘We/... conducted this research in 1987.’ Such impersonal writing is difficult to translate well into Tetun. For more comments on this and other

In Tetun there are some circumstances in which you can simply omit the subject. If the object is fronted and the subject omitted, you get a clause with object–verb word order, such as in the examples below. Such an order seem to be easier if the object is inanimate, or otherwise unable to be interpreted as the subject.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| . <b>Forai nee daan; la sona ida.</b>                        | These peanuts were boiled, not fried.  |
| . <b>Labarik nee hanorin hanorin la tama.</b>                | This child was disciplined/taught over and over again, but the teaching never sunk in. |
| . <b>Relatóriu nee entrega tia ona ba primeiru ministru.</b> | This report has been submitted to the prime minister.                                  |
| . <b>Planu nee seidauk aprova.</b>                           | This plan has not yet been approved.   |
| . <b>Problema nee la bele rezolve lailais.</b>               | This problem can't be resolved quickly.  |

As the examples above show, the subject can be omitted when the identity of the agent is not considered relevant; for instance, we may be interested just in whether the peanuts have been boiled or fried, not in who actually did the boiling or frying.

Some verbs occur very commonly in this order, including *loke* 'open', *taka* 'close', *tama* 'enter, start' and *sai* 'exit, finish'. For instance, while it is possible to say *Sira loke loja nee tuku hitu* 'They open the shop at seven o'clock', it is more normal to say *Loja nee loke tuku hitu*, without an agent.

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| . <b>Loja nee loke tuku hira?</b> | What time does the shop open? |
| . <b>Banku taka tia ona.</b>      | The bank has already closed.  |
| . <b>Eskola tama tuku hira?</b>   | What time does school start?  |

The subject can often also be omitted if the agent is someone you have already been talking about.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| . <b>Ami foo aimoruk. Aimoruk nee foo baa la pasa, ami lori ema moras nee too ba Dili.</b> | We gave (the patient) medicine. When (we) had given the medicine but he wasn't cured, we took the sick person to Dili. |
| . <b>Imi hakarak faan karau nee ka? – Lae, karau nee foin sosa.</b>                        | Do you want to sell this buffalo? – No, (we) only just bought it.  |
| . <b>Sira buka uma atu aluga, maibee la hetan.</b>   | They looked for a house to rent, but (they) didn't find one.   |

#### 4. Generalise the subject as *ema*

Another way to avoid saying 'who did it' is to use generic *ema* 'someone, person, people' as the subject.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| . <b>Balu mate, balu kiik-oan sira nee ema sama.</b>                | Some people died (in the stampede), some little ones were trampled. |
| . <b>Ema bele estraga hotu ami, liu-liu ami feto nain tolu nee.</b> | We could have all been hurt/raped, especially we three women.       |
| . <b>Ema la foo ami sai.</b>  | We weren't allowed to leave.  |

Note though that *ema* implies 'someone else', and as such can't really be used to avoid referring to yourself as subject. (Such avoidance is one function of passives in bureaucratic English writing.)

### 5. Demote the subject with hosi ‘from’

Occasionally the agent of an object-first clause is introduced by *hosi* ‘from’. The following example uses a formula (*Liafuan hirak nee hatoo hosi...*) typically found in newspapers. For further examples see section 7 below.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>. <b>Liafuan hirak nee hatoo hosi<br/>administradór Bobonaro iha sesta-feira<br/>semana kotuk.</b></p> | <p>This message/opinion... (which we have just reported) was given by the administrator of Bobonaro last Friday.</p> |
|---|--|

### 6. Portuguese passives

Formal high-level Tetun has borrowed some passive forms from Portuguese. Many are easily recognisable from their English cognates.

The masculine forms listed below end in *-adu* if the verb itself ends in *-a* (e.g. *akuzadu* ‘accused’ – *akuza* ‘accuse’), and in *-idu* if the verb ends in *-i* or *-e* (e.g. *inkluidu* ‘included’ – *inklui* ‘include’). The feminine forms all end in *-a* instead of *-u* (e.g. *akuzada* instead of *akuzadu*). In the high-level Portuguese-influenced Tetun in which these words tend to occur, it is not uncommon to make adjectives agree with the gender of the modified noun, just as in Portuguese.

| <u>Portuguese loan</u> | <u>English</u>         |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>akuzadu</b>         | accused                |
| <b>autorizadu</b>      | authorised             |
| <b>edukadu</b>         | educated, well-behaved |
| <b>forsadu</b>         | forced                 |
| <b>komplikadu</b>      | complicated            |
| <b>limitadu</b>        | limited                |
| <b>organizadu</b>      | well-organized         |
| <b>pasadu</b>          | past                   |
| <b>respeitadu</b>      | respected              |
| <b>rezervadu</b>       | reserved               |
| <b>separadu</b>        | separate(d)            |
| <b>sentralizadu</b>    | centralised            |
| <b>inkluidu</b>        | included               |

These words function as adjectives in Tetun. However, like passives, they let you avoid saying who caused the situation.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>. <b>Husik deit ema nebee <u>autorizadu</u> tama iha sala votasaun.</b></p>               | <p>Only allow authorised people to go into the voting hall.</p>                 |
| <p>. <b>Ita boot favór tuur iha meza ida nebaa, tanba meza nee <u>rezervadu</u> ona.</b></p> | <p>Please sit at the table over there, as the table here has been reserved.</p> |

### 7. hetan/simu ‘receive’

Another way in which people occasionally seek to get around the lack of passives in Tetun, is to make an abstract noun the object of *hetan* or *simu*. This too is more common in high-level formal Tetun. If the agent is specified, it is introduced by *hosi* ‘from’.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>. <b>Organizasaun nee <u>hetan apoiu</u> hosi ONU.</b></p>                | <p>This organisation is supported by the UN.</p> |
| <p>. <b>Jesus mai atu <u>simu batizmu</u> hosi João.</b></p>                 | <p>Jesus came to be baptised by John.</p>        |
| <p>. <b>Sira <u>simu tulun</u> hosi Japaun.</b></p>                          | <p>They received help from Japan.</p>            |
| <p>. <b>Iha kalan nee, nia <u>hetan violasaun</u> hosi komandante X.</b></p> | <p>That night she was raped by commander X.</p>  |

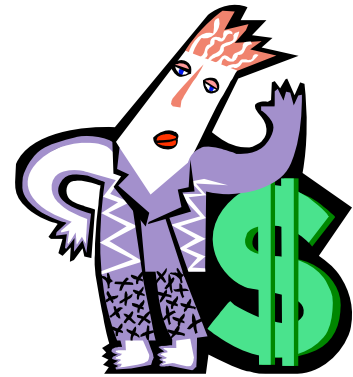
## 43. Finansa (*Finance*)

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### Objetivu

In this chapter you will learn to:

- Talk about money matters
- Distinguish ‘becoming’ from ‘being’, using *tia ona*, *ona* and *tia*
- Handle basic calculations in Tetun



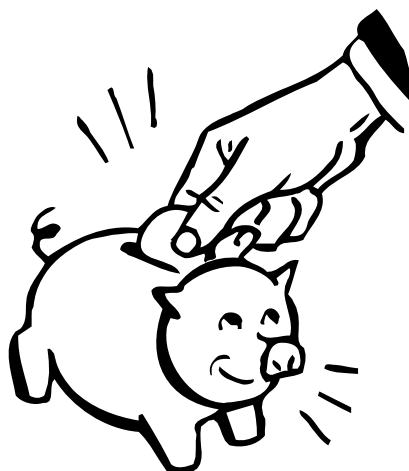
### Liafuan foun

#### Nouns

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>projetu</b>               | project, esp. large-scale building or rehabilitation project |
| <b>proyek (I)</b>            | large-scale building or rehabilitation project               |
| <b>arisan</b>                | group savings system   |
| <b>dadus</b>                 | data   |
| <b>emprezáriu / a</b>        | businessman/woman  |
| <b>finanssa</b>              | finance  |
| <b>funan</b>                 | interest (on money)  |
| <b>kbiit</b>                 | power, ability   |
| <b>osan inan</b>             | capital (financial)  |
| <b>modal (I)</b>             | capital (financial)  |
| <b>investidór / -ora (P)</b> | investor   |
| <b>investór</b>              | investor   |
| <b>kréditu (P)</b>           | credit   |
| <b>kredit (I)</b>            | credit; <i>Verb</i> borrow on credit                         |
| <b>orsamentu (P)</b>         | budget   |
| <b>anggaran (I)</b>          | budget   |
| <b>osan rahun</b>            | small change (esp. coins)                                    |
| <b>pagamentu</b>             | pay, payment   |
| <b>osan tama</b>             | income   |
| <b>rendimentu (P)</b>        | income   |
| <b>pemasukan (I)</b>         | income   |
| <b>osan sai</b>              | expenditure  |
| <b>despeza (P)</b>           | expenditure  |
| <b>pengeluaran (I)</b>       | expenditure  |
| <b>peskiza</b>               | research   |
| <b>porsentu</b>              | percent  |
| <b>presu</b>                 | price, cost  |
| <b>rekening (I)</b>          | bank account   |
| <b>rekursus (P)</b>          | resources  |
| <b>sumber daya (I)</b>       | resources  |
| <b>surat kredit (I)</b>      | credit application   |
| <b>taxa (P)</b>              | tax  |
| <b>pajak (I)</b>             | tax  |
| <b>tezoureira (P)</b>        | treasurer  |
| <b>bendahara (I)</b>         | treasurer, accountant  |



|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>total</b>              | total      |
| <b>jumlah (I)</b>         | total      |
| <b>resibu</b>             | receipt    |
| <b>kwitansi (I)</b>       | receipt    |
| <b>vensimentu</b>         | salary     |
| <b>longu prazu (P)</b>    | long-term  |
| <b>jangka panjang (I)</b> | long-term  |
| <b>tempu naruk</b>        | long-term  |
| <b>kurtu prazu (P)</b>    | short-term |
| <b>jangka pendek (I)</b>  | short-term |
| <b>tempu badak</b>        | short-term |
| <b>periodu (P)</b>        | period     |
| <b>periode (I)</b>        | period     |



Transitive verbs and expressions

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>deve</b>                 | buy on credit, be in debt for          |
| <b>deve karau</b>           | buy a buffalo on credit                |
| <b>deve osan hosi ...</b>   | borrow money from ...                  |
| <b>esporta</b>              | export                                 |
| <b>ekspor (I)</b>           | export                                 |
| <b>foti osan</b>            | withdraw money, pick up money          |
| <b>gasta</b>                | spend (esp. a lot); waste              |
| <b>halo tuir</b>            | copy                                   |
| <b>hasai osan (hosi...)</b> | withdraw money (from...)               |
| <b>hatama osan (ba...)</b>  | deposit money (into...)                |
| <b>importa</b>              | import                                 |
| <b>impor (I)</b>            | import                                 |
| <b>kuda osan</b>            | invest money                           |
| <b>kontribui</b>            | contribute                             |
| <b>kuran</b>                | lack, have insufficient                |
| <b>maneja</b>               | manage (work, money, etc., not people) |
| <b>poupa (osan)</b>         | save (money)                           |

Intransitive verbs/adjectives

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>kiak</b>       | poor; <i>Noun</i> orphan |
| <b>riku</b>       | rich; <i>Noun</i> riches |
| <b>partikulár</b> | private                  |

### Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun

- ❖ *Proyek* are large-scale building or rehabilitation projects, done by a company, and involving lots of money. Most people interpret Portuguese *projetu* in the light of this Indonesian concept. Keep this in mind before telling people you would like to do a *projetu* in their district!
- ❖ *Arisan*: This is a system of saving money, whereby a group of people meet regularly, with each person contributing money, and one member (chosen in advance or by lot) receiving all the collected money.
- ❖ Receipts and invoices: Timor businesses have operated on a cash basis, and have not traditionally given out invoices prior to payment. Hence when pressed, people include invoices under the terms for ‘receipt’.

- ❖ Profit and loss: To ask about profit and loss, you can ask *Ita manaan hira?* and *Ita lakon hira?*
- ❖ *ema nia kosar been* ‘the fruit of one’s labours; money earned by one’s own efforts’
- ❖ *selu ema nia kole* ‘pay someone for their work’

### Hainin di-diak lai

- ❖ Beware of trying to explain finances and budgeting in Tetun, unless you are able to explain it well in English first.

### Tekstu: Investimentu

*The following extract is from an article on investment by Estanislau S. Saldanha, published in Suara Timor Lorosae on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2003. It is presented with minor adjustments.<sup>1</sup>*

Investimentu tuir definisaun ema baibain nian, katak atividade ida ka liu, atu kuda osan ka modal iha setór ida ka liu, hodi hetan rendimentu. Investimentu importanti tebes tanba hamosu servisu, hamoris kapasidade ekonomia ho moos kbiit komunidadade ka nasaun ida nian liu husi transferénsia matenek ho teknolojia.

Iha fatór barak mak sei influénsia investimentu iha nasaun ida. Fatór sira nee mak nasaun nee tenki iha rekursu naturál, merkadu, estabilidade polítika ho seguransa, lei ..., definisaun rai ho propriedade klaru, infraestrutur (bee, eletrisidade, telekomunikasaun, luroon, portu<sup>2</sup>) diak, sistema tribunál lao diak ho iha rekursu ema nian. Nunee moos iha insentivu ba investór sira hanesan hamenus taxa, fasilidade kréditu, simplifika prosesu investimentu, prepara rai ho uma, ho seluk tan.

Timor Lorosae (TL) presiza investimentu husi liur atu estimula ekonomia moris ho hamosu servisu tanba governu ho emprefáriu TL la iha kbiit finanseiru. Investimentu liur sei ajuda buat barak. Tuir rezultadu peskiza estudante DIT<sup>3</sup> (2003) katak huun violénsia TL ida mak la iha servisu. Tanba nee sira envolve iha krimi. Wainhira iha investimentu sei kontribui atu hamenus violénsia. Maibee ohin lora susar atu dada investimentu tama iha TL tanba:

Primeiru, ema liur barak seidak hatene poténsia ekonomia TL nian. ...

Segundu, kapasidade ekonomia TL nian kiik atu dada investimentu liur. Populasaun hamutuk 800 míl, nebee barak liu hela iha kiak laran. ... Iha parte seluk, vensimentu ho vida moris, eletrisidade, telekomunikasaun moos karu kompara ho nasaun seluk hanesan Indonézia, Vietnam, Kamboja, Laos ho Filipina.

Terseiru, taxa iha TL karu liu. Governu nia polítika hasae taxa atu hetan osan hodi selu servisu públiku. Polítika nee diak iha tempu badak, maibee la ajuda dezentolvimentu ekonomia iha lora ikus. Tanba taxa karun sei la estimula investimentu foun ho halo investimentu nebee iha moos bele

<sup>1</sup> The spelling has been adjusted slightly to that used in this book, and a few commas have been added. *Nia* has been replaced by *nian* if the possessor follows the possessed noun (e.g. the author writes *ema baibain nia* where *ema baibain nian* is usual). The English-based loan *prófitu* has been replaced by Portuguese *rendimentu*.

Formal Tetun with a high number of technical terms from Portuguese, such as is found in this article, is not at this stage well understood outside of well-read educated circles.

<sup>2</sup> The more common way of saying ‘port, harbour’ is *pontikais*.

<sup>3</sup> Dili Institute of Technology.

hiit-an. Wainhira la iha investimentu foun, sei la iha diversifikasaun objetu taxa. Nee katak ema uitoan deit mak selu taxa. Karik hatuun taxa nia folin, bele dada investimentu foun. Nee katak ema sira selu taxa moos aumenta.

Kuartu, lei ho *law enforcement* seidak lao ho diak. TL seidak iha lei ho regulamentu kona ba investimentu. ...

## Estrutura língua nian

### 1. *Becoming versus being*

In English, there is often one word (an adjective) to describe being in a state, while a separate word (a verb) describes coming into that state. For instance, when you are ‘born’ you enter the state of being ‘alive’, when you ‘die’ you become ‘dead’, and when you ‘are healed’ you become ‘well’. In Tetun, entering a state and being in a state tend to use the same verbs/adjectives.<sup>4</sup> Instead, it is context, adverbs, and aspect markers like *tia* and *hela* that help you distinguish between the ‘becoming’ and ‘being’ meanings.<sup>5</sup> Here are some examples:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| . <b>Nia moris (mai) horiseik.</b>                                    | She was born yesterday.  |
| . <b>Nia sei moris.</b>   | She is still alive.  |
| . <b>Nia sei moris hela.</b>  | She is still alive.  |
| . <b>Labarik nee boot lailais.</b>                                    | The child is growing fast.   |
| . <b>Labarik nee boot baa beibeik; tinan-tinan preziza ropa foun.</b> | The child is continually growing; every year he needs new clothes. |
| . <b>Labarik nee boot baa daudauk; imi tenki kaben ona!</b>           | The child is growing up; you (parents) must get married!           |
| . <b>Labarik nee boot ona.</b>  | The child is already big.  |
| . <b>Sira kaben horiseik.</b>   | They got married yesterday.  |
| . <b>Lae! Sira kaben tia ona – horiseik!</b>                          | No. They have already gotten married – yesterday!                  |
| . <b>Sira kaben ona.</b>  | They are (already) married.  |
| . <b>Nia mate hori-kalan.</b>   | She died last night.   |
| . <b>Nia mate tia ona, iha tinan 1987.</b>                            | She died, in 1987.   |
| . <b>Nia mate ona.</b>  | She is dead.   |

### 2. *tia ona ‘perfect aspect’*

*Tia ona* indicates that a process has been completed, and still has effect. As the marker of perfect aspect, *tia ona* is frequently translatable by English ‘have (verb)-en’; e.g. *Nia sai tia ona* ‘She has gone out (and is still out)’, *Nia haan tia ona* ‘He has eaten (and is still full).’

Usually *tia ona* is used with active verbs, such as *hakerek*, *hariis* and *monu*. When it is used with verbs which in most contexts are stative, *tia ona* focuses on completing the process of entering that state. For instance, *Nia kaben tia ona* focuses on ‘having become married’ rather than ‘being married’, and *Nia mate tia ona* focuses on ‘dying (having become dead)’ rather than ‘being dead’.

<sup>4</sup> There are few differences between verbs and adjectives in Tetun, which is why we have used ‘intransitive verbs/adjectives’ as a single heading in the word lists.

<sup>5</sup> For further descriptions of these aspectual terms, see Eccles’ (1998) article, and the two grammars by Hull and Eccles (2001) and Williams-van Klinken, Hajek and Nordlinger (2002).

### 3. ona 'already'

*Ona* has a wider range of uses than *tia ona*.

After time expressions, *ona* indicates that the specified amount of time has passed.

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| . <b>Ami iha nee kleur ona.</b>      | We have already been here a long time. |
| . <b>Labarik nee tinan hira ona?</b> | How many years old is this child?      |

With primarily stative verbs or adjectives, it indicates that the state has come into existence. For instance, *Nia iha nee ona* indicates that 'He is here now', with the understanding that at some earlier stage he was not in fact here.<sup>6</sup>

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| . <b>Nia ferik ona.</b>         | She is (already) old.          |
| . <b>Sabraka nee tasak ona.</b> | This orange is (already) ripe. |
| . <b>Rai kalan ona.</b>         | It is (already) night.         |

With active punctual verbs (that is, verbs that describe something that happens so quickly that it can be considered instantaneous), *ona* indicates that the activity has happened, and still has effect at the time we are talking about.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| . <b>Hau akaba ona universidade.</b>     | I have graduated from university (and so am a graduate).   |
| . <b>Nia tama ona polisia.</b>           | He has joined the police (and is still in it).   |
| . <b>Hugo lori ona surat ba koreius.</b> | Hugo has already taken the letter to the post office (and the letter is presumed to still be there). |

With active durative verbs, *ona* can indicate that the action has finished, or that it is beginning or has begun. Perhaps it helps to think of it like this: These verbs describe activities that take place over a significant period of time. For these, *ona* can either focus on entering the 'state' of doing this activity (as it does with stative verbs), or focus on finishing the activity (as it does with punctual verbs).<sup>7</sup> In the examples below, the right-hand column shows alternative ways of expressing each of the three interpretations.

- |                             |  |                               |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| . <b>Nia hariis ona.</b>    | 1. He has finished bathing.              | <b>Nia hariis tia ona.</b>    |
|                             | 2. He is (already) bathing.              | <b>Nia hariis hela.</b>       |
|                             | 3. He is about to bathe. <sup>8</sup>    | <b>Nia atu hariis ona.</b>    |
| . <b>Sira baa ona Suai.</b> | 1. They have gone to Suai (and arrived). | <b>Sira iha tia Suai ona.</b> |
|                             | 2. They have set off for Suai.           | <b>Sira iha dalan klaran.</b> |
|                             | 3. They are about to head off for Suai.  | <b>Sira atu baa Suai ona.</b> |

<sup>6</sup> In other words, you don't use *ona* when stating something that has always been true. For instance, you wouldn't say \**Nia mane ona* to mean 'He is already male', since gender is (normally!) something you are born with. Rather, *Nia mane ona!* is a somewhat sarcastic way of saying 'Now he's a real man!' when a boy starts to play up.

<sup>7</sup> The same ambiguity happens with *foin* 'only just, only recently'. With punctual verbs, *foin* indicates that the activity was recently completed; e.g. *Hau foin too* 'I have only just arrived.' For active durative verbs, *foin* can be used either when the activity has just been finished, or when the activity has just been started; e.g. *Ami foin haan* 'We have just finished eating' or 'We have just started eating.' The latter interpretation is less likely, but can be forced by adding *hela*: *Ami foin haan hela* 'We have only just started eating.'

<sup>8</sup> This use of *ona* for imminent future is common in Tetun Terik. Amongst speakers of Tetun Dili, some use *ona* for imminent future, while others do not readily accept this meaning.

Here are some examples contrasting *ona* and *tia ona*.

- . Sei kiik-oan moos, sira fuma **ona sigaru.** Even so young, they smoke cigarettes (i.e. have started the activity of smoking).
- . Sei kiik-oan moos, sira fuma **tia ona sigaru.** Even so young, they have smoked cigarettes.
- . Nia toba **ona.** He is already asleep / has slept.
- . Nia toba **tia ona.** He has slept.

#### 4. *tia* 'perfective aspect'

*Tia* focuses on completion. It is used mainly in clauses that talk about events that have a clearly-defined completion-point; for instance drinking a glass of water (versus drinking an unspecified amount of something), or waiting one month (versus just waiting).

- . Nia soe **tia** nia kaben, i kaben fali ho ema seluk. He divorced his wife, and married someone else instead.
- . Too **tia** Ermera, milisia sira haruka ami tuun. When we got to Ermera, the militia ordered us to get out (of the vehicles).
- . Nia hemu **tia** aimoruk, senti diak kedas. As soon as he had taken the medicine, he felt well.

With its focus on completion, *tia* occurs quite often in phrases meaning 'after ...'. Such expressions seem to be used more in some districts (e.g. the south coast) than others.

- . **Liu tia** semana tolu, ami fila fali ba Kupang. After three weeks, we went back to Kupang.
- . Haan **tia hotu**, fasi kedas bikan. After eating, immediately wash the plates.
- . Nee **hotu tia**, sira kanta hamutuk. After that, they sang a song together.
- . Senyora Ana koalia **hotu tia**, mak foin senyór sira koalia fali. Only after Mrs Ana had finished speaking, did the men in turn speak.

#### 5. Doing calculations in Tetun

Most people do mathematical calculations in the language in which they are educated. The basic operators in each language are as follows. Tetun multiplication can in principle be done using *dala* 'times, instances', but appears not to be standardised as yet.

|   | <b>Tetun</b> | <b>Portuguese</b> | <b>Indonesian</b> | <b>English</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| + | tau tan      | mais              | tambah            | plus           |
| - | hasai        | menos             | kurang            | minus          |
| * |              | vezes             | kali              | times          |
| / | fahe ba      | dividir por       | bagi              | divided by     |

Note the various means of expressing 'equals' in the Tetun calculations below.

- . Neen fahe ba tolu, rua.  $6 / 3 = 2$
- . Lima tau tan haat, hamutuk sia.  $5 + 4 = 9$
- . Hitu hasai tia lima, hela rua.  $7 - 5 = 2$

$$5 + 4 = 9$$

## 44. Família 2

### Objetivu

In this chapter you will learn to:

- Describe relationships through second marriages, adoption and baptism
- Express the number of people as a predicate
- Reduplicate numbers to indicate ‘as a group’ or ‘every’
- Reduplicate adjectives to mark plurality



### Liafuan foun

#### Step-family

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>inan kiik</b>    | father’s second wife (after death or divorce, or in addition to the first) |
| <b>aman kiik</b>    | mother’s second husband  |
| <b>madrasta (P)</b> | step-mother  |
| <b>padrastu (P)</b> | step-father  |

#### Adopted family

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>oan hakiak</b>  | adopted child   |
| <b>inan hakiak</b> | adoptive mother |
| <b>aman hakiak</b> | adoptive father |

#### Related through baptism

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>inan sarani</b> | godmother   |
| <b>madrinya</b>    | godmother   |
| <b>aman sarani</b> | godfather   |
| <b>padrinyu</b>    | godfather   |
| <b>oan sarani</b>  | godchild  |
| <b>komadre</b>     | mother of one’s godchild, or godmother of one’s child |
| <b>kompadre</b>    | father of one’s godchild, or godfather of one’s child |



#### Other nouns

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>sarani</b>    | Christian; baptism; <i>Verb</i> : be baptised |
| <b>kazamentu</b> | wedding                                       |

#### States

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>feto faluk</b>         | widow                                   |
| <b>mane faluk</b>         | widower                                 |
| <b>divorsiadu / a (P)</b> | divorced (male/female)                  |
| <b>namoradu / a</b>       | boyfriend, fiancé / girlfriend, fiancée |
| <b>feto raan</b>          | young single woman                      |
| <b>feto klosan</b>        | young single woman                      |
| <b>mane klosan</b>        | young single man                        |

#### Other verbs/adjectives

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>hakiak</b>               | adopt, raise  |
| <b>hola feto/mane seluk</b> | remarry   |
| <b>ibun boot</b>            | big-mouth   |
| <b>soe malu</b>             | divorce, separate (This is a practical term, not a legal one) |

### Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun

- ❖ Recall that *inan kiik* and *aman kiik* also refer to one's mother's younger sister and father's younger brother respectively.

### Diálogu

#### See mak inan sarani?

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Zeca ho Romeo, sira nain rua koalia iha kuarta lokraik iha uma oin, bainhira Romeo atu sai baa hasoru Julieta.</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Zeca, sábado agora o baa fatin ruma ka?</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>Lae, iha uma deit. Nusaa? Atu halo buat ruma?</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Hau hakarak konvida o. Hau nia sobrinu atu sarani, i festa tuku hitu kalan.</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>Diak, obrigadu. Sarani iha nebee?</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Iha igreja Motael. O hakarak hatene see mak inan sarani?</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>See?</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Julieta. Zeca hamnasa.</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>Entaun Julieta atu sai komadre ba o nia biin ho o nia kunyadu.</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Sín. Tanba nee mak hau tenki baa hasoru Julieta agora.</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>Eh! Hau lokraik-lokraik sempre haree o halao atividade ida nee. Laós tanba Julieta atu sai inan sarani!</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>O nonook tia! Lalika ibun boot hanesan nee! Diak liu hau baa ona.</b></p> <p>Zeca: <b>Ate logu, kuidadu inan sarani halo di-diak.</b></p> <p>Romeo: <b>Sempre.</b></p> | <p>Zeca and Romeo are talking on Thursday afternoon in front of the house, when Romeo is about to go out and visit Julieta. Zeca, are you going anywhere this Saturday?</p> <p>No, I'll just be at home. How come? Are you doing anything?</p> <p>I want to invite you. My niece is getting baptised, and the party is at seven o'clock in the evening.</p> <p>OK (I'll be there), thanks. Where is the baptism?</p> <p>At the Motael church. Do you want to know who the godmother will be?</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Julieta.</p> <p>Zeca laughs.</p> <p>So Julieta will become <i>komadre</i> to your older sister and brother-in-law.</p> <p>Yes. That's why I have to go and visit Julieta now.</p> <p>Hey! Every afternoon I see you conduct this activity. It's not because Julieta is going to become godmother!</p> <p>You keep quiet! Don't be such a big-mouth! I'd better go now.</p> <p>See you later. Look after the godmother well!</p> <p>Always.</p> |
|--|--|

### Komentáriu kona ba diálogu

- ❖ In the introduction, *Jeka ho Romeu, sira nain rua...* illustrates a relatively common way of talking about two or three people – first you specify who you are talking about, then, after a brief pause, you repeat that information using a pronoun and number (e.g. *sira nain tolu* or *ami nain rua*).<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ *Halao atividade* is formal language, here used in jest.

<sup>1</sup> In Tetun Terik, it is common to specify one person before the *sira nain rua* (or rather, Tetun Terik's equivalent of that), and one person after it (e.g. *Pedro sia nain rua Maria* 'Pedro and Maria'). This is rare in Tetun Dili.

## Kostumi

- ❖ Godparents: When children are baptised, or when couples are married in church, there are typically a man and a woman as *aman sarani* and *inan sarani*, who act as witnesses during the ceremony, and as supporters thereafter. In some circles, the parents and godparents of a baptised child thenceforth address one another as *komadre* (to the women) and *kompadre* (to the men).
- ❖ Adoption: In Timor adoption is very common within the extended family.

## Estrutura língua nian

### 1. How many?

Note the pattern below.

**Imi nain hira?**

How many of you are there?

**Ami nain neen.**

There are six of us.

To state how many people there are, you can state who you are talking about (as the subject), then follow it with the human classifier *nain* and a numeral (as the predicate).

### 2. Reduplicating numbers: operating as a group, 'every'

You can reduplicate small numbers or *uitoan* 'a little' to indicate that the specified number of individuals is being considered as a group. *Ida-ida* means 'one at a time'. (This is in contrast to *ida-idak* 'each'.)

. **Agora ita servisu tol-tolu lai.**

Now we'll work in groups of three for a while.

. **Ami tein uitoan-uitoan deit, tanba hahaan la too.**

We only cooked a little at a time, because there was not enough food.

. **Atu simu osan, tama ida-ida; la bele tama hamutuk.**

To receive (your) money, come in one at a time; you can't come in together.

However when a reduplicated number modifies a noun referring to a unit of time, the meaning is 'every so-many units of time'. This is the same effect as reduplicating a time noun on its own (e.g. *loro-loron* means 'every day').

. **Fulan neen-neen, nia sempre mai iha Timor.**

He comes to Timor every six months.

. **Oras tol-tolu ami foo nia susubeen hemu.**

Every three hours we give her milk to drink.

### 3. Reduplicating adjectives: plural

Some adjectives can be reduplicated if you are talking about multiple entities, especially if those entities are diverse. *Oi-oin* is 'varied, diverse'. Some writers have started to use *ho selu-seluk tan* to mean 'etcetera'.

. **Nia suku kamiza no ropa selu-seluk tan.**

She sews shirts and various other clothes.

. **Sira konvida ema bo-boot mai iha festa nee.**

They invited all sorts of important people to this party (e.g. from the government, army, and NGOs).

. **Fera aimoruk halo ki-kiik atu foo ba labarik nee.**

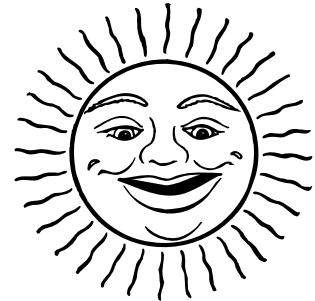
Break the pills into small pieces to give to the child.

**Cognate nouns and adjectives ending in -ál**

| <b><u>Portuguese loan</u></b> | <b><u>English</u></b> | <b><u>Indonesian cognate</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Nouns</i>                  |                       |                                  |
| <b>animál</b>                 | animal                |                                  |
| <b>kapitál</b>                | capital               |                                  |
| <b>katedrál</b>               | cathedral             |                                  |
| <b>manuál</b>                 | manual (handbook)     |                                  |
| <b>materiál</b>               | materials (equipment) |                                  |
| <b>metál</b>                  | metal                 |                                  |
| <b>ospitál</b>                | hospital              |                                  |
| <b>terminál</b>               | terminal              |                                  |
| <b>tribunál</b>               | tribunal, court       |                                  |
| <i>Adjectives</i>             |                       |                                  |
| <b>artifisiál</b>             | artificial            |                                  |
| <b>eleitorál</b>              | electoral             |                                  |
| <b>finál</b>                  | final                 | final                            |
| <b>formál</b>                 | formal                | formal                           |
| <b>fundamentál</b>            | fundamental           | fundamental                      |
| <b>gramatikál</b>             | grammatical           |                                  |
| <b>ilegál</b>                 | illegal               | ilegal                           |
| <b>imparsiál</b>              | impartial             |                                  |
| <b>internasionál</b>          | international         | internasional                    |
| <b>judisiál</b>               | judicial              |                                  |
| <b>legál</b>                  | legal                 | legal                            |
| <b>lokál</b>                  | local                 |                                  |
| <b>manuál</b>                 | manual                |                                  |
| <b>nasionál</b>               | national              | nasional                         |
| <b>naturál</b>                | natural               | natural                          |
| <b>ofisiál</b>                | official              |                                  |
| <b>orijinál</b>               | original              |                                  |
| <b>orizontál</b>              | horizontal            | horisontal                       |
| <b>plurál</b>                 | plural                |                                  |
| <b>prezidensiál</b>           | presidential          |                                  |
| <b>prinsipál</b>              | principal             |                                  |
| <b>rejionál</b>               | regional              |                                  |
| <b>sentrá</b>                 | central               | sentral                          |
| <b>total</b>                  | total                 |                                  |
| <b>tradisionál</b>            | traditional           | tradisional                      |
| <b>universál</b>              | universal             | universal                        |
| <b>vertikál</b>               | vertical              | vertikal                         |

The Portuguese plural of nouns and adjectives ending in *-ál* normally ends in *-ais* (e.g. Portuguese *catedral* ‘cathedral’ – *catedrais* ‘cathedrals’; *nacional* – *nacionais* ‘national’ (plural, used when the adjective modifies a plural noun). Although many Timorese dislike the use of Portuguese plurals in Tetun, it does occur.

## 45. Tempu (*Seasons*)



### Objetivu

In this chapter you will learn to:

- Identify seasons and weather
- Discuss possibilities
- Hedge and fudge when speaking informally
- Use compounds consisting of *foo* plus another verb
- Modify a noun with *nebaa* 'there'

### Liafuan foun

#### Nouns

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>bailoro</b>    | dry season      |
| <b>tempu udan</b> | wet season      |
| <b>udan</b>       | rain            |
| <b>udabeen</b>    | rainwater, rain |
| <b>kalohan</b>    | cloud           |
| <b>abuabu</b>     | mist, fog       |
| <b>anin</b>       | wind            |
| <b>mota</b>       | river           |
| <b>mahobeen</b>   | dew             |

#### Intransitive verbs/adjectives

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>nakdoko</b> | shake                                   |
| <b>lakan</b>   | be alight (of fire, light, electricity) |
| <b>tarutu</b>  | bang                                    |
| <b>malirin</b> | cold                                    |
| <b>manas</b>   | hot                                     |
| <b>monu</b>    | fall                                    |
| <b>molik</b>   | bare, naked                             |

#### Possibility

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>bele</b>        | can, it is possible |
| <b>keta</b>        | perhaps             |
| <b>kala</b>        | perhaps             |
| <b>mungkin (I)</b> | possible            |

#### Exclamations

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>ei pá!</b>             | sigh!      |
| <b>ei saa! / hei saa!</b> | yes indeed |

#### Idioms

|                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Udan tau.</b>               | It is raining.                        |
| <b>Udan biska.</b>             | It is drizzling.                      |
| <b>Udan boot.</b>              | It is raining hard.                   |
| <b>Udan makaas.</b>            | It is raining hard.                   |
| <b>Udan monu rai.</b>          | The rains have come.                  |
| <b>La iha udabeen.</b>         | There was no rain.                    |
| <b>Kalohan taka rai metin.</b> | There is dense fog.                   |
| <b>Abuabu taka rai.</b>        | It is foggy.                          |
| <b>Anin huu.</b>               | The wind blows.                       |
| <b>Anin boot.</b>              | The wind is strong.                   |
| <b>Mota boot.</b>              | The river floods.                     |
| <b>Mota tuun.</b>              | The river rises.                      |
| <b>Nia kona mahobeen.</b>      | He was dewed upon.                    |
| <b>Rai nakdoko.</b>            | There is an earthquake                |
| <b>Rai lakan.</b>              | There is lightning.                   |
| <b>Rai tarutu.</b>             | There is thunder.                     |
| <b>Rai malirin.</b>            | It is cold;<br><i>Noun</i> cold place |
| <b>Rai manas.</b>              | It is hot; <i>Noun</i> hot place      |
| <b>Rai monu.</b>               | There is a landslide.                 |
| <b>rai molik</b>               | bare ground                           |
| <b>Keta ... karik</b>          | perhaps ...                           |
| <b>kala lima-nulu</b>          | approximately fifty                   |

Terms for talking about cold countries

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>musim panas</b> (I)  | summer    |
| <b>musim dingin</b> (I) | winter    |
| <b>jelu</b>             | ice, snow |
| <b>salju</b> (I)        | snow      |

**Komentáriu kona ba liafuan foun**

- ❖ *Rai* ‘earth’ is the subject in many Tetun weather expressions.
- ❖ *Abuabu* ‘mist, fog’: Some people say *ai-abu*.
- ❖ *Kalohan*: Most people interpret this as ‘cloud’; however a minority interpret it as ‘sky’.
- ❖ *Udan monu rai* means that the first rains of the wet season have come.
- ❖ Floods: In Timor, many rivers run dry for much of the year. The first flush of water down the river after rain in the hills is described as *Mota tuun*.
- ❖ *Ei pá!* is an exclamation which expresses such things as frustration, exasperation, or pain.
- ❖ For talking about seasons in temperate or cold countries, you will probably have most communicative success using *musim panas* (lit. ‘hot season’) and *musim dingin* (lit. ‘cold season’) from Indonesian for summer and winter; most people don’t know any terms for ‘spring’ or ‘autumn’. The Portuguese seasons, which are known by few people other than Portuguese-speakers, are *veraun* ‘summer’, *outonu* ‘autumn’, *invernu* ‘winter’ and *primavera* ‘spring’.
- ❖ Snow does not occur in Timor; however many people know the Indonesian loan *salju*, and some know the Portuguese loan *neve*. You could also try *jelu* ‘ice’, which some people extend to include snow.

**Diálogo**Rai manas ona

**Benevidez deskansa iha ai huun ida i koalia ho nia kolega Lucas.**

Benevidez: **Ei pá! Agora rai para manas! Ita deskansa meiodia moos, la diak. Kalan moos nunee. Senti baruk fali.**

Lucas: **Hei saa! Nusaa mak manas hanesan nee?**

Benevidez: **Parese agora tama ona tempu bailoro.**

Lucas: **Kala nunee karik!**

Benevidez: **O hanoin tok. Manas tia ona, i depois ema moos sunu duut arbiru deit, halo rai sai molik. Ida nee bele halo rai monu. Bainhira udan boot mai, bele moos halo estrada kotu, liu-liu estrada ba foho.**

Benevidez is resting under a tree, and talking with his friend Lucas.

Good grief! It’s so hot now! You can’t even have a good siesta. It’s the same at night. I’m sick of it.

Isn’t that right! Why is it so hot?

Perhaps the dry season has started.

Perhaps that’s the case.

You just think about it. It’s already been hot, and then people burn grass/weeds any old how, making the ground become bare. This can cause landslides. When the big rains come, it can also cut the roads, especially the roads into the mountains.

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Lucas:     | <b>Maibee ema tenki sunu duni, para halo toos hodi buka moris. Se la sunu, sira la bele fila rai i la bele kuda fini.</b>               | But people do need to burn off, so that they can farm and earn a living. If they don't burn off, they can't plough and can't plant.              |
| Benevidez: | <b>Nee moos loos. Maibee la bele sunu arbiru deit. Tanba se lae, ai huun boot sira mate hotu, rai sei sai maran, i manas teb-tebes.</b> | That's true too. But they shouldn't burn off arbitrarily. Otherwise, the big trees will all die, there will be drought, and it will be very hot. |

### Komentáriu kona ba diálogu

- ❖ At present (2003) there is a government campaign to reduce burning off and chopping down of trees. Both are in part consequences of using the system of shifting agriculture.

### Kostumi

- ❖ Traditional attempts to influence rain and sunshine by animist means are made by people called *kuku*.
- ❖ *Rai lakan*: During lightning, children are not allowed outdoors. If adults go outside, they avoid wearing red (*mean*), lest the lightning strike them.
- ❖ *Mahobeen* 'dew': People try to avoid letting dew come down on their babies, for instance by having their heads covered. This is to prevent illness.
- ❖ Traditionally, feasts were held in the dry season, so that people could more readily travel from outside the village. This is still a major consideration in public events, including the scheduling of the independence referendum in 1999.

## Estrutura língua nian

### 1. Possibility and probability

In English, there are many expressions for indicating degrees of probability of one's statement (e.g. possibly, probably, almost certainly, definitely). In Tetun, this is not the case, and speakers do not 'hedge' their statements as much as in English. Thus it is normal to make statements without hedging ('perhaps', 'I think that', etc.) even if the speaker is not quite sure that the statement is true. A subsequent statement may well present the opposite side of the coin.

The main terms for expressing probability and possibility are illustrated in the examples below.

*Bele* 'can, may' as always precedes the verb.

- . **Keta book asu. Asu bele tata o.** Don't annoy the dog. It may/could bite you.
- . **Se sira la mai, hau bele baa festa nee.** If they don't come, I might/could go.

*Karik* usually comes at the end of a clause, although some people place it initially.

- . **Nia moras karik.** Perhaps she's ill.
- . **Karik nia moras.** Perhaps she is ill.

*Keta* (in this sense of ‘perhaps’) is usually at the beginning of the sentence, with *karik* at the end.

- . **Buat nee lakon. Keta João mak foti karik.** This thing is lost. Perhaps João picked it up.
- . **Keta nunee karik.** Perhaps that’s how it is.

*Parese* (or *parese ke*) usually comes near the beginning of the sentence, or as a single-word response to a statement.<sup>1</sup>

- . **Parese nia la mai.** Perhaps he won’t come.
- . **Keta nia baa Maliana karik. – Parese.** Perhaps he’s gone to Maliana. – Perhaps.

*Dala ruma* ‘perhaps’ comes near the beginning of the clause, or (like *parese*) stands alone as a response to a statement. It also means ‘sometimes’.

- . **Ohin Maria la mai servisu. Dala ruma nia moras.** Today Maria didn’t come to work. Perhaps she is sick.
- . **Bainhira mak o baa Baucau? – Dala ruma aban lokraik. Dala ruma hau la baa.** When are you going to Baucau? – Perhaps tomorrow afternoon. Perhaps I won’t go.
- . **Aban o baa eskola ka? – Dala ruma.** Are you going to school tomorrow? – Perhaps.

*Kala* appears to be associated with statements that are deduced from evidence, somewhat like one use of English ‘must’ (‘He must be ill, as he promised to come but didn’t turn up.’) *Kala* is also used before a number to mean ‘approximately’.

- . **Kala nia mak konta istória nee. Hau lae.** Perhaps he was the one who told that story. I didn’t.
- . **Entaun o kala ema lulik.** So you must be a priest.
- . **Ema sira nee kala rihun lima hanesan nee.** These people numbered about 5000.

## 2. Hedging and fudging

In colloquial Tetun, there are a number of ways of hedging which are not used in written or formal Tetun.

When a word doesn’t come readily enough, *bee*,<sup>2</sup> *saida* or *seda* ‘what’, *oinsaa* ‘how’, and *narsaa* ‘what’s-its-name’ act as fillers. *Hanesan* or *hanesa* functions much like colloquial English ‘like’ in ‘I think I’ll go and, like, buy an ice-cream.’

- . **Balu hela iha bee ponti okos, balu hela iha rai kuak.** Some live *umm* under bridges, some live in caves.
- . **Kuda ai sukaer baa bee hodi foo mahon.** Plant a tamarind tree to *umm* give shade.
- . **Hau nia oan nee nee, hanesa ami mesak, nee nia laduun seda – laduun manya.** My daughter here, like, when we’re alone, she’s not really you-know – not really demanding.

<sup>1</sup> In Portuguese, *parecer* is a verb meaning ‘to seem’. In Tetun, it doesn’t seem to be used that way.

<sup>2</sup> *Bee* is also a noun meaning ‘water’, the name of the letter ‘B’, and ‘but’ (e.g. *Hau atu baa bee halo nusaa?* ‘I’d like to go, but how?’); *be* is a relative clause marker like *nebee*.

- . **Ami hakarak ami nia oan sira nee atu moris ho diak, moris ho seda, mais ami nia posibilidadadi la too - hanesa atu bele haree sira, atu tau sira oinsaa, tau sira disiplina.** We want our children to live well, live with what's-it, but we don't have enough possibilities – like to be able to look after them, to what-do-you-call-it, to discipline them.
- . **Filmi nee kuandu ita haree, narsaa liu pa!** This film is really what's-it! (funny/sad/bad...)
- . **Hau atu baa bee narsaa.** I'm going to *umm* what's-its-name.
- . **Hau atu baa koalia ho Dona Maria maibee hau narsaa fali.** I was going to talk with Mrs Maria but then I felt what's-it. (embarrassed/tired/...)

When undecided about something, you may present two alternatives, each followed by *mak nee ka* with rising intonation; then add something like *Hau laduun hatene* 'I don't really know'. The list of alternatives doesn't need to be complete – you are not claiming that one of the two options is true, only that they are possible answers.

- . **Senyór Martinho sei moris ka? – Nia moris mak nee ka, mate mak nee ka, hau la hatene.** Is Mr Martinho still alive? – Whether he's alive, or dead, I don't know.
- . **Acito hosi nebee? – Nia hosi Aileu mak nee ka, Ainaro mak nee ka, see mak hatene?** Where's Acito from? – He's from Aileu, or Ainaro, or somewhere like that; who knows?

### 3. Compounds with *foo* 'give'

There are a number of compounds which begin with *foo* 'give'. Some, like *foo haan* 'feed', take a direct object. In others the object (if there is one) is optionally or compulsorily introduced by *ba* or (if it includes the speaker) *mai*.

#### Verbs

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>foo haan</b>            | feed               |
| <b>foo hemu</b>            | give drink to      |
| <b>foo susu (ba)</b>       | breastfeed         |
| <b>foo hariis</b>          | bathe              |
| <b>foo hatais</b>          | dress              |
| <b>foo hatene ba</b>       | inform             |
| <b>foo sala ba</b>         | accuse; recompense |
| <b>foo empresta X ba Y</b> | lend out X to Y    |
| <b>foo aluga X ba Y</b>    | rent out X to Y    |

#### Example

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>foo haan bebee</b>     | feed the baby             |
| <b>foo hemu karau</b>     | give water to the buffalo |
| <b>foo susu bebee</b>     | breastfeed the baby       |
| <b>foo hariis labarik</b> | bathe the child           |
| <b>foo hatais bebee</b>   | dress the baby            |
| <b>foo hatene ba imi</b>  | inform you                |
| <b>foo sala mai hau</b>   | accuse/recompense me      |

Here are some sentence examples:

- . **Ami foo aluga ami nia uma ba malae Tailândia.** We are renting our house out to Thai people.
- . **Sira foo hatene mai ami, dehan ami nia uma ahi haan.** They informed us that our house was burned down.
- . **Ema foo sala ba nia dehan nia mak oho labarik nee.** People accused him saying it was he who had killed the child.
- . **Nia foo sala mai hau, tais ida.** He gave me a hand-woven cloth as recompense (for having wronged me).

#### 4. *nebaa* ‘there’

*Nebaa* ‘there’ sometimes modifies a noun. In this case, it is usually so that the noun refers to a distant place, and is preceded by a location-oriented verb or preposition like *iha*, *hosi*, *baa/ba*, or *too*.

- . **Sira hela iha aldeia ida nebaa.** They live in that village over there.
- . **Sira lori ami hotu ba iha Gleno nebaa.** They took us all over to Gleno.

It is also possible to modify a noun without a preceding verb or preposition. Here *nebaa* still means ‘over there’.

- . **Uma ida nee la diak ida. Ida nebaa kapaas.** This house is no good. The one over there is lovely.
- . **Kareta tolu nebaa nee, ida hau nian.** Of those three cars over there, one is mine.

Some people also use *nebaa* for distant times; e.g. *iha momentu nebaa* ‘at that time (in the past, which I am talking about)’.

