AGENT MARKING

Lesson 32

Gilbertese uses a small form before verbs to indicate the agent or doer of the action, similar to the English suffix -er. In Kiribati there is both a singular and plural form (as in English: -ers), but these are not used when the agent is inanimate (unlike English: bulldozer, spot remover):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tia</td>
<td>taan(i)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

examples:

- te tia anene  a singer
- te tia mm'akuri  a worker
- te tia nanokaawaki  a sad person
- taan anene  singers
- taani mm'akuri  workers
- taan nanokaawaki  sad people

Note the absence of te in the plural, as expected, and the insertion of i after taan when the following word starts with m, ng, b, k, w as explained in lesson 1.

These forms can also be used with some of the auxiliaries before the verbs:

- te tia am'arake  an eater
- te tia kan am'arake  someone wanting to eat
- te tia aki am'arake  someone not eating
- taan am'arake  eaters
- taani kan am'arake  those wanting to eat
- taan aki am'arake  those not eating
A. Change the following sentences by translating the English words using "tia" or "taan:

1. E na roko ningaabong the worker. (work = mm'akuri) 
   will come tomorrow
2. E nako the toddy cutter. (cut toddy = koro karewe) 
   went
3. E a kua the player. (play = takaakaro) 
   tired
4. E biribiri the runner. (run = biri) 
   run
5. E anene the singer. 
   sing
6. Iai konan the fisherman. (fish = akawa) 
   his catch
7. E nakon te um'antabu the preacher. (preach = kab'arab'ara) 
   church
8. A m'aiti ana boki the writer. (write books = koroi booki) 
   many books
9. E taetae n te m'aneaba the speaker. 
   speaks
10. E maeka n te nukamotu the farmer. (cultivate = ribana) 
    lives countryside
11. A katei auti the workers. 
    build houses
12. A oki n tebo the divers. 
    return diving
13. A kabaneaki uoman the drivers. (drive = kabutikaa) 
    finished two
14. A nako buakonikai the wood-cutters. (cut wood = korokai) 
    go to the forest
15. A uoti buua ni ben the coconut collectors. (collect c = booti been) 
    carry bags of coconuts
16. A rerebaa i buakonikai the hunters. (hunt = kaeman) 
    roam around in the forest
17. A b'atata aia kariki the bakers (bake bread = kariki) 
    burn bread
18. A motirawa the store keepers n te bong aei. (sell = boob'ai) 
    rest today
19. A kena te rua ni b'ab'ai the diggers. (dig = keniken) 
    dig b'ab'ai pit
20. A uniki nii the planters. (plant = ununiki) 
    plant coconut trees
B. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. There are three workers in the house.

2. The fisherman has come home.

3. The travelers lost their way.

4. The flyer could see many places from above.

5. He met the fireman at the police station.

6. The wrongdoer was fined $25.

7. The teachers are teaching in the schools.

8. The typist types many letters today.

9. They all follow their leader.

10. The singers are singing in the m'aneaba.