

COMPOUNDING

Lesson 40

For the most part, the joining of two nouns together is accomplished through the various uses of 'n' (see lesson 25). As in English (John's picture), these forms are ambiguous for the most part, and open to various interpretations according to the context:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. | te um'a n takataka | a house for copra |
| b. | um'an te takataka | a copra house |
| | | |
| a. | te b'atoro ni kamaimai | a bottle for kamaimai |
| b. | b'atoron te kamaimai | a kamaimai bottle |

While for the most part either form may be used with little chance of the meaning being misunderstood, the focus of the 'a' sentences is on the first noun, and in the 'b' sentences on the second. This can be seen when 'raa', 'which' is added to the above sentences:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| a. | te um'an n takataka raa? | which house for copra? |
| b. | um'an te takataka raa? | house for which copra? |
| | | |
| a. | te b'atoro ni kamaimai raa? | which bottle for k.? |
| b. | b'atoron te kamaimai raa? | bottle for which k.? |

When the compound is one in which the material of the object is part, two ways of formation are possible; one of the normal adjective formation, with the relative pronoun, and the other straight juxtaposition:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| te taamnei ae te atiibu | | the stone picture (statue) |
| te taamnei te atiibu | | " |
| | | |
| te m'angko ae te kiraati | | the glass cup |
| te m'angko te kiraati | | " |

Note then when forms of this type are used with 'n', clearer differences in meaning appear:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| te taamnei n te atiibu | | a picture on the stone |
| taamnein te atiibu | | a picture of the stone |

A. Translate the following list into Kiribati:

1. a stone house

2. a glass plate

3. a metal roof

4. a stone wall

5. a wooden pencil

6. a steel ship

7. a brick building

8. a paper plate

9. a plastic hat

10. a wooden bridge

LESSON 40

B. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. She put the glass cup on the table.

2. I saw a metal table in that room.

3. There's a new brick building in the village.

4. There was a picture of a girl on the wall.

5. We saw a steel ship in the harbor.

6. He told a story of his ancestors.

7. We crossed a wooden bridge there.

8. She bought a bottle of vinegar at the store.

9. Please give me a paper plate.

10. His new house had a metal roof.
