

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):

singular

tia

plural

taan(i)

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 <u>kan</u> am'arake	someone wanting to eat
te tia <u>aki</u> am'arake	someone not eating
taan am'arake	eaters
taani kan am'arake	those wanting to eat
taan aki am'arake	those not eating

LESSON 32

- 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. lai 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 = koro 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 rerebaua 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.
