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10 Complex clauses

In the following sections the various clauses which show syntactic and semantic dependency to a nominal or verbal head will be described. Complex clauses in Hamar are composed of syntactically dependent clauses preceding the main clause. Dependent clauses are generally marked by converbs and various dedicated verbal suffixes, and they can be combined together in clause-chaining. Clause level coordination has been dealt along with phrase-level coordination in chapter 8, section 8.5.

10.1 Subordinate clauses

Subordinate clauses in Hamar precede the main clause and contain dependent verb forms marked by the suffixes listed in table 10.1. Subordinate clauses cannot form a complete utterance and must be syntactically embedded within a main clause (independent paradigms which can instead make up main clauses were overviewed in chapter 9). Hamar, as other Afro-Asiatic languages of Ethiopia (Azeb & Dimmen-daal 2006, inter alia), has non-finite verb forms which mark clausal dependency relations and which are referred to as converbs. Not all the subordinating suffixes listed in table 10.1 are converbs: some dependent verb forms are not considered converbs strictly speaking since they do not depend on the main final verb for tense and aspect reference, whereas converbs inherit tense specification from the main final verb. Subordinated clauses are signaled by a short pause before the following clause: this is marked in the examples by a comma.

Table 10.1: Subordinating suffixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>suffix</th>
<th>gloss</th>
<th>definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-te</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>same-event converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ise</td>
<td>CNV1</td>
<td>general converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-énka</td>
<td>CNV2</td>
<td>different subject converb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ő</td>
<td>PURP</td>
<td>purposive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-áma</td>
<td>OPT</td>
<td>optative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-xa</td>
<td>PAST.CONT</td>
<td>past continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-isaxa</td>
<td>PAST.PF</td>
<td>past perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ika</td>
<td>PF.CONT</td>
<td>past perfect continuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ína</td>
<td>COND</td>
<td>veridical conditional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.1.1 Converbs

There are three converb markers in Hamar. -te (glossed as SE) is used for dependent verb forms which predicate actions which are conceived to be part of the same event predicated by the main verb. The same-event converb is always co-referential with the following verb. The marker -ise (CNV1) is used for both simultaneous and
anterior actions, whereas -ěnkə (CNV2) marks dependent verbs whose subject is not co-referential with that of the main verb. The converb markers -te and -ise are interchangeable in some contexts and can be used to form both adverbial and complement clauses. The three converbs are all used to form complex predicates in periphrastic expressions of aspect (cf. chapter 9, section 9.1.7).

The same-event converb marker -te is suffixed to the citation form of the verb to mark simultaneity and unity with the action expressed by the following verb. The verb following the same-event converb can be either a dependent verb form or a main final verb. The marker is often realized as [-tte] when the verb root ends in a glottal stop (1a), but some speakers use both variants with any type of verb root (1b), (2).

(1a) *noqó baʔá-tte niʔá!*  
water bring-SE come.IMP.2SG  
come and bring water!

(1b) *ínta há=na qánte saxá saʔáti lammá-xa*  
1SG 2SG=DAT DAT tomorrow hour two-INS  
*yaatí baʔá-te niʔ-ó=i=de*  
sheep bring-SE come-PURP=1SG=PFV  
tomorrow at two I will come and bring a sheep for you

The following two examples are extracted from the same folk tale and feature both the same-event converbs zagá-te and zagá-tte:

(2a) *ínta gugána zagá-te i=da-yiʔ-é*  
1SG lightning look.for-SE 1SG=IPFV-go-PRES  
I go to look for lightning

(2b) *silláma gugána zagá-tte dul*  
bogeyman lightning look.for-SE IDEO.go  
Bogeyman went to look for a lightning

The subject of the same-event converb is coreferential with the subject of the following verb:

(3a) *guní daaɓá-ise, dongár-dan gaʔá-tte dees-idí*  
snake stand.up.CNV1 elephant-ACC bite-SE kill-PF  
Snake lifted his head, bit and killed Elephant
(3b) dattá daabá-te dorqá-b
d. animal:M stand.up-SE sit-NARR
the male wild animal woke up and sat down

(3c) dattóno maqásá-te gob-idí
wild.animal:F.S bleed-SE run-PF
the female wild animal ran away while bleeding

(3d) kiláŋqi-no kê´n sará-te yiž-idí
eagle-F.S 3:ACC  catch-SE go-PF
the eagle caught him and went away

The same-event marker semantically coordinates verb phrases, but the verb marked by -te is syntactically subordinated to the following verb. The same-event converb occurs in the periphrastic expressions of irrealis and progressive aspect (see chapter 9). The marker -te can join two or more dependent verbs, see for instance example (4), where it joins the two lexical verbs functioning as complements of the existential construction expressing progressive aspect.

(4) háile.sellási gállo báako-ra mér gélaba-n-shet
  gobá-te yižá-te ko=dáa-de
  run-SE go-SE 3F=exist-PFV
the Amhara are running and going from Baako down to Dhaasanac

The converb marker -te used in existential constructions for the expression of progressive aspect can be occasionally substituted for the general converb -ise, cf. (5a) and (5b):

(5a) ooní-n woisá-te ki=dáa-de
house-F.OBL stand:CAUS-SE 3=exist-PFV
  they are building the house

(5b) ooní-n woisá-ise ki=dáa-de
house-F.OBL stand:CAUS-CNV1 3=exist-PFV
  they are building the house

The obligatory argument of the verb maccá ‘finish’ is always marked by -te, see section 10.1.7 for further details on complement clauses:

53 Hamar gal refers to Amhara, or generally ‘enemies’, and Haile Selassie is used with reference to the Amhara enemies. The Dhaasanc people are called Gélaba, see maps in chapter 1.
As shown in examples (4), (6) above and in (7) below, the verb following the same-event converb can be a dependent verb form. In (7) the converb tiáte is syntactically dependent on the following general converb qadísé:

(7) qáashi-n tiá-tte qadísé, karámfa-na
leather.cloak-F.OBL take-SE wear-CNVI1 calabash-PL
tiá-ise, éen-na qólísé,
take-CNVI1 people.F.OBL-DAT fetch-CNVI
burí-n-ka imfá = ko imf-é
morning-F.OBL-INS give:PASS = 3F give:PASS-PRES
taking and wearing the leather cloak, taking some calabashes, fetching it for the people, in the morning it (coffee) is given

Example (7) illustrates the use of the general converb marker -ise, which is roughly translated as a gerundive form. The general converb however can refer to actions which are simultaneous or anterior with respect to the following (main) verb. The general converb joins together several subordinated clauses as shown in (7) and (8).

(8) waakí kínka gishá-ise mashá-ise isá-ise
cow together herd-CNVI1 slaughter-CNVI1 eat-CNVI1
kínka dáinta-n jamar-idi
together life-F.OBL begin-PF
herding, slaughtering and eating cattle together, they started their life together

The tense and aspect of the main verb determines that of the converb: cf. the past reference in (9a) with the future reference in (9c).

(9a) gamálla gčá-ise ki-nižá-de
camel:PL hit-CNVI1 3 = come-PFV
they came herding camels

(9b) kidí par qáski-n baʔá-ise darán gará-ɓ
3 again dog-F.OBL bring-CNVI1 3.ALL1 let-NARR
so he brought the dog and left it with him
When the subject of the subordinate clause is different from the subject of the main verb, the converb marker -ěńka is suffixed to the verb root. The different-subject converb can take pronominal subject marking if the subject of the subordinate clause is not overtly stated.

(10a)  han = yiʔ-énka  ínta  eefá = i = da  eef-é
       2SG = go-CNV2  1SG  cry = 1SG = IPFV  cry-PRES
When you leave I will cry

(10b)  kí = na  wa  ool-énka  gudirí  nižá-ise
       3 = DAT  another  bray-CNV2  hyena  come-CNV1
kén  dees-idí
       3:ACC  kill-PF
when (Donkey) brayed at him one more time, Hyena came and killed him

(10c)  qáu-n-te  kin = zig-énka  dabí-no
       forest-F.OBL-LOC  3 = want-CNV2  wild.animal-F.S
       t’íf  kai-idí
       IDEO.disappear  get.lost-PF
when he searched in the forest, the animals disappeared

The different-subject converb is occasionally found in subordinated clauses which are co-referential with the main verb. The general converb is however more common in this syntactic context.

(11)  goín  kin = yiʔ-énka  baiti-dan  ki = aafá-de
       way.F.OBL  3 = go-CNV2  river-ACC  3 = see-PFV
when they went along the road, they saw a river

10.1.2 Temporal clauses

Apart from simultaneous and sequential temporal clauses coded by converses, there are various ways of expressing aspectual distinctions in temporal clauses with past reference. The verb paradigms illustrated in table 10.2 are different from the converses discussed in the previous section (10.1.1) because they have past reference (that is, they do not inherit tense and aspect from the final clause), and subject agreement is marked by short form I pronouns. There are two periphrastic ex-
pressions which use the dummy verb hamá as auxiliary, marked by the converb suffix -énka: these are treated here since they contribute to the encoding of aspectual distinction in temporal clauses. The dependent verb forms in table 10.2 form temporal subordinated clauses which are syntactically embedded in the final matrix clause.

Table 10.2: Aspectual distinctions in temporal clauses

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past Continuous</td>
<td>ko = wuc'á-xa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'while she was drinking'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Perfect</td>
<td>ko = wuc'á-isaxa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'after she drank'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Perfect Continuous</td>
<td>wuc'á-ika kon = ham-énka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'after she had been drinking'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inceptive</td>
<td>wuc'-áanna kon = ham-énka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'when she was ready to drink'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The suffix -xa attaches to the citation form of the verb in a dependent clause to mark continuous aspect:

(12a)  dommá  igirá  gbá-xa,  kidí  háqa  wa
       rain:PL  DEM2.PL  hit-PAST.CONT  3  tree  another
demí-r  woyá-ɓ
       side-IN  stand-NARR
       while it was raining a bit, he stood next to a tree

(12b)  yáa  kánki-xa  yiţá-xa,  kánki  róo  si-idí
       2SG  car-INS  go-PAST.CONT  car  leg  be.broken-PF
       while you were going by car, a wheel broke

In the following excerpt the two temporal clauses preceding the matrix clause are both marked by the suffix -xa. The second temporal clause is an existential construction expressing progressive aspect: the existential predicator dáa cannot be marked by the perfective aspect -de which only occurs in independent clauses, and it is instead marked by the Past Continuous marker -xa:
when they were descending down towards Simbále, while they were going down in the area around Simbále, the man called Silémaba killed one Somali

Verbs marked by the suffix -xa can be repeated to emphasize the duration and the iteration of an action: see for instance the repetition of the verb kiyiʔáxa ‘he kept on going’ in example (14) below:

(14) kidí wongá ɡfá-ise ki=yiʔá-xa, waakí ɡfá-ise
ki=yiʔá-xa yiʔá-xa yiʔá-xa, óo
3 =arrive-CNV2 3.ALL lion come-PF
while he kept on going and herding the cows, while he kept on going and going and herding the cattle, when he arrived over there, Lion came to him

Past Perfect in subordinated clauses is expressed by the suffix -isaxa attached to the citation form of the verb (15). The suffix can be realized as [isɔxa] if the verb root contains the back vowels [u] and [o] (16), however some speakers use this phonetic variant with any verb stem, see (17). In fast speech the velar fricative of the suffix can be reduced to [h]: [isaha]. Short form 1 pronouns are used for pronominal subject marking.

(15a) ha=yiʔá-isaxa ínta eep-idí-ne
2SG=go-PAST.PF 1SG cry-PF-COP
after you went I cried

(15b) ko=dammá-isaxa wodí anc’-idí-ne
3F=fall-PAST.PF 1PL laugh-PF-COP
we laughed after she fell
after the hyena killed and after the dog had hid, the hyena saw the dog

after the baboon climbed and sat on the top of the trunk […]

after he took all that gold […]

after he said so, the people consulted each other again and went there to Water

The actions expressed by the Past Perfect marker are conceived as completed before the action of the main verb takes place.

Other aspatial distinctions in subordinate temporal clauses can be made by means of periphrastic constructions. In order to express duration before a completed event in the past (Past Perfect Continuous), the verb *hamá ‘say’* is used as auxiliary and it is marked by the different-subject converb marker *-énka*. The verb providing lexical content is marked by the suffix *-ika* and it can be repeated to emphasize duration in time:

after they had been going and going for long time, Dog and Donkey got tired
Inceptive aspect in subordinate clauses can be expressed with a complex paradigm which resembles the one used in independent clauses: the optative marker -\textit{ánn}a is suffixed to the complement verb (see chapter 9, section 9.1.7). However, the existential auxiliary which is normally used in independent clauses is substituted for the dummy verb \textit{hamá} marked by the converb marker -\textit{én}ka:

\begin{center}
(19a) \textit{dattá-dan} \textit{kát-ánn}a \textit{ki=ham-én}ka
\end{center}
\begin{center}
\text{wild.animal:M-ACC shoot-OPT 3=say-CN\textsuperscript{2}}
\end{center}
when he was about to shoot the male wild animal […]

\begin{center}
(19b) \textit{ooní-n} \textit{kin=ard-ánn}a \textit{ham-én}ka
\end{center}
\begin{center}
\text{house-F.OBL 3=enter-OPT say-CN\textsuperscript{2}}
\end{center}
when he was about to enter the house […]

\subsection*{10.1.3 Reason clauses}

Reason clauses require the citation form of the verb followed by the reason marker \textit{hattáxa}. Short form 1 subject pronouns are cliticized before the reason marker \textit{hattáxa}. Deletion of the word-initial /h/ (MP4) and vowel coalescence (P5) take place between the subject clitic and the reason marker \textit{hattáxa}:

\begin{center}
(20a) \textit{ki=dan} \textit{eél}a \textit{ettáxa} \textit{ki=nízá-de}
\end{center}
\begin{center}
\text{3=ACC call 1SG.REAS 3=come-PFV}
\end{center}
he came because I called him

\begin{center}
(20b) \textit{gaitá-dan} \textit{c’úba-m-be} \textit{núu-m-be}
\end{center}
\begin{center}
\text{baboon:M-ACC smoke-F.OBL.COM fire-F.OBL.COM}
\end{center}
because the smoke and the fire made the baboon sweat, the baboon jumped in the middle of the fire and died
After Worm had been going for a while, he entered in the ground and stayed. Those who went were five since he stayed.

10.1.4 Conditional clauses

Conditional clauses in Hamar distinguish between veridical and potential conditions. The validity of the main clause (the apodosis) is considered to be true if the preceding dependent clause (the protasis) encodes a veridical condition, whereas the potential condition makes the situation expressed in the main clause hypothetical. Veridical conditional clauses are formed by suffixing the conditional marker -ína to the root of the verb in the protasis. Subject marking is obligatorily marked by short form 1 pronouns. Veridical conditional clauses express certainty and true statements, and in the examples below the English conjunction if can be substituted for when.

(20c) tumbuqúlo lìkka yìʔá-ika ham-énka, pee-r
worm little go-PF.CONT say-CNV2 ground-IN
ardá-ise shìd-idì, shìdá kettáxa, kédá
enter-CNV1 stay-PF stay 3.REAS then
yìʔ-ána dong
go-REL.PAST.PL five

After Worm had been going for a while, he entered in the ground and stayed. Those who went were five since he stayed.

(21a) ki = shìit-ína, aïzié agá-sa fáala-no
3 = be.soft-COND goat.hide:M DEM2.M = GEN flesh-F.S
gurtá~gurtafá
scrape.out~scrape.out:PASS
if it becomes soft, the excess flesh of that goat hide is scraped out

(21b) kodí shànqo-shet ko = yìʔ-ína, búno baʔá-te
3F Shanqo-ALL2 3F = go-COND coffee bring-SE
ko = yìʔ-é
3F = go-PRES
if she goes to Shanqo, she goes and brings coffee

(21c) rɔɔ-tà i = jug-ína, ínta dabí aaf-idí-ne
leg-M 1SG = shake-COND 1SG wild.animal see-PF-COP
if I shake the leg, (it means that) I have seen a wild animal

Potential conditional clauses are formed by the perfect form of the verb followed by the optative marker -ánnə (22).
As shown by example (22c) and (22d) this strategy allows for general forms to function as the subject of the verb in the protasis. However, the optative marker can also be suffixed to short form 1 subject pronouns (see chapter 2 under vowel coalescence P5), and in this case the subject of the protasis needs to be specified for gender or number:

(23a) káira parsí geği wuc'-idí kánna,
Kaira beer a.lot drink-PF 3F:OPT
bárda = ko bárda-é
be.drunk = 3F be.drunk-PRES
if Kaira (F) drinks a lot of parsí beer she gets drunk

(23b) yédí payá hayá-ise kumm-idí yénna,
2PL good do-CNV1 eat-PF 2PL:OPT
durfé = da durfé-é
be.fat.2PL = IPFV be.fat-PRES
if you eat well you will gain weight

Potential conditional clauses refer to hypothetical, yet possible, future events. As the examples above show, the verb in the apodosis is usually in the future tense, although the imperative or the jussive mood is also possible.
In a few instances the optative marker was found suffixed directly to the verb root, without the perfect marker -idí. Subject agreement in these examples is marked by
short form I pronouns on the verb. Discussing these examples was very hard and the speakers re-formulated them with the perfective form of the verb:

(24a) \( \text{í=xal} \; \text{éedi} \; \text{qoléi}, \; \text{beré} \; \text{i=gar-ánn}a \)
\(1SG=\text{AFF} \; \text{person exist.not later} \; 1SG=\text{leave-OPT} \)
\(\text{éen} \; \text{ki=geʔ-é} \)
\(1SG:\text{ACC} \; 3=\text{bite-PRES} \)
there's nobody with me, if I leave (him) later he will bite me

(24b) \( \text{dattâ} \; \text{káa} \; \text{i=kat'-ánn}a, \; \text{beré} \; \text{éen} \)
\(\text{wild.animal:M DEM1.M} \; 1SG=\text{shoot-OPT later} \; 1SG:\text{ACC} \)
\(\text{gaʔá}=\text{ki} \; \text{goʔ-ó?} \)
\(\text{bite}=3 \; \text{bite-PRES.INT} \)
If I shoot at this wild animal, will he bite me later?

10.1.5 Purposive clauses

Purposive clauses are marked by the suffix -o which attaches to the verb root. The purposive marker -o can be used only if the subject of the purposive clause and that of the main clause are the same:

(25a) \( \text{ínta} \; \text{baín-te} \; \text{shiid-ó} \; \text{i=da-yiʔ-é} \)
\(1SG \; \text{river.F.OBL} \; \text{wash:PASS-PURP} \; 1SG=\text{IPFV-go-PRES} \)
I go to wash myself in the river (lit. I go in order to wash myself in the river)

(25b) \( \text{dímeka-shet} \; \text{qulí} \; \text{shansh-ó} \; \text{yiʔá-te} \; \text{ki=dáa-de} \)
\(\text{Dimeka-ALL2} \; \text{goat buy:CAUS-PURP go-SE} \; 3=\text{exist-PFV} \)
he is going to Dimeka in order to sell a goat

If the subject of the purposive clause is different from the subject of the main clause, the jussive mood is used to express purpose:

(26) \( \text{éeno} \; \text{ko=kumm-é} \; \text{imbá}=\text{ko} \; \text{imbé-é} \)
\(\text{people:F.S} \; 3F=\text{eat-PRES give:PASS}=3F \; \text{give:PASS-PRES} \)
it will be given so that the people can eat

The purposive suffix -o is used in the paradigm for intentional future as well, see chapter 9 (9.1.3).
10.1.6 Non-verbal predication in subordinate clauses

In subordinate clauses non-verbal predication is expressed by means of the existential verb *dáa* which can be marked by the general converb *-ise*. The general converb *dáise* translates both temporal and reason clauses.

(27a) \[ wɔxá-sa qushmanɓá likka dá-ise \]
\[ ox:GEN horns small exist-CN1 \]
the horns of the ox were small [...]

(27b) \[ kidí kéda bórle dá-ise \]
\[ 3 then young exist-CN1 \]
when he was young [...]

(27c) \[ éedi wáni éna--éna dong dá-ise, adamá-n \]
\[ person some past--past five exist-CN1 hunt-F.OBL \]
\[ mágo.parkí-n yičá-da \]
\[ Mago.Park-F.OBL go-IPFV \]
some guys, long time ago, being five, were going to hunt in Mago Park

(27d) \[ kínka dá-ise, róoro wul kínka ki=yay-é \]
\[ together exist-CN1 day all together 3=walk-PRES \]
when they were together, they used to walk together every day

The veridical vs. potential distinction in conditional clauses is not maintained in verb-less clauses. Non-verbal predication in the protasis is expressed by the optative marker suffixed directly to short form subject pronouns: verb-less conditional clauses are identical to the potential conditional clauses shown in (23) above, except for the fact that the optative marker is suffixed to a pronoun.

(28a) \[ yáa! agá tigátte, ángi háonna, nižá! \]
\[ 2SG DEM2.M step-SE man 2SG:OPT come.IMP.2SG \]
you! if you are a man, step on that (log) and come!

(28b) \[ kidí paxála kénna paráni-n aapó-n wul \]
\[ 3 clever 3:OPT foreigner-F.OBL mouth-F.OBL all know 3=know-PRES \]
he would know the whole language of the foreigners if he was clever

(28c) \[ ínta átti énna kapá-na-xa daaɓá = i = da daaɓ-é \]
\[ 1SG bird 1SG:OPT wing-PL-INS fly = 1SG = IPFV fly-PRES \]
If I were a bird I would fly with wings
10.1.7 Complement clauses

There are two complementation strategies in Hamar, namely nominalization and clause chaining. The most common complementation strategy is that of using a nominalized verbal complement: the verbal element of a complement clause is nominalized by means of the relational marker \(-n\) suffixed to the citation form of the verb:

(29a) \(\text{yáa } \text{banqí-n } \text{zagá-n } \text{gará!}\)

\(2\text{SG }\text{fight-F.OBL }\text{want-R }\text{stop.IMP.2SG}\)

stop looking for war!

(29b) \(\text{murá-dan } \text{katá-n } \text{dés-é}\)

\(\text{gun-ACC }\text{shoot-R }\text{know-PRES.NEG.3}\)

he does not know how to shoot a gun

(29c) \(\text{qáara } \text{dungrí-n } \text{jaagá-n } \text{désá=ko } \text{dés-é}\)

\(\text{vervet.monkey }\text{sandal-F.OBL }\text{sew-R }\text{know=3F }\text{know-PRES}\)

Vervet Monkey knows how to sew the sandals

(29d) \(\text{ímba-dan } \text{ooní-n } \text{ashká-n}\)

\(\text{my.father-ACC }\text{house-F.OBL }\text{do-R}\)

\(\text{kalshá=i=da } \text{kalsh-é}\)

\(\text{help=1SG=IPFV }\text{help-PRES}\)

I’ll help my father prepare the house

(29e) \(\text{kíńka } \text{gobá-n } \text{kin=jammar-énka}\)

\(\text{together }\text{run-R }3=\text{start-CN}\text{V2}\)

when they started racing each other […]

The marker \(-n\) on the complement verb is analysed as relation marker because there are no arguments in favor of an analysis in terms of oblique case F.OBL. Verb complements cannot function as subject arguments thus it cannot be verified whether the nominalized verb marked by \(-n\) triggers feminine agreement. A sentence like ‘dancing is tiring’ in (30) below is expressed by a subordinate clause marked by the different-subject converb \(-\text{énka}\):

(30) \(\text{in = guz-énka } \text{qaccá=ko } \text{qacc-é}\)

\(1\text{SG = dance-CN}\text{V2 }\text{be.tired:CAUS=3F }\text{be.tired:CAUS-PRES}\)

when I dance, it will make (me) tired

The relational marker \(-n\) is not suffixed on interrogative complement clauses:
(31a) qootí dooná dandayá-u?
beehive build.beehive be.able-INT.COP
can you build a beehive?

(31b) yáa ukulí mashá ɗesá-u?
2SG donkey slaughter know-INT.COP
do you know how to slaughter a donkey?

(31c) yáa dungurí jaagá ɗesá ɗes-ó?
2SG sandal sew know.2SG know-PRES.INT
do you know how to sew sandals?

Clause-chaining as complementation strategy is used with some verbs which take a complement verb marked by the same-event converb marker -te. The complement of the verb maccá ‘finish’ for instance is always marked by the same-event converb marker -te:

(32a) páala-n gurtá-tte maccá-ise
flesh-F.OBL scrape.out-SE finish-CNV1
when you finish scraping out the excess meat […]

(32b) búno-n wuc’á-te macc-idi-ánna
coffee-F.OBL drink-SE finish-PF-OPT
if they finish drinking coffee […]

(32c) waadimá-te macc-é!
work-SE finish-IMP.2PL
finish work!

The same-event converb -te can mark also the verbal complement of the verb yíʔá ‘go’, however the verb ‘go’ can take verbal complements marked by other converb markers, such as the purposive marker -o or the general converb marker -ise.

(33) ínta deeshá zagá-te i = da-yiʔ-é
1SG medicine want-SE 1SG = IPFV-go-PRES
I go to look for a medicine

The complement of volitional and cognition verbs such as zagá ‘want’ and qaabá ‘think’ is always marked by the optative marker -ánna:
(34a)  kodí  kalsh-ána  zag-idí
       3F help-OPT want-PF
she wanted to help

(34b)  shóqo-be  kóopini-be  kínka  ki=gob-ána  qaábá-isaxa
       tick-COM squirrel-COM together 3=run-OPT think-PAST.PF
after Tick and Squirrel thought of racing each other […]

10.2 Quotative clauses

Indirect speech report is not possible in Hamar, hence quotative clauses are composed of direct speech utterances. In order to link a quotative clause to the clause headed by a quotative verb (such as giá ‘tell’, berá ‘reveal’, oisá ‘ask’), the dummy verb hamá ‘say’ is used (in the following examples the dummy verb is highlighted by a surrounding box). The dummy verb gets the general converb marker -ise:

(35a)  “kála  bish  oolá!”  hamá-ise  qáski  gi-idí
       one only bray.IMP.2SG say-CNV1 dog tell-PF
“Bray only once!”, Dog said (lit. saying “bray only once!” Dog said)

(35b)  “wongá  diibá-ise  wóon  ki=dees-é”  hamá-ise
       cow:PL steal-CNV1 1PL:ACC 3=kil-PRES say-CNV1
       t’álian-dar  boráana  bersá-bó
       Italians-ALL1 Boraana reveal:CAUS-NARR
“they steal the cows and kill us”, the Boraana informed the Italians

Quotative clauses are formally independent clauses since only independent verb forms can be used, and the dummy verb hamá functions as an argument of the matrix clause headed by the quotative verb.

The passive form of hamá is used always with the different-subject marker -(e)ńka and the temporal subordinative suffix -xa. These complementizers are used without pronominal subject marking and their function is to separate different conversational turns, for example in narratives involving longer sequences of direct speech:

(36a)  “yáa  qáski  macc-idú?”  hambó-xa
       2SG dog finish-PF.INT say:PASS-PAST.CONT
       “ínta  macc-idí-ne”
       1SG finish-PF-COP
       “you, Dog, have you finished?”, “I have finished”
The dummy verbs *hamáise* and *hamáxa* are used also as discourse fillers in the narrative flow, to connect information between main clauses (37a), to shift to a different topic (37b) or simply to pause the narrative flow in order to consider what to say next (37c):

(37a)  
\[
\text{noqó núu-dar laalimá-ise, núu di-idí.}
\]
\[\text{water fire-ALL1 leak-CNV1 fire fee} \]
\[\text{hamáxa kěda noqó-be kím=be} \]
\[\text{say:PASS-PAST.CONT then water-COM 3=COM} \]
\[\text{kínka wongá giá-ise yíz-idí} \]
\[\text{together cow:PL hit-CNV1 go-PF} \]

Water leaked over Fire, and Fire died. Then, Water together with him went herding the cows.

(37b)  
\[
\text{éedi makkán kó=sa báski dáá.}
\]
\[\text{person three 3F=GEN lover exist} \]
\[\text{hamáxa kěda gesh waakí gëtte} \]
\[\text{say:PASS-PAST.CONT then husband:M cow hit.SE} \]
\[\text{gabá-n-dar waakí shansh-ánna ut-idí} \]
\[\text{market-F.OBL-ALL1 cow buy:CAUS-OPT go.out-PF} \]

She had three lovers. Then, the husband went out to herd the cattle to the market to sell them.

(37c)  
\[
\text{ooni-n ard-ánna kin=de-énka, hai-tå} \]
\[\text{house-F.OBL enter-OPT 3=exist-CNV2 sun-M} \]
\[\text{ibán-in-ka oolá-6, hamá-ise, ooni-n} \]
\[\text{afternoon-F.OBL-INS call-NARR say-CNV1 house-F.OBL} \]
\[\text{kin=ard-ánna yíz-énka gamurè kí=dan yedá-6} \]
\[\text{3=enter-OPT go-CNV2 jackal:M 3=ACC catch-NARR} \]

when (the rooster) was about to enter the house, he called at the sunset. Then, when he was about to enter the house, the jackal caught him.
Similar to the dummy verb *hamá*, the verb *hayá* ‘do’ marked by the general converb -ise can also be used as a transition word between clauses:

(38a)  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ée deesá-6,} & & \text{hayá-ise} & & \text{kí = sa wongá qaná-6} \\
\text{man:M kill-NARR} & & \text{do-CNV1 3 = GEN cow:PL hit-NARR} \\
\text{He killed the man, and he stole his cows.}
\end{align*}
\]

(38b)  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{qaské málsi ti-áí,} & & \text{hayá-ise} & & \text{ogó-ra} \\
\text{dog:M change take-NEG.PRES.3} & & \text{do-CNV1 DEM2.F-ABL} \\
\text{par quuí-sa birr kála qolí} & & \text{IDEO.again goat-GEN birr one exist.not} \\
\text{Dog does not take his change. Then, after that, Goat has not even one birr}
\end{align*}
\]