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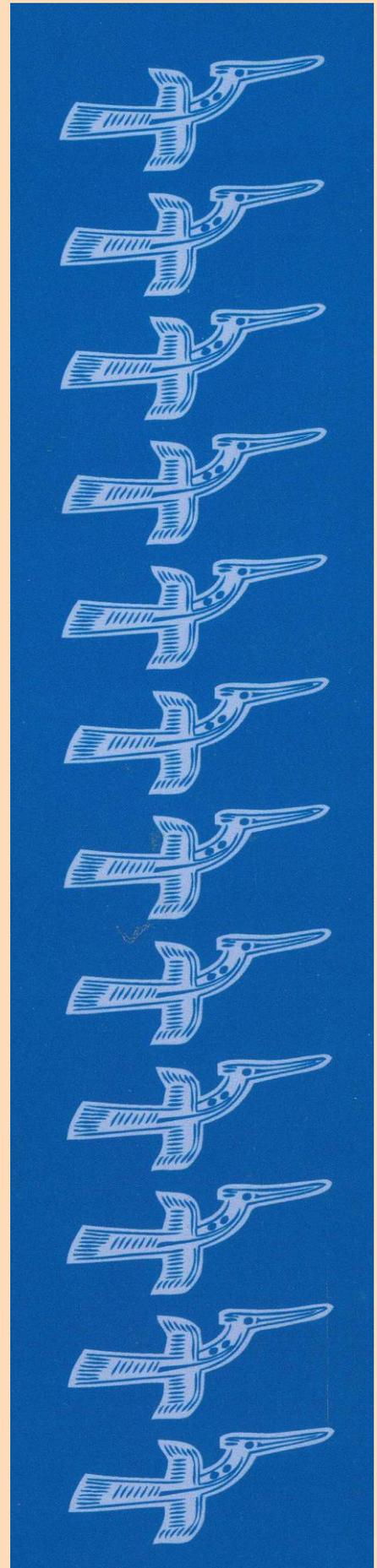
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Interrogation in Muöt

V. R. Rajasingh

Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, India
<rajasingh.1958@gmail.com>

Abstract

Interrogation is a semantic process of eliciting information by way of questioning. Muöt is one of the six varieties of Nicobarese languages. It is spoken by the ethnic Nicobarese who inhabit the three Central Nicobar Islands, namely, Nancowry, Katchal and Kamorta of the Nicobar Archipelago, India. In Muöt, interrogation is found to be carried out with interrogative sentences which are of two kinds. Those interrogative sentences which employ interrogative words as markers of interrogation constitute one type and those which employ intonation, the supra segmental feature, as marker of interrogation constitute the other. Identifying the markers of interrogation and providing a descriptive account on the process of interrogation are the foci of this paper. In order to place the findings on a strong theoretical footing, the paper will have a survey on the process of interrogation as exemplified in the extant works on the language. The paper will also, try to make necessary departures from them reiterating its relevance to the contemporary trend of documentation and description of minor languages. The paper is data bound. The data for the purpose are drawn from the Andaman Commissioned Project data base collected from the Nancowry Island between September and December of 2004 just before the killer tsunami.

Keywords: Interrogation

ISO 639-3 codes: ncb

1. Muöt

Muöt is one of the Nicobarese languages of the ethnic Nicobarese of Nicobar Archipelago, India.¹ The Nicobar Archipelago is a chain of twenty two islands, with thirteen of them inhabited, lying North to South in the Bay of Bengal.² The language is spoken by the Nicobarese presently inhabiting the three Islands, namely, Nancowry, Katchal and Kamorta of the archipelago.³ In the North, these islands are bound by islands of Teressa, Bompoka and Isle of Man, while in the South by that of Miroe. And, as with other members of the archipelago, their eastern border is covered by Thailand and Malaysia, while the western by peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Longitudinally, the three islands are between 93°22 and 93°34'50 and latitudinally between 7°56 and 8°08. As per 2001 census, the total number of people who speak the language stands as 5826 spreading over a geographical area of 515.8 sq. kms.

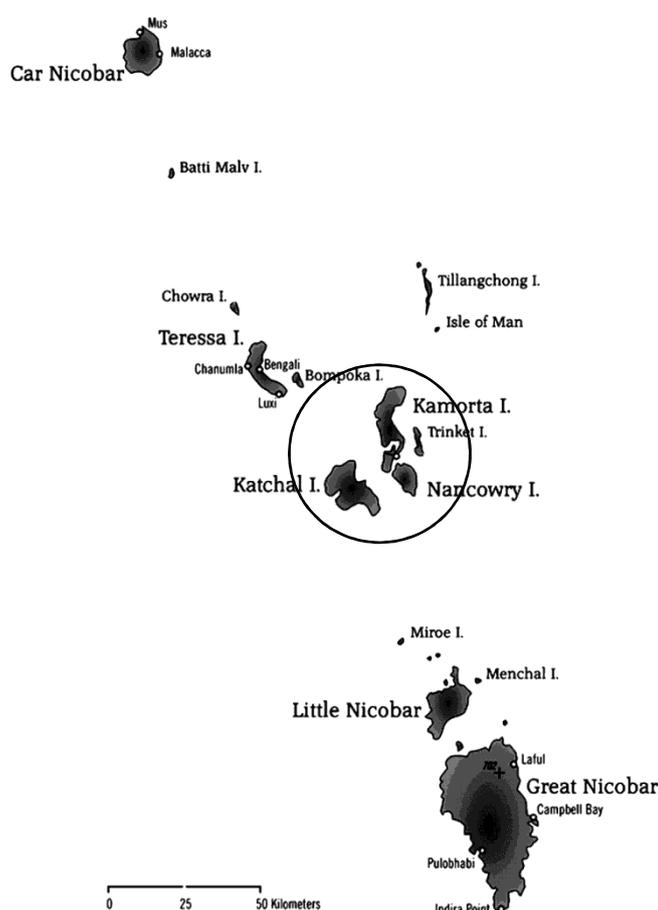
The data made use of for the paper have been drawn from the data collected as part of the Andaman Commissioned Project, a collaborative program entered into by the Union Territory Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar islands with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. The objective of the collaboration is to bring out a Linguistic Description of Muöt so as to enable the Union Territory Administration chalk out programs for the educational and economic progress of the ethnic community. The Nancowry Island with an ethnic human population of 881 over a geographical area of 66.9 sq. kms which is said to be the seat of local administration for the

¹ It is also known otherwise as Nancowry or Central Nicobarese.

² The thirteen inhabited islands are Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Bompoka, Nancowry, Katchal, Kamorta, Trinket, Tillong Chong, Kondul, Pulomilo, Little Nicobar and Great Nicobar. Among them Tillong Chong is devoid of ethnic inhabitants.

³ Till 2004, just prior to the tsunami, the speakers of the language were spread across four islands, the fourth one being the Trinket. After the tsunamic devastation, the Indian Administration had to declare the island as inhospitable and the surviving inhabitants thereof have been settled down in the neighboring Kamorta Island. The Administration has named their new habitation in Kamorta as Vikas Nagar.

islands of Nancowry, Katchal, Kamorta and Trinket during the colonial era was selected as the field. Mr. Mark Paul, a native of this island, aged 60 years with the educational qualification of Higher Secondary School Examination passed became the informant.⁴ The CIIL questionnaire comprising a word list of 4202 words and a sentence list of 1555 sentences was made use of as the tool for data collection. The data have been collected between September 19th and December 26th of 2004, independently by the author both by observation and elicitation besides recording them in magnetic tapes. During the entire period of field work, the author had to stay with the speakers day and night having him immersed into their language and culture. Presumably, the launching of linguistic description of Muöt is conceived of as part of a larger objective of bringing out descriptive accounts on all the Nicobarese languages.⁵ Hence, attempts have already been initiated for collecting data from three more languages also with the author visiting the area of Takahanilāhngö (Great Nicobarese) and his colleague Winston Cruz, the areas of Sanënyö (Chowra) and Lamòngsë (Kondul). All the data thus collected are the property of Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore and they are marked as Andaman Commissioned Project data base in order to differentiate them from the others.



Map: Nicobar Archipelago with Muöt area circled.

⁴ He, and only he, was authorized by the Tribal Council of the Island to work as informant.

⁵ To determine the number of Nicobarese languages, a survey was conducted as part of this collaborative program between August 11th and October 24th of 2002, by the author along with his colleague Winston Cruz, covering all the twelve islands inhabited by the ethnic Nicobarese. The yet to be published report of the survey enables to fix the number of languages tentatively as six, the other five being, Pū (Car Nicobarese), Sanënyö (Chowra), Lurö (Teresa), Lamòngsë (Kondul) and Takahanilāhngö (Great Nicobarese). The survey excludes Shompen.

The language has been classed as a member of the Austroasiatic family through the Mon-Khmer sub-family (Lewis 2009). The attestation of Mon-Khmer specific characteristics at the phonological, morphological and syntactic levels of the language seems to substantiate such an affiliation. At the phonological level, the language is found to attest, among others, ɯ ‘high back unrounded vowel’ in its vowel inventory. At the morphological level, it is found to have all roots as monosyllabic ones and also found to attest, among others, <an> ‘resultative infix’ in its affixal morphology. At the syntactic level, it is predominantly found to be of VOS pattern with serial verb construction.

2. Phonology of modern Muöt

The sound system of the language is found to consist only of segmental phonemes.⁶ They are in the form of consonants, simple vowels and complex vowels. The phonemic inventory identifies sixteen consonants, nine simple vowels and seven complex vowels.

2.1. Consonants

The sixteen consonants and their phonetic properties can be inferred from table-1.

Table 1⁷

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p (p)			t (t)	c (ch)	k (k)	ʔ (k̚)
Nasal	m (m)			n (n)	ɲ (ny)	ŋ (ng)	
Lateral				l (l)			
Fricative		f (f)	s (s)	ɹ (r)		x (h)	
Approximant		v (v)			j (y)		

2.2. Simple vowel

The nine simple vowels and their phonetic description can be inferred from table-2.

Table 2⁸

High	Front	Central	Back	
			Rounded	Unrounded
	i (i, ī)		u (u, ū)	ɯ (eu, eū,)
High-mid	e (ě, ē)		o (o, ō)	
Mid		ə (ō, öö)		
Low-mid	ɛ (e, ě)		ɔ (ò, ô)	
Low				ɑ (a, ā)

All these function as nucleus of root and as well as affixal syllables.

2.3. Nasalized simple vowel

Except ɔ, all the other eight simple vowels are found to attest their nasalized counterparts. They are ĩ (iñ, ñi), ũ (uñ, ñu), ũ̄ (euñ, eñu), ě (ěñ, ñě), ǎ (òñ, ñò), ẽ (eñ, ñe), õ (òñ, ñò) and ã (añ, ñã).⁹ They all are found to occur as nucleus of root syllables only.

⁶ Stress is perceived, but not found to be phonemic.

⁷ What are given in round brackets against consonants are their equivalents in Muöt orthography.

⁸ What are given in round brackets against vowels are their equivalents in terms of laxness and tenseness in Muöt orthography.

2.4. Complex vowels

Complex vowels are found to be of diphthongs and the number of them identified stands as seven. They are iə (iö, iō), ua (ua, uā), uö (uö, uō), euə (euö, eüö), ea (ea, eā), eə (eö, eō), oə (oö, oō).¹⁰ Among them, ua, uö, euə and oə are found beginning with back vowels, while iə, eə and ea with front vowels. As is seen, they all begin with higher vowels and move towards lower ones. Like nasalized simple vowels, they also are found to occur as nucleus of root syllables only.

2.5. Nasalized complex vowel

Except eə and oə, all the other five complex vowels are found to attest their nasalized counterparts. They are iə̃ (iön, iōñ), uā̃ (uañ, uāñ), uö̃ (uön, uōñ), euö̃ (euön, eüön), eā̃ (eañ, eāñ).¹¹ Like nasalized simple vowels, they are also found to occur as nucleus of root syllables only.

2.6. Phonotactics

Among the sixteen consonants, t ‘alveolar plosive’ is found to show variation in its usage. It becomes t̚ ‘dental plosive’ at the syllable initial position (compare, for example, the syllable initial t̚ of the monosyllabic word t̚o:p ‘drink’ in the sentence 39 with the syllable final t̚ of the monosyllabic word nə:t̚ ‘pig’ in the sentence 37).

All the nine simple vowels function as nucleus of either closed or open syllables. They are found to be stressed or unstressed, and when stressed they are of tensed.¹² The tenseness extends to full length in the case of open syllables (see, for example, the tensed vowels uu: and e: of the respective open syllables tuu: and fe: of the disyllabic words katuu: ‘stay’ and ʔufe: ‘plural’ in sentences 25 and 36 respectively) and to half length in the case of closed syllables (see, for example, the half tensed vowels ə: and i: of the closed syllables of the monosyllabic words kə:n ‘get up’ and ci:n ‘what’ in sentences 31 and 24 respectively). The vowels are found stressed and tensed invariably when they happen to be nucleus of root syllables (compare, for example, the stressed tensed vowels i: and e: of the respective root syllables of the monosyllabic words ci:n ‘what’ and ne:n ‘past’ in sentences 24 and 39 respectively with the unstressed lax vowels ɨ and ɛ of the respective affixal syllables -si- and -se- of the word juɑ:nsise ‘progressive’ in sentence 19a).

In open syllables, ə ‘mid central vowel’ becomes ɑ ‘low back unrounded vowel’ when the syllables happen to be either of prefixal ones in word initial position (compare, for example, ɑ of tɑ- in the word tɑnã:ŋe ‘there’ in sentence 19a with ə of -ŋə in the word kaji:ŋe ‘go’ in sentence 30) or of suffixal ones in word medial position (compare, for example, ɑ of -ŋɑ- in the word xali:ŋase ‘prepare’ in sentence 34 with ə of -tə in the word tə:ŋtə ‘reach’ in sentence 32).

When nasalized, ɑ ‘low back unrounded vowel’ is found to become ã ‘low front unrounded vowel’ (compare, for example, ɑ of mɑ:t̚ ‘sociative’ in sentence 25 with ã: of ʔã:cəʔ ‘arrow’ in sentence 22).

Like simple vowels, complex vowels also are found functioning as nucleus of either open or closed syllables, and are found stressed and tensed to full length in open syllables (see, for example, the diphthong ua: of the open syllable of the monosyllabic word cuɑ: ‘what’ of section 4.3.1) or to half length in closed syllable (see, for example, the diphthong ua: of the closed syllable juɑ:n of the trisyllabic word juɑ:nsise ‘progressive’ in the sentence 19a). But, the stress and the tenseness are found to occur either with the initial vowel sounds (see, for example, the diphthong o:ə of the monosyllabic word ko:ən ‘child’ in the sentence 36) or with the final ones (see, for example, the diphthong oə: of the monosyllabic word t̚oə:k ‘toddy’ in sentence 39).

⁹ What are given in round brackets against nasalized simple vowels are their equivalents in terms of laxness and tenseness in Muöt orthography.

¹⁰ What are given in round brackets against complex vowels are their equivalents in terms of laxness and tenseness in Muöt orthography.

¹¹ What are given in round brackets against nasalized complex vowels are their equivalents in terms of laxness and tenseness in Muöt orthography.

¹² Hence, instead of marking them individually, the present paper employs the marker for length as symbolic of both.

3. Interrogation defined

Crystal (2008) in his definition of the word interrogative, states it as ‘a term used in the grammatical classification of sentence types and usually seen in contrast to declarative; it refers to verb form or sentence/clause type typically used in the expression of question’ (p251). As characteristics that are responsible for the typical use of the aforesaid forms in the expression of question, he mentions two: inversion of word order and use of interrogative word. He substantiates the capability of inverted word order in expressing question, with the help of the sentence,

1. Is he coming?

As tokens of interrogative word, three forms, namely, which, why and who are listed sub-categorizing them into interrogative adjective, interrogative adverb and interrogative pronoun respectively (ibid.). Later, while defining the word, question, the author states it as ‘a term used in the classification of sentence functions, typically used to elicit information or a response, and defined sometimes on grammatical, and sometimes on semantic or sociolinguistic grounds’ (p400). Taking English as the sample, he mentions three kinds of questions, namely, sentence with inversion of subject and first verb, sentence that commence with question word and sentence that ends with question tag. As respective illustrations for the three types he lists the following:

2. Is he coming?
3. Where is he?
4. He is going, is not he?

Further, with the passing reference ‘some would include the use of sentences with rising intonation to be a class of question’ (ibid.) the author spells out the possibility of having one more question.

4. Previous sources of information on interrogation

The speakers of the language have been in persistent contacts with traders, administrators, missionaries, researchers and members of various expeditions from time immemorial. Accomplishments of their objectives have resulted in documenting the language in the form of vocabularies, dictionaries, translations, grammatical descriptions etc. Among them, the present paper makes use of the **Vocabulary of Dialects spoken in Nicobar and Andaman Isles** by De Röpstorff (1875), **A Dictionary of the Nancowry Dialect of the Nicobarese Language** by De Röpstorff (1884) and **A Dictionary of the Central Nicobarese Language** by Man (1889) as classical sources of information on interrogation.

4.1. Treatment of interrogation by De Röpstorff (1875)

De Röpstorff (1875) in his vocabulary on Nancowry dialect doesn’t make any formal reference concerning interrogation or interrogative marker or interrogative sentence. However, he lists a few words which correspond to what the present paper views as interrogative marker. They are found in the vocabulary along with their respective glosses in English. For the sake of easy reference they have been reproduced below.

Röpstorff (1875) ¹³	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation	Reference
katōm	Katōm	kaʈoːm	‘how many’	(p64)
kin-kee-en?	Chīn	ciːn	‘what’	(p109)
kahæ	Kahēñ	kaxēː	‘when’	(ibid.)
joa	Chū	cuː	‘where’	(ibid.)
kyouja?	Tai chua	ʈaːjːcuaː	‘why’	(ibid.)

¹³ Stands for the orthography made use of by De Röpstorff (1875).

4.2. Treatment of interrogation by De Röpstorff (1884)

De Röpstorff (1884) in his introduction to the grammar of Nancowry dialect of the Nicobarese language seems to list what the present paper views as marker of interrogation under two titles, namely, the pronoun and the adverb. Under the former, he lists them as a sub category of pronoun called interrogative pronoun and under the latter, as a sub category of adverb called interrogative.

4.2.1. Interrogative pronoun

As interrogative pronouns, he lists four forms and they have been rendered with their glosses in English. They are reproduced below for the sake of easy reference.

Röpstorff (1884) ¹⁴	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Tiī	Chī	ci:	‘who’
Tiīn	Chīn	ciˈn	‘what’
Tiang tiī	Chöng chī	cəŋ ci:	‘whose’
Katōm	Katōm	kaɽoˈm	‘how many, how much’

(ppxvii-xviii)

Of these, Tiī ‘who’, has been said of as being used with human noun and by virtue of it been termed as personal interrogative pronoun. On Tiīn ‘what’, the author is of the view that the form has been used with human nouns as well as with non-human ones. With respect to Tiang tiī ‘whose’ and Katōm ‘how many, how much’ it has been said that the former is made use of to express possessive relationship while the latter the quantity. The author provides, what are reproduced below as 5 - 7, as sample sentences to illustrate the usage of Tiīn ‘what’ for eliciting information on human as well as non-human nouns and as 8 - 9 as that to illustrate the possessive and quantifying functions of Tiang tiī ‘whose’ and Katōm ‘how many, how much’ respectively.

5. Tiīn paiū

Röpstorff (1884)	Tiīn	paiū
Modern Muöt	Chīn	payuh
IPA	ciˈn	paɽuˈx
Gloss	what	man ¹⁵
Translation	‘Who (what man) is there?’	

6. Tiīn io me

Röpstorff (1884)	Tiīn	io	me
Modern Muöt	Chīn	yòk	měh
IPA	ciˈn	jɔˈ?	mɛː
Gloss	what	do want	you
Translation	‘What do you want?’		

7. Tiīn wētié

Röpstorff (1884)	Tiīn	wē	tié
Modern Muöt	Chīn	vīk	cheūñ
IPA	ciˈn	viˈ?	cw:ə
Gloss	what	shall do	I
Translation	‘What shall I do?’		

¹⁴ Stands for the orthography made use of by De Röpstorff (1884).

¹⁵ Copula verb is found to have elided.

8. Tiang tī

Röepstorff (1884)	Tiang	tī
Modern Muöt	Chöng	chī
IPA	cəŋ	ci:
Gloss	poss	who ¹⁶
Translation	‘Whose is it?’	

9. Katōm kamehæwe kākāt

Röepstorff (1884)	Katōm	kamehæwe	Kă	kăt
Modern Muöt	Katōm	kamahēnvō	kōk	kōt
IPA	kaʈoːm	kaɱaxɛːvə	kəːʔ	kəːt
Gloss	how many	month	q	here ¹⁷
Translation	‘In how many months will you be here?’			

(ibid.)

As is seen, in Tiān paiū ‘who (what man) is there?’ the form Tiān is made use of to elicit information concerning human noun and as seen in Tiān io me ‘what do you want?’ as well as in Tiān wētié ‘what shall I do?’ it has been made use of to elicit information concerning non-human noun. Also, as seen in 8 and 9, Tiang tī ‘whose?’ and Katōm ‘how many, how much’ are made use of to convey possessive and quantifying meanings respectively. The insights obtained from the present paper enable to note that the lexical equivalent of Tī ‘who?’ seems to be used for eliciting information concerning non-human nouns also in the present day language.

4.2.2. Interrogative

As interrogatives, the author lists three forms and they are found with their respective English glosses. For the sake of easy reference they have been reproduced below.

Röepstorff (1884)	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation	Reference
Tiū	Chū	cu:	‘where’	(p14)
Kahæ	Kahēn	kaɱɛ:	‘when’	(ppxx-xxi)
Katōm	Katōm	kaʈoːm	‘how many’	(ibid.)

Further, he speaks about another interrogative form kă and is of the view that it is often used as an independent interrogative particle. To illustrate such a proposition two sentences have been provided and among them one has already been reproduced as 9 and the other is reproduced below as 10.

10. Léat kă ina kalāh oknōk omtōm

Röepstorff (1884)	Léat	kă	ina	kalāh	oknōk	omtōm
Modern Muöt	Leāt	kōk	inān	kalāh	hungōnk	umtūm
IPA	leɑːt	kəːʔ	ʔinā:	kaɱaːx	xuŋɔːk	ʔumtuːm
Gloss	perf	q	2du	taste	food	all
Translation	‘Have you (two) tasted all the food?’					

The insights obtained from the present paper enable to consider the form kă in the sentences 9 and 10 not as an independent interrogative particle, but as a demonstrative particle.

¹⁶ The subject and copula verb of the sentence are found to have elided.

¹⁷ The subject of the sentence and the marker for future tense are found to have elided.

4.3. Treatment of interrogation by Man (1889)

Man (1889) in his notes on the grammar of the dialect spoken in the central portion of the Nicobar Islands, deals with what the present paper views as interrogative marker and interrogative sentence under three titles, namely, pronouns, adverbs, and interrogative sentences. And under pronouns, he treats them as a sub-category of pronoun called interrogative pronoun and under adverbs as four sub-categories of adverbs called, interrogative adverbs of time and change; interrogative adverbs of place; interrogative adverbs of quantity, number and degree; and interrogative adverbs of manner and cause.

4.3.1. Interrogative pronoun

As interrogative pronouns, the author presents a list of nineteen forms along with their respective English glosses. They are,

Man (1889) ¹⁸	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Chī	Chī	ci:	‘who’
Ten chī	Tin chī	t̪iːn ci:	‘whom’
Tai chī	Tai chī	t̪aːj ci:	‘by whom’
Lamôngto-chī, Lamôngto-ten-chī	Lamôngtöchī, Lamôngtö tinchī	laməŋta ciː, laməŋta t̪iːnci:	‘from whom’
Chamang-ta-chī	Chamöôngtö chī	caməŋta ci:	‘whose’
Chū ¹⁹	Chū	cu:	‘where’
Chūa, Chūan, Chin, Kâ, Ka, Kan	Chūa, Chūan Chīn, Ka	cuaː, cuaːn, ciːn, ka	‘what’
Chun	Chī	ci:	‘which’
Chūan-shī	Chuānsi	cuaːnsi	‘why’
Kâ-shīn	Kasī	kasi:	‘like what’
Ka-rīshe	Karīse	kaɪːse	‘how much’
Karâm, Katôm	Karâm, Katôm	kaɪaːm, kaɪoːm	‘how many’
Chin-lēang-dīo	Chin leāng rīöv	ciːn leaːŋ ɹiːöv	‘what else’

(ppxxvi-xxvii)

As evidence for their usage in utterances, he provides two sentences which are reproduced below as 11 and 12.

11. Chamangta chī

Man (1889)	Chamangta chī	en eñh
Modern Muöt	Chamöôngtö chī	něk eñh
IPA	caməŋta ci:	nɛːʔɛːx
Gloss	whose	this ²⁰
Translation	‘Whose is this?’	

¹⁸ Stands for the orthography made use of by Man (1889).

¹⁹ The form is not found listed in the notes, but found listed in the dictionary part (P122).

²⁰ See footnote 15.

12. Lamòngto ten chī en eñh

Man (1889)	Lamòngto ten chī	en eñh
Modern Muöt	Lamòngtō tinchī	nēk eñh
IPA	lamə'ŋta tɨ'nci:	nɛ'ʔɛ'x
Gloss	from whom	this ²¹
Translation	'From whom (did you get) this?'	

(ibid.)

The present paper is of the view that all these twenty forms seem to be formed out of just four interrogative markers, namely, chī, chūa, chūan, chin and ka-.

4.3.2. Interrogative adverb of time and change

As interrogative adverbs of time and change, the author lists nineteen forms and they are given along with their glosses in English. The forms are:

Man (1889)	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Kâhē	Kahēñ	kaxɛ:	'when (of future only)'
Kâhē-ta-shī	Kahēñ tō sī	kaxɛ: tasi	'when (of a coming event)'
Kâhē-ta-tai	Kahēñ tōtai	kaxɛ: tətaj	'when (future, of making, giving, &c.)'
Kâhē-ngalâh	Kahēñ ngō lah	kaxɛ:ŋala'x	'when (future, of travelling)'
Kâhē-nga	Kahēñ ngō	kaxɛ:ŋə	'when (of past time, in reference to death, sickness)'
Kâhē-ngashī	Kahēñ ngō si	kaxɛ:ŋasi	'when (of some past event)'
Kâhē-ngatai	Kahēñ ngō tai	kaxɛ:ŋətaj	'when (of past time, in reference to making, giving, &c.)'
Kâhē-tashe, Kâhē-tarit, Kâhē-ngashe	Kahēñ tō se, Kahēñ tō ret, Kahēñ ngō se	kaxɛ: tase, kaxɛ: taret kaxɛ: ŋase	'when (of any past event)'
hē-chūa	Hēñ chūa	xɛ: cua:	'when (at what time)'
Kâ-shanī-tashe	Ka sanīk tō se	kasani'ʔtase	'how long (time)'
Kâ-shanī-latōh	Kasanīk lō tōh	kasani'ʔlatə'x	'how old'
Kâ-rūa-hanga-heng	Kareūöt hōngō hěng	kaɾuə'txəŋaxɛŋ	'how long ago (today)'
Kâ-rūa-hanga-yan	Kareūöt hōngō yōn	kaɾuə'txəŋajən	'how long ago (in the past)'
Karām-shuâ	Karām tō suâ	kaɾa:mʔtasua:	'how many times'
Kâ-inôa-atô	Ka inôaŋs ô tō	kaʔinôa'səʔtə	'how soon'
Kâ-rūala-heng	Ka reūölō hěng	kaɾu'ələxɛ'ŋ	'what time (of today) is it?'
Kâ-rūala-hatôm	Ka reūölō hatôm	kaɾu'ələxətə'm	'what time (of night) is it?'

(ppxxxii-xxxiii)

Of these, except hē-chūa 'when (at what time)' all the remaining eighteen are seen occurring with the interrogative marker ka- or kâ-.

4.3.3. Interrogative adverb of place

As interrogative adverb of place, he lists two forms which occur with ka-. They are rendered with their glosses in English and are reproduced below for easy reference:

²¹ See footnote 15.

Man (1889)	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Ka-rüa-hanga	Ka reüöt höngö	karu:ətɕaŋə	‘how far’
Ka-ra-müa-hanga	Karameüöthöngö	kaɾamur:ətɕaŋə	‘how near’

(pxxxiv)

The insights obtained from the present paper enable to view the form Ka-ra-müa-hanga ‘how near’ as the agentivized counterpart of Ka-rüa-hanga ‘how far’ and as such regarded not as conveying meaning opposite to the non-agentivized form but as conveying parallel meaning associated with an object.

4.3.4. Interrogative adverb of quantity, number, and degree

As interrogative adverbs of quantity, number, and degree the author gives a list of twenty forms, all beginning with ka-. They have been listed along with their glosses in English and they have been reproduced below for easy reference.

Man (1889)	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Ka-rī	Ka rī	kari:	‘how big’
Ka-ra-mī	Karamī	kaɾami:	‘how small’
Ka-rī-fāp	Karī fāp	kai: fa:p	‘how fat; how wide (of ship)’
Ka-ra-mī-fāp	Karamī fāp	kaɾami: fa:p	‘how narrow (of ship)’
Karī-tāk	Karī tak	kai: ʈa:k	‘how wide (of plank)’
Karamī-tāk	Karamī tak	kaɾami: ʈa:k	‘how narrow (of plank)’
Ka-chin-yāwa	Kachin yāvō	kacinja:və	‘how deep’
Ka-rüat	Kareüöt	karu:ət	‘how long’
Kara-müat	Karameüöt	kaɾamur:ət	‘how short (inanim.)’
Ka-rüala	Kareüölö	karu:ələ	‘how high’
Ka-rüala-kōi	Kareüölö kui	karu:əlaku:j	‘how tall’
Kara-müala-kōi	Karameüölö kui	kaɾamur:əlaku:j	‘how short (anim.)’
Karüa-hanga-tai	Kareüö höngö tai	karu:ətɕaŋəʈa:j	‘how far off (of object shot, speared, &c)’
Karī-tare-she, Karī-tat-she	Karī tö re se, Karī tet se	kai:ʈa:ese, kai:ʈetse	‘how much more remains’
Karī-hata-she	Karī hö tö se	kai:xaʈase	‘how much has been paid, delivered, &c’
Katōm-tare	Katōm tö re	kaʈo:mʈa:re	‘how many more’
Kâ-yan	Kayön	kaʈə:n	‘how, in what state of health’
Kâ-shin-mush-tai	Kasin müs tai	kasinmu:stə:j	‘in what style’
Ka-shī	Kasī	kasi:	‘what kind, what sort’

(ppxxxiv-xxxv)

To illustrate the usage of these forms in utterances, he has listed a sentence and the same is reproduced below as 13.

13. Kâ yan ka an ta-linheñ

Man (1889)	Kâ	yan	ka an	ta-linheñ
Modern Muöt	Ka	yön	kök añn	tö linheñ
IPA	ka	jə:n	kə? ʔã:n	ʈalinxɛ:
Gloss	how	health	he	today ²²
Translation	‘How is he today?’			

(ibid.)

²² See footnote 15.

The insights obtained from the present paper enable to view the forms Ka-ra-mī ‘how small’, Ka-ra-mī-fāp ‘how narrow (of ship)’, Karamī-tāk ‘how narrow (of plank)’, Kara-müat ‘how short (inanim.)’ and Kara-müala-kōi ‘how short (anim.)’ as agentivized counterparts of Ka-rī ‘how big’, Ka-rī-fāp ‘how fat; how wide (of ship)’, Karī-tāk ‘how wide (of plank)’, Ka-rüat ‘how long’ and Ka-rüala-kōi ‘how tall’ respectively. And, as such they are regarded not as conveying meanings opposite to the non-agentivized forms but as conveying parallel meanings associated with the concerned objects.

4.3.5. Interrogative adverb of manner and cause

The author lists, as interrogative adverbs of manner and cause, eight forms all seem to be variants of a single entity. They are,

Man (1889)	Modern Muöt	IPA	Translation
Chūan-shī, Chūan-lāng-ngashī, Chūan-lāng-ngitô, Chūan-hān-ngashī, Chūan-hān-ngitô, Chūan-wī, Chūan-tai-chūa	Chūan si, Chūan löng ngö si, Chūan löng ngö tò, Chūan hān ngö si, Chūan hān ngö tò, Chūan vīk, Chūan tai chūa	cua'nsi, cua'nləŋŋasi, cua'nləŋaɬɔ, cua'nxã:ŋasi, cua'nxã:ŋaɬɔ, cua'nvi'ʔ, cua'nɬa'jcuɑ:	‘why’

(pxxxv)

And to illustrate their usage in utterances he gives, what is reproduced below as 14, as the sample sentence.

14. Chūan wī meñ ta watshī meñ met dalngatô

Man (1889)	Chūan	wī	meñ	ta watshī	meñ	met	dalngatô
Modern Muöt	Chūan	vīk	mēñ	tō vāt si	mēñ	m'it	rāl ngö tò
IPA	cua'n	vi'ʔ	mẽ:	ɬa va't si	mẽ:	m'it	.ɬaŋaɬɔ
Gloss	why	behave	svs	such way	you	aren't you	ashamed
Translation	‘Why do you behave in such a way? Aren't you ashamed of yourself?’						

(ibid)

4.3.6. Interrogative sentence

Under the heading interrogative sentence the author seems to mention two types of interrogation as if in conformity with what has been arrived at in the present paper. One is interrogation with sentence final rising intonation and the other, interrogation with interrogative word. Regarding the former, he makes a passing reference as ‘in many cases interrogation is sufficiently indicated by the tone of the voice’ (p lv).²³ But, in respect of the latter, a relatively detailed discussion has been presented with the help of a host of interrogative sentences which includes sentences which are found to have as their markers of interrogation, sentence final rising intonation also besides interrogative pronouns and interrogative adverbs. They can respectively be inferred from the following three sentences which are reproduced below as 15, 16 and 17.

15. Tàu meñ kâ an

Man (1889)	Tàu	meñ	kâ an	
Modern Muöt	Tāv	mēñ	kōk ann	
IPA	ɬa:v	mẽ:	kə'ʔ ʔã'n	↗
Gloss	younger brother	your	he	sf ²⁴
Translation	‘Is he your younger brother?’			

²³ For a similar passing reference, see (p xi) of Introductory Remarks.

²⁴ See footnote 15.

16. Chī yô haiyüan

Man (1889)	Chī	yô	haiyüan
Modern Muöt	Chī	yòk	hayeüön
IPA	ci:	jɔːʔ	xajɯəːn
Gloss	who	future	hunt pigs
Translation	‘Who is going to hunt pigs?’		

17. Kâhē tashe meñ dāk

Man (1889)	Kâhē tashe	meñ	dāk
Modern Muöt	Kahēñ tō se	mēñ	reuk
IPA	kaxɛːtase	mɛː	ɹuːk
Gloss	when	you	come
Translation	‘When did you come?’		

(pplv-lvi)

As is seen, sentences 15, 16 and 17 above are found to manifest interrogation by means of sentence final rising intonation, interrogative pronoun and interrogative adverb respectively.

5. Interrogation in Modern Muöt

Of the four means of interrogation seen in section 3, namely, interrogation by means of sentence with inversion of subject and first verb, interrogation by means of sentence with question word, interrogation by means of sentence with question tag and interrogation by means of sentence with rising final intonation, Muöt, the language under discussion seems to make use of only two. They are sentences with rising final intonation and sentences with initial interrogative word.

5.1. Sentence with rising final intonation

They are declarative sentences with normal word order and become interrogative ones by taking with them the supra-segmental feature, rising final intonation. Endowed with this marker of interrogation, they are poised to elicit information concerning objects and actions. The following two pairs of sentences 18a-b²⁵ and 19a-b²⁶ can be made use of for understanding such a function.²⁷

18a. Öön in kōön mēñ inkānō in Merī

Modern Muöt	öön	in	kōön mēñ inkānō	in	Merī
IPA	ʔəː	ʔiːn	koːən mɛː ʔinkaːnə	ʔiːn	meiː
Gloss	cop	prox	your daughter	prox	Mary
Translation	Mary is your daughter				

18b. Öön in kōön mēñ inkānō in Merī?

Modern Muöt	öön	in	kōön mēñ inkānō	in	Merī	
IPA	ʔəː	ʔiːn	koːən mɛː ʔinkaːnə	ʔiːn	meiː	ʔ?
Gloss	cop	prox	your daughter	prox	Mary	sfī
Translation	Is Mary your daughter?					

19a. Yuāngsise uksök tōngānngē in Sipā nen

Modern Muöt	yuāngsise	uksök	tōngānngē	in	Sipā	nen
IPA	juɑːŋsise	ʔuksək	tɔŋɑːŋɛ	ʔiːn	sipaː	neːn
Gloss	prog	stand	there	prox	sheeba	pst
Translation	‘Sheeba was standing there’					

²⁵ The sentences are unmarked for present tense.

²⁶ It is because of the free word-order the marker for past tense occur sentence finally.

²⁷ The sentences 18a-b can also be found occurring with the elision of copula verb.

19b. Yuāngsise uksök tōngānge in Sipā nen?

Modern Muöt	yuāngsise	uksök	tōngānge	in	Sipā	nen	
IPA	juɑːŋsise	ʔuksəːk	tʰɑŋɑːŋe	ʔiːn	sipaː	neːn	ʔ?
Gloss	prog	stand	there	prox	sheeba	pst	sfi
Translation	‘Was Sheeba standing there?’						

As seen above, sentences 18b and 19b are interrogative ones. They seem to have come into existence from their respective declarative counterparts 18a and 19a with the annexing of rising final intonation. And, as being the source for eliciting information, sentence 18b seems to elicit information regarding kinship of human nouns while 19b that regarding the act performed by human nouns. In view of the answers interrogative sentences of this type elicit, they can be termed as yes or no questions.

5.2. Sentence with interrogative words

They are sentences having interrogative words as markers of interrogation. Two kinds of interrogative words are identified in the language and they seem to occur in the sentence initial position. They are termed here as ch-interrogative words²⁸ and ka- interrogative words.

5.2.1. Sentence with ch-interrogative word

They are interrogative sentences having interrogative words that begin with the digraph, ch. Sentences with five numbers of such interrogative words are identified in the language. They are sentences with chī ‘who’, sentences with chīn ‘what’, sentences with chuān ‘what’, sentences with chū ‘where’ and sentences with chuānsi ‘why’. Having these forms as markers of interrogation, sentences of the type, elicit information on objects and actions. And, as constituents of sentences, these interrogative words seem to perform varying grammatical functions such as subject, object and adverb besides functioning as interrogative pronoun.

5.2.1.1. Sentence with chī

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word chī ‘who?’ and seek to elicit information about human as well as non-human nouns. The sentences 20 and 21 listed below can be taken for the illustration of the fact.

20. Chī öön kök önn inkōnyö?

Modern Muöt	chī	öön	kök	önn inkōnyö
IPA	ciː	ʔöː	kəːʔ	ʔöːn ʔinkəːŋə
Gloss	who	cop	dist ₃	he ²⁹
Translation	‘Who is he?’			

21. Chī öön tö ki ānn e in nyī önn inkōnyö?

Modern Muöt	chī	öön	tö ki ānn e	in	nyī önn inkōnyö
IPA	ciː	ʔöː	tə kiʔāːne	ʔiːn	niː ʔöːn ʔinkəːŋə
Gloss	which	cop	among these	prox	his house ³⁰
Translation	‘Which is his house?’				

As seen above, sentence 20 seeks to elicit information on human noun and 21 on non-human. And while doing so, chī ‘who?’ in both cases is found to be interrogative pronoun. At the same time it is found to be grammatical object in 20 and grammatical subject in 21. As pronoun, it gets

²⁸ ch represents voiceless palatal consonant in Muöt orthography.

²⁹ The sentence can also be found occurring with the elision of copula verb.

³⁰ See footnote 29.

inflected for case relationship, here the possessive,³¹ and the grammatical function of such case inflected form as object can be seen from the sentence 22 listed below.

22. Ān chōk chī öön ufē kök e?

Modern Muöt	ān chōk	chī	öön	ufē kök e
IPA	ʔā:cəʔ	ci:	ʔö:	ʔufe: kə:ʔε
Gloss	arrow	q	cop	those ³²
Translation	‘Whose arrows are those?’			

5.2.1.2. Sentence with chīn

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word chīn ‘who?’ and seek to elicit information concerning nouns of human as well as of non-human nature. Such a phenomenon can be inferred from the sentences listed below as 23 and 24.

23. Chīn öön kök önn inkānō?

Modern Muöt	chīn	öön	kök	önn inkānō
IPA	ci:n	ʔö:	kə:ʔ	ʔö:n ʔinkɑ:nə
Gloss	who	cop	dist ₃	she ³³
Translation	‘Who is she?’			

24. Chīn öön in leāng mēn?

Modern Muöt	chīn	öön	in	leāng mēn
IPA	ci:n	ʔö:	ʔi:n	leɑ:ŋ mē:
Gloss	who	cop	prox	your name ³⁴
Translation	‘What is your name?’			

As seen above, sentence 23 seeks to elicit information concerning human noun and 24 that concerning non-human. And, while doing so, in both the sentences, chīn ‘who?’ is found to function as interrogative pronoun. At the same time, it is found to function as grammatical object in 23 and grammatical subject in 24 as well. As pronoun, it gets inflected for case relationship, here the sociative, and the grammatical function of such case inflected form as object can be inferred from the sentence 25 below.

25. Mat chī yök nö kateū in Mark tö öt Luang?

Modern Muöt	mat	chī	yök	nö	kateū	in	Mark	tö öt Luang
IPA	mɑ:t	ci:	jɔ:ʔ	nə	kaʔu:	ʔin	mɑ:ɪk	ʔə ʔə:t lua:ŋ
Gloss	soc	q	fut	svs	stay	prox	Mark	in kondul
Translation	‘With who will Mark stay in Kondul?’							

5.2.1.3. Sentence with chuān

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word chuān ‘what?’ and seek to elicit information on non-human nouns, and also on actions. Sentences 26 and 27 given below can be taken as illustrations.

³¹ The possessive case is found to be unmarked in the language. Mere juxtaposing of the possessed and the possessor is found to yield the possessive meaning.

³² The sentence is unmarked for present tense and can also be found occurring with the elision of copula verb.

³³ See footnote 29.

³⁴ See footnote 29.

26. Chuān yòk topre in mēn?

Modern Muöt	chuān	yòk	topre	in	mēn
IPA	cuɑːn	joːʔ	toːpɾe	ʔiːn	mɛːʔ
Gloss	what	will	drink	prox	you
Translation	‘What will you drink?’				

27. Chuān yuāngsise vīk ānn ufē?

Modern Muöt	Chuān	yuāngsise	vīk	ānn	ufē
IPA	cuɑːn	juɑːŋsise	viːʔ	ʔãːn	ʔufeː
Gloss	what	prog	do	dist ₁	they ³⁵
Translation	‘What are they doing?’				

In the above, sentence 26 seeks to elicit information concerning non-human noun, while 27 that concerning action. In both the instances, Chuān ‘what?’ seem to function as grammatical object. In addition, in 26 it functions as interrogative pronoun also.

5.2.1.4. Sentence with chū

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word chū ‘where?’ and seek to elicit information on the location of objects and actions. The following sentence 28 can be taken as illustration.

28. Chū ôt kōk nyi mēn?

Modern Muöt	chū	ôt	kōk	nyi mēn
IPA	cuː	ʔoːt	kəːʔ	niː mɛː
Gloss	where	exis	dist ₃	your house ³⁶
Translation	‘Where is your house?’			

As seen above, sentence 28 seeks to elicit information on the location of object and action. And, while doing so, chū ‘where?’ is found to functions as grammatical adverb.

5.2.1.5. Sentence with chuānsi

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word chuānsi ‘why?’ and seek to elicit the reason for carrying out an action. The sentence 29 given below can be taken to illustrate the fact.

29. Chuānsi nō chīm kōk kinyônm?

Modern Muöt	chuānsi	nō	chīm	kōk	kinyônm
IPA	cuɑːnsi	nə	ciːm	kəːʔ	kiŋõːmʔ
Gloss	why	svs	cry	dist ₃	baby ³⁷
Translation	‘Why does the baby cry?’				

As seen, sentence 29 above seeks to elicit the reason for the baby to cry and while doing so, the interrogative word chuānsi ‘why?’ is found to functions as an adverb.

5.2.2. Sentence with ka-interrogative word

They are interrogative sentences having interrogative words that begin with the syllable ka-. Sentences with eight numbers of such interrogative words are identified in the language. They are sentences with kahēn ‘when (in terms of period of time)?’, sentences with karām hōngō ‘when (in

³⁵ See footnote 25.

³⁶ The sentence is unmarked for present tense and can also be found occurring with the elision of existential verb.

³⁷ See footnote 25.

terms of hour)?’, sentences with kasī ‘how (manner)?’, sentences with katāi ‘how (means)?’, sentences with karāmkui ‘how many (human)?’, sentences with karīsē ‘how many?, how much?’, sentences with karīhōt ‘how much (liquid)?’ and sentences with kareūōt ‘how long?’. Having these forms as markers of interrogation, sentences of the type, elicit information on objects and actions. And, as constituents of sentences, these interrogative words seem to perform varying grammatical functions such as subject, object, adjective and adverbs.

5.2.2.1. Sentence with kahēn

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word ka-hēn ‘when (in terms of period of time)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the period of time at which incidence of an action takes place. The following sentence 30 can be taken as illustration of the function.

30. Kahēn mēn yòk kayīngō nō hayeūōn in mēn?

Modern Muöt	kahēn	mēn	yòk	kayīngō	nō	hayeūōn	in	mēn
IPA	kaxɛː	mɛː	jɔːʔ	kajɪŋə	nə	xajuaːn	ʔin	mɛː
Gloss	when	svs	will	go	purp	pig hunting	prox	you ³⁸
Translation	‘When will you go for pig hunting?’							

As seen, sentence 30 seeks to elicit information concerning the period of time at which leaving for pig hunting takes place. While doing so, the interrogative word kahēn ‘when (in terms of period of time)?’ is found functioning as temporal adverb.

5.2.2.2. Sentence with karām hōngō

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word karām hōngō ‘when (in terms of hour)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the hour of time at which incidence of an action takes place. The sentence 31 listed below can be taken to illustrate such a function.

31. Karāmhōngō kōōngō in mēn tō òal hakī mōök?

Modern Muöt	Karāmhōngō	kōōng	in	mēn	tō òal hakī	mōök
IPA	kaɪaːmxaŋə	kəŋ	ʔin	mɛː	tə ʔaːl xakiː	məːk
Gloss	when	get up	prox	you	in the morning	will ³⁹
Translation	‘When will you get up in the morning?’					

As seen above, sentence 31 seeks to elicit information concerning the hour of time at which getting up from sleep takes place and in the process, the interrogative word karāmhōngō ‘when (in terms of hour)?’ is found to function as temporal adverb.

5.2.2.3. Sentence with kasī

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word kasī ‘how (manner)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the manner of incidence of an action. The sentence 32 given below can be taken for the illustration of such a function.

32. Kasī chōn ròh chōn tōng tō kōk matāi mēn in chōn?

Modern Muöt	kasī	chōn	ròh	chōn	tōng tō	kōk	matāi mēn	in	chōn
IPA	kasiː	cɔː	.ɔːx	cɔː	təŋtə	kəːʔ	matɑːj mɛː	ʔin	cɔː
Gloss	how	svs	can	svs	reach	dist ₃	your island	prox	I ⁴⁰
Translation	‘How can I reach your island?’								

³⁸ The sentence can also be found occurring with the elision of serial verb subject.

³⁹ Because of free word-order, the future marker is occurring sentence finally. Again, it is because of the free word-order the temporal adverbial phrase tə ʔaːl xakiː ‘in the morning’ occur after the subject mɛː ‘you’ of the sentence.

⁴⁰ See footnote 38.

As inferred, sentence 32 seeks to elicit information concerning the manner, such as might be sailing, flying etc., by which the action of reaching the island can be realized. In the process, the interrogative word kasī ‘how (manner)?’ seems to function as adverb of manner. It is found that, the same kasī ‘how (manner)?’ can also be made use of in other instances for eliciting information concerning health of animate beings. Such a function of can be inferred from the sentence 33 listed below.

33. Kasī òt in mēñ?

Modern Muöt	kasī	òt	in	mēñ
IPA	kasi:	ʔɔːt	ʔiːn	mɛː
Gloss	how	exis	prox	you ⁴¹
Translation	‘How are you?’			

5.2.2.4. Sentence with katāi

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word katāi ‘how (means)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the means of incidence of an action. The sentence listed below as 34 can be taken as illustration.

34. Katāi halīngöse kōk insūön larōm in mēñ?

Modern Muöt	katāi	halīngöse	kōk	Insūön larōm	in	mēñ
IPA	kaʈaːj	xaliːŋase	kəːʔ	ʔinsuːən laɔːm	ʔiːn	mɛː
Gloss	how	prepare	dist ₃	pandanus bread	prox	you ⁴²
Translation	‘How do you prepare pandanus bread?’					

As inferred, sentence 34 seeks to elicit information concerning various processes, such as might be bringing raw pandanus fruits by canoe, dressing them with knife, cooking them in pot, removing the dough with a metal piece etc., involved in the preparation of pandanus bread. While doing so, the interrogative word kaʈaːj ‘how (means)?’ grammatically functions as manner adverb.

5.2.2.5. Sentence with karāmkui

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word karāmkui ‘how many (human)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the quantity of human nouns. The sentence given below as 35 can be taken as illustration for such a function.

35. Karāmkui òt tāi in mēñ ufē kōk kōön?

Modern Muöt	karāmkui	òt	tāi	in	mēñ	ufē	kōk	kōön
IPA	kaɾaːmkuj	ʔɔːt	ʈaːj	ʔiːn	mɛː	ʔufeː	kəːʔ	kəːən
Gloss	how many	exis	dat	prox	2sg	pl	dist ₃	child ⁴³
Translation	‘How many children do you have?’							

As is seen, sentence 35 above seeks to elicit information concerning the number of children the person has. In the process, the interrogative word karāmkui ‘how many (human)?’ is found to function as grammatical adjective.

5.2.2.6. Sentence with karīsě

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word karīsě ‘how many?, how much?’ and seek to elicit information concerning quantity of human or non-human or mass nouns. The capability of such sentences in eliciting the quantity of human noun can be illustrated by the sentence 36 given below.

⁴¹ See footnote 29.

⁴² See footnote 25.

⁴³ See footnote 36.

36. *Karīsē* ô_t t_{ai} in m_{ēn} uf_ē k_{ōk} k_{ōn}?

Modern Muöt	karīsē	ô _t	t _{ai}	in	m _{ēn}	uf _ē	k _{ōk}	k _{ōn}
IPA	ka.i:se	ʔoːt	taːj	ʔiːn	mɛː	ʔufeː	kəːʔ	koːən
Gloss	how many	exis	dat	prox	2sg	pl	dist ₃	child ⁴⁴
Translation	‘How many children do you have?’							

The sentences listed below as 37 and 38 can be taken as respective illustrations for the capability of such sentences in eliciting quantity of non-human noun and mass noun.

37. *Karīsē* ô_t ki ā_{nn} n_{ôt} t_ō ā_{nne}?

Modern Muöt	karīsē	ô _t	ki	ā _{nn}	n _{ôt}	t _ō ā _{nne}
IPA	ka.i:se	ʔoːt	ki	ʔãːn	nɔːt	ta ʔãːne
Gloss	how many	exis	pl	dist ₁	pig	there ⁴⁵
Translation	‘How many pigs are there?’					

38. *Karīsē* m_{ēn} umk_{ōm}ō in hinyu_{āh} in m_{ēn}?

Modern Muöt	karīsē	m _{ēn}	umk _{ōm} ō	in	hinyu _{āh}	in	m _{ēn}
IPA	ka.i:se	mɛː	ʔumkoːmə	ʔin	xinjuaːx	ʔin	mɛː
Gloss	how much	svs	receive	prox	salary	prox	you ⁴⁶
Translation	How much salary you receive?’						

While seeking to elicit the quantity, the interrogative word *karīsē* ‘how many?, how much?’ in the sentences 37 and 38 is found to function as grammatical adverb.

5.2.2.7. Sentence with *karīhöt*

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word *karīhöt* ‘how much (liquid)?’ and seek to elicit information concerning quantity of liquid nouns. The sentence 39 given below would illustrate such a function.

39. *Karīhöt* m_{ēn} n_{ēn} top in t_{ōk} minye_{ūi} in m_{ēn}?

Modern Muöt	karīhöt	m _{ēn}	n _{ēn}	top	in	t _{ōk}	minye _{ūi}	in	m _{ēn}
IPA	ka.i:xət	mɛː	neːn	toːp	ʔin	toːk	minjuːj	ʔin	mɛː
Gloss	how much	svs	pst	drink	prox	toddy	yesterday	prox	you ⁴⁷
Translation	‘How much toddy did you drink yesterday?’								

As is seen above, sentence 39 seeks to elicit the quantity of toddy, a liquid noun and while doing so, the interrogative word *karīhöt* ‘how much (liquid)?’ functions as grammatical adverb.

5.2.2.8. Sentence with *kareūöt*

They are sentences that begin with the interrogative word *kareūöt* ‘how long?’ and seek to elicit information concerning the length of nouns. The following sentence 40 can be taken for illustrating such a function.

⁴⁴ See footnote 36.

⁴⁵ The sentence is unmarked for present tense and can also be found occurring with the elision of existential verb. Again, it is because of the free word-order, the locational adverb *ta ʔãːne* ‘there’ occur sentence finally.

⁴⁶ The sentence is unmarked for present tense and can also be found occurring with the elision of serial verb subject.

⁴⁷ See footnote 38.

40. Kareūöt neḵ òal matāi neḵ eñh?

Modern Muöt	kareūöt	neḵ	òal matāi	neḵ eñh
IPA	kɑɪuəːt	nɛːʔ	ʔɑːl matɑːj	nɛːʔ ɛːxʔ
Gloss	how long	prox	village	this ⁴⁸
Translation	‘How long is this village?’			

As is seen above, sentence 40 seeks to elicit the length of a village and during the process the interrogative word *kareūöt* ‘how long?’ seems to function as grammatical adverb. The table-3 below will provide a cursory look at the markers of interrogation dealt with so far.

Table 3

Markers of interrogation		
Sentence final rising intonation	Interrogative word	
	Ch-interrogative word	Ka-interrogative word
↗	Chī Chīn Chuān Chū Chuānsi	Kahēn Karāmhōngō Kasī Katāi Karāmkui Karīsē Karīhöt Kareūöt

7. Finding

1. All the three previous works reviewed here, Röpstorff (1875), Röpstorff (1884) and Man (1889) seem to make use of interrogative words for the purpose of interrogation. But Man (1889), in addition, mentions about the use of tone of the voice also for the purpose (cf. section 4.3.6). The present day language is found to carry out the process of interrogation with interrogative words as well as with sentence final intonation.

2. All the three works, Röpstorff (1875), Röpstorff (1884) and Man (1889) seem to make use of both *ch-* and *ka-* interrogative words for the purpose as in the present day Muöt, but with the following distinctions:

- Among the *ch-* interrogative words, *Tīi* ‘who?’ of Röpstorff (1884) and *chī* ‘who’ of (Man 1889) are said to be used for eliciting information on human nouns (cf. sections 4.2.1 & 4.3.1). Whereas, in the present day language the form seems to be used for eliciting information on non-human nouns also (cf. section 5.2.1.1).
- Among the *ka-* interrogative words, all the three works are found to have the form *katōm* ‘how many, how much’ for eliciting information concerning quantity. Whereas, the present day language seems to make use of the two forms, *karāmkui* ‘how many (human)?’ and *karīsē* ‘how many, how much’ for the purpose (cf. sections 5.2.2.5 & 5.2.2.6).
- In addition to *ka-* interrogative words, both Röpstorff (1884) and (Man 1889) mention the use of another form *kā* as an independent interrogative marker (cf. sections 4.2.2 & 4.3.1). But, Man (1889) goes a step further in recognizing two more forms, *ka* and *kan* as variants of *kā* (cf. section 4.3.1). The present day language doesn’t seem to have such independent interrogative markers.

⁴⁸ The sentence is unmarked for present tense and can also be found occurring with existential verb.

3. In all, the discrepancies observed in the data made use of for the paper from the three classical works can be related to the graphological, phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic levels of linguistic investigation. The use of Ti and æ by Röpstorff (1884) to represent palatal plosive and low-mid front vowel respectively (see, for example, Tiū ‘where’ and Kahæ ‘when’ of section 4.2.2) can be taken as instances of graphological discrepancy. Likewise, the lacuna being observed in Röpstorff (1875) and (1884) in recognizing nasalization (see, for example, Kahæ ‘when’ of sections 4.1 and 4.2.2) and high back unrounded vowel (see, for example, tié ‘I’ of sentence 7) can be mentioned as instances of discrepancy at the phonological level. The use of the lexical forms kin-kee-en, joa and kyouja to convey the interrogative meaning ‘what’, ‘where’ and ‘why’ respectively (see section 4.1) by Röpstorff (1875), and the use of the forms kâ, ka and kan as independent interrogative particle to convey the meaning ‘what’ (see section 4.3.1) by Man (1889) can be alluded to the morphological discrepancy. The use of the sentence Chūan wī meñ ta watshī meñ met dalngatō ‘Why do you behave in such a way? Aren’t you ashamed of yourself?’ (see, sentence 14) by Man (1889) having the verb wī ‘behave’ of the main sentence occurring within the serial verb construction, i.e., between chūan ‘why (serial verb)’ and meñ ‘serial verb subject’ (see, for example, sentences 25, 29, 32 and 38 where in the main verbs follow the serial verb subject) can be taken as an instance of syntactic discrepancy. The use of the agentivized forms such as Ka-ra-mūa-hanga (see sections 4.3.3 and 4.3.4) to convey the semantic opposites of their non-agentivized counterparts by Man (1889) can be regarded as instances of discrepancy observed at the semantic level.

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Abbreviations

2sg:	Second person singular
cf.:	Compare with
cop:	Copula verb
dat:	Dative case
dist ₁ :	Distal demonstrative 1
dist ₃ :	Distal demonstrative 3
2du:	Second person dual
exis:	Existential verb
fut:	Future
ibid.:	In the same source
p:	page
perf:	perfect
pp:	pages
pl:	Plural
pst:	Past
poss:	Possessive case
prog:	Progressive
prox:	Proximate demonstrative
purp:	purposive
q:	Interrogative marker
sfi:	Sentence final intonation
soc:	Sociative case
svs:	Serial verb subject