CHAPTER 3
WORD CLASSES AND MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter different word classes in Geba are described. Words are a unit of expression which is universally intuitively recognized by native-speakers in both spoken and written language (Crystal 2003:500).

Schachter (1985:3) states:

> *The grammatical properties of a word that are relevant to its part of speech classification include the word's distribution, its range of syntactic functions, and the morphological or syntactic categories for which it is specifiable.*

Dixon (2006:2) states:

> *The main function of a language is to communicate meaning from speaker to addressee. Basic concepts are encoded as words, which are related together within the grammar. Three word classes are, I maintain, implicit in the structure of each human language: nouns, verbs and adjectives. Each has (a) a prototypical conceptual basis; and (b) prototypical grammatical function(s). The recognition of word classes in a language must be on the basis of internal grammatical criteria for that language.*

The grammatical properties of each word which are relevant to its part of speech classification are described based on "language internal grammatical criteria". Word classes are divided into two broad categories: major word classes, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, and minor word classes, such as pronouns, demonstratives, classifiers, numerals and quantifiers, prepositions, locator nouns, conjunctions and particles. Morphological processes which include elaborate expressions, compounding, and affixations are also discussed.

3.1 Major word classes

In this section four different types of major word classes are presented. Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs function as near universal parts of speech and are considered the major word classes; they are categorized as open word classes. Nouns will be discussed in sub-section 3.1.1 which includes the discussion of common nouns, proper nouns, mass nouns and abstract nouns. Section 3.1.2 will discuss main verbs, auxiliary verbs, preverbal and postverbal auxiliary verbs, copulas, and directionals. The third section, 3.1.3, will present adjectives, and the last sub-section, 3.1.4, will discuss the adverbs.

3.1.1 Nouns

Nouns are initially delimited semantically as a class of words which typically denote the name of most persons, places, and things. Their common syntactic function is as arguments or heads of arguments (Schachter 1985:7).

Syntactically, nouns are words that occur in the following constructions in Geba:

(i) Nouns can occur in a simple noun phrase structure with a classifier[3] as shown in example (1).

(1) (Elicitation)

ə̄písə̄p^{h}ò	də̄	bwɛ̀
child	one	CLF
N	NUM	CLF

'one child'

(ii) Nouns can be found as heads of noun phrases and can function as arguments of verbs in clauses, as in example (2).

[3] Classifiers do not function as pronouns like Thai language and they do not head noun-phrases.

(2) (Elicitation)

əpísəp^{h}ò	əm̩ìk^{h}ó	də	bwɛ̀	swɛ̀
child	man	one	CLF	run
N	N	NUM	CLF	V

The boy runs.

In the above example, *əpí səp^{h}ò əm̩ìk^{h}ó,* 'the boy' is a preceding noun which functions as the subject argument of the verb *swɛ̀* 'run'.

Nouns in Geba also allow modification by quantifiers, modification by relative clauses and replacement by pronouns. These are explained in related sections.

3.1.1.1 Common nouns

Common nouns in Geba can be distinguished from other types of nouns because this type of noun can be followed by numerals and classifiers. Common nouns in Geba typically denote objects, places, and times. Objects, such as human and non-human things, places, and times occur with related classifiers (i.e. common nouns occur with sortal classifiers). The following examples show different types of common nouns with classifiers. Example (3) shows a common noun denoting a human classified by the human sortal classifier *bwɛ̀.*

(3) (Elicitation)

mō	θó	bwɛ̀
mother	three	CLF
N	NUM	CLF

'three mothers'

In example (4), large, four-legged animals and rodents are classified by the sortal classifier *dó.* In (5), small, four-legged animals, birds, amphibians, and insects are classified by the sortal classifier *ɓɛ̀.*

(4) (Elicitation)
$t^hwì$ θó ɗó
dog three CLF
N NUM CLF

'three dogs'

(5) (Elicitation)
ɗǐʔ lwì ɓɛ̀
frog four CLF
N NUM CLF

'four frogs'

More classifiers are presented in section 3.2.3.

3.1.1.2 Proper nouns

Proper nouns in Geba identify a specific entity, such as a person, place, thing, or specific period of time by its formal name. This type of noun does not occur with a classifier unless there are two or more entities that the proper noun could refer to. The following are examples of some proper nouns in Geba.
Name of the person: *ʔúsaŋ̀t^{h}ʊɲ́* 'U San Tun'
Name of the village: *ɗɔ̀mādɔ́*'Dor Mar Der'

Example (6a) shows that it would be unnatural to modify a proper noun with a number phrase *ʤì* 'two'.

(6a) (Elicitation)
*maʊ̀ŋ ʤì bwɛ̀
Maung two CLF
PROP NUM CLF

'Two Maungs'

In example (6b), *ʔɔ̀* 'have' is required for denoting two instances of a proper name. The verb *ʔɔ̀* predicatively joins the proper noun and the classifier phrase.

(6b) (Elicitation)

maùŋ	**ʔɔ̀**	dʒì	bwè	ɗó	tʃaúŋ	bú	nò
Maung	have	two	CLF	at	school	in	FP
PROP	V	NUM	CLF	PREP	N	LOCN	FP

There are two Maungs at school.

Nouns which express time can be found without classifiers as shown in example (7).

(7) (Elicitation)

kʰúdənì	jə̀	lè	ɗó	tʃaúŋ
today	1S	go	to	school
N	PRN	V	PREP	N

Today, I go to school.

Example (8) shows an ungrammatical use of a time expression with a number and classifiers, *də̀ θέ*.

(8) (Elicitation)

*kʰúdənì	də̀	θɛ́	jə̀	lè	ɗó	tʃaúŋ
today	one	day	1S	go	to	school
N	NUM	CLF	PRN	V	PREP	N

Today, one day I go to school.

However, *θέ* 'day' and *wɔ́* 'morning' can also function alone as time classifiers, and they can be counted with a number. For instance, *də̀ θέ* 'one day', *dʒì θέ* 'two days' and *də̀ wɔ́* 'one morning', *dʒì wɔ́* 'two mornings'. Examples (9) and (10), show 'day' and 'morning' as countable nouns with numbers and related classifiers.

(9) (Elicitation)

jə̀	lé	dɛ̀mɛ̀lɔ́	**dʒì**	**θέ**
1S	go	training	two	day
PRN	V	N	NUM	CLF

I am (going) training for two days.

(10) (Elicitation)

jə	lé	dèmḛ̀ló	**dʒì**	**wɔ́**
1S	go	training	two	morning
PRN	V	N	NUM	CLF

I go training for two mornings.

3.1.1.3 Mass nouns

Mass nouns are also found in Geba. Mass nouns can only be counted if a measure classifier is used. Examples (11), (12), and (13) show mass nouns with a specific container to measure them.

For the mass noun *tʰi* 'water' the specific container *səlɔ̀ʔ* 'cup' is used to classify the noun.

(11) (Elicitation)

tʰí	lwì	**sə̄lɔ̀ʔ**
water	four	cup
N	NUM	CLF

'four cups of water'

For the mass noun *hú* 'rice' the specific container *tùʔ* 'cup' is used to classify the noun as in example (12).

(12) (Elicitation)

hú	lwì	**tùʔ**
rice	four	cup
N	NUM	CLF

'four cups of rice'

For the mass noun *lòθímìʔ* 'sand' the specific container *tʰə̀* 'bag' is used to classify the noun as in (13).

(13) (Elicitation)
lòθímìʔ tā **tʰə̀**
sand one bag
N NUM CLF

'one bag of sand'

According to the above findings, there are various mass nouns which are uncountable but do occur with related measure classifiers.

3.1.1.4 Abstract nouns

Abstract nouns are also found in Geba. Examples (14), (15), and (16) show some abstract nouns in Geba.

(14) (Elicitation)
dɛ̀m̩ɔ̀ɓɛ̀ʔ
mercy
N

'mercy'

(15) (Elicitation)
dɛ̀ɓélɔʔ
love
N

'love'

(16) (Elicitation)
dɛ̀θɛ̀tʰɛ̀ʔ
anger
N

'anger'

Abstract nouns in Geba are formed by adding the prefix *dɛ̀* to verbs or adjectives and thereby changing their word class into nouns. Abstract nouns cannot be used with a count classifier or any container. They are uncountable nouns.

The evidence that the abstract nouns cannot be used with classifiers or any measurable container is shown in example (17).

(17) (Elicitation)

*dɛ̀bɛ́lɔ̀ʔ	lwì	dɛ̀bɛ́lɔ̀ʔ
love	four	love
N	NUM	N

'four kinds of love'

There are some abstract concepts which do not have a native Geba word. To express such concepts, a word with a similar meaning or a negated antonym is used. For example, the word 'hate' does not exist in Geba. therefore, native speakers use a word with a similar meaning, *θɛ̀tʰɛ̀ʔ* 'angry', or they might use the negative usage, *tə̄ wɛ̀ nɔ́ʔ* 'not good'.

Another example is the concept 'smart'. As there is no specific term for 'smart' in Geba, native speakers sometimes borrow *ə̄ pʰjàʔ làʔ* 'smart' or *ə̀pʰjìʔ* 'well-become' from Burmese or use native words which have the most similar meaning. Borrowed words function as single words as in *ə̄ʔínòswɛ̀* 'brain run', or *ə̄ pláʔ* 'polite or well-behaved', or *sə̄pʰrɛ́ʔtʰàsə̄pʰrɛ́ʔlà* 'active'.

3.1.2 Verbs

Different kinds of verbs are widely used in Geba to express activity, state, accomplishment, or achievement. Verbs appear in Geba as main verbs, auxiliary verbs, postverbal auxiliaries, copulas, and directional particles. The following section will discuss the syntactic structure and the functions of verbs in Geba.

3.1.2.1 Main verbs

Main verbs in Geba may be the only verb in a verb phrase. Examples (18), (19), (20), and (21) show main verbs in Geba.

In example (18), the verb *ʔɔ̀* 'stay' is a monosyllabic full verb occurring as the predicate.

(18) (Elicitation)
maùŋ **ʔɔ̀** ʃì̀
Maung stay house
PROP V N

Maung stays home/ Maung stayed home/ Maung is staying home.

Examples (19), (20), and (21) also show that the monosyllabic full verbs *dè* 'hit', *swɛ̀* 'run', and *ʔà* 'eat' optionally function as predicates in Geba without additional verbal particles.

(19) (Elicitation)
maùŋ **dè** zɔ̀
Maung hit Zaw
PROP V PROP

Maung hits Zaw.

(20) (Elicitation)
maùŋ **swɛ̀** ɗó tʃaúŋ
Maung run to school
PROP V PREP N

Maung runs to school.

(21) (Elicitation)

maòŋ	**ʔà**	dɛ́	dɔ́	sə̄	pàʔ
Maung	eat	thing	with	3S	father
PROP	V	N	CONJ	PRN	N

Maung eats with his father.

3.1.2.2 Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs occur with the main verb to form a complex verb phrase. Auxiliary verbs cannot be the head which provides the main semantic content of the verb phrase and they cannot occur alone without the main verb. Two kinds of auxiliaries, pre-verb auxiliaries and post-verb auxiliaries, occur in Geba. Auxiliaries are a closed minor class but discussed here with verbs since some of them are also verbs. In this thesis, the term auxiliary is used for any verbal particles that are not full verbs.

3.1.2.2.1 Preverbal auxiliaries

In Geba, preverbal auxiliaries occur before the main verb. *kə̄* 'will', and negation '*tə̄….nɔ́ʔ'* are preverbal auxiliaries occurring in Geba.

Preverbal auxiliary *kə̄*

The auxiliary *kə̄* 'will' always precedes the main verb. In example (22), the verb *θábò* 'sing' occurs with the auxiliary verb *kə̄* 'will' to form a verb phrase.

(22) (Elicitation)

maòŋ	**kə̄**	θábò	dɛ̀
Maung	will	sing	thing
PROP	AUX	V	N

Maung will sing.

The auxiliary verb *kə* 'will' functions as a future marking to express an incomplete action that will be done in the future. Example (23) shows the incomplete action (irrealis) construction in Geba.

(23) (Elicitation)

mɔ̀bé	tə̄	l̥é	nò	jə̄	**kə̄**	lé	t^{h}à	ɗó	máŋdə̀lé
next	one	month	that	1S	will	go	ascend	to	Mandalay
ADV	NUM	N	DEM	PRN	AUX	V	V	PREP	PROP

Next month, I will go to Mondalay.

Preverbal negative auxiliary '*tə̄….nɔ́ʔ*'

In Geba, negative particles can be found as the discontinuous morphemes '*tə̄….nɔ́ʔ*'. In this type of discontinuous morpheme structure, the first negative particle can be found as preverbal auxiliary before the main verb and the other always in final position. Example (24) shows the discontinuous negative structure of the preverbal auxiliary '*tə̄….nɔ́ʔ*'.

(24) (Elicitation)

ə̄písə̄p^{h}òʔ	tə̄	lè	ɗó	tʃaúŋ	nɔ́ʔ
child	not	go	to	school	not
N	NEG	V	PREP	N	NEG

The child does not go to school.

The negation of the copula in Geba is the same as negation of a main verb. It is a discontinuous morpheme, the first part of which precedes the copula and the second part of which follows the predicate in final clause position. Example (25) shows a copula verb in Geba.

(25) (Elicitation)

sɛ̀	mī	sə̄rà
3S	be	teacher
PRN	COP	N

He is a teacher.

Examples (26) and (27) show the syntactic structure of the negation of a copula and possession in Geba.

(26) (Elicitation)

sɛ̀	tə̄	mī	sərà	nɔ́ʔ
3S	not	be	teacher	not
PRN	NEG	COP	N	NEG

He is not a teacher.

(27) (Elicitation)

jə̄	t^hwì	tə̄	ʔɔ̀	ɗó	sə̄	ʔɔ̀	nɔ́ʔ
1S	dog	not	have	to	3S	have	not
PRN	N	NEG	V	PREP	PRN	V	NEG

He doesn't have my dog.

Example (28) is an ungrammatical structure of negative copula in Geba.

(28) (Elicitation)

*sɛ̀	tə̄	mī	nɔ́ʔ	sərà
3S	not	be	not	teacher
PRN	NEG	COP	NEG	N

He is not a teacher.

In summary, two kinds of auxiliaries *kə̄*, and negative '*tə̄….nɔ́ʔ*' appear before the verb and are called preverbal auxiliaries.

3.1.2.2.2 Postverbal auxiliaries

Geba has several post verbal auxiliaries. *mó,* in otherwise unmarked sentences, expresses that, the action has already happened. The aspect marker *wɛ̀* 'still' shows the action in progress. They occur as postverbal auxiliaries. The directional verbs are also treated as postverbal auxiliaries.

Postverbal auxiliary *mó*

The postverbal auxiliary *mó* appears after the main verb and is denoted as a postverbal auxiliary. Example (29) shows the postverbal auxiliaries *mó* indicating a completed action.

(29) (Elicitation)
maùŋ lè **mó** bəlè
Maung go AUX where
PROP V AUX QW

Where did Maung go?

Postverbal auxiliary *wè*

Another postverbal auxiliary marking in Geba is expressed by adding *wè* 'still' to the main verb. Example (30) shows the imperfective structure in Geba with a stative verb.

(30) GB 9.5(1)
sə ʔɔ **wè** ɗó máŋdəlé
3S stay still at Mandalay
PRN V ASP PREP PROP

He is still in Mandalay.

The same postverbal auliliary *wè* is used with active verbs to form the progressive structure in Geba. Example (31) shows the progressive aspect construction in Geba.

(31) (Elicitation)
sə swɛ̀ **wè**
3S run still
PRN V ASP

He is still running.

Example (32) shows another example of aspect marking with an active verb.

(32) (Elicitation)
ŋ̍è zú **wè**
rain fall still
N V ASP

It is still raining.

Another kind of collocation is the empahtic marker *pʰáθà?* with *wè.* In this case, the aspect marker is intensified and indicates that the agent is doing something indeed.
Example (33) shows the collocation *pʰáθà?* and *wè* in a transitive clause.

(33) (Elicitation)
maòŋ ʔà dĭ **pʰáθà? wè**
Maung eat rice PRT still
PROP V N PRT ASP

Maung is still eating rice.

Postverbal auxiliary *zà*

Geba has several mood and mode markers that occur in the verb phrase. One such modality verb is *zà* 'can/ able to'. It follows after the main verb to form a postverbal auxiliary in Geba. Example (34) shows that the modality verb 'able or can' following the verb.

(34) (Elicitation)
jə̄ sàtʰì **zà** wè sé
1S see can still 3S
PRN V AUX ASP PRN

I still can see him.

Postverbal auxiliaries as directional verbs

Directional verbs in Geba can be seen as postverbal auxiliary verbs. The following examples (35) and (36) show directional verbs in Geba.

A directional verb can also function as a main verb. In example (38), the directional verb occurs as a main verb.

(35) (Elicitation)

ɓètəɓènɔʔ	sə	tʰà	ɗó	jàŋgòŋ
probably	3S	ascend	to	Yangon
ADV	PRN	V	PREP	PROP

Probably, he will go to Yangon.

In example (36), the directional verb *tʰà* 'ascend' follows the main verb to show the direction and the movement of the agent is ascending.

(36) (Elicitation)

ɓètəbènɔ	sə	lè	**tʰà**	ɗó	jàŋgòŋ
probably	3S	go	ascend	to	Yangon
ADV	PRN	V	V	PREP	PROP

Probably, he will go to Yangon.

In example (37), the directional verb *gè* follows the main verb to show the direction is reversed and redone by the agent.

(37) GA 24(1)

maòŋ	dè	là	gè	ənè
Maung	hit	decend	back	himself
PROP	V	V	V	REFLX

Maung hit himself.

As seen in the above examples, the directional verbs in Geba show the movement and the direction of the agent. Syntactically, the directional verbs can follow the main verb and they function as postverbal auxiliary to deepen the meaning of the main verb.

Postverbal auxiliary as adverbs

Adverbs are words which modify the meaning of a verb. Typically, adverbs follow the main verb and function as postverbal auxiliary in Geba. Example (38) shows the adverb *ə̄plá* 'quickly' modifying a verb.

(38) (Elicitation)

jə	hɛ̀ʔ	**ə̄plá**	lɔ
1S	walk	quickly	FP
PRN	V	ADV	FP

I walk quickly.

3.1.2.2.3 Preverbal and Postverbal auxiliary ɓɛ̀

Another kind of auxiliary in Geba is *ɓɛ̀*. *ɓɛ̀* 'have to', occur as both preverbal and post verbal auxiliaries. The preauxiliary verb *ɓɛ̀* in Geba functions as the auxiliary verb 'have to' or 'should' which has a hortative sense. The word order for the modal sense 'have to' would be 'V AUX' while 'should' has the word order 'AUX V'. Example (39) shows *ɓɛ̀* as the modal verb'have to' in Geba.

(39) WL 005

jə	mɛ̀	**ɓɛ̀**	pɔ̀mū	gərə	$k^hɔ̀$	tə	plà
1S	work	have to	woman	organization	leader	one	time
PRN	V	AUX	N	N	N	NUM	CLF

I had to work as a woman group leader one time.

Example (40) shows *ɓɛ̀* as the modal auxiliary verb 'should' in Geba.

(40) DB 029

tə	plà	nò	kə	**ɓɛ̀**	ʔà	sàdɛ̀	sàdɛ̀
one	time	that	will	have to	eat	how much	how much
NUM	CLF	DEM	AUX	AUX	V	ADV	ADV

How much we should eat for one time.

In example (41), the modal auxiliary verb *ɓɛ̀* 'must' is used for giving command or strong advice.

(41) (Elicitation)

kʰúdəǹì	nə̄	**ɓɛ̀**	lé	tʰà	tʃaúŋ
today	2S	have to	go	ascend	school
N	PRN	AUX	V	V	N

You must go to school today.

Summary of preverbal and postverbal auxiliaries

The following table shows the summary of preverbal and postverbal auxiliaries which precede and follow the main verb in Geba.

preverbal auxiliary	**main verb**	**postverbal auxiliary**
future marker *kə̄* 'will'		
auxiliary *ɓɛ̀* 'have to'		auxiliary *ɓɛ̀* 'have to'
negation *tə̄….nɔ́ʔ* 'not'		
		past particle *mó* 'did'
		aspect marker *wɛ̀* 'still'
		modal verb *zà* 'able/can'
		directional verb *tʰà* 'ascend', *là* 'descend'
		adverbs *plà* 'quickly', *θàdɔ̃* 'slowly', *θə̄rò* 'quietly'

Table 12 Preverbal and postverbal auxiliaries in Geba

3.1.2.3 Copula

Copula verbs are defined as those verbs which link a noun phrase and a non-verb predicate. In example (42), the Geba copula *mī* is shown linking two noun phrases. *mī* never takes an adverb or aspect marker in an equative construction.

(42) (Elicitation)

jə	hì	**mī**	nə	hì
1S	house	be	2S	house
PRN	N	COP	PRN	N

My house is your house.

The following example (43) shows the ungrammatical structure *mī* with aspect marker.

(43) (Elicitation)

*jə	hì	mī	nə	hì	wè
1S	house	be	2S	house	still
PRN	N	COP	PRN	N	ASP

My house is your house.

In example (44), the copula *mī* joins a pronoun and a common noun.

(44) (Elicitation)

sè	**mī**	sərà
3S	be	teacher
PRN	COP	N

He is a teacher.

In example (45), another kind of copula *ʔɔ̀,* related to the verb 'live' and 'stay', joins a noun phrase and a prepositional phrase in a locative construction. This kind of construction can take adverb or aspect markers.

(45) (Elicitation)

jə	t^hwì	**ʔɔ̀**	dó	sè	ʔɔ	nù
1S	dog	stay	at	3S	have	FP
PRN	N	V	PREP	PRN	V	FP

My dog is with him.

3.1.3 Adjectives

Adjectives in Geba modify nouns and, typically, the adjective follows the noun. However, in some cases, adjectives behave similarly to verbs. Thus, it is not clear if adjectives form their own class or are subclass of verbs. While adjectives have some characteristics of verbs, there is still good evidence that adjectives form a distinct word class in Geba.

Jones (1961:16) describes adjectives as verbs which attributive to nouns or adjectival verbs which follows verbs.

> *"Verbs in Karen languages are syntactically free form. When they occur in an attributive construction with a headnoun, they follow after the noun. Adjectival verbs immediately follow primary verbs and it is attributed to the verb. The secondary verb is situated in final position in verb constructions and they are attributed to the entire construction."*

The following section will discuss how adjectives are similar and dissimilar to verbs.

3.1.3.1 Features adjectives have in common with verbs

The functions of adjectives which are similar to verbs are discussed below. In Geba, adjectives are negated in the same way as verbs. The two examples (46a) and (46b) show the affirmative and negative construction with adjectives.

(46a) (Elicitation)

pʰɔ̀	ə̄jò	nù	ə̄lé
flower	this	this	red
N	DEM	DEM	ADJ

This flower is red.

(46b) (Elicitation)

pʰɔ̀	ə̄jò	nù	tə̄	lé	nɔ́ʔ
flower	this	this	not	red	not
N	DEM	DEM	NEG	ADJ	NEG

This flower is not red.

Examples (47a) and (47b) show the intransitive verb *swɛ̀* 'run' and its negated form. In both cases negation is structurally the same.

(47a) (Elicitation)

písəpʰò	əmìkʰó	də̄	bwɛ̀	swɛ̀
child	man	one	CLF	run
N	N	NUM	CLF	V

The boy runs.

(47b) (Elicitation)

písəpʰò	əmìkʰó	də̄	bwɛ̀	ə̄tə̄	swɛ̀	nɔ́ʔ
child	man	one	CLF	not	run	not
N	N	NUM	CLF	NEG	V	NEG

The boy does not run.

Another similarity is that adjectives can be modified by the aspect marker *wɛ̀* 'still' that normally modifies verbs as in example (48).

(48) (Elicitation)

hì	əjò	θɛ́	wɛ̀
house	this	new	still
N	DEM	ADJ	ASP

This house is still new.

Example (49) is the aspect marker *wɛ̀* 'still' that modifies verbs.

(49) (Elicitation)

sə̄	swɛ̀	**wè**
3S	run	still
PRN	V	ASP

He is still running.

Thirdly, both main verbs and adjectives in Geba also occur alone as the predicate of a clause, describing the subject of the clause; there is no auxiliary or copula verb. Example (50) shows the subject and the predicate, which is an adjective in a stative clause, and the noun phrase is followed by the adjective.

(50) (Elicitation)

jə̄	θɛ̀t^{h}ɛ̀ʔ
1S	angry
PRN	ADJ

I am angry.

Example (51) shows the subject and a predicate, which is a motion verb *swɛ̀* 'run', where the subject is followed by the main verb.

(51) (Elicitation)

maʊ̀ŋ	swɛ̀
Maung	run
PROP	V

Maung runs.

3.1.3.2 Features that separate adjectives from verbs

There is also evidence that adjectives are distinct from verbs. Inside the noun phrase, both adjectives and verbs can modify a noun. Examples (52) and (53) show how adjectives and verbs function attributively inside a noun phrase. The fact that the classifier follows *ə̄θípà* 'black' shows that this modification is inside noun phrase. In a noun phrase, adjectives and verbs typically follow the noun.

(52) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	**əθípà**	tə	ɗó	ə̄nò	nù
dog	black	one	CLF	that	this
N	ADJ	NUM	CLF	DEM	DEM

'that one black dog'

Usually, verbs directly modify the noun. In example (53), the verb modifies the preceding noun but requires the prefix *ə̄*. Without adding *ə̄* the result is ungrammatical and the same is true of adjectives as seen in (52).

(53) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	**ə̄swè**	tə	ɗó	ə̄nò	nù	sàtʰì	tʰòpʰòʔ	tə	ɓɛ̀
dog	run	one	CLF	that	TOP	see	bird	one	CLF
N	V	NUM	CLF	DEM	TOP	V	N	NUM	CLF

That one dog (which) runs sees the bird.

Example (54) shows that it is ungrammatical if a relativizer is included between the noun and verb and the same is true of adjectives.

(54) (Elicitation)

*tʰwì	**ɗó**	ə̄swɛ̀	tə	ɗó	ə̄nò	nù	sàtʰì	tʰòpʰòʔ	tə	ɓɛ̀
dog	which	run	one	CLF	that	TOP	see	bird	one	CLF
N	REL	V	NUM	CLF	DEM	TOP	V	N	NUM	CLF

That dog which runs see the bird.

However, more than one adjective can occur in a noun phrase, while verbs are limited to one. Example (55) shows the positions of multiple adjectives in a noun phrase in Geba. Also, the prefix *ə̄* is required to attach adjectives.

(55) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	**ə̄lé**	**ə̄ɗó**	θó	ɗó
dog	red	big	three	CLF
N	ADJ	ADJ	NUM	CLF

'the three red big dogs'

Example (56) shows that is it is ungrammatical for two consecutive verbs to appear followed by a number and classifier.

(56) (Elicitation)

*tʰwì	**swè**	**ʔà**	θó	ɗó
dog	run	eat	three	CLF
N	V	V	NUM	CLF

'dog runs eats three'

If a verb and adjective occur together, it would be ungrammatical to omit the relativizer which normally occurs before the verb and also the position of adjective appear after verb as in example (57).

(57) (Elicitation)

*tʰwì	əswè	əlè	θó	ɗó
dog	run	red	three	CLF
N	V	ADJ	NUM	CLF

'the three run red dogs'

If an adjective and verb appear consecutively, the relativlizer *ɗő* should appear before the verb to be more natural in the sentence. Example (58) shows that the relativizer is needed in this kind of construction in Geba

(58) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	əθípà	**ɗő**	əswè	θó	ɗó	nù	sàtʰì	tʰòpʰòʔ	tə	ɓè
dog	black	which	run	three	CLF	TOP	see	bird	one	CLF
N	ADJ	REL	V	NUM	CLF	TOP	V	N	NUM	CLF

The three running black dogs see the bird.

The next evidence is from comparative and superlative constructions. The comparative degree suffix marker *-ɗə̂lí* directly follows the adjective in comparative constructions.

Example (59) shows the comparative constructions with an adjective.

(59) GB 12.4(1)

maùŋ	**tʰó-ɗɔ̀lí**	zɔ̀	
Maung	tall-er	Zaw	
PROP	ADJ-SUF	PROP	

Maung is taller than Zaw.

For verbs, to form the comparative structure, another adverb *ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ* optionally can precede the comparative morpheme *ɗɔ̀lí* as in example (60).

(60) (Elicitation)

maùŋ	θəhɛ́	**ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ-ɗɔ̀lí**	zɔ̀	
Maung	know	**much-er**	Zaw	
PROP	V	ADV-SUF	PROP	

Maung knows more than Zaw.

It is also natural to construct the sentence without *ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ* as in example (61).

(61) (Elicitation)

maùŋ	**θəhɛ́-ɗɔ̀lí**	zɔ̀	
Maung	know-er	Zaw	
PROP	V-SUF	PROP	

Maung knows more than Zaw.

Adjectives can also occur only with suffix *-gədú* in the superlative construction but verbs need an adverb *ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ* to function in the superlative suffix *-gədú* construction. Example (62) shows the superlative structure of adjectives in Geba without adverb *ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ*.

(62) GB 12.5(1)

ɗó	ɗó	bú	nò	maùŋ	tʰó-gədù	lɔ̄
at	village	in	this	Maung	tall-est	FP
PREP	N	LOCN	DEM	PROP	ADJ-SUF	FP

Maung is the tallest in the village.

But verbs need the adverb *ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ* to come before the superlative marker *-gə̄dú* in a superlative construction as in example (63).

(63) (Elicitation)

ɗó	ɗó	bú	nò	maʊ̀ŋ	θə̄hɛ́	**ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ-gə̄dú**	lɔ̄
at	village	in	that	Maung	know	**much-est**	FP
PREP	N	LOCN	DEM	PROP	V	**ADV-SUF**	FP

In the village, Maung knows much.

3.1.3.3 Summary

As can be seen above, adjectives seem to share some characteristics of verbs especially with regards to negation and aspect markers. Also, both main verbs and adjectives occur as the predicate of a clause without auxiliaries. But adjectives also have distinct characteristics not shared with verbs. The position and structure of adjectives and verbs in a noun phrase, the prefix *ə̄*, the position of a relativizer, the serial construction of attributive adjectives and verbs, and the comparative and superlative construction show strong evidence that adjectives exist in Geba as a distinct word class. Table (13) shows the comparison of adjectives and verbs.

	adjective	**verb**
negation	+	+
aspect marking	+	+
as predicates without copula	+	+
attribute to noun phrase	+	+
ə-prefix	+	+
Can precede another adjective modifier	+	-
Follow another adjective without /ɗó/	+	odd
comparative construction with */ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ/*	never	optional
superlative construction with */ʔɔ̀ʔɛ́ʔ/*	never	always

Table 13 The comparison of adjectives and verbs in Geba

According to the above findings, there is evidence that adjectives belong to a definable class which is separate from verbs.

3.1.4 Adverbs

Adverbs are words which modify the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Typically, adverbs follow verbs.

Henderson 1967:171states:

> *There are three tones in Bwe; high level, mid level and low level. Tonal alternation, which can occur together with vowel alternation, alternation of the initial consonant, or final consonant alternation, is found in reduplicative or repetitive expressions. Some similarities between Bwe phonology and syntax structures and Geba are found.*

Jones (1961:21) states that adverbials occur in a special initial position in extended constructions.

Example (64) shows the adverb *ə̄plá* 'quickly' modifying a verb.

(64) (Elicitation)

jə̄	hɛ̀ʔ	ə̄plá	lɔ̄
1S	walk	quickly	FP
PRN	V	ADV	FP

Maung walks quickly.

Sometimes adverbs of movement modify by using a reduplicated form. In example (65), the reduplication expresses the feeling that the speaker is emphasizing the action he is doing or he was doing. It is noted that the first adverb has low tone and the second adverb has high tone.

(65) (Elicitation)

jə	hɛ̀ʔ	plà	plá
1S	walk	quickly	quickly
PRN	V	ADV	ADV

Maung walks more quickly.

ʃòʔ 'very' is used to intensify the manner of action expressed in the phrase as in example (66).

(66) (Elicitation)

jə	hɛ̀ʔ	plá	ʃòʔ
1S	walk	quickly	very
PRN	V	ADV	ADJ

I walk very quickly.

Sometimes adverbs do not directly follow the adjective, verb, or adverb they modify. In this case they are associated with the word they modify by another preposition in order to emphasize the action. Example (67) shows the adverb *əplá* which modifies *hɛ̀ʔ* 'walk'. Its association is marked by the preposition *dő*. The adverb follows after the verb but if it is connected by the preposition *dő*[4] it emphasizes the manner.

(67) (Elicitation)

jə	hɛ̀ʔ	dő	əplá	lə
1S	walk	with	quickly	FP
PRN	V	CONJ	ADV	FP

I walk quickly/ I am walking quickly.

təkʰátəkʰà is another adverb that occurs as a reduplicated form. Example (68) shows it as a negative reduplicated adverbial. It is noted that tone changes occur in reduplicated form.

[4] *dő* not only denotes 'to' but also as 'with' when it is used to indicate the manner.

(68) BH 004

sə̄	də̄	dè	sə̄	θə̄rè	tə̄	ɗó	**tə̄kʰátə̄kʰà**	nɔ́ʔ
3S	one	hit	3S	horse	not	CLF	never	not
PRN	NUM	V	PRN	N	NEG	CLF	ADV	NEG

He never beats his horse.

Adverbial elaborate expressions also appear as reduplicated forms where the first two syllables and the last two syllables are the same (i.e.AABB). Examples (69) and (70) show an adverb of elaboration in Geba.

(69) GB 15.7(4)

maùŋ	swè	**bàbàsʰésʰɛ́**	tə̄	plà	nò	ə̄ládàsʰóʔ	sɛ̀
Maung	run	difficulty	one	time	this	tired	3S
PROP	V	ADV	NUM	CLF	DEM	V	PRN

The harder Maung ran, the more tired he got.

(70) GB 16.2(3)

maùŋ	ʔɔ̀	ʃì	bù	**jɔ̀jɔ̀jàjà**	lɔ̄
Maung	stay	house	in	always	FP
PROP	V	N	PREP	ADV	FP

Maung always stays home.

Adverb intensifiers occur after the adjective. In example (71), the adverb *pìʔ* intensifies the preceding adjective *ə̄θípà* 'black'.

(71) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	ɗó	ə̄kámī	ə̄θípà	**pìʔ**
dog	which	tail	black	really
N	REL	N	ADJ	INTS

'The dog with the jet-black tail'

Several varieties of adverb constructions are found in Geba. As can be seen above, adverbs in Geba occur as reduplication, intensifier, elaboration, and are sometimes linked by *ɗó*.

3.2 Minor word classes

Minor word classes in Geba form closed classes. The closed classes, pronouns, demonstratives, prepositions and locator nouns, numerals, classifiers, and conjunctions, are discussed in this section.

3.2.1 Pronouns

Pronouns are a small closed class of words which may function as the subject or the object in a clause. Pronouns can also function as arguments in prepositional phrases, and some pronoun forms occur as possessors in noun phrases. In Geba, pronouns play an important role by providing continuity and brevity. No gender or class distinctions are relevant for pronouns. The inclusive and exclusive distincition is only for emphasis and occurs only in first person plural pronouns. There are also reflexive pronouns and reciprocal pronouns. Pronouns are marked for person (1st, 2nd, and 3rd). Number is also marked in 1st and 2nd person pronouns. Table (14) shows the different pronouns for different functions in the clause or phrase in Geba.

	Number		Function			
			Subject/free pronoun	Object	Possessor	refelxives
1st Person	Singular		jə̄/jɛ̀	jɛ́	jə̄	jə̄nè
	Plural	Exclusive	wà	wà	wà	
		Inclusive	kə̄	kɛ́	kə̄	
2nd Person	singular		nə̄	nɛ́	nə̄	nə̄nè
	plural		θí			
3rd Person			sə̄/ə̄/sɛ̀	sɛ́	sə̄/ə̄	sə̄/ə̄ nè

Tabel 14 pronoun systems in Geba

According to the above table, the 1st person singular pronouns *jə̄* and *jɛ̀* appear in the subject position. However, they are distinguished in that they appear

before different verbs. The 1st person pronoun *jə̄* appears in the subject position preceding a main verb, but *jɛ̀* only occurs the subject position before the copula particle *mī* 'be.' The consistent changes in tone and the vowel quality from subject to object occur as a change from mid or low tone to high tone except the 1st person plural exclusive and the 2nd person plural form.

Example (72) exemplifies the first person singular pronoun in the subject positions.

(72) WL 005
jə̄ ɓɛ́lɔ̀ dɛ̀θə̄ɓùθə̄ɓɛ́
1S love religion
PRN V N

I love religion.

Example (73) shows the appearance of *jɛ̀* before *mī.*

(73) (Elicitation)
jɛ̀ mī sə̄rà
1S be teacher
PRN COP N

I am a teacher.

For the object position, the first person singular pronouon appears as the pronoun *jɛ́.* Example (74) shows the first person singular pronoun in object position.

(74) WL 011
sə̄ ʔì jɛ́ dɛ̄kʰòdɛ̄ʔá
3S give 1S strength
PRN V PRN N

He gives me strength.

The 1st person singular possessive pronoun appears in the subject position as *jə̄* in (75).

(75) WL 001

jə̄	pàʔ	ə̄mí	mī	ʔúsaŋ̀tʰʊ́ŋ̀
1S	father	name	be	U San Tun
PRN	N	N	COP	PROP

My father's name is U San Tun.

Sometimes both of the first person singular pronouns appear together in emphatic or topic sentence initial position. In this case, the first person singular pronoun has a tone change from low to high, and the possessive pronoun follows it.

Example (76) shows the two first person singular pronouns appearing consecutively in subject position to focus the speaker's emphatics.

(76) WL 001

jé	jə̄	mō	ə̄mí	mī	dɔ̀ʔéθaŋ̀
1S	1S	mother	name	be	Daw Aye Than
PRN	PRN	N	N	COP	PROP

My mother's name is Daw Aye Than.

First person plural pronouns in Geba can show inclusion or exclusion. The discussion of inclusive and exclusive pronouns will be presented in section 3.2.1.1.

For the second person singular pronoun, *nə̄* occurs in the subject position and possessor position.

Example (77) shows the second person singular pronoun in Geba.

(77) GB 18.10(1)

maὺŋ	nə̄	mɛ̀	dànɛ̀
Maung	2S	work	INTER
PROP	PRN	V	ILL.F

Maung, what are you doing?

The second person possessive pronoun is followed by the noun in example (78).

(78) (Elicitation)

maὺŋ	lɛ̀	ɗó	nə̄	lɛ̀	bú
Maung	go	to	2S	field	in
PROP	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN

Maung, go to your field.

For third person, *sə̄*, *sɛ̀* and *ə̄* are distinguished by how they function as arguments of verbs. There is no masculine, feminine, singular or plural form for this pronoun class. Like first person singular pronouns, *sə̄* appears before the main verb and as a possessive pronoun while *sɛ̀* precedes the copula particle *mī* 'be'. But this distinction is not as consistent as in the first person singular pronoun; both *sɛ̀* and *sə̄* can be found before *mī* 'be'.

Example (79) shows the third person singular pronoun in the subject position.

(79) GB 10.3(5)

sə̄	ɗɔ̀	jɛ̀	bjà	də̄	wɛ̀	lɛ̀
3S	tell	1S	person	one	CLF	go
PRN	V	PRN	N	NUM	CLF	V

He told me that the man went.

In example (80), *sɛ̀* , the third person pronoun appears before copula.

(80) (Elicitation)

sɛ̀	mī	sərà
3S	be	teacher
PRN	COP	N

He is a teacher.

In example (81), *sə̄* appears as a co-referential of the third person singular pronoun.

(81) BH 004

sə̄	pīkɔ́		də̄	wɛ̀	nɔ̀	sə̄	ɓɛ́lɔ̀	sə̄	θərɛ̀ʔ	tə̄	ɗɔ́	sə̄
3S	young	brother	one	CLF	that	3S	love	3S	horse	one	CLF	3S
PRN	N		NUM	CLF	DEM	PRN	V	PRN	N	NUM	CLF	PRN

Error!Error!

His younger brother loves his horse so he feeds well.

In Geba, *ə̄* often appears as co-referential with proper nouns and *sə̄* often appears as a third person singular pronoun. Example (82) shows the appearance of *ə̄* as a possessive noun and as a coreferential of a proper noun.

(82) (Elicitation)

zɔ̀	lɛ̀	ɗɔ́	ə̄-lɛ̀	bù
Zaw	go	to	his-field	in
PROP	V	PREP	POS-N	PREP

Zaw goes to his field.

It is impossible for *ə̄* to appear in the subject position. Example (83) shows the ungrammatical structure of *ə̄* appearing as a subject sentence initial position.

(83) (Elicitation)

*ə	mī	ɗópʰáəkʰò	ənè	lɔ
3S	be	village-chief	himself	FP
PRN	COP	N	REFLX	FP

He is the village chief.

It is ungrammatical for a proper noun to appear in the sentence initial position in Geba and followed by *ə.* Example (84) shows the ungrammatical structure of a proper noun appearing in sentence initial position followed by *ə.*

(84) (Elicitation)

*zɔ	ə	mī	ɗópʰáəkʰò	ənè	lɔ
Zaw	3S	be	village-chief	himself	FP
PROP	PRN	COP	N	REFLX	FP

Zaw is the village chief.

Therefore, *ə* can only be used as a possessive pronoun.

The 3rd person pronoun form can be singular or plural depending on its antecedent noun. Examples (85) and (86) show the use of the third person pronoun in both plural and singular contexts. The quantifier *dəlà* 'plural' is attached to the antecedent nouns.

(85) (Elicitation)

əpísəpʰò	dəlà	nò	tə	ʔɔ	ɗó	hì	nɔ́ʔ	sɛ̀	lé	ɗő	tʃaúŋ	nò
child	many	that	not	stay	at	house	not	3S	go	to	school	FP
N	QNT	DEM	NEG	V	PREP	N	NEG	PRN	V	PREP	N	FP

The children are not at home. They went to school.

(86) (Elicitation)

əpísəpʰò	nò	tə	ʔɔ	ɗó	hì	nɔ́ʔ	sɛ̀	lè	ɗó	tʃaúŋ	nò
child	that	not	stay	at	house	not	3S	go	to	school	FP
N	DEM	NEG	V	PREP	N	NEG	PRN	V	PREP	N	FP

The child is not at home. He went to school.

The above sentences show that both 3rd person plural and singular are referred to by the same pronoun but the antecedant determines the meaning of pronoun.

Resumptive pronoun constructions also occur in Geba. In these constructions, pronouns replace noun phrases and follow the noun phrase with which they are co-referential. The noun phrase introduces the participant in an emphatic way as a topic, and, then, the pronoun resumes the reference and, together with the verb, shows what the participant does. Example (87) shows a resumptive pronoun occurring before *ɓélɔ̀* 'love'. This is also an appositive noun phrase structure.

(87) BH 004

sə	pīkɔ́		də	wɛ̀	nò	**sə̄**	ɓélɔ̀	sə̄	θərèʔ	tə̄	ɗó
3S	young	brother	one	CLF	that	3S	love	3S	horse	one	CLF
PRN	N		NUM	CLF	DEM	PRN	V	PRN	N	NUM	CLF

His younger brother, he loves his horse.

3.2.1.1 Inclusive and exclusive pronouns

Inclusive and exclusive pronouns are used in Geba for first person plural form only. If a person wants to include the person spoken to (addressee) *kə̄* is used while *wà* is used to exclude the addressee.

Examples (88) and (89) show the inclusive pronouns structure where two siblings are talking to each other.

(88) (Elicitation)

ə̄mò	bwè	nì	kɛ̀ʔ	tə̄kòʔ	də̄	dɛ́	jó
his-mother	buy	for	1Pin	bread	one	thing	this
POS-N	V	CONJ	PRN	N	NUM	N	DEM

Mother bought us this bread.

(89) (Elicitation)

kə̄	ʔà	ɓɛ̀	tə̄kòʔ	də̄	dɛ́	nò
1Pex	eat	have to	bread	one	thing	that
PRN	V	AUX	N	NUM	N	DEM

We have to eat that bread.

Example (90) shows two students asking their teacher to give them a story book using the first person plural exclusive pronoun.

(90) (Elicitation)

nə̄	ʔì	zà	wè	wà	dɛ̀lɛ̀plòə̄sɛ́	ɲà
2S	give	can	still	1Pex	story book	INTER
PRN	V	AUX	AUX	PRN	N	ILL.F

Can you give us (and not you) a story book?

kə̄ can also be a generic plural pronoun and *wà* can be used to specify the speakers. In example (91), the narrator is explaining how she puts things in a jar. In this case, *kə̄* appears instead of *wà.*

(91) RW 005

kə̄	ɓɛ́nì	gè	m̩wè	bú	tə̄	plà
1Pex	put	back	earthern jar	in	one	time
PRN	V	V	N	LOCN	NUM	CLF

'After we put back in the jar'

In example (92), *wà* is used to emphasize the speaker.

(92) WW 003

wà	θoŋ́	pís^{h}àʔ	mī	gə̄	jó
1P	spend	money	be	like	this
PRN	V	N	COP	PREP	DEM

We use money like this.

3.2.2.2 Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns

Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns are also found in Geba. The reflexive pronoun is formed by adding the suffix *nè* to any of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd person pronouns. *lə̄wá* functions as the reciprocal pronoun. There is no reflexive marker on the verb. For reflexive verbs, the subject and the object are co-referential as indicated by the presence of *nè.*

Examples (93) and (94) show how the reflexive and reciprocal pronouns are used in Geba. In this case there is no reflexive marker on the verb. The subject and the object are co-referential as indicated by the presence of *nè.*

(93) GB 14.4(1)
jə̄ dè gè jə̄nè
1S hit back myself
PRN V V REFLX

I hit myself.

(94) (Elicitation)
sə̄ dè gè sə̄nè
3S hit back himself
PRN V V REFLX

He hits himself.

As there is no specific third person reflexive pronoun, Geba speakers often use the noun *bjà* 'people' to form the third person plural reflexive pronouns as in example (95).

(95) (Elicitation)
bjà dè gè bjànè
person hit back themselves
N V V REFLX

They hit themselves.

For the reciprocal, the form *lə̄wá* 'each other' is used. More than one participant is found in this kind of construction. Example (96) shows the reciprocal construction in Geba.

(96) GB 14.5(1)

jɛ̀	kī	maùŋ	làdè	lə̄wá
1S	and	Maung	hit	each other
PRN	CONJ	PROP	V	RECP

Maung and I hit each other.

3.2.2 Demonstratives

Demonstratives in Geba are used to point out a particular thing or individual which is near or far from the speaker. The first set is the proximate *jò* 'this' and distal *nò* 'that'. Sometimes, for plural demonstratives 'these' or 'those' the suffix morpheme *də̄là* is optionally used. Demonstratives normally modify a noun in a noun phrase, and typically, they follow the noun.

In example (97), the demonstrative *nò* 'that' follows the noun phrase.

(97) (Elicitation)

t^hwì	tə̄	ɗó	nò	ə̄kámī	θípàʔ
dog	one	CLF	this	tail	black
N	NUM	CLF	DEM	N	ADJ

That dog with a black tail.

Sometimes two demonstratives occur in a noun phrase to specify or emphasize the head noun as in example (98). The first demonstrative has the prefix *ə̄* which follows the head noun and the second without *ə̄* which follows the noun phrase.

(98) (Elicitation)

tʰwì	ə̄nò	tə̄	ɗó	nò	ʔɔ̀	kīɗɔ́ʔ	ə̄kámī	θípàʔ
dog	that	one	CLF	this	have	with	tail	black
N	DEM	NUM	CLF	DEM	V	CONJ	N	ADJ

That dog is with a black tail.

In some cases the demonstrative occurs without a head noun and comes before the copular verb *mī* to function as a subject. In this case, it takes the nominalizing prefix *ə̄* and is known as deictic pronoun. Example (99) shows the demonstrative which occurs before the copula verb in a clause.

(99) (Elicitation)

ə̄jò	mī	hì	də̄	wà
this	be	house	one	CLF
DEM	COP	N	NUM	CLF

This is my house.

3.2.3 Classifiers

Classifiers in Geba occur as bound morphemes preceded by a number. The classifier used depends on the noun that is the head of the noun phrase. There are two kinds of classifiers: sortal and measure. Sortal classifiers are the typical classifiers and are semantically based. Measure classifiers measure the nouns using a container, weight, height, group, or amount.

In table (15), a patial list of the sortal classifiers is presented.

Geba	**semantic (sortal)**	**example**
bwɛ̄(wɛ̄)	human	king, woman, man
ɗó	mammals, rodents, large objects	elephant, dog, horse
bɔ́	long	tree, pole, snake, river
ɗó	village	vilalge, water melon
k^ho	clump	grass
mù	tree	tree
wà	house	house
bɛ̀	generic	grate
klɔ̄	cylindrical	corn
sɔ̀lɔ̀	kind	curry (dish)
mɔ̀	kind	curry (kind)
k^hō	vehicle	bus
bú	hole	snake hole
dɛ́	generic	unspecify

Table 15 Sortal classifiers in Geba

Table (16) lists measure classifiers with examples.

Geba	**semantic (measure)**	**example**
kwɛ́ʔ/səlɔ̀ʔ	cup	water
tùʔ	sepecific term for measuring rice and beans etc.	rice, beans etc.
k^{h}ò	non-human object things	sandals, bamboo, bunch of grass
gəbò	pot	alcohol
klɛ̄	small-long	log
ɗó	bag-like	bag
bɔ́	big-long	pole
klɛ̀	roll	short section of string
bɔ̀	roll	long piece of string
k^{h}wè	roll	ball of string

Table 16 Measure classifiers in Geba

Sometimes more than one classifier appears in order to express an extended meaning such as 'each' or 'never'. Example (100) shows more than one classifier in the clause. The classifiers *wè* for 'person' and *ɗó* for 'animal' appear in order to express the meaning that there is more than one participant and to form a distributed quantifier phrase.

(100) BH 003

sə	ʔɔ	kīɗɔ́ʔ	sə	θərèʔ	də	b(wɛ̀)	tə	ɗó	lɔ
3S	have	with	3S	horse	one	CLF	one	CLF	FP
PRN	V	CONJ	PRN	N	NUM	CLF	NUM	CLF	FP

They have one horse each.

The negative adverb form 'never' also occurs by using the number and classifier. Example (101) shows more than one classifier being used to express the meaning 'never'. tə can also be a negative form. The gloss is ambiguous in this elaborate expression.

(101) BH 004

sə̄	də̄	dè	sə̄	θə̄rè	tə̄	ɗó	**[tə̄**	**kʰá**	**tə̄**	**kʰà]**
3S	one	hit	3S	horse	one	CLF	one/not	time	one/not	time
PRN	NUM	V	PRN	N	NUM	CLF	NUM/NEG	CLF	NUM/NEG	CLF

nɔ̀ʔ
not
NEG

He never beats his horse.

Example (102) shows the number and the generic classifier used to form a demonstrative.

(102) (Elicitation)

də̄	dɛ́	mī	dànɛ̀
one	thing	be	INTER
NUM	N	COP	ILL.F

What is this?

Another type of idiomatic classifier is the time adverb form *tə̄ plà.* Example (103) shows this classifier used in an adverb expression meaning 'after'.

(103) RW 005

kə̄	pʰjú	ʔɔ́	tə̄	plà	ʋ̩ákʰàlɛ̀
1Pex	spread	it	one	time	after
PRN	V	PRN	NUM	CLF	ADV

'After we spread that yeast'

3.2.4 Numerals and Quantifiers

The number system and quantifiers of Geba are discussed in this section. Table (17) shows the numbering system with examples.

number	Geba	example
1	*də̄/tə̄* one NUM	*bjà də̄ bwɛ̀* person one CLF N NUM CLF one person
2	*dʒì* two NUM	*bjà dʒì bwɛ̀* person two CLF N NUM CLF two person
3	*θō* three NUM	*bjà θó bwɛ̀* person three CLF N NUM CLF three person
4	*lwì* four NUM	*bjà lwì bwɛ̀* person four CLF N NUM CLF four person
5	*jɛ̀* five NUM	*bjà jɛ̀ bwɛ̀* person five CLF N NUM CLF five person
6	*θá θòʔ* three pair NUM CLF six	*bjà əbwɛ̀ θá θòʔ* person CLF three pair N CLF NUM CLF six person
7	*θá θòʔ də̄/tə̄* three pair one NUM CLF NUM seven	*bjà θá θòʔ də̄ bwɛ̀* person three pair one CLF N NUM CLF NUM CLF seven person
8	*lwì θòʔ* four pair NUM CLF eight	*bjà əbwɛ̀ lwi θòʔ* person CLF four pair N CLF NUM CLF eight person

number	Geba	example
9	*lwì θòʔ də̄/tə̄* eight pair one NUM CLF NUM nine	*bjà lwì θòʔ də̄ bwɛ̀* person four pair one CLF N NUM CLF NUM CLF nine person
10	*ʃíʔ* ten NUM ten	*bjà ə̄bwɛ̀ ʃíʔ* person CLF ten N CLF NUM ten person
100	*də̄ gə̄jɛ̀* one hundred NUM NUM one hundred	*bjà ə̄bwɛ̀ də̄ gə̀jɛ̀* person CLF one hundred N CLF NUM NUM one hundred person
1000	*tə̄ tʰɔ̀ʔ* one thousand NUM NUM One thousand	*bjà ə̄bwɛ̀ tə̄ tʰɔ̀ʔ* person CLF one thousand N CLF NUM NUM one thousand person

Table 17 Number system in Geba

The number system in Geba is different from other languages. Normally, languages have a specific name for each number from one to ten, but, in Geba, the number six is equivalent to three + Classifier (pairs), where the vowel for 'three' *θō* changes to *θá*, and the number eight is four + Classifier (pairs). The number seven and nine are different still, with seven having the combination of six plus one and nine having the combination of eight plus one.

Example (104), (105), and (106) show the structure of the numbers three, six, and eight in the Geba number system. It is noted that for the number six and eight, the classifier which is attached to ə- is moved before the number. The language seems to not allow the two classifiers to appear side by side.

(104) (Elicitation)
bjà θó bwɛ̀
person three CLF
N NUM CLF

'three people'

(105) (Elicitation)

bjà	əbwɛ̀	θá	θòʔ
person	CLF	three	pairs
N	CLF	NUM	N

'six people'

(106) (Elicitation)

bjà	ə̄bwɛ̀	lwì	θòʔ
person	CLF	four	pairs
N	CLF	NUM	N

'eight people'

Usually, the classifiers follow the nouns but for the numbers six and eight, and all multi-digit numbers, the classifier precedes the number. Phonological assimilation with the number 'one' regularly occurs.[5]

Examples (107) and (108) show the syntactic environment of numbers and quantifiers with classifiers. In example (107), the prefix *ə̄-* is added to the sortal human classifier and it precedes the number six.

(107) (Elicitation)

bjà	ə̄bwɛ̀	θá	θòʔ	lɛ̀	dó	zé	nò
person	CLF	three	pairs	go	to	market	FP
N	CLF	NUM	N	V	PREP	N	FP

Six persons go to the market.

[5] In Geba, phonologic assimilation with the number 'one' regularly occurs. If the following noun is voiced, the preceding number would be voiced, and if the following noun is voiceless, the preceding number would be voiceless. For example, in *tʰwì tə̄ dó* 'dog one CLF', as the following classifier is voiceless the number 'one' assimilates as voiceless. In *bjà də̄ bwɛ̀* 'person one CLF', the following classifier is voiced so the number 'one' changes voicing.

In example (108), the number nine, which is the combination of four + pair and one, occurs with 'boys'. This is the 'normal' classifier numbering order in Geba.

(108) (Elicitation)

ə̄písə̄p^{h}ò	ə̄mìk^{h}ó	lwì	θòʔ	də̄	bwɛ̀	swɛ̀
child	man	four	pairs	one	CLF	run
N	N	NUM	N	NUM	CLF	V

Nine boys run.

In examples (109) and (110), the multiples of ten are preceded by the classifier prefixed with *ə̄*.

(109) (Elicitation)

θóʔ	ə̄mù	də̄	gə̄jɛ̀	ʔɔ̀	ɗó	lɛ̀	bú	nò
tree	CLF	one	hundred	have	to	field	in	FP
N	CLF	NUM	NUM	V	PREP	N	LOCN	FP

There are one hundred trees in the field.

(110) (Elicitation)

ɗó	ɗó	bú	nò	bjà	ʔɔ̀	ə̄bwɛ̀	tə̄	t^{h}ɔ̀ʔ
at	village	in	that	person	have	CLF	one	thousand
PREP	N	LOCN	DEM	N	V	CLF	NUM	NUM

There are one thousand people in the village.

Above the number 1000, Geba uses Sgaw or Burmese to count.

Two kinds of quantifiers, *də̄là* and *tə̄sɔ̀ʔ,* occur in Geba. There is no compositional meaning for *də̄là* and *tə̄sɔ̀ʔ*, but *də̄là* is the quantifier meaning 'many' and *tə̄sɔ̀ʔ* is used for the meaning 'some'. Example (111) shows *də̄là* coming after the noun in a noun phrase.

(111) BH 010

mɛ̀gənòəkʰòsɛ́	bjà	ɗó	əɓɛ́lɔ̀	dɛ́	kʰɔ̀wɛ̀kʰɔ̀kʰà	dɛ́	dəlà	nò
because of that	person	who	love	thing	mercy	thing	many	that
CONJ	N	REL	V	N	V	N	QNT	DEM

'because of that those who have love and mercy'

In example (112), *tə̄sɔ̀ʔ* comes after the noun to function as an indefinite quantifier in Geba.

(112) DB 004

sə	sà	ṵá	əmɛ̀dɛ̀pʰòʔ	**tə̄sɔ̀ʔ**	ʔàwìʔʔàʃìʔ	dǐ	háθù
3S	look	ASP	workers	some	eat delicious	rice	curry
PRN	V	AUX	N	QNT	ADJ	N	N

She watched some workers eating the delicious rice.

3.2.5 Prepositions

Geba has one preposition, *ɗó,* which functions as a general location marker and also encodes non-core participants. Examples (113) and (114) show the preposition *ɗó* occurring before the nouns without a locator noun. In this case, the preposition *ɗó* codes the indirect object/recipient.

(113) (Elicitation)

sə	ʔì	blɛ̀	tə	ɓɔ́	ɗó	bjà	də	bwɛ̀
3S	give	arrow	one	when	to	person	one	CLF
PRN	V	N	NUM	ADV	PREP	N	NUM	CLF

He gave the man an arrow.

Example (114) shows the occurrence of preposition *ɗó* semantically marked as the beneficiary with *ə̄nìkʰǐ* following the noun phrase.

(114) GB 14.3(1)

jə̄	ʔì	maʊ̀ŋ	sɛ́ʔ	ɗó	sə̄	pàʔ	ə̄nìkʰí
1S	give	Maung	book	to	3S	father	for
PRO	V	PROP	N	PREP	PRN	N	BENF

I give Maung a book for his father.

According to the above findings, the preposition *ɗó* precedes the noun to form a prepositional phrase. More discussion about the word *ɗó* is presented in section 5.3.

3.2.6 Locator nouns

Geba also has locator nouns which co-occur with the preposition *ɗó*. Locator nouns point out the specific location of the prepositional phrase. In example (115), the locator noun comes after the noun and shows the specific place *bú* 'in'.

(115) GB 12.5(1)

ɗó	ɗó	bú	nò	maʊ̀ŋ	tʰó-gə̄dú	lə̄
at	village	in	that	Maung	tall-est	FP
PREP	N	LOCN	DEM	PROP	ADJ-SUF	FP

Maung is the tallest in the village.

In example (116), the locator noun comes after the noun and it shows the specific place *lɛ̀ʔ* 'under'.

(116) GB 3.2 (1)

tʰwì	ɗó	ʃì	lɛ̀ʔ
dog	from	house	under
N	PREP	N	LOCN

'the dog under the house'

3.2.7 Conjunctions

Conjunctions are words which join or link two words, phrases or clauses. Conjunctions in Geba sometimes have alternating forms with the same meaning. In this section conjunctions such as *kī/kīdɔ̀ʔ* 'and', and *bàràsʰá /mɔ̀θɔ́mìʔ* 'but', will be discussed. Subordinate conjunctions are also presented in this section.

Example (117) shows the conjunctions *kī/kīdɔ̀ʔ* 'and' joining two noun phrases.

(117) RW 001

jɔ́	dɔ́ʔ	tʰɔ̀pʰé	kī/kīdɔ́ʔ	pāʔí	kʰúnù	dā	dɛ́	nò
mix	with	paddy husk	and	sticky rice	that	one	thing	FP
V	CONJ	N	CONJ	N	DEM	NUM	N	FP

Mix with paddy husk and that sticky rice.

Example (118) shows the linking of two quantifiers in Geba. In this case, the classifier appears between the two numbers together with the conjunction.

(118) GB 1.11(4)

tʰí	tʃì	kʰwèʔ	**kīdɔ́ʔ**	tākɛ́ʔ
water	two	cup	with	half
N	NUM	CLF	CONJ	NUM

'two and a half cups of water'

Other conjunctions are *mɔ̀θɔ́miʔ/mɔ̀θɔ́* and *bàràsʰá* which are alternations for the word 'but'. Examples (119) and (120) show the conjoining of two clauses by these conjunctions.

(119) GB 16.1(2)

maùŋ	lè	dɛ̀kʰló	**bàràsʰá**	zɔ̀	ʔɔ̀dà	dó	hì	bú
Maung	go	outside	but	Zaw	stay	at	house	in
PROP	V	N	CONJ	PROP	V	PREP	N	LOCN

Maung went out but Zaw stayed home.

(120) GB 16.1(1)

maùŋ	lè	dɛ̀kʰló	mɔ̀θɔ́mìʔ	zɔ̀	ʔɔ̀dà	ɗó	ʃì
Maung	go	outside	but	Zaw	stay	at	house
PROP	V	N	CONJ	PROP	V	PREP	N

Maung went out but Zaw stayed at home.

Subordinating Conjunction

Another kind of conjunction is the subordinating conjunction *gənòəkʰòsɛ́* 'because'. This kind of subordinating conjunction links two clauses where the second clause is the result or the consequence of the first clause as in example (121).

(121) BH 007

tʃʰé	tə	ɗó	əkʰòəʔa8́6	ʔɔ̀	**gənòəkʰòsɛ́**	bjàθɛ́bùwɛ̀	kʰúnù	tʃʰì	wɛ̀	sɛ̀
tiger	one	CLF	strength	have	that's why	siblings	that	two	CLF	3S
N	NUM	CLF	N	V	ADV	N	DEM	NUM	CLF	PRN

lákʰù
fall down
V

Because tiger has strength, the two brothers fell down.

mī is another kind of subordinating conjunction that appears in the first clause but follows the subject noun phrase. Example (122) shows the conjunction *mī* 'if'.

(122)DB 018

kə	**mī**	ʔà	ɗó	əkə	kɛ́tʰàʔ	dɛ̀ʃwìdɛ̀sʰɛ́	dɛ́	tə	ʔɛ̀	nɔ́ʔ	kə
1P	if	eat	which	will	become	illness	thing	not	good	not	1P
PRN	CONJ	V	REL	AUX	V	N	N	NEG	ADJ	NEG	PRN

nìtʃʰí
for
BENF

If we eat which will cause us illness, it is not good for us.

Therefore, conjunctions in Geba sometimes occur as variant forms linking two words or phrases or clauses.

3.2.8 Question words

Two parts are required to make a question in Geba. The first part is the interrogative proform and the second part is the final particle. Table (18) shows the interrogative forms in Geba.

	Interrogative proform	**Final particle**
Who	*bɔ̄bwɛ̀ (bɔ̄wɛ̀)*	*wɛ̀*
Where	*ɓɛ́ʔlɛ̀*	
What	*dà*	*nɛ̀*
When	*dà ətʃʰì nɛ̀*	
How		*sàdɛ̀*
Why	*bɛ̀dànɛ̀*	*nɛ̀/nò*

Table 18 Interrogative forms in Geba

According to the above table, the interrogative form 'who' has two parts. The interrogative proform *bɔ̄bwɛ̀* appears in the subject position while the final particle *wɛ̀* occurs at the end of the sentence. Example (123) shows the structure of 'who' in Geba.

(123) GB 18.4(1)

bɔ̄wɛ̀	lè	ɗó	sɔ̄	lè	bú	**wɛ̀**
who	go	to	3S	field	in	INTER
QP	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN	ILL.F

Who went to his field?

The interrogative form 'why' also has two parts. The interrogative proform *ɓɛ̀dànɛ̀* appears in the sentence initial position while the final particle *nɛ̀* or *nò* occurs in the sentence final position. Examples (124) and (125) show the structure of 'why' in Geba.

(124) (Elicitation)

ɓèdànè	**sə̄**	lè	ɗó	**sə̄**	lè	bú	nè
why	3S	go	to	3S	field	in	INTER
QP	PRN	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN	ILL.F

Why did he go to his field?

(125) GB 18.5(3)

ɓèdànè	**maòŋ**	lè	sə̄	lè	bú	nò
why	Maung	go	3S	field	in	FP
QP	PROP	V	PRN	N	LOCN	FP

Why did Maung go to his field?

In this above sentences, two different question particles *nè/nò* are used with the same question word. The reason for selecting one form or another is not yet known but they do not vary freely. The difference between the above two examples is that example (124) has a pronoun and example (125) has a proper noun.

The interrogative form 'when', has only one part. The interrogative proform *dà* together with 'time' and the final particle *nɛ̀* appear together at the end of the sentence to form the question *dà ə̄tʃʰì nɛ̀* which means 'what time'. Example (126) shows the structure of 'when or what time' in Geba.

(126) GB 18.6(3)

sə̄	lè	ɗó	sə̄	lè	bú	nò	dà	ə̄tʃʰì	nè
3S	go	to	3S	field	in	that	what	time	INTER
PRN	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN	DEM	QP	N	ILL.F

When did he go to his field?

The interrogative form 'how' has the same structure as 'when'. The interrogative proform and the final particle appear together at the end of the sentence to form the question *sàdɛ̀* 'how'. Example (127) shows the structure of 'how' in Geba.

(127) GB 18.8 (2)

maòŋ	lé	lɛ̀	bú	**sàdɛ̀**
Maung	go	field	in	how
PROP	V	N	LOCN	QP

How did Maung go to his field?

For 'yes-no' questions, the final question word particle *ɲàʔ* is used in Geba. Example (128) shows the form of a 'yes-no' question. The answer for this type of question would be 'yes or no' or the verb phrase.

(128) GB 18.7 (1)

maòŋ	kə̄	lè	ɗó	sə̄	lɛ̀	bú	ɲà
Maung	will	go	to	3S	field	in	INTER
PROP	AUX	V	PREP	PRN	N	LOCN	ILL.F

Will Maung go to his field?

3.2.9 Particles

In this section, some particles which are commonly found in Geba are presented. The first two particles to be discussed are *ᵽá tʰó* and *ᵽá gɛ́* which semantically function as aspect markers. Also discussed is the particle *nù* which functions as a demonstrative and clause final marker. Finally, the different types of question particles, negative particles, and illocutionary force particle are discussed.

3.2.9.1 Particles ᵽa tʰó and ᵽá gɛ́

The two particles *ᵽa tʰó* and *ᵽá gɛ́* give completive aspect meaning in Geba. This type of aspect marker occurs at the end of the verb phrase. Examples (129) and (130) show the usage of completive aspect markings at the end of verb phrase.

(129) (Elicitation)

jə	sàtʰì	bjà	də	bwɛ̀	ʊ̨átʰó
1S	see	person	one	CLF	ASP
PRO	V	N	NUM	CLF	PRT

I have seen one man.

(130) (Elicitation)

jə	sàtʰì	bjà	də	bwè	ʊ̨ágɛ́
1S	see	person	one	buy	ASP
PRO	V	N	NUM	V	PRT

I have seen one man.

Example (131) shows a simple sentence without aspect marker in Geba language.

(131) GB 6.1 (1)

jə	sàtʰì	bjà	də	bwɛ̀
1S	see	person	one	CLF
PRO	V	N	NUM	CLF

I see one man/ I am seeing one man.

According to the above examples sentences, to express the completive aspect marking with specific meaning *ʊ̨átʰó* or *ʊ̨ágɛ́* is attached at the end of verb phrase.

3.2.9.2 Particle 'nù'

The particle *nù* can be found as the variant *nò* or, sometimes, if the speaker is influenced by Sgaw Karen, he or she might use *nɛ̀*. The *nù* in Geba has two different yet related functions. The first is as a demonstrative or specifier.

Solnit 1997:248 states that

> *"A nominalized clause in Kayah Li is any clause followed by nu or a Classifier preceeded by nu. If the nominalized clause is autonomous and not followed by Classifiers, the nu functions as an illocutionary force-marker or sentence final particle "*

In example (132), *nò* functions as a demonstrative identifying the noun phrase *ʃî də̄ wà* "one house".

(132) (Elicitation)

ʃì	də̄	wà	nò	ʔɔ̀	kīɗɔ́ʔ	ə̄kʰɔ̀ʔtʰísɔ̀ʔ	əwèlɔ́	dəlà	lɔ̄
house	one	CLF	this	have	with	roof	wall	many	FP
N	NUM	CLF	DEM	V	CONJ	N	N	QNT	FP

'the house with a roof and a wall'

In a second use, *nù* sometimes appears clause final. Examples (133) and (134) show the demonstrative *nù* in sentence final position. In the first sentence *nù* is followed by the final particle *lɔ̄;* the second sentence is without the final particle *lɔ̄.*[6]

(133) (Elicitation)

jɛ̀	ʔɔ̀	kī	jə̄	θɛ́bùwè	ə̄wɛ̀	θá	θòʔ	nù	lɔ̄
1S	have	and	1S	sibling	CLF	three	pairs	this	FP
PRN	V	CONJ	PRO	N	CLF	NUM	N	DEM	FP

I have five siblings.

(134) GA 3(3)

maùŋ	lè	jò	ʔì	ə̄písə̄pʰò	ɗó	tʃaúŋ	nò
Maung	go	take	give	child	to	school	FP
PROP	V	V	V	N	PREP	N	FP

Maung took the child to school.

---

[6] There are some limitations in using *nù*

1) It cannot introduce a new participant and it must be an active discourse referent.
2) It cannot be used on a bare noun phrase that answers a 'what' questions.
3) In [SVO], *nù* cannot be on the object, but it works on objects in [OSV] order.
4) It can occur [SVO BEN *nù*] on the benefactive argument.

nù can be considered a focus marker that appears only on "given/known" information. As such (1), (2) and (3) are true because "fronting" focuses on "given/known" information, but, by default, objects in SVO sentences are not focused. Its clause final function is not well understood

3.2.9.3 Illocutionary Force particles

In Geba, the *mɔ̀* shows the actor is giving a softened or polite suggestion or opinion. The meaning is close to 'you see/as you know' in English. Example (135) shows this polite usage of *mɔ̀*.

(135) (Elicitation)

sə	là	ɗó	yàŋgòŋ	mɔ
3S	decend	to	Yangon	POL
PRN	V	PREP	PROP	ILL.F

He goes to Yangon.

Example (136) shows another type of negation in Geba. In this type of imperative negation, the speaker is commanding the hearer. This kind of illocutionary force directly negates the verb. Example (136) shows the direct negation of a verb which expresses the feeling of command (prohibition).

(136) (Elicitation)

ʔà	mɛ̀ʔ
eat	PRHB
V	ILL.F

Don't eat.

Another type of imperative negation occurs when the object is included. In this case, the negative particles appear twice. One follows the verb, and precedes the object, and another comes after the object. Example (137) shows the double negation structure in Geba.

(137) (Elicitation)

ʔɔ́	mɛ̀ʔ	θəwìθə̄kó	mɛ̀ʔ
drink	PRHB	cigarette	PROHB
V	ILL.F	N	ILL.F

Don't smoke cigarette.

3.3 Morphological Processes

In this section, the morphological processes of affixation, compounding, elaborate expression and reduplication are analyzed.

3.3.1 Affixation

Affixation in Geba occurs with the *ə̄* and *dɛ̀-* -prefixes appearing on nouns, the comparative suffix appearing on verbs, and the superlative suffix appearing on verbs. These are discussed in the next section.

3.3.1.1 ə-prefix

The prefix *ə-* can be referred to as a "generic" possessor, but it has a variety of other usages such as, nominalizer and classifier also. The following examples show the different usages of this prefix particle. The prefix *dɛ̀-* is also addressed where it is similar to *ə-* .

ə- before nouns

In Geba, *ə̄* with a noun is usually optional, but sometimes it is obligatory. The following list shows the optional and obligatory usage of nouns with *ə̄* or without *ə̄*. There is no meaning difference in the following variation.

ə̄písə̄p^{h}o	or	*písə̄p^{h}o*
'child'		'child'

However, the following example shows the prefix *ə* is sometimes obligatory.

ə̄k^{h}ō 'roof'
**k^{h}ō*

ə- and *dɛ̀-* as nominalizers

In Geba, a verb form can be changed into a noun by adding *ə̄-*. The example below shows *ə̄-* as a nominalizer.

bwé 'buy'
ə̄bwé 'price'

Another type of prefix nominalizer is *dɛ̀-*. This type of nominalizer often appears before verbs to form common or abstract nouns. Table (19) shows nouns transformed by adding prefix *dɛ̀-* to the verbs.

noun nominalizer	**verb**		**noun**	
	Geba	**English**	**Geba**	**English**
dɛ̀	θəɓùθəɓɛ́	worship	dɛ̀θəɓùθəɓɛ́	religion
dɛ̀	ʔɔplò	meet	dɛ̀ʔɔplò	church
dɛ̀	lò ɓà	need	dɛ̀lò ɓà	need
dɛ̀	mèzò	help	dɛ̀mèzò	help
dɛ̀	ɓɛ́lɔ̀	love	dɛ̀ɓɛ́lɔ̀	love
dɛ̀	mɛ̀	work	dɛ̀mɛ̀	work/job

Table 19 Transforming verbs to nouns in Geba

ə- with classifiers

Prefix *ə-* can occur before classifiers that move in front of the noun. This kind of classifier occurs before the number six, eight or one digit, two digits and so on.

Example (138) shows the prefix *ə-* attached to the classifier.

(138) WL 002

θébùwè	əwɛ̀	θá	θòʔ
sibling	CLF	three	pairs
N	CLF	NUM	N

'six brothers and sisters'

ə- as possessive prefix

The following noun phrase, example (139), shows the possessive morpheme *ə-* attached to the noun *θáʔ* 'will'.

(139) (Elicitation)
kəɓísɛ̀ʔ ə-θáʔ
Lord his-will
N POS-N

'Lord's will'

3.3.1.2 Comparative suffix

ɗɔ̀lí is a suffix that attaches to adjectives and forms the comparative of degree adjective structure. Example (140) shows *ɗɔ̀lí* suffixation in Geba.

(140) GB 12.4 (1)
maὺŋ **tʰó-ɗɔ̀lí** zɔ̀
Maung tall-er Zaw
PROP ADJ-SUF PROP

Maung is taller than Zaw.

3.3.1.3 Superlative suffix

gədù- also attaches to the adjective to form the superlative structure. Example (141) shows *gədù* suffixation in Geba.

(141) GB 12.5 (1)
ɗó ɗó bú nò maὺŋ tʰó-gədú lɔ̄
at village in that Maung tall-est FP
PREP N LOCN DEM PROP ADJ-SUF FP

In the village, Maung is the tallest.

3.3.2 Compound words

Based on the data collected, Geba has noun compounds and repetitive adverb compounds. Noun compounds consist of two or more nouns. For noun

compounds, the primary head noun may appear as the first member of compound or the second.

Many compound nouns in Geba occur as the combination of noun-noun pairs. However, sometimes nominalizers, particles, and pronouns are found in the combination of compound nouns. Examples (142) and (143) show some noun-noun compounds. In example (142), the first noun *tʰí* 'water' is followed by the second noun *n̰è* 'bottle' with the head noun as the second member of the compound noun.

(142) RW 010

kə̄	ɓɛ́nì	gè	tʰí-n̰è	bù
1P	put	back	water-bottle	in
PRN	V	V	N-N	LOCN

We put back in water bottle.

In example (143), the noun *làmusə̄kʰɛ́* 'afternoon' is followed by the noun *dɛ̀ʔà* 'meal' with the primary head noun in the second noun position.

(143) WW 005

há	làmusəkʰɛ́	dɛ̀ʔà	nò
And then	afternoon	meal	that
ADV	N	N	DEM

'and then lunch meal'

In example (144), the noun compound occurs with the nominalizers *dɛ̀* and *ə̄* included in a noun compound. The first part of the compound noun *dɛ̀lɛ̀dɛ̀gɛ̀* 'travel' is followed by the second noun *ə̄sʰòə̰lɛ́* 'allowance' with the primary head noun is in the second part of compound noun.

(144) WW 008

bjà	dèlèdègèəsʰòəl̥é	mī	təθaúŋ jètʰɔ́
person	travel-allowance	be	fifteen thousand
N	N	COP	NUM

Traveling allowance is fifteen thousand.

The following shows the complex structure of compound noun 'travel-allowance' formed from two elaborate expression.

{[(dɛ̀)$_N$(lè)$_V$]$_N$ [(dɛ̀)$_N$ (gè)$_V$]$_N$ -[ə̄ (sʰò)$_V$]$_N$ [ə̄ (l̥é)$_V$]$_N$}

thing	go	thing	back	it	cost	it	cost
NOM	V	NOM	V	3S	V	3S	V

'travel allowance'

In example (145), the first member of the compound noun is *bjà* 'person' and the second member of the noun consists of the particle *θɛ́* which is used for family relationships followed by *bùwè* 'young brother-old brother'. In this case, the head noun appears in the second part of the compound noun.

(145) BH 002

ɓɛ̀	tə̄	plà	bjà	θɛ́bùwè	ʔɔ̀	tʃʰì	wɛ̀
at	one	time	person	sibling	have	two	CLF
PREP	NUM	CLF	N	N	V	NUM	CLF

Once upon a time, there were two brothers.

Repetitive adverb compounds are also found in Geba. The adverb is repeated to intensify the action. Example (146) shows the repetitive adverb compound.

(146) GA 7 (1)

maùŋ	hɛ̀ʔ	**θàdɔ̃**	**θàdɔ̃**	lɔ̄
Maung	walk	slowly	slowly	FP
PROP	V	ADV	ADV	FP

Maung walks slowly.

If verbs are repeated they are not compounds. The conjunction *kī/kīdɔ̃ʔ* 'and' is used to join the two verbs. Example (147) shows the repeated verbs compound with conjunction in Geba.

(147) (Elicitation)

maùŋ	hɛ̀ʔ	kī/kīdɔ̃ʔ	hɛ̀ʔ
Maung	walk	and	walk
PROP	V	CONJ	V

Maung walks and walks.

3.3.3 Elaborate expressions

Elaborate expressions which use a four-syllable structure are often found in Geba as in most Southeast Asian languages. Phonetic parallelism and semantic parallelism occur in these expressions. In this section, different kinds of elaborate expressions, such as elaborate nouns, elaborate verb, and elaborate adjectives, are discussed.

For noun elaborate expressions, different kinds of phonetic parallel forms, such as *dɛ̀, dɔ́, θə̄, ə̄,* are combined with different kinds of verbs or nouns which are semantically parallel to form noun elaborate expressions. The following examples show noun elaborate expressions where the first syllable and the third syllable are phonetically identical and the second and the fourth are semantically similar.

(148) (Elicitation)

θə̄	ɓù	θə̄	ɓέ
θə̄	V	θə̄	V
NOM	worship	NOM	worship

'religion'

(149) (Elicitation)

dɛ̀	pà	dɛ̀	ʃé
dɛ̀	V	dɛ̀	V
NOM	difficult	NOM	ache

'difficulty'

(150) (Elicitation)

dɛ̀	p^{h}ì	dɛ̀	mɛ̀
dɛ̀	V	dɛ̀	V
NOM	work	NOM	work

'work'

(151) (Elicitation)

ə̄	θī?	ə̄	zà
ə̄	V	ə̄	V
NOM	able	NOM	able

'ability'

(152) (Elicitation)

dɛ̀	ɗɔ̄	dɛ̀	l̥ɛ̀
dɛ̀	N	dɛ̀	N
NOM	vegetable	NOM	leaf

'vegetables'

(153) (Elicitation)

ə	kʰɔ́	ə	kʰɛ́
ə	N	ə	N
NOM	friend	NOM	friend

'friend'

Sometimes pronouns are used to form elaborate expressions as in example (154).

(154) (Elicitation)

sə	kʰɔ́	sə	θɔʔ
sə	N	sə	N
PRN	friend	PRN	friend

'his friends'

In a second type of noun elaboration, the phonetic parallelism can occur in the 2nd and 4th syllable position and the semantic parallelism occurs in the 1st and 2nd position as in examples (155) and (156).

(155) (Elicitation)

ɗɔ́	kʰɔ̀	pʰá	kʰɔ̀
N	kʰɔ̀	N	kʰɔ̀
village	head	village	head

'village chief'

(156) (Elicitation)

ə	kʰɔ̀	tʰí	kʰɔ̀
N	kʰɔ̀	N	kʰɔ̀
it	head	tip	head

'tip of an arrow'

For verb elaborate expressions, different kinds of particles such as *kʰɔ̀* and *ɓɛ́* are repeated with different kinds of semantically parallel verbs to form verb elaborate expression. Moreover, semantically opposite verbs or repeated verb constructions are also found in some verb elaborate expressions.

Example (157) shows a verb elaborate expression where the first syllable and the third syllable are phonetically similar and the second and the fourth are semantically similar.

(157) (Elicitation)

kʰɔ̀	wɛ̀	kʰɔ̀	kʰà
kʰɔ̀	V	kʰɔ̀	V
ELAB	pity	ELAB	pity

'pity'

Example (158) shows the semantic opposite construction of the verb elaborate expression**.** The first part *sɔ̄pʰrɛ́ʔtʰà* is follwed by *sɔ̄pʰrɛ́ʔlá* which have opposite meanings in the verbs 'up' and 'down'. This is a six syllable word and the opposite verbs are really directional particles.

(158) (Elicitation)

sɔ̄-	pʰrɛ́ʔ-	tʰà-	sɔ̄-	pʰrɛ́ʔ-	lá
3S-	clever-	ascend-	3S-	clever-	down
PRN-	ADJ-	V-	PRN-	ADJ-	V

'smart'

Examples (159) and (160) show the repeated verbs in verbal elaborate expression. In this case, the phonetically similar elements are contributing also semantically contributing to the overall meaning.

(159) (Elicitation)

swɛ̀	ɓà	swɛ̀	sɛ́
swɛ̀	V	swɛ̀	V
run	difficult	run	difficult

'run (with) difficulty'

(160) (Elicitation)

ɓɛ̀	ɓà	ɓɛ̀	sɛ́
ɓɛ̀	V	ɓɛ̀	V
suffer	difficult	suffer	difficult

'troublesome'

For adjective elaborate expressions, different kinds of phonetic parallel forms, such as *sɔ̄, ʔɔ̀, θàʔ,* are combined with different kinds of adjectives that are semantically parallel to form adjective elaborate expressions. Example (161) and (162) show the adjective elaborate expressions where the first syllable and the third syllable are phonetically similar and the second and the fourth are semantically similar.

(161) (Elicitation)

ʔɔ	kɛ́	ʔɔ	kàʔ
ʔɔ	ADJ	ʔɔ	ADJ
COP	many	COP	many

'many'

(162) (Elicitation)

θáʔ	lò	θáʔ	là
θáʔ	ADJ	θáʔ	ADJ
heart	happy	heart	happy

'happily'

3.3.4 Reduplication

Geba has several reduplication forms. Sometimes adjectives reduplicate and sometimes adverbs reduplicate. The reduplication expresses a strong feeling by the speaker and deepens the meaning of the context. In example (163), the adjective *dò* reduplicates to create the meaning ‘great’. It is also noted that a reduplicated clause also occurs as in example (163).

(163) (Elicitation)

jə	nìɓɛ̀	dɛ̄kʰòdɛ̄ʔá	jə	nìɓɛ̀	dɛ̀hówè	**dò**	**dò**
1S	recieve	strength	1S	recieve	blessing	big	big
PRN	V	N	PRN	V	N	ADJ	ADJ

I receive great strength.

In example (164), the adverb reduplicates to form an adverb reduplication structure.

(164) (Elicitation)

jə̄	hɛ̀ʔ	plà	plá
1S	walk	quickly	quickly
PRN	V	ADV	ADV

I walk quickly/ I am walking quickly.

3.4 Conclusion

In this section, the major word classes, minor word classes and morphological processes were described. In the major word classes, nouns were divided into common nouns, proper nouns, mass nouns, and abstract nouns. Verbs were divided into main verbs, auxiliary verbs, postverbal auxiliaries, copula, and directional. For the adjective word class, features that adjectives have common with verbs, features that separate adjectives from verbs and a summary of adjectives was presented. Adverbs were also analyzed as one of the major word classes.

In the minor word classes, inclusive and exclusive pronouns, reflexive and reciprocal pronouns, demonstratives, classifiers, numerals and quantifiers, prepositions, locator nouns, conjunctions, and question word were discussed. Different types of particles were also included for discussion.

For morphological process, some prefixes, suffixes, compound words, elaborate expressions, and reduplication were presented.