

Expressing Location in Yomori, Briefly

For some background, Yomori typically utilizes a Patient-Agent-Verb sentence order. Yomori uses a kind of modifier called a *directional modifier* to help express movement and orientation and relies on demonstratives for similar purposes. Yomori normally considers people, animals, and fire to be animate, and everything else to be inanimate.

While Yomori makes animacy distinctions in a few areas of the language, when discussing location, people specifically are treated differently than anything not considered a person. In examples (A) and (B), *yon*, a stative verb marker, is used to express the presence of the speaker in the location described. It's often partnered with *fa* 'go' to mean 'be at X place.' When the stative marker is used, a demonstrative or directional modifier must be used, or the sentence is ungrammatical.

When considering a non-person object, the speaker must consider how the object gets to where it is now. In example (C), the verb *aiko* 'put' is used with the crab as the patient of the action - this is not very obvious based on word order, as verbs like *aiko* cause word order to change. Placement verbs are used when there is previous knowledge about how it got to its location, or inference informing an assumption about it. The speaker in (C) assumes that someone put a crab in the pot and that it hasn't always been there, or been there long enough for this distinction to matter. In (D) and (E), the object has been in its location for a while, and instead a verb describing its orientation is used. Most commonly, the verb used for this is either *rau* 'sit' or *pogha* 'stand on end.'

Location is generally assumed to be exactly where it's described. The scope of a location can be widened with a relative location marker (glossed as RLOC), *pahao*, as in (A) and (E).

- (A) *oxa yon fa pahao ho*
3SG STAT go RLOC here
"He is here."
- (B) *gùnda ha-no yon fa kaido*
market 1SG-A STAT go inside
"I was in the market."
- (C) *aiko xai kùgi ciha*
put enter pot crab
"The crab is in the pot (someone put it there)."
- (D) *hacio rau sang*
mountain sit there
"The mountain is over there."
- (E) *tsukana-ji rau pahao ho*
match-PL sit RLOC here
"The matches are here somewhere."