

LangTime Mini Conlang Relay

When the text is handed off to you, you will receive the latest version of the relay text with information to translate it, including

- 🔊 enough grammatical information about the language to decipher the text
- 🔊 a glossary, including all the necessary lexical information needed to translate the text

With the information you have received, translate the text into English. Remember that this activity is based on your understanding of the text—translate the text as best you can.

From there, translate your understanding of the text into a conlang of your own. If there are things you still don't understand in the source language, make an educated guess: it's better to have a consistent story based on a more-than-free translation than a word-for-word translation that makes no sense.

A bit of advice: When translating the text, stay true to your conworld and its speakers. While you can, of course, use this relay to build more vocabulary into your conlang, avoid creating words that do not belong in your conlang. If the text includes a concept, word, or object your conlang does not have, you can be creative with how you work with that translation. Your general options in these scenarios are to (1) describe the concept/object if your speakers would recognize it but do not have a word for it; or (2) replace the word with one from your conlang that carries the most similar denotation and connotation.

After you have finished the version in your own language, DM the following in a document to me:

- 🔊 the new text in your conlang
- 🔊 glossary that includes covers the words you use in the text
- 🔊 enough grammatical information about your conlang for the next person to translate the text
- 🔊 in a separate document (or in the text of a DM), please send a smooth translation of your text into English.

Someone else will be reading your text aloud, so if you would like to specify pronunciation of words, please also include IPA of your text!

You have 48 hours to complete your task. If you need more time, please let me know! If you have any questions about anything at any point, contact me.

Text 01

Vuochanad

Jessie

LangTime Chat Mini Relay Challenge

Vuochanad Starting Text

Danevieka alèmiotha taidhomit dai. Yedhe'el alèdawa savi tèvieñe yev wo ruonskael alèmiotha vie ayomu. Zhes tengwè otenyo tais alèpam arie.

Note on romanization: I am still deciding if and how to indicate vowel hiatus when two of the same vowels occur side-by-side with both pronounced as their own unit, as in *yedhe'el* [je.ðe.el]. Right now I am using the apostrophe for separation to serve as a signal that both vowels are pronounced.

Vuochanad Phonology

Vuochanad has a variety of affixes, and they can trigger some regular sound changes that occur **between vowels**:

voiced stops > voiced fricatives (e.g. b > v)
voiceless stops > voiced stops (e.g. t > d)

Vuochanad Grammar

Vuochanad is a **head-initial** language with basic clauses structured in this word order:

Verb - Adverbial element - Subject - Object

Noun phrases are also head-initial, with possessors following the noun being possessed.

Vuochanad **verbs** can occur with a variety of inflectional prefixes, including the following:

da-	imperative
zh-	subjunctive/conditional
ne-	negation

Suffixes indicate subject-agreement and tense/aspect, including these:

-m	infinitive (the form listed in the dictionary)
-el	third-person plural habitual or gnomic
-s	second-person singular present tense

Imperative forms do not occur with any subject-/tense-marking suffixes. Vuochanad is a pro-drop language, so pronominal subjects do not typically occur in the clause structure.

Vuochanad **nouns** belong to one of four noun classes, indicated in the dictionary as *c1*, *c2*, etc. In the dictionary, *[CC]* indicates a common count noun, which means the noun can freely occur in either plural or singular forms, while *[CN]* indicates a common noncount noun, which means the noun does not typically occur with a number-marking suffix. Nouns that are noncount syntactically pattern as plural nouns, even if their interpretation feels more singular in nature.

Nouns can inflect for case, number, and definiteness. Case is indicated by prefixes, such as

t(è)-	accusative
a-	genitive
alè-	locative (general)

Genitive forms marking possession follow the noun being possessed.

Unmarked nouns in Vuochanad are indefinite plural forms (e.g. **rie** “trees”). Inflectional number- and definite-marking suffixes include these:

-(a)m	definite, class 1
-t	singular (indefinite)

Any definite suffixes agree with the root noun’s class (e.g. *-ña* only occurs with class 3 nouns).

Vuochanad Glossary

aidhomi [ai.ðo.mi] *n* (c3), [CC]. houses.

biekam [bie.kam] *vt.* to build.

bieñe [bie.ɲe] *n* (c1), [CC]. animals of prey, small forest creatures.

dai [dai] *pro.* your, singular {*irregular genitive*}.

engwè [eŋ.wə] *n* (c4), [CN]. wisdom.

miotha [mio.θa] *n* (c2), [CN]. ground, earth, land.

otenyó [o.te.ɲo] *conj.* occurs after a clause whose head verb is in the subjunctive and before another clause to create an “if/then” reading between the two clauses.

pa [pa] *n* (c1), [CC]. highest areas, uppermost regions, tops (e.g. tops of poles, peaks of mountains). {*The original root form, *pra, blocked the intervocalic shifts that occurred with affixes.*}

rie [rie] *n* (c3), [CC]. trees.

ruonskam [ruon.skam] *vi.* (of water or fire) to spread quickly, to take over an area, (of water) to flood. Can occur with a locative argument.

savi [sa.vi] *n* (c2), [CC]. predators, dangerous animals.

taim [taim] *vi.* to live, to reside (typically followed by a locative argument).

tawa [ta.wa] *n* (c3), [CN]. grass.

vie [vie] *n* (c3), [CN] water.

wo [wo] *conj.* and.

yedhem [je.ðem] *vt.* to hunt, to stalk.

yem [jem] *vt.* {*irregular subjunctive zhe*} to have or possess (a quality or state of mind).

yev [jev] *pro* (c3). their {*irregular genitive*}.

yomu [jo.mu] *n* (c2), [CN]. ocean, sea, large body of water.

Text 02

Valya

Jonathan

LangTime Chat Mini Relay Challenge – Valya Torch

Text

Tu dzu zditanu nksi zu. Tu vünggi lipru ltukata nwi tukupyakya, ba tlizvi fli hwi tlütyi nwashu dzu. Tühnara dru zu sünwi tu kavu linggu.

[tu.'dzu.zdi.tä.nu_ŋ.'ksi.zu | tu.vyŋ.gi.li.'pɾu_l.tu.kä.'tä.nwi.tu.ku.pjä.'kjä |
bä.t̥liz.vi.'fli.mi.t̥ly.'t̥ji.nwa.çi.'dzu | ty.ŋä.rä.'dru.zu.syn.'wi.tu.kä.'vu.liŋ.'gu]

Grammar Overview

Valya is a largely head-initial language, with SVO word order. Prepositional phrases, adverbs, and converbs typically “prefer” a clause-initial position, but may appear after the verb instead if the initial position is occupied.

Unmarked nouns are usually assumed to be indefinite singular, and may receive one of a number of prefixes to mark number and definiteness. The prefix *li-* marks a noun as indefinite plural. Mass nouns (marked as “nm” in the glossary below) do not receive number/definiteness marking.

Possession is indicated via apposition, with the possessor directly following the possessed noun. However, in some cases pairs of adjacent nouns can act more like endocentric compounds, with the second noun indicating a specific kind of the first noun.

Non-human agent nouns are derived from verbs with the prefix *ksu-/ksü-*. Their pluralization is irregular, with the prefix *ltu-/ltü-* replacing the *ksu-/ksü-* prefix.

Verbs are not directly marked for person, number, tense, or aspect, but they may be marked for mood. The irrealis mood covers various meanings depending on context, including intentions, predictions, questions, and imperatives—basically, anything that is not known for sure. It is marked with the prefix *su-/sü-/s-*, or for some verbs by devoicing the initial consonant (in romanization, this is effectively a prefix *h-*). The prohibitive (negative imperative) is marked with the prefix *zdi-*.

Some Valya verbs are derived via noun incorporation, where a noun is prefixed onto a verb to make its meaning more specific.

Active participles are formed with the prefix *tu-/tü-*. This same prefix also forms the general/simultaneous converb, which describes an action or event simultaneous to that of the finite verb or a manner in which the main verb's action is carried out. Converbs generally come first in a clause, and their subject is not stated if it is the same as that of the following finite verb. The conditional mood is formed by combining a converb prefix with the irrealis mood; the main verb must also have irrealis marking in this case.

Adjectives may be made into adverbs with the prefix *tlu-/tlü-*, though some adjectives do not require this prefix to be used as adverbs.

Glossary

<i>ba</i>	(conj) and
<i>dru</i>	(adj) good; (adv) well. This is one of the few Valya adjectives that does not need the <i>tlu-/tlü-</i> prefix to be made into an adverb.
<i>dzu</i>	(n) the earth; (nm) earth, ground, soil
<i>fli</i>	(n) ocean, sea; (nm) seawater
<i>hwi</i>	(vi) go, move, travel, walk
<i>kata</i>	(vt) damage, harm, hurt
<i>kavu</i>	(n) peak, summit, top
<i>kupya</i>	(n) livestock animal, prey animal. Refers to an animal that is eaten, whether by humans or by nonhuman predators, depending on context.
<i>kya</i>	(vt) chase, follow, hunt
<i>nara</i>	(vt) know, understand
<i>nggu</i>	(n) tree
<i>nksi</i>	(n) home
<i>nwashì</i>	(prep) on/over the surface of
<i>nwi</i>	(vi, vt) stay, wait; live, reside. When used with a participle, indicates the habitual aspect.
<i>pru</i>	(n) animal
<i>tanu</i>	(vt) build, lift, raise
<i>tlizvi</i>	(adv) occasionally, sometimes
<i>tu</i>	(prep) at, in, on; into, onto, to, towards. General locative preposition. When occurring clause-initially, <i>tu</i> generally indicates a static location; when following a verb it tends to convey more of a sense of motion to or towards a location, though if the prepositional phrase is displaced from the clause-initial position the meaning may be ambiguous.
<i>tyi</i>	(adj) fast, quick
<i>vünggi</i>	(nm) grass
<i>zu</i>	(pn) you, your (2SG)

Text 03

Etkatedh

Jason

LangTime Chat Mini Relay Challenge — Etkatedh Torch

Text

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Ni niuka takth dhi hu epthe vek chighzi sapkagh. Kiev reira hu epthe ngi lavwo dholtothar naawo, weith hu puifuk vek khaaze saaram.

Ni ich'i miedhi teiv, 'oiza tum ni hu takra vek thaate'i teiv.

[ˈni ˈniy.ka ˈtakθ ði hu ˈep.θe βek ˈtʃiy.zi sap.ˈkay.ne | ˈkieβ ˈrei.ra hu ˈep.θe ŋi ˈla.βwo ˈðol.to.θar ˈna:wo | ˈweiθ hu ˈpui.ɸuk βek ˈxa:ze ˈsa:.ram | ˈni ˈitʃ.ʔi ˈmie.ði ˈtejβ | ˈʔoi.za tum ˈni hu ˈtak.ra βek ˈθei.ða ˈtejβ]

Grammar Notes

Etkatedh is a head-final language with Subject-[Patient/Agent]-Verb (SP/AV) word order and direct-inverse alignment. For a monotransitive verb, the subject is unmarked, always comes first, and is from the higher ranking class between it and the second core argument (class I > II > ... > VIII > IX), making it typically the more animate argument. When both arguments are in the same noun class, the more senior or important argument takes the subject position. The subject may be the agent or the patient of verb.

When the subject is the agent, a “direct” accusative postposition (*dhi*) follows the second core argument (the patient). When the subject is the patient, an “inverse” agentive/ergative postposition (*chir*) follows the second core argument (the agent). Various other postpositions indicate arguments in adjuncts, which typically follow the two core arguments and precede the verb.

Nouns or classifiers are preceded by articles, possessors, demonstratives, quantifiers, and other determiners, as well as adjectives. They are indefinite when not preceded with the definite article, demonstrative, or possessor. There is no indefinite article.

Adjectives are a distinct class of word which primarily precede a head noun or classifier attributively. Many adverbs derive from adjectives with the identifier *-wo/u*, and similarly precede verbs.

The infinitive forms of verbs can function adjectivally as gerundives, where they have a meaning which ranges depending on specific verb as well as context. It can vary from obligative (*the must-fight enemy*) to readiness (*the ready-for-cooking food*), to purpose (*the for-eating food*), to in some cases being present particle-like (*the growing tree*).

Verb phrases in Etkatedh require a clause final inflected auxiliary which conveys tense and realis mood. Auxiliaries agree with the subject noun class or person through suffixes, and through prefixes encode imperfectivity and negation. Additional verbs can precede the auxiliary in the infinitive to indicate irrealis moods, inchoative aspect, and other nuances.

The main verb of a clause is inflected to convey transitivity vs. nontransitivity. All verbs are divided into one of two core verb classes which agree with the class of clause-final auxiliary, and which determine the agentivity of the subject in an intransitive clause, as follows:

- Class 1 verbs: In a clause with one argument, the subject is considered agentive when the nontransitive verb variant is used, while the subject is considered patientive when the transitive verb variant is used—essentially an active vs. passive voice dichotomy. The transitive suffix most commonly surfaces as *-zi*, while the nontransitive suffix most commonly surfaces as *-ar*.
- Class 2 verbs: In a clause with one argument, the subject is considered patientive when the nontransitive verb variant is used, while the subject is considered agentive when the transitive verb variant is used, and the verb causative—essentially creating an antipassive. The transitive suffix most commonly surfaces as *-tu*, while the nontransitive suffix most commonly surfaces as *-’i*.

Two auxiliaries are as follows, shown here in the plain infinitive forms, and then the same auxiliaries inflected for a 2nd person subject, with their rough TAM-related meanings:

Infinitive		
w/ class 1 verbs	w/ class 2 verbs	Rough English
<i>seir</i>	<i>teiv</i>	Present tense; to be; habitual aspect
<i>pik</i>	<i>faahar</i>	Obligative; must; should

2 nd person subject agreement		
w/ class 1 verbs	w/ class 2 verbs	Rough English
<i>saaram</i>	<i>teiv</i>	Present tense; to be; habitual aspect
<i>piukagh</i>	<i>’aane</i>	Obligative; must; should

These auxiliaries encode imperfectivity (*a-*) or negation (*s(a(a))-*) with prefixes, which may change the shape of the word—i.e., when negated, *piukagh* → *sapkagh*. These auxiliaries may be preceded by adverbs or other (adverbial) verbs in the infinitive to further specify irrealis moods, inchoative aspect, and other nuances. This additional adverbial infinitive verb may be separated by the auxiliary when the single auxiliary applies to multiple main verbs in a sentence, but the additional nuance does not apply to the verb closest to the auxiliary.

These include *miedhi*, “to take”, which indicates various irrealis moods depending on other postpositions, conjunctions, or other periphrastic constructions. For example, it forms the conditional when joined by a main clause linked with “thus”.

Reduplicated forms

All word types in Etkatedh have full reduplicated forms, with meanings attributable to some notion of plurality. In many cases, sound changes have largely obscured the original reduplication, meaning many reduplicated forms are a learnt ‘plural form’ of the word—as such, as they are listed in full in the Glossary.

- Reduplicated nouns, pronouns, and classifiers indicate straightforward plurality.
- Reduplicated adjectives and adverbs indicate intensity, extent, and extremity.
- Replicated verbs can variously indicate durativity, repetition, extent, or intensity, depending on context.
- Articles and demonstratives agree with the plurality of the head noun.

Glossary

Each entry contains the following in order:

- the romanisation of the first citation form: the singular/unreduplicated; for verbs: the infinitive,
- the plural or reduplicated form,
- the part of speech, including noun or verb class,
- additional forms:
 - x4 for verbs: the transitive (TR.) then nontransitive (NTR.) singular and reduplicated,
- the English translation.

chiugh, chik *v.i* TR. **chighzi, khichighzi**; NTR. **chiugher, yichiugher** to join, to connect, to build, to construct, to make

dheulth, dholteulth *v.i* TR. **dhouhuzi, dholtouhuzi**; NTR. **dholtar, dholtothar** to move (purposefully), to travel

dhi, dhiedh *post.* to, towards, onto; marks direct object

epthe, ep'epthe *n.ix* ground, floor

hu, hi *det.* the

iugh, iech *v.ii* TR. **ichtu, i'ichtu**; NTR. **ich'i, i'ich'i** to know, to be aware

kiev, kief *v.ii* TR. **kiptu, kipkiptu**; NTR. **kievi, kipkivi** to fear

khaa, khaacha *v.i* tr. **khaaze, khaakazi**; NTR. **khaanar, khaakanar** to hunt

lavwo, lelavwo *adv.* freely; quickly, fast

miedhi, vriemi *v.i* TR. **vriezi, dhimiriezi**; NTR. **vriunga, dhimiriunga** to take; (when infinitive) irrealis mood marker

naawo, nanaawo *adv.* occasionally, sometimes

ni, niem *pron.* you, you all

niuka, niu'a *pron.* your

ngi, ngiungi *post.* across

'oiza, 'osoiza *dem.* this, these (proximal); (w/ **tum**) *conj.* thus, and therefore

pik, pi'pik *v.i.aux* TR. **pikaghze, pi'pikaghze**; NTR. **piechar, pi'piechar** to do; must; obligative auxiliary—see grammar notes for other inflected forms

puifuk, pu'puifuk *n.vii* grassland, savannah

rei, reira *cl.ii* P. **re'ka, rare'ka** class 2 classifier; living one/thing; animal

seir, saraasa *v.i.aux* to be, to sit—see grammar notes for other inflected forms

takth, taadhakth *n.iv* house; *n.v* tent, makeshift shelter

takra, tadhakra *n.ii* canopy, treetop; top, furthest reach

teiv, taatev *v.ii.aux* to be; to be at the top of—see grammar notes for other inflected forms

the, theidha *v.ii* TR. **theitu, thaatetu**; NTR. **theu'i, thaate'i** to hold; to stay, to remain, to wait

tum, tuitu *post.* from, away from, of, off

vek, ve'pak *post.* at, in, inside

weith, weith *conj.* and

Valya text

*Tu dzu zditanu nksi zu. Tu vüinggi lipru ltukata nwi tukupyakya, ba tlizvi fli hwi tlütyi nwashu dzu.
Tühmara dru zu sünwi tu kavu linggu.*

Smooth English translation

You must not build your home on the ground. Predators hunt prey in the grassland and sometimes go quickly over the ground.

If you understand this, you will stay in the treetops.

Etkatedh text

*Ni niuka takth dhi hu epthe vek chighzi sapkagh. Kiev reira hu epthe ngi lavwo dholtothar naawo, weith
hu puifuk vek khaaze saaram.*

Ni ich'i miedhi teiv, 'oiza tum ni hu takra vek thaate'i teiv.

['ni 'niy.ka 'takθ ði hu 'ep.θe βek 'tʃiy.zi sap.'kay.ne | 'kieβ 'rej.ra hu 'ep.θe ŋi 'la.βwo 'ðol.to.θar 'na:wo | 'weiθ
hu 'puj.φuk βek 'xa:ze 'sa:.ram | 'ni 'itʃ.ʔi 'mie.ði 'tejβ | 'ʔoj.za tum 'ni hu 'tak.ra βek 'θej.ða 'tejβ]

Text 04

Chiilúú

Miles

THE TORCH

Pó iráá ku'e kí póoyu máácha íichú kuú. Aaraxíí kúú xong áánu tsáá, háyu chíiché, kuú náátí áánu fúkííma. Pó kiilú hutíí ííha kú, kááng saang púnáá laa pátúú.

/pó irá: kù?è kí pó:jù má:tjà í:tjú kǔ: || à:ràxí: kú: xòŋ á:nù tsá: hájù
tjí:tjé kǔ: ná:tí á:nù fúkí:mà || pó kì:lú hùtí: í:hà kú ká:ŋ sà:ŋ púná:
là: pátú:/

Grammar Summary:

Chiilúú has a strict SVO word order, where the subject will always precede the main verb phrase and the direct object will follow it. Prepositions are used to bring oblique arguments to the sentence, where they are transparently verbs. The language is also largely head-initial, where nouns come before their modifiers and possessors come before the possessed nouns, and largely isolating, with few affixes.

Auxiliary verbs are used to encode TAM as well as some serial verb constructions and light verb constructions to derive new meanings.

Nouns:

The function of the noun is determined in two competing manners, depending on the role it plays in the sentence. Word order will determine which core argument the noun is behaving as, where the subject occurs before the verb phrase of the sentence and if present, the object occurs after the main verb phrase.

Noun Number:

Nouns are distinguished between singular and plural number. The base form of the noun is in the singular while plurality is distinguished using the particle “kúú”. Note that

this particle is only used for an unspecified amount while if the number is specified, “kúú” is not used.

ámú → “girl” ; ámú kúú → “girls”

pá → “rock” ; pá kúú → “rocks”

Pronouns:

Pronouns are distinguished between singular and plural number. The third person also is split by three layers of animacy, where the highest governs humans, animals, and celestial bodies. The following table displays the relevant pronouns for Chiilúú:

	Singular		Plural	
	general	inalienable possessive	general	inalienable possessive
2nd person	pó	póoyu	póchá	póchóó
3rd person animate	chá	cháyú	kú	kóyu

Possession:

Possession is handled differently depending on the animacy of the possessor. If the noun is animate possession is split between alienability while inanimate nouns do not distinguish alienability. The inalienable possession marker “háyu” has a similar relation to the verb “to take.” For pronominal arguments, specific possessive pronouns are used and are derived from association of the pronoun and the verb.

ruu háyu paang → “the man’s boy/son”

póoyu paang → “your son”

Adjectives and Adverbs:

Adjectives and adverbs constitute a closed class of words. In other words, there is a finite number of “adjectives.” To represent a concept outside of the realm of this class, it uses the particle “háyu” similar to that of inalienable possession following the noun or

verb being modified. This induced a noun-adjective word order, where the noun phrase can include the plural marker, demonstratives, and possession. Note that these may stack onto each other.

ruu nuuráá → “the old man”

ruu háyu chayá → “the handsome man”

xééyu tóó kúú sáákam → “my dry hands”

xééyu tóó kúú háyu pónsa → “my dirty hands”

Verbs:

Although verbs are simple and relatively uninflected, they provide the framework of the sentence, linking arguments and clauses together. Tense, aspect, and mood distinctions, as well as other morphosyntactic consideration is marked through auxiliary verbs, where three or four verbs in sequence to express an idea is not uncommon. Serial verb and verb-adjunct constructions are used as well in derivations

Tense:

A verb without another verb expresses the imperfective past or present. Whichever tense is being expressed is done through context.

taatam táá → “The rabbit is sleeping / was sleeping”

ámú níhu echú → “The woman is eating / was eating the apple.”

Aspect:

There are four aspectual auxiliaries in Chiilúú

–perfective: denoting an action being complete

–frequentative: denoting an action occurring more than once

–inchoative: denoting an action beginning

–terminative: denoting an action ending

Aspect	Modern form and meaning	Examples and target meanings
perfective	úúhi “to sit”	taatam úúhi táá → “The rabbit sleeps / had slept”
frequentative	xong “to spin”	ámú xong níhu echú → “The woman often / used to eat an apple”
inchoative	mishaa “to wake up”	taatam micháá t’áát / mishaa táá → “The rabbit is beginning to sleep / has been sleeping”
terminative	táá “to sleep”	ámú t’áát nípu ech’u / táá níhu echú → “The woman is finishing to eat / has eaten an apples”

Mood:

Mood is highly marked in Chiilúú as being the main source of expressing the future tense. Depending on the intention of the action, the marking of future tense varies. These auxiliaries may also stack with the aspectual ones above. The main route of the future tense is handled by the optative mood, while the conditional mood when used must be in tandem with another clause.

There are four moods in Chiilúú

- conditional: denoting an action depending on another
- optative: denoting hoping and wishing for an action
- permissive: denoting permission and ability to do an action
- potential: denoting an action that is likely to occur

Mood	Modern form and meaning	Examples and target meanings
conditional	kiilú “to choose”	taatam kiilú táá → “The rabbit will be sleeping / would sleep...”
optative	peé “to wish”	ámú peé níhu echú → “The woman wants / wanted to eat #3fruit”
permissive	iráá “to beg”	taatam iráá úúhi táá → “The rabbit (may/shall) sleep / (might/should) have slept”
potential	suum “to believe”	ámú suum níhu echú → “The woman can be eating / could eat #3fruit”

Prepositional phrases:

Prepositions are transparently derived from verbs and used similarly in the serial verb constructions. Below is a list of some prepositions and their accompanying verb.

íichú “to stand” → general locative (“at, by, in”)

ííha “to see” → across, through, away

púnáá “to hide” → under, inside

áánu “to cover” → over, outside, at/in/during (time)

Negation:

Verbs in Chiilúú are negated by using one of three negative auxiliaries, each transparently stemming from their respective verb. When used in a sentence, the negative auxiliary will always come after the lexical verb of the sentence, as it is negating the entire verbal phrase. The negative auxiliaries consider intentionality in not

performing the action, whether it was intentional, was not intentional, or no consequence.

Intentionality	Modern form & meaning	Example and target meaning
not intentional	pansóó “to trip”	xi náátí pansóó cheng “I am / was not fishing a fish (and I forgot to)”
intentional	kí “to deceive”	xi náátí kí cheng “I am / was not fishing a fish (and I avoided to)”
no consequence	xiisu “to rot”	xi náátí xiisu cheng “I am / was not fishing a fish (in general)”

Verbal Coordination:

Chiilúú uses conjunctions with either one or two arguments, depending on the structure given. If no marking is used between verbs, especially if the subject is the same, then the assumed meaning is ‘and’ to link those verbs.

púnáá “to hide” → “but, however”

hut’íí X k’aang Y / hutíí X kááng Y → “X happens, after which Y”

Lexicon

This lexicon consists of all words found in the torch text. Some words include more than one meaning, even though that meaning may not be the one conveyed in the text. The lexicon also includes a minimal pair by tone, which to distinguish has the first vowel underlined. This has no other purpose than to help the reader disambiguate the two forms.

Abbreviations:

conj. – conjunction

det. – determiner

n. – noun

prep. – preposition

v. aux. – auxiliary verb

v. intrans. – intransitive verb

v. trans. – transitive verb

áánu

1. (v. trans.) to cover
2. (prep.) over, outside, at/in/during (temporal)
3. (v. intrans., with tsáá) to traverse, to wander

aaraxíí

1. (n.) monster
2. (n.) predator

chííché

1. (n.) hummingbird
2. (adj.) fast, quickly
3. (adj.) anxious, frantic

fúkííma – (n.) grassland

háyu

1. (v. trans.) to take
2. (det.) inalienable possession marker
3. (det.) marks an adjectival or adverbial phrase
4. (det.) marks a subordinate or relative clause

hutií – (v. intrans.) to rain

íichú

1. (v. intrans.) to stand
2. (prep.) general locative, at, by, in

ííha

1. (v. trans.) to see
2. (prep.) across, through, away

iráá

1. (v. trans.) to beg for
2. (v. aux.) permissive mood marker

kááng – (v. intrans.) to shine

kí

1. (v. trans.) to deceive
2. (v. aux.) intentional negation marker

kiilú

1. (v. trans.) to choose
2. (v. aux.) conditional mood marker

kú – (pron.) third person plural pronoun

kuú – (n.) dirt, fertile soil, ground

kúú – (det.) plural marker

ku'e – (v. trans.) to build

laa – (n.) deciduous tree

máácha – (n.) house, dwelling

náátí – (v. trans.) to hunt, to fish

pátúú – (n.) head, face

pó – (pron.) second person singular, 'you'

póóyu – (pron.) second person inalienable possessive, 'your'

púnáá

1. (v. intrans.) to hide
2. (prep.) under, inside
3. (conj.) but, however

saang – (v. intrans.) to wait

tsáá – (v. intrans.) to walk, to run

xong

1. (v. intrans.) to spin
2. (v. aux.) frequentative aspect marker

You should not build your house on the ground. Predators traverse the ground quickly sometimes and hunt in the grassland. If you are aware of them, then you wait in the treetop.

Pó iráá ku'e kí póoyu máácha íichú kuú. Aaraxíí kúú xong áánu tsáá, háyu chíiché, kuú náátí áánu fúkííma. Pó kiilú hutíí ííha kú, kááng saang púnáá laa pátúú.

/pó irá: kù?è kí pó:jù má:tʃà í:tʃú kǔ: || à:ràxí: kú: xòŋ á:nù tsá: hájù tʃí:tʃé kǔ: ná:tí á:nù fúkí:mà || pó kì:lú hùtǐ: í:hà kú ká:ŋ sà:ŋ púná: là: pátú:/

Text 05

Nekachti

Biblaridion

Torch

Mōki thān nechmēa thaniomā. Thontōrin erisēnki nohpori meskesan mōki anhetarātsi. Anti kīti kemori erivehmīri īse sirentsan.

/ˈmo:ki θa:n netʃˈme:a θaˈnioma:. θonˈto:rin eriˈse:nki ˈnoxpori ˈmeskesan ˈmo:ki anxetaˈra:tsi. ˈanti ˈki:ti ˈkemori eriˈvexmiri i:se siˈrentsan./

Glossary

anti – (pron.) them, 3rd pers. animate accusative

erisēn – (n. inanimate) field, grassland, meadow

erivehmi – (n. inanimate) treetops, canopy

hetatsi, hetarātsi – (v. intrans.) to go about, go hither and thither

īse – (post.) within, inside (assigns the accusative case)

kir, kīt – (v. trans.) to see

meske, meseske – (v. intrans.) to hurry, go urgently or frantically

mok – (n. inanimate) land, ground, earth

mori, movori – (v. trans.) to wait

nechmēa – (n. inanimate) house, dwelling

nio, nerio – (v. trans.) to make, create, build

nohpo, nōhpo – (v. trans.) to hunt, stalk, pursue

ren, rēn – (v. trans.) to hide, conceal

thān – (pron.) your, 2nd pers. singular possessive

thontōri – (n. animate) monster

Grammar Summary

Phonological notes

Nasals assimilate in place of articulation to following stops and fricatives

After nasals, the fricatives <s> and <th> fortify to <ts> and <t> respectively

Should any concatenation result in an <l> or <r> coming in coda position, the <l> or <r> will disappear and lengthen the preceding vowel

Should two of the same consonant occur next to each other, they will merge into a single consonant and the preceding vowel will be lengthened

Number

Animate nouns take the plural suffix *-(a)n*, whereas inanimate nouns are usually unmarked for number.

Case endings

Some case endings have different forms depending on whether the noun stem they attach to ends in a vowel or a consonant

	Vowel Stem	Consonant Stem
NOM/ABS	-	
ACC	-ri	-ti
ERG	-s	-se
GEN	-on*	-on
LOC	-k	-ki
BEN	-tho	
INSTR	-ī	

The accusative is only used to mark animate nouns when they occur as direct objects, while inanimate direct objects are placed in the nominative/absolutive case (i.e. left unmarked). While animate nouns are placed in the nominative/absolutive when serving as the subject, inanimate nouns are instead placed in the ergative.

Demonstrative adjectives agree in case with the nouns they modify

*The /o/ in the genitive ending will usually replace the final vowel of the stem, unless the final vowel is an /i/, which will be retained to create the sequence /ion/

Person-marking

Finite verbs are marked with prefixes that agree with the subject and direct object in person and number. In imperatives, the subject marker is replaced by the prefix *ke-*. 3rd person inanimate arguments follow an ergative pattern, taking no prefix when serving as the subject of an intransitive verb or object of a transitive verb, but taking the prefix *ī-* when the agent of a transitive verb.

	SUBJECT / AGENT		OBJECT / PATIENT	
	Single	Plural	Single	Plural
1st	<i>ts(i)-</i>	<i>t(e)-</i>	<i>(i)tst(a)-</i>	<i>-(i)cht(e)-</i>
2nd	<i>th(a)-</i>	<i>p(e)-</i>	<i>(i)thr(a)-</i>	<i>(i)pr(a)-</i>
Imperative	<i>ke-</i>		N/A	
3rd Animate	-	<i>am-</i>	<i>n(e)-</i>	<i>(a)nt(a)-</i>

	<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>AGENT</i>	<i>PATIENT</i>
<i>3rd Inan.</i>	-	ī-	-

Valency

The reflexive and reciprocal prefixes occur in the same slot in the verb template as the object/patient prefixes:

<i>Reflexive</i>	<i>s(i)-</i>
<i>Reciprocal</i>	<i>lē-</i>

TAM marking

The bulk of tense and aspect information is encoded via a combination of stem alternation and a single fusional suffix that also conveys mood and polarity.

Every verb has a short stem and a long stem (both listed in each dictionary entry). Each of Nekāchti's tenses is formed by combining either the short or long stem with a specific suffix (see chart below)

The suffixes have different forms for each of the four moods: the indicative (general or factual statements), the optative (expresses desire or intention, encompassing senses such as “may”, “should”, and “ought to”), the potential (expresses possibility or ability, “might”, “can” etc.), and the necessitive (expresses obligation, “must”, “need to”, etc.).

The tense suffixes also have different forms for positive and negative polarity, as well as an interrogative form for yes/no questions.

		<i>Indicative</i>			<i>Optative</i>		
		<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Int.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Int.</i>
<i>Short Stem</i>	<i>Gnomic</i>	-	<i>-ra</i>	<i>-ō</i>	<i>-m</i>	<i>-mā</i>	<i>-mō</i>
	<i>Imperfect</i>	<i>-n</i>	<i>-tni</i>	<i>-ōni</i>	<i>-āni</i>	<i>-matni</i>	<i>-mōni</i>
	<i>Perfect</i>	<i>-k</i>	<i>-ītok</i>	<i>-ōrok</i>	<i>-ānok</i>	<i>-ntok</i>	<i>-mōrok</i>
	<i>Future</i>	<i>-io</i>	<i>-rio</i>	<i>-ialo</i>	<i>-mio</i>	<i>-nio</i>	<i>-mialō</i>
	<i>Past Habitual</i>	<i>-sō</i>	<i>-atsō</i>	<i>-ōsō</i>	<i>-ntsō</i>	<i>-matsō</i>	<i>-mōsō</i>
<i>Long Stem</i>	<i>Habitual</i>	-	<i>-ra</i>	<i>-o</i>	<i>-m</i>	<i>-mā</i>	<i>-mō</i>
	<i>Present</i>	<i>-(V)</i>	<i>-(v)ta</i>	<i>-ōta</i>	<i>-(V)na</i>	<i>-nta</i>	<i>-mōta</i>
	<i>Experiential</i>	<i>-k</i>	<i>-ītok</i>	<i>-ōrok</i>	<i>-ānok</i>	<i>-ntok</i>	<i>-mōrok</i>
	<i>Conditional</i>	<i>-io</i>	<i>-rio</i>	<i>-ialo</i>	<i>-mio</i>	<i>-nio</i>	<i>-mialō</i>

		<i>Potential</i>			<i>Necessitive</i>		
		<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Int.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Int.</i>
<i>Short Stem</i>	<i>Gnomic</i>	<i>-s</i>	<i>-thra</i>	<i>-tsora</i>	<i>-ve</i>	<i>-pra</i>	<i>-ōve</i>
	<i>Imperfect</i>	<i>-tni</i>	<i>-tsatni</i>	<i>-tsōni</i>	<i>-pni</i>	<i>-vatni</i>	<i>-ōni</i>
	<i>Perfect</i>	<i>-tstok</i>	<i>-tsītok</i>	<i>-tsōrok</i>	<i>-ptok</i>	<i>-ptakta</i>	<i>-vōrok</i>
	<i>Future</i>	<i>-cho</i>	<i>-thrio</i>	<i>-chalo</i>	<i>-vio</i>	<i>-prio</i>	<i>-vialo</i>
	<i>Past Habitual</i>	<i>-tsāsō</i>	<i>-tsatsō</i>	<i>-tsōsō</i>	<i>-psō</i>	<i>-ptsō</i>	<i>-pōsō</i>
<i>Long Stem</i>	<i>Habitual</i>	<i>-s</i>	<i>-thra</i>	<i>-tsora</i>	<i>-ve</i>	<i>-pra</i>	<i>-ve</i>
	<i>Present</i>	<i>-tsā</i>	<i>-tsāta</i>	<i>-tsōta</i>	<i>-vā</i>	<i>-ptā</i>	<i>-ō</i>
	<i>Experiential</i>	<i>-tstok</i>	<i>-tsītok</i>	<i>-tsōrok</i>	<i>-ptok</i>	<i>-ptakta</i>	<i>-vōrok</i>
	<i>Conditional</i>	<i>-cho</i>	<i>-thrio</i>	<i>-chalo</i>	<i>-vio</i>	<i>-prio</i>	<i>-vialo</i>

Converbs

Generally, any given sentence will contain only one finite verb, while all other verb phrases will be dealt with by way of converbs. Converbs are not marked for person, tense, or most other verbal information, and are usually assumed to have the same subject as the finite verb in the matrix clause. The converb endings always attach to the short stem of the verb.

Converb	Ending	Meaning
Imperfective/ Simultaneous	-ti (-ri after vowels)	When/while...
Perfective	-(o)n	Having done...
Purposive	-tho	In order to...
Manner	-san	In the manner of...
Concessive	-rāsa	Although, despite...

Word Order

Nekācthi has a very flexible word order, but generally tends towards head-final syntax, with objects and adjuncts most often occurring before the verb and determiners, adjectives, and possessors usually coming before the nouns they modify.

Text 06

Pánkáshku

Jake

LTS Mini Relay 2024: Pánkáshku Torch

The Torch

Ritsákwo táhomín kuchá kuchángwi tochí nukwiyó, wúu ñoorúmin ngayisóchánkwa.

Wóo mákwo añitón, i'íño min chího'wú. Mishwú.

Pánkáshku to English Glossary

Pánkáshku has the following word classes, provided below with their abbreviations:

Noun (n.): (pron.) pronoun; (adj.) adjective

Verb (v.) Adverb (adv.)

Classifier (cl.): the definition is the things that are classified by the classifier.

(dem.) demonstrative

áñi [á.ɲi] (v.) to see

chího [tʃí.hò] (v.) to hide

i'íño [i.ʔí.ɲò] {ERG: i'íño DAT: i'íño mu VOC: i'íño} (n.) the forest canopy (cl. =ño)

kuchá [kù.tʃá] (v.) to hunt

=**kwo** [kʷò] (cl.) souls, spirits, demons

máa [mâ:] {ERG: mávo DAT: múmu} (pron.) 3rd person plural (they, them; may also take a classifier)

míchi [mítʃi] (v.) to wait

ngáyí [ŋá.ji] {ERG: ngeévo DAT: ngayí mu VOC: ngayí} (n.) house

=ño [nò] (cl.) land; area

ñoóru [nõ:rù] {ERG: ñóoro DAT: ñoorúmu VOC: ñoorú} (n.) the ground; the forest floor (cl. =ru)

nukwí [nùk^{wí}] (v.) to come and go; to move around

rítsa [rí.tsà] {ERG: rítso DAT: ritsumú VOC: rítsá} (n.) evil (adj.) bad; evil

=ru [rù] (cl.) flat things

táho [tá.hò] {ERG: táho DAT: táhómu VOC: táhó} (n.) planted field

tochí [tò.tʃí] (adj.) fast; quick (adv.) quickly

wúu [wú:] {ERG: wóo DAT: wúun} (pron.) 2nd person singular (you)

Phonology and Romanisation

The phonology of Pánkáshku is inspired by many different natlangs found in the Peruvian Amazon, though ultimately it is an amalgamation of many different ideas.

Pánkáshku has had at least three different romanisation styles, based on various romanisation systems found in the languages of the Peruvian Amazon which would ultimately be the reference for those speakers which left their speech community.

Consonants

The following consonants are phonemic in Pánkáshku:

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar		Glottal
				-rounded	+rounded	
Nasal	m	n*	ɲ <ñ>	ŋ <ng>	ŋ ^w <ngw>	
Stop	p	t, ts	tʃ̆ <ch>	k	k ^w <kw>	ʔ <'>
Fricative	β <v>	s	ʃ <sh>			h
Approx.		r [r~ɹ]	j <y>		w	

*note that <n> is used both to represent the alveolar nasal stop /n/ before a vowel and a nasal vowel when following a vowel.

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i, i:, ĩ, ĩ:		ɯ, ɯ:, ũ, ũ:
Mid	e:		o, o:, õ, õ:
Open		a, a:, ă, ă:	

As demonstrated in the above table there are fundamentally four basic vowels in Pánkáshku which may be oral or nasal, long or short. The front open mid vowel is a marginal phoneme emerging from historical /ai/ diphthongs. Long vowels are represented as doubled versions of themselves, and nasal vowels are represented in this document with a following 'n'. there are no vowels in hiatus.

The minimum length of a word is two mora, which means that if a word would underlyingly only have a single syllable the vowel may be lengthened. If in combination with affixes this would no longer be the case the syllable will then return to its usual length:

káa 'arm' > ***kámin*** 'on the arm'

Weak Syllable Collapse

A weak syllable consists of a single oral vowel, typically between two consonants. It may collapse, meaning that it is lost, causing its initial consonant to become a coda. This then affects the preceding vowel or the quality of the coda itself. This process of collapse varies based on the time depth of the process, e.g. while historically voiceless oral stops regularly debuccalised to glottal stops in coda position, in regular processes now they mirror the fate of voiced stops and retain their place of articulation. Affricates and fricatives alternate in these positions: an affricate spirantises to a fricative in coda position and a fricative may fortition following a coda. Where a geminate would form, this is degeminated.

rówa 'moon' > ***rootútá*** 'it is the moon' (V1{v, r, w}V2 > V1:)

wíkwo 'to have a nightmare' > **wíptun** 'I had a nightmare' ([labialised velar]V2 > [labial])

Tone

On a surface level Pánkáshku has two register tones, high and low. In the romanisation this is all that is marked, with high tone represented by an acute accent.

Underlyingly there are three tonemes which push the final tonal realisation around. Some syllables, typically those with initial oral stops, have a fixed high or low tone. Others may be unspecified, which surfaces before minimum word-level tonal constraints the same as a low tone. This is clearest in the context of the addition of case clitics. In Pánkáshku tone is obligatory on either the penultimate or final mora of a word, and word final clitics move this boundary. Preference is given to the penultimate mora in the case that both morae in this position are either low or unspecified

Inherent low tone:

/βakì/ > [βáki] <váki> 'cave'

/βakì=mĩ/ > [βákmĩ] <vákmĩn> 'in the cave'

Where a tone is specified by a suffix, typically on a preceding syllable, this is indicated as L 'low' or H 'high'.

Pánkáshku Grammar

The Pánkáshku language follows a SOV word order with genitive-noun, noun-postposition, adjective-noun and relative clause-noun order. In essence, it is typical of head final languages.

Outside of the position of the verb at the end of the clause, word order can be relatively flexible in most cases. However, order within a noun phrase can require more attention. For example, the genitive relationship is indicated purely through apposition:

rótsi oo 'the woman's daughter'

Noun Case

Noun case in Pánkáshku is indicated primarily by final suffixes. Some of these are more agglutinative in form, being affixed to the base absolutive form of the noun:

chári 'dog' > chári=táp 'with/and the dog'

Others are more fusional and thus harder to predict. These are listed following the definition associated with the absolutive form which also serves as citation form.

Core Cases

Pánkáshku is an almost fully ergative language, in which the subject of an intransitive verb and the patient of a transitive verb are marked the same, and the agent of a transitive verb is marked. This unmarked form is called the absolutive, and the marked is the ergative. The primary exception to this rule is the imperative mood.

cháři kanisáshna 'the dog lives/is alive'.

chönhávo cháři vatásáshna 'the capybara moves the dog'

cháávo chonhá vatásáshna 'the dog moves the capybara'

The ergative form of a noun ends in **-(v)o** and may cause a preceding light syllable to reduce.

The dative marks the indirect object, and typically takes the form **-Vmu**.

Non-Core Cases

Non-core cases are more regular in form, taking the base (absolutive) case. These cases and their functions are outlined below:

-min - the locative

The locative case indicates a location or time at or in which something takes place.

páshpásh 'waterfall' > **páshpáshmin** 'in/at the waterfall'

Noun Classifiers

Pánkáshku employs a rich variety of noun classifiers. These can be used to specify a specific aspect of a more generic noun.

For example,

motí - avocado (unclassified)

mo'tá - avocado fruit (**=tá**: round objects)

mó'mo - avocado tree (**=mo**: trees)

A noun-noun classifier

Verbs

Verbs in Pánkáshku occur always at the end of the clause. Pánkáshku verbs are optionally marked for tense and/or aspect and then take person marking.

It can be helpful to think of the Pánkáshku verb in this structure:

Root	Derivational Suffixes	Tense/ Aspect	Person Marking (inc. Imperative)	Final Clitics	
sina	-'á	-ngo-	-tsó	=chá	='ó
care	reflexive	past tense	2nd person plural	=negation	=deductive evidential

Derivational suffixes and final clitics are optional. A verb unmarked for tense/aspect is assumed to be in the present tense.

Derivational Suffixes

A verb may take a derivational suffix immediately following the stem.

Causative Marking

The causative takes the form -só-. It neither reduces a preceding vowel, nor may it reduce itself.

matí 'to dance' > **matísó-** 'to make someone dance'

When used with a transitive verb, the demoted subject of the original verb is given in the absolutive, and can be part of a double object construction.

chosó kacháké 'we plant corn' > **(askó) káya chosó kachásósáro** 'she makes us plant corn'.

It also functions to derive verbs from nouns, meaning to make/create/become N

chonhá 'capybara' > **chonhasón** 'I become a capybara'

Reflexive Marking

The reflexive occurs immediately following the root or another derivational suffix, and indicates that the agent and patient are the same. It takes the form /ʔV/ i.e. the final vowel of the verb stem is repeated following a glottal stop, taking an inherent high tone.

sína 'to care for someone else' > **sina'á** 'to care for oneself'

áñi 'to see' > **añi'i** 'to see oneself'

Tense Aspect Mood

The Progressive Aspect

The progressive aspect is marked through a full reduplication of the unmarked verb before itself.

hikán 'I stay' > **hiká hikán** 'I am staying'

váto 'you moved' > **váta váto** 'you were moving'

Mood

Mood in Pánkáshku is not always explicit. While, for example, the interrogative mood *per se* can be expressed using the clitic described below, often mood may be determined by context. One key exception to this is the imperative, which is detailed below.

Person Marking

Person marking is rather uncreatively based mostly on the affixation of reduced pronominal forms. In the third person this is more complicated, as the third person markers are used in conjunction with a noun classifier which agrees with the subject of an intransitive verb and the patient/direct object of a transitive verb. The third person marker may be completely omitted in many cases.

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	-n	-kée
2nd Person	-o (but -i > -u)*	-tsó
3rd Person	-s(a)-	-ma-

*The second person is marked through vowel alternation. If a verb or verbal suffix ends in <a, u> then it rounds to <o>. If the verb (plus derivational and tense/aspect marking) already ends in <o> there is no change. However, if a verb ends in <i> the vowel backs to <u> but does not round or lower to <o>

Imperative

The imperative mood is one of the only cases in which Pánkásku verbs function unergatively, as they agree rather with the subject of the action. It varies in form depending on the person, and causes a preceding weak syllable to reduce:

matí 'to dance'

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	n/a	mat=keé 'let's dance!'
2nd Person	mat=wú '(you) dance!'	mat=tsoó '(y'all) dance!'
3rd Person	mat=sá 'let him/her/it dance!'	mat=má 'let them dance!/may they dance!'

When a verb has both an agent and patient, the patient may be retained before the verb, indicated with a noun classifier, or both:

chosó ñápu 'to eat corn'

chosó ñapwú! '(you) eat the corn!'

ñapsáshó! 'let him/her/it eat the grain!'

chosó ñapkeéshó! 'let's eat the corn!'

Negation

In Pánkáshku negation happens through the addition of a final clitic.

Negation, other than with the copula, uses the clause final clitic =chá

núu nochá 'you are not going'

Clause Coordination

In Pánkáshku clauses may be simply put in sequential order to indicate a progression from one action to the next.

Haátun. Úshtun. 'I let go (and then) I fell'

If the progression from one clause to the next is particularly against the expected order of events the contrastive marker =:’í can be used to indicate this:

(ñíi) ontsatuu’í kwamíngon 'I escaped but I went back'

Converbs

Rather than using a full relative clause a verb can be subordinated by the addition of suffixes which make them into words functionally like adverbs.

Imperfective Converb (-ngwi)

The imperfective converb is roughly equivalent to 'while' in English. It indicates that the main verb occurred at the same time as something else was happening.

kuchá 'to hunt' > **kuchángwi** 'while/when hunting'

Purposive Converb (-kpú)

The purposive converb introduces the purpose of doing the main verb.

kuchá 'to hunt' > **kuchákpú ñóo munwopú núun** 'in order to hunt I go to the forest'

Cause Converb (-Lyó)

The causal converb introduces the reason for doing the main verb i.e. the main verb is carried out as a result of the converb clause.

kuchá 'to hunt' > **kuchayó ñóo kótsa pitúkos** 'as a result of hunting, I know the path'

Conditional Converb (-tón)

The conditional converb introduces a condition in a subordinate clause to the main verb.

kuchá 'to hunt' > **kuchátón munwopú nuwú** 'if you hunt, go to the forest!'

Evidentiality

There are four evidentiality marking suffixes in Pánkáshku which may be used with all parts of speech. When entirely unmarked, the assumption is either direct visual evidence or that there is simply no need to mark evidentiality. This is because the evidentiality system is principally employed in response to questions. The following are listed in order from most to least certainty:

Direct Non-Visual =pée

The direct non-visual evidential indicates direct experience through non-visual means.

óvo úri urisvopée '(I sense that) the monkey is climbing'

As the ancestors of spiders, they culturally give more value to hearing, feelings, smell, taste etc.

Praemonitive =Nkwá

The praemonitive evidential (sorry, I had to come up with the term based on the Madame Web stuff) indicates that the speaker has seen in a vision that something will happen.

óvo urisvonkwá '(I foresee that) the monkey will climb'

It is often used when giving warnings and more generally for advice.

Indirect =cha

The indirect evidential is used when the speaker has received the information through someone else, typically another person:

óvo úri urisvócha '(I heard that) the monkey is climbing'

Deductive ='ó

The deductive evidential is used when the speaker has only deduced the information, rather than having direct experience of the matter at hand:

óvo úri urisvo'ó '(It seems that) the monkey is climbing'

Text 07

Xwere Gonom

Keras

LTS Mini Relay Torch – Xwere Gonom

Keras Saryan

8 December 2024

1 Text

Ke' oꝛohmiš dzoanom dağ ken garan na łatharin žei ihaža'narad, hetši'giğwed, hara'džiriğwa žii dloogin. Ti' ło' aṭhanizad kii henere, mikaalii žii xigwin keđen, mi-haulii.

[k'ε? ɔɾɔh'miʃ tsoa'nõ 'taɣ k'ẽ ka'rã na łatʰa'rĩ 'zei ihaža?na'raɬ hetʃ'i?kɪ'ɣwεɬ hara?tsɪ'rɪɣ^wa zi: tɬo:'kĩ || tʰi? 'ło? aṭʰani'zaɬ 'k'i: he'nere mɪk'a:'li: zi: xɪ'k^wĩ k'ε'tẽ mihaɣ'li: ||]

2 Vocabulary

The following part-of-speech abbreviations are used in the entries provided:

<i>adj.</i>	adjective	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>adv.</i>	adverb	<i>v.i.d.</i>	intransitive dynamic verb
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction	<i>v.i.s.</i>	intransitive stative verb
<i>n.a.</i>	non-human animate noun	<i>v.t.d.</i>	transitive dynamic verb
<i>n.i.</i>	inanimate noun	<i>v.t.s.</i>	transitive stative verb
<i>pn.</i>	pronoun		

Declinable forms are entered in their unmarked direct form followed by the marked inverse (= DAM) and oblique forms. Animates are also followed by the corresponding plural forms. Verbs are entered with the uninflected stem followed by the third person inanimate singular forms of the imperfective (Ø-stem), terminative (?-stem) and optative (h-stem).

dağ, -iga, -in <i>n.i.</i> house, home, abode, residence, dwelling, settlement, inhabited area.	haul-, ahaula, ihau'litl, ipauhliš <i>v.i.d.</i> to wait.
dloogi, -ge, -n <i>n.i.</i> 1 • field, open ground, flat stretch of country devoid of trees.	hen, -ge, -in; -ed, -ere, -erin <i>pn.</i> it (third person singular, non-human animate).
dzoan, -ga, -om <i>n.i.</i> 1 • ground, floor, earth.	kaal-, akaala, ikaa'litl, ikaahliš <i>v.t.d.</i> to hide.
gar-, agara, ige'ditl, igehdiš <i>v.i.s.</i> to be (copular verb).	ke' <i>adv.</i> prohibitive (i.e. negative imperative) negator.

keḁe, -ge, -n *n.i.* tree (especially deciduous trees whose leaves are floppier rather than they are rigid, such as oak trees).

ken *prep.* 1 • from, away from (indicating a source). 2 • after (temporal). 3 • because of (indicating a cause). 4 • by (indicating a cause, agent, doer, author).

kii, -ge, -n *pn.* you (non-consanguineous second person singular).

łatha, -ga, -n; -d, -ra, -rin *n.a.* 1 • demon, phantom, spirit, ghost, spectre.

na *prep.* 1 • to, towards (indicating a destination). 2 • up to, until. 3 • to (indicating a recipient). 4 • for (indicating a beneficiary). 5 • for (indicating a purpose). 6 • for (i.e. in exchange). 7 • of (i.e. denoting attributive possession).

ža'nar-, **aža'nara**, **iže'ne'ditl**, **iže'nehdiš** *v.i.d.* to go under one's own steam near, around or within somewhere;

also used of aimless motion, motion to and fro, coming and going.

radž-, **aradža**, **ire'džitl**, **irehdžiš** *v.t.d.* to hunt, to catch.

rom-, **ařoma**, **ořo'mitl**, **ořohmiš** *v.t.d.* to build, to construct, to make, to create.

ti' lo' *conj.* 1 • when. 2 • if.

tšig-, **etšige**, **itši'gitl**, **idžihgiš** *v.i.s.* 1 • to be quick, to be fast, to be swift. 2 • to act fast, to do something quickly.

ṭhan-, **aṭhana**, **iṭha'nitl**, **iḁahniš** *v.t.s.* 1 • to see. 2 • to notice, to realise.

xigwi, -ge, -n *n.i.* crown of the head.

žei *adj.* 1 • bad (of poor quality, not fit for purpose). 2 • wrong, incorrect. 3 • harmful, noxious. 4 • evil, wicked, immoral. 5 • spiteful, malicious. 6 • devious, underhanded, conniving, sly, cunning.

žii *prep.* 1 • at, by, in, on. 2 • during. 3 • under (e.g. the sun, pressure, etc.).

3 Grammar notes¹

3.1 Introduction and overview

Xwere Gonom [l^xwɛɛ kɔ'nɔ̃] is strongly head-initial, exhibiting a basic VSO constituent order, prepositions and postposed adnominal modifiers. It possesses three cases and displays differential argument marking depending on the animacy of subjects and objects. Verbs agree with their absolutive argument in person and number and are inflected for one of eleven aspects/moods. Number is a salient morphological category for animate referents only. Pronouns and verb agreement distinguish clusivity in the first person and consanguinity in the first person inclusive and second person; in the third person, there is a distinction between humans, other animates and inanimates.

1 The following glossing abbreviations are used: 1 = first person, 2 = second person, 3 = third person, AN = animate, ANT = anterior, COND = conditional, CONSEC = consecutive, CONT = continuative, CS = consanguineous, DAM = differential argument marking, DISTR = distributive, DU = dual, EXCL = exclusive, H = human, IMM = immediative, IMPF = imperfective, INAN = inanimate, INCL = inclusive, NCS = non-consanguineous, NEG = negative, NH = non-human, OBL = oblique, OPT = optative, PF = perfective, PL = plural, PROG = progressive, REL = relative, SG = singular, SIMUL = simultaneous, TERM = terminative.

3.2 Phonology

3.2.1 Phonemic inventory

There are thirty-six consonant phonemes. These are shown in Table 1 below in IPA alongside their romanisation.

	Bilabial	Dental/Alveolar		Retroflex	Palatal	Velar		Glottal
		Central	Lateral			Plain	Lab.	
Nasal	m /m/	n /n/						
Plosive	p /p/	d /t̪/		ɖ /ʈ/		g /k/	gw /kʷ/	ʔ /ʔ/
	b /b̥/	t /t̪ʰ/		ʈ /ʈʰ/		k /kʰ/	kw /kʷʰ/	
Affricate		dz /ts/	dl /t̪l/	dʒ /t͡ʃ/				
		ts /tsʰ/	tl /t̪ʰ/	t͡ʃ /t͡ʃʰ/				
		tsh /tsʰ/	tlh /t̪ʰ/	t͡ʃh /t͡ʃʰ/				
Fricative		s /s/	ɬ /ɬ/	š /ʃ/		x /x/	xw /xʷ/	h /h/
		z /z/		ž /ʒ/		ç /ç/	çw /çʷ/	
Approx.		r /r/	l /l/	ɽ /ɽ/	y /j/		w /w/	

Table 1: Consonant phoneme inventory

There are sixteen contrastive monophthongal combinations of quality, length and nasality. These are given in Table 2 below.

	Front	Back
High	i /i/ in/im /ĩ/	
	ii /i:/ iin/iim /ĩ:/	
Mid	e /ɛ/ en/em /ẽ/	o /ɔ/ on/om /õ/
	ee /e:/ een/eem /ẽ:/	oo /o:/ oon/oom /õ:/
Low	a /a/ an/am /ã/	
	aa /a:/ aan/aam /ã:/	

Table 2: Monophthong inventory

In addition to these monophthongs, there are seven diphthongal qualities, all of which can occur as oral and nasal. These can be seen in Table 3.

	Front	Back
High	ia /i̩/ ian/iam /ĩ̩/	
Mid	ei /e̩/ ein/eim /ẽ̩/ eu /e̩/ eun/eum /ẽ̩/	oi /o̩/ oin/oim /õ̩/ oa /o̩/ oan/oam /õ̩/
Low	ai /a̩/ ain/aim /ã̩/ au /a̩/ aun/aum /ã̩/	

Table 3: Diphthong inventory

3.2.2 Stress

Stress is weight sensitive and anchored towards the right edge of the word: a final syllable is stressed if it is heavy (i.e. contains a diphthong, long vowel, nasal vowel or coda consonant), otherwise stress is penultimate.

3.2.3 Vowel assimilations

Let /i, e, o, a/ be cover symbols for all high front, mid front, back rounded and low vowels respectively.² In what is essentially a form of vowel harmony, lexically-specific instances of /i/ and /a/ assimilate to the quality of neighbouring vowels. Ignoring any intervening consonants, assimilable /i/ becomes /o/ when adjacent to rounded vowels and assimilable /a/ becomes /e/ when adjacent to front vowels. Such alternations can be found in many affixes as well as in a certain number of roots. In addition to this, certain instances of /i/ may not trigger the assimilation of /a/ to /e/. This assimilation is responsible for alternations in the vowels of affixes marking categories such as case (§3.3.2), number (§3.3.3), agreement (§3.4.1) and aspect (§3.4.2).

3.2.4 Laryngeal dissimilation

Aspiration, inclusive of /h/, is a powerful feature in Xwere Gonom phonology and its presence results in the neutralisation of certain contrasts in the syllable it is found in as well as directly adjacent syllables. This may result in active alternations (especially in verb conjugations; see §3.4), some of which are more motivated than others from a synchronic point of view (for example, /x/ acts as both a trigger and target of laryngeal dissimilation, as if it were aspirated even though it is not).

Laryngeal dissimilation causes the following neutralisations. It proceeds first regressively from the right-most instance of an aspirate or /h/ and then progressively.

² At least for our purposes here, the first vowel in a diphthong should be understood as the element that determines its primary features.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) a. /b/ | → [p] | f. /tʂ', tʂ ^h / | → [tʂ] |
| b. /t', t ^h / | → [t] | g. /x/ | → [k] |
| c. /ts', ts ^h / | → [ts] | h. /x ^w / | → [k ^w] |
| d. /tʃ', tʃ ^h / | → [tʃ] | i. /h/ | → [∅] or [p] |
| e. /t', t ^h / | → [t] | | |

3.3 Nouns and pronouns

3.3.1 Humanness and animacy

Animacy is important in Xwere Gonom for whether a noun is able to be pluralised, what role the core cases indicate and also for determining agreement with pronouns and on verbs. Humanness is distinguished on both pronouns and verbs. Neither inanimate nominals nor inanimate verb forms show any marking for number.

3.3.2 Case

Xwere Gonom possesses three grammatical cases: direct, inverse (= differential argument marking) and oblique.³ The direct is morphologically unmarked whereas the inverse is marked by the suffix *-ga/-ge/-ige/-oga/-iga/-a/-e* and the oblique by the suffix *-n/-m/-in/-om*.

The language displays an integrated system of both differential object and subject marking according to an argument's animacy. The unmarked direct is used on the subject of verbs with the exception that inanimate subjects of both transitive and unergative verbs (i.e. intransitive verbs whose sole argument is agent-like) take the marked inverse. The direct is also used on the objects of transitive verbs if inanimate whereas animate objects are marked with the inverse. This is illustrated by the following examples:

- (2) Saradzoxa taž.
3.H.run.PROG woman
'The woman is running.'
- (3) Itełii taž ɖa'.
3.INAN.throw.PF woman rock
'The woman threw the rock.'
- (4) Soɖogii taž.
3.H.fall.PF woman
'The woman fell.'
- (5) Oɖogii ɖa'.
3.INAN.fall.PF rock
'The rock fell.'

3 For all I care, you can use other labels – e.g. genitive for oblique – if these ones irk you.

- (6) Saṭhana taž hiinge.
3.H.see.IMPF woman man.DAM
'The woman sees the man.'
- (7) Odžotii ɖa'ga koom.
3.INAN.hit.PF rock.DAM house
'The rock hit the house.'

The oblique has a variety of uses. Firstly, it is used to mark modifiers in phrasal noun-noun compounds:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (8) hiin gondom
man fishing_rod.OBL
'fisherman, angler' | (9) ɖoom gii'in
bridge crystal.OBL
'rainbow' |
|---|--|

Oblique pronouns are used as possessive pronouns in all possessive relationships and bare full nouns are used in the oblique with inalienable adnominal possession (see also §3.3.4).

- | | |
|--|---|
| (10) ǵwama dein
mother 1SG.OBL
'my mother' | (11) ǵwama xaanin
mother girl.OBL
'the girl's mother' |
|--|---|

The complements of prepositions are also marked with the oblique:

- (12) žii de'nin
at shade.OBL
'in the shade'

The oblique is used in the adverbialisation of adjectives and nouns:

- (13) Sadzoxa wiinin taž.
3.H.run.IMPF good.OBL woman
'The woman runs well.'

It is also used without a preposition to mark certain inherently locative nouns to express a static location, origin of motion or goal of motion. If desired, this may be disambiguated by use of a preposition. This is illustrated with *dağ* 'home' below.

- (14) a. Saṛaḍiiga dağin hiin.
3.H.come.PROG home.OBL man
'The man is coming home.'
- b. Saṛaḍiiga hiin na dağin.
3.H.come.PROG man to home.OBL
'The man is coming home.'

Certain nouns with temporal meanings, such as *zii* ‘dawn’ below, behave in a similar manner:

- (15) a. Gaarazomaan *zii*’in hau.
 2SG.CS.sleep.CONT dawn.OBL 2SG.CS
 ‘You were still asleep at dawn.’
- b. Gaarazomaan hau *žii zii*’in.
 2SG.CS.sleep.CONT 2SG.CS at dawn.OBL
 ‘You were still asleep at dawn.’

The heads of noun phrases denoting a physical or temporal measurement also take the oblique in order to express distances or durations.

- (16) Saradzoxa *gihsaanin hoš* *ħiin*.
 3.H.run.PROG hour.OBL many man
 ‘The man ran for many hours.’

3.3.3 *Number*

Animate nouns distinguish singular and plural whereas inanimate nouns are invariant with respect to number. Plurality is marked by the suffix *-d/-ad/-ed*, which becomes *-r/-ar/-er* when a case suffix is added. Nouns do not generally take overt plural marking when used with numerals or plural-like quantifiers, though they may optionally to stress plurality or numerousness.

3.3.4 *Adnominal possession*

Possessors follow possessees. Oblique pronouns are used as possessive adjectives. To be used as possessors of alienable possessees, nouns occur in a prepositional phrase headed by *na* ‘to’. However, with inalienable possessees (e.g. body parts, kinship terms), no preposition is required and a bare possessor in the oblique is used.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|----|---|
| (17) a. | <i>ğwen dein</i>
hand 1SG.OBL
‘my hand’ | b. | <i>ğwen ħinin</i>
hand man.OBL
‘the man’s hand’ |
| (18) a. | <i>toan dein</i>
fishhook 1SG.OBL
‘my fishhook’ | b. | <i>toan na ħinin</i>
fishhook to man.OBL
‘the man’s fishhook’ |

3.4 Verbs

3.4.1 Verb agreement

Verbs agree with their absolutive argument, i.e. the subject of intransitive verbs and the direct object of transitive verbs. This is marked by a combination of prefixation and suffixation, summarised in Table 4.

	SG	DU	PL
1(EXCL)	d-	iš-/oš- -n	iš-/oš- -d
1INCL.CS	—	y- -n	y- -h
1INCL.NCS	—	ǰ- -n	ǰ- -h
2.CS	ga/ge-	—	aga-/ege- -h
2.NCS	m-	—	am-/em- -h
3.H	s-	—	s- -d
3.NH.AN	h-	—	h- -d
3.INAN	∅-	—	∅-

Table 4: Verb agreement affixes

Note that the /h/ of the third person non-human animate prefix is deleted if the next consonant in the word is /h/ or an aspirate, resulting in syncretism with the inanimate. Similarly, the /h/ in the suffix of some plural forms may lead to laryngeal dissimilation of a preceding consonant (see §3.2.4).

3.4.2 Tense–aspect–mood

Aspect and mood are conflated into a single morphological category (hereafter referred to simply as “aspect”) and there is no morphological tense marking.⁴ Verbs are inflected for eleven aspects and overt marking for one cannot co-occur with another. These eleven aspects can be divided into nine realis and two irrealis aspects, with realis aspects further subdivided into four imperfective and five perfective aspects:

- (19) a. Realis:
- i. Imperfective:
 - imperfective, progressive, continuative, simultaneous
 - ii. Perfective:
 - perfective, terminative, immediative, anterior, consecutive
- b. Irrealis:
 - conditional, optative

⁴ At least, matrix verbs do not display tense, though certain aspects arguably express pure/strict relative tense with dependent verbs.

These are marked on the verb by a combination of stem gradation, prefixation and suffixation. Verb stems have three grades: plain (\emptyset), glottalised ($ʔ$) and aspirated (h). As one would expect, the \emptyset -grade of a verb stem is simply the verb stem without any additional special modifications. The laryngeal $ʔ$ - and h -grades are formed by right-edge-orientated infixation of coda $/ʔ, h/$ in consonant-final stems and by a simple $/ʔ, h/$ suffix in vowel-final stems. The addition of these laryngeal segments, especially $/h/$, may lead to alterations to the laryngeal features of consonants in the stem (see §3.2.4). The full range of different combinations of exponents for each aspect is summarised below in Table 5.

	Prefix	Stem grade	Suffix
IMPF	a-/e-	\emptyset	-a/-e/-ra/-re
PROG	ara-/ere-	\emptyset	-a/-e/-ra/-re
CONT	a-/e-	\emptyset	-aan/-een/-raan/-reen
SIMUL	a-/e-	$ʔ$	-iğwa/-oğwa/-iğwe/-ğwa/-ğwe
PF	i-/o-	\emptyset	-ii/-yii
TERM	i-/o-	$ʔ$	-itl
IMM	i-/o-	$ʔ$	-in
ANT	i-/o-	$ʔ$	-inen
CONSEC	i-/o-	$ʔ$	-ian
COND	a-/e-	\emptyset	-iza/-oza/-ize/-za/-ze
OPT	i-/o-	h	-iř/-ř

Table 5: Summary of inflection for aspect

The imperfective presents an action or state as being temporally unbounded and, typically, as habitual, though this form can be used with stative verbs to express the progressive. The progressive describes an action or state as being performed or holding at a given moment in time, be that present, past or future. The continuative is similar to the progressive but focuses on the continuity in time of that action or state in question, especially when contrasted with the flux of other events in the discourse (i.e. very roughly having the meaning ‘still’). The continuative can also be used to present an event as continuing for an unexpectedly long or excessive amount of time. The simultaneous expresses that an action or state overlaps with another. The duration of the action/state described by the simultaneous typically fully encompasses the other action/state; its may temporally even extend beyond it but this is not crucial to the way an event is presented using the simultaneous. With stative verbs especially, the simultaneous may be used in roles fulfilled by manner adverbs in other languages.

The perfective, in contrast to the imperfective, presents an action or change of state as lacking internal temporal structure. With stative verbs this often expresses an inchoative meaning. The perfective is also sometimes used as an imperative. The

terminative expresses the end point of an action or state, which may be before or after some event in the discourse. The immediative is similar to the terminative but serves to stress the temporal proximity of events. The anterior is used to situate the entirety of one action or state as preceding another. This is often used in a similar function to the (plu)perfect in other languages. The consecutive, conversely, is used to situate one event after another. Actions or states may be described by the anterior and consecutive regardless of their relation to the moment of speech.

The most prototypical use of the conditional is to mark the antecedent, but not the consequent, in sentences expressing that some event or state is contingent on another. The optative is used to express hopes, wishes, desires and so on. Alongside the perfective, it is also functions as an imperative and (co)hortative.

3.4.3 Verbal negation

Verbs are negated with a pre-verbal particle. This is most often *xen*, as in the example below.

- (20) Xen eziḡe taḡ dīl.
 NEG 3.INAN.eat.IMPF woman meat
 ‘The woman doesn’t eat meat.’

However, there also exists a range of additional specialised negators, shown in Table 6.

Form	Use
dliḡi	“ <i>non iam</i> ” negator: something that was the case prior to the reference time no longer holds, i.e. ‘no more, no longer’
dziḡ	irrealis negator: used with the conditional and optative in declarative clauses, also used with other aspects used in irrealis contexts
ke’	prohibitive negator: used to negate both optative and conditional imperatives
maan	assertive future-time negator: forcefully denies the possibility of something happening after the reference time, also used with perfective imperatives for added force
te’	<i>nondum</i> negator: expresses that something has yet to occur prior to the reference time, i.e. ‘not yet’
tṣoḡom	avertive negator: expresses that an event was expected to happen but did not
ḡein	frustrative negator: expresses that an event happened but was not successful or did not have the expected result

Table 6: Specialised pre-verbal negators

3.6 Clausal syntax

3.6.1 Constituent order

The basic constituent order in an intransitive clause is VS:

- (26) Sarazoma taž.
 3.H.sleep.PROG woman
 ‘The woman is sleeping.’

In a (mono)transitive clause, the basic constituent order is VSO:

- (27) Abola ĩin šom.
 3.INAN.drink.IMPF man milk
 ‘The man drinks milk.’

However, word order is moderately flexible and constituents may be moved around in order to help convey the information structure of an utterance. There is even limited tolerance of discontinuous noun phrases.

3.6.2 Relative clauses

Relative clauses are formed by adding the prefix *i-/o-/y-* to an already conjugated verb. The clause in which this verb is found then acts as a post-nominal modifier. The slot that the modified noun would occupy in the relative clause is left blank, though the relativised verb nevertheless agrees if the head noun is the omitted absolutive argument of the relative clause.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|------------------|------|---------|--|----|-------------------------|----------------|-------|
| (28) | a. | Siṭhanii | deme | ĩinge. | | b. | Ĩiin | isiṭhanii | deme. |
| | | 3.H.see.PF | 1SG | man.DAM | | | man | REL.3.H.see.PF | 1SG |
| | | ‘I saw the man.’ | | | | | ‘The man (whom) I saw.’ | | |

3.6.3 Clausal coordination

As in the examples below, clausal coordination is typically asyndetic.

- (29) Arakama deme booh, sarazomad siid.
 3.INAN.do.PROG 1SG work 3.NH.AN.sleep.PROG 3PL.H
 ‘I am working and they are sleeping.’
- (30) Diṭhanii tšemen dege, hipe’ḡwian hen.
 1SG.eat.PF cat 1SG.DAM 3.NH.AN.flee.CONSEC 3SG.NH.AN
 ‘The cat saw me and then ran away.’

Text 08

Vilsoumor

Graham

LTS Mini Relay Torch – Vilsoumor

Text

Ku telos rek ni moc vinko, ne gova do ymon lehibi sei shapuila zbe sanouc, lou ygadeliela, gefiliqiela dol miunta, fuin dei, li cou ku veidjomu ve lou, tuhos cainta fsafa yac, noa veidiqfoiyak nein bih zou lou.

[kʰu 'tʰɛ.lɔs rɛkʰ ni mɔt' 'viŋ.kʰɔ nɛ 'gɔ.va dɔ 'i.mɔn 'lɛ.hi.bi sej sɐ'ha.pʰwi.la zβɛ 'sa.nowt' low 'i.ga,dɛ.ljɛ.la 'gɛ.fɪ.li.k'jɛ.la dɔl 'mjun.tʰa fwin dej li t'ow kʰu vej.dʒɔ.mu vɛ low 'tʰu.hɔs t'ajn.tʰa 'fsa.fa jat' nɔq 'vej.dik', foj.jakʰ nejn bix zow low]

Lexicon

- **be** *transitive state verb*: having as part of oneself or in inherent relation to oneself
- **bih** *reflexive transitive event verb*: leaving, departing
- **cain** *noun*: head, top part
- **dei** *adverb*: very
- **do** *pronoun*: that place, there
- **dol** *preposition*: across the entirety of
- **fui** *intransitive state verb*: being fast
- **gefil** *intransitive state verb*: fleeing, trying to escape
- **gov** *intransitive state verb*: being because of
- **hap** *intransitive state verb*: being injured or damaged
- **ku** *pronoun*: you (singular or plural), the listener(s)
- **lehi** *noun*: animal, creature
- **li cou** *conjunction*: when...
- **lou** *pronoun*: that animal
- **miun** *noun*: region, territory
- **moc** *noun*: land, terrain, ground
- **ne** *pronoun*: that condition or state
- **nein** *conjunction*: until
- **ni** *preposition*: at, on, in
- **noa** *conjunction*: and also please...
- **rek** *noun*: house, dwelling
- **safa** *noun*: tree

- **sanouc** *noun*: magic, supernatural power
- **sei** *adjective*: many, much
- **tel** *causative intransitive event verb*: making, creating, building
- **tuh** *reflexive transitive event verb*: going to, arriving at
- **veid** *intransitive state verb*: seeing, perceiving (with the thing perceived as the *agent*).
- **vinko** *adverb*: do not, one must not
- **yac** *adverb*: please do, one must
- **ygadel** *reflexive intransitive state verb*: going here and there, wandering
- **ymo** *transitive state verb*: wearing, having, featuring

Grammar Notes

Overview

Vilsoumor is strongly head-initial: it has SVO word order, prepositions, and modifiers following nouns.

Pronouns

Vilsoumor has dozens of pronouns, each referring to a certain category of people or things. Speakers use pronouns liberally to refer back to things that have already been mentioned in the discourse, instead of repeating nouns. The semantic ranges of the pronouns overlap and have vague boundaries, so there's usually a choice of several for any given referent; speakers choose the one that they think makes the intended referent clearest. The pronouns found in the text are listed in the lexicon.

Definiteness

Nouns in Vilsoumor must indicate "definiteness"—actually a combination of several features from a linguistic point of view.

There are four definiteness levels:

- Without a suffix, the noun is *generic*. The speaker doesn't have a referent in mind, or doesn't think its identity is relevant.
- The *specific*, marked by **-bi**, means that the speaker has a referent in mind and is introducing it to the listener.

- The *definite*, marked by **-ta**, means that the speaker thinks the listener has enough context to tell which referent is meant.
- The *anaphoric* is used for referents that have already been mentioned. But speakers try to *avoid* using this form as much as possible by using pronouns, as described above. The relay text is no exception: the anaphoric doesn't occur in it.

Possession

To indicate inalienable possession, Vilsoumor puts the possessor after the possessed noun, and adds the prefix **f-** to the possessor.

Vilsoumor doesn't have a dedicated construction for alienable possession. Most instances of alienable possession in other languages get translated as some kind of relative clause in Vilsoumor.

Verb Arguments and Voice

Vilsoumor verbs have up to three **arguments**, labelled by their typical semantic roles: *agent*, *patient*, and *theme*. Generally, the agent is the cause of the action, the patient is the one most affected by it, and the theme is what the action is "about"—often a location or frame of reference. Verbs in the lexicon are labelled as *transitive* or *intransitive*; transitive verbs can take all three arguments, while intransitive verbs don't take a theme. Regardless, **all arguments are optional**—an omitted argument is assumed to be irrelevant or obvious from context.

To produce a clause, a verbs arguments are assigned to **slots**. The *subject* slot is immediately before the verb, while the *object* slot is immediately after the verb. Any other arguments must appear as *obliques* after the object slot, marked with a case preposition. To control which arguments go in which slots, the verb can be inflected for **voice**.

The default (*neutral*) voice emphasizes **what happened**, with who *did* it secondary: the patient goes in the subject slot, and the theme in the object slot. The *causative* voice emphasizes **who did it to whom**: the agent goes in the subject slot, and the patient in the object slot. The *reflexive* voice is used for **changes under one's own control**: the agent (who is also the patient) goes in the subject slot, and the theme in the object slot.

This table summarizes how arguments are assigned to slots:

Valency	Voice	Clause Structure
Intransitive	Neutral	<i>patient</i> VERB ve <i>agent</i>
Intransitive	Causative	<i>agent</i> VERB <i>patient</i>

Valency	Voice	Clause Structure
Intransitive	Reflexive	<i>agent/patient</i> VERB
Transitive	Neutral	<i>patient</i> VERB <i>theme ve agent</i>
Transitive	Causative	<i>agent</i> VERB <i>patient nu theme</i>
Transitive	Reflexive	<i>agent/patient</i> VERB <i>theme</i>

Voice is marked by the following suffixes on the verb:

- Neutral: no suffix
- Causative: **-iq**
- Reflexive: **-su**

But some verbs are *inherently* causative or reflexive, which is indicated in the lexicon.

If the subject is omitted, it's generally assumed to be the same as the subject of the previous clause. Speakers take advantage of this by using the voice system to put the discourse topic in subject position, making it very likely to be the subject of several consecutive clauses.

Mood

The verb in a normal clause must always end with a mood suffix. The moods that are relevant for this translation are:

- Indicative, marked by **-a/-n/-k**
- Irrealis, marked by **-os/-mu**

The indicative is used for statements of fact—and, crucially, it places the action on the *timeline*, which interacts with the aspect system described below. The irrealis can be used for statements that are non-factual in various ways, such as hypotheticals and if-then clauses.

Aspect

Vilsoumor has a complex system of aspects for placing actions relative to each other and describing their temporal shape.

At its base is the distinction between *state verbs* and *event verbs*, indicated in the lexicon. A state verb indicates something that **is true** at the reference time: a sequence of state verbs is interpreted as building up a description, with all conditions true at the same time. An event verb indicate something that **happens**: a sequence of event verbs is interpreted as a sequence of

actions happening one after another. Each event moves the narrative forward on the timeline, while states paint a picture of the world around the current point on the timeline.

With no other context, the reference time is assumed to be the present. The reference time can be explicitly set to something else using **li** followed by the event to anchor the timeline on.

The temporal structure of a verb can be modified by adding any number of aspect suffixes. There are quite a few of these, but the ones that are relevant for this text are:

- The habitual (event => state), marked by **-la**, for an event that keeps happening in the period around the reference time.
- The dynamic (state => event), marked by **-jo**, for the beginning of a state.
- The perfective (state => event), marked by **-ya**, for a state *perceived* as an event; it was true for a definite period of time, with a clear beginning and end, and the speaker isn't dwelling on what happened *while* it was true.
- The negative (state => state), marked by **-foi**, for a state that isn't true.

Each suffix can only be added to a certain verb type, and it *produces* a verb of a certain type. For example, the habitual is "event => state", meaning it can only be *added* to events, and it *produces* a state.

Multiple aspect suffixes can be added one after the other, as long as the verb types match.

Some combinations of suffixes have fused forms. The relevant ones are:

- Dynamic + causative ("made it be so"): **-ui** rather than *-joiq*.
- Perfective + habitual ("is true intermittently"): **-iel** rather than *-yala*

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are placed after their head nouns. The verb must be placed in its relativized form, with the prefix **s-/z-** and no mood suffix (though it can have aspect suffixes).

Only the **subject** can be the head of a relative clause; the voice system is used to pull the head noun into subject position if it would normally be somewhere else. The remaining arguments follow the verb as normal.

Nominalization

The bare verb stem serves as a verbal noun. When used as a noun, a verb can't take arguments as normal—the arguments must be reattached using prepositions:

- The agent with **zou**.
- The patient with **sas**.
- The theme with **xi**.

Note that the prepositions are based entirely on semantic role; the concepts of "subject" and "object" no longer apply to nominalized verbs.

Text 09

Bu Dituy-I

Tabby

LTS Mini Relay - Bu Dituy-I

Text

Wizu nursum tu ti yu ku ing hi. Kutar nursum ing hi mudu simiw fum-i fam hun fum hi faw singayaditi. Ya tar nursum simiw-i fam hun hi hum i. Wi hum kir fam pa da um tu mun ving-i. Ya su hum gu zu hi isumu hi fam ituy fam wiw diki hum nursum. Kuwki ituy. Baza ya u hum muya kiwi hum diki ti nursum.

Brief Phonological Notes

Bu Diuty-I is spoken by a large group of discontinuous illiterate villages, so pronunciation varies and anything will be correct somewhere, that said:

- ng, y, r are /ŋ/, /j/, and an approximant in the alveolar region nominally /ɹ/, other than that every other consonant's romanisation agrees with its IPA.
- i, u, a are what you expect but because they are the only vowels distinguished they can vary wildly from accent to accent and within a single passage with speakers still recognising them.
- The syllable structure is CV(m/n/ng/w/r/y)
 - As a result any vowel initial word is either stealing the coda from the preceding word, *nursum ing* is /nuɹsu 'miŋ/, or there is a unmarked glottal stop between the two adjacent vowels, *Kuwki ituy* is /'kuwki ?i'tuj/
- Stress is on the last syllable with a coda or else the last syllable
 - This combined with coda stealing means that a word can be stressed nurSUM in isolation and NURsu in a sentence.

Grammar Notes

Bu Dituy-I is a head initial analytical language, with Prep-N, N-Dem, N-Num, N-Poss, N-Adj, N-Gen, and N-Rel.

Nouns

Nouns are nice and easy, they don't mark case or number. The only special things they do in the passage are:

- Mark definiteness with *hi/-i*, for example *pu hi* - the pu (water buffalo). *Hi* is used when the noun ends in a vowel and *-i* is used when the noun has a coda.
- Mark possession through the phrase *gu POSSESSION POSSESSOR*, for example *gu zu mi pu* - the pu's head

Pronouns are indistinguishable from nouns in their behaviour. Any pronouns used are noted in the lexicon.

Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives follow nouns and precede the definite marker, for example *pu min hi* - the black pu.

The unmarked position for an adverb is at the start of a sentence preceding the verb but marked adverbs can be placed wherever the speaker wishes.

Verbs

The citation form of verbs are fixed and aspect, mood and valency changing operations are expressed through particles and word order.

- **Aspect** is expressed through word order.
 - In the unmarked perfective aspect, the word order is
 - for phrases with intransitive verbs:

V S (prep O)

for example *Diki nursi* - A man saw.

- for phrases with transitive verbs:

V S DO (prep IO)

for example *Tinfi nursi pu hi* - A man fed the pu. (Ditransitive verbs are a special class of transitive verb where the indirect object does not have to be marked with a preposition and are indicated in the lexicon).

- In the marked imperfective aspect, the word order is
- for phrases with intransitive verbs:

IMP S V (prep O)

for example *Wi nursi diki* - A man sees.

- for phrases with transitive verbs:

IMP S V prep DO (prep IO)

for example *Wi nursi tinfi ku pu hi* - A man feeds the pu. (Ditransitive verbs do not require the direct object to be marked with a preposition)

- **Mood** is indicated through a particle at the start of the phrase. In the imperfective aspect, this particle combines with the imperfective particle.

- For phrases with an intransitive verb this looks like:
 - Perfective

MOOD V S (prep O)

- Imperfective

IMP.MOOD S V (prep O)

- For phrases with an transitive verb this looks like:
 - Perfective

MOOD V S DO (prep IO)

- Imperfective

IMP.MOOD S V prep DO (prep IO)

	Positive		Negative	
	Imperfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Perfective
Realis	wi	-	kiwi	kiw
Conditional	wizu	zu	kuwzu	kuzu
Potential 1	wiy	ya	kuwya	kuy
Potential 2/ Imperative	wiki	ki	kuwki	kuki

The second potential is a firmer potential, either referring to a more likely or more important potential event or used as a mild/polite imperative. If it is used as an imperative within a discourse it will not then be used as a potential within the same discourse.

- **Verbal negation** is expressed through the same particle as mood
- **Valency Increasing Operations** take the form of a particle that precedes the original sentence and changes the sentence order. They cannot be combined with mood. The only valency increasing operation that happens in the passage is the causative. Where the word order changes to:

CAUS S_N S_O V (prep O)

regardless of whether the lexical verb is transitive or intransitive, for example *Tar di nursi diki ku pu* - God causes a man to feed the pu. The form of the causative particle depends on the aspect and whether the verb is negated as shown below.

	Positive		Negative	
	Imperfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Perfective
Causative	witar	tar	kuwtar	kutar

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses follow the main clause and use *hum* to mark the noun that the relative clause affects, for example:

Ima nursi hum hing-i. Tun hum hing-i figi.

Ima nursi hum hing -i. Tun hum hing -i figi.

KILL MAN REL CHICKEN DEF. GIVE REL CHICKEN DEF CORN.

The man that gave the chicken corn killed the chicken.

Lexicon

baza	<i>adv.</i>	now, then
da	<i>adv.</i>	quickly, fast
diki	<i>v. (i)</i>	to see, to look, to observe, to notice
fam	<i>conj.</i>	with, and
fam wiw	<i>conj.</i>	because

faw	<i>prep.</i>	on the right, to the south, with (using)
fum	<i>adj.</i>	many, much, of great quantity, of great quality
gu	<i>prep.</i>	marks an item that was created by the possessor whether or not they currently possess it.
hi/-i	<i>art.</i>	definite article
hum	<i>part.</i>	marks a noun as being the subject/object of the next sentence without requiring that it be reintroduced
	<i>prn.</i>	marks a noun that has already been introduced previously
hum	<i>n.</i>	6-limbed creature
i	<i>dem.</i>	that
ing	<i>n.</i>	earth, land, soil
isumu	<i>n.</i>	one of a number of similar looking trees that produce small round nuts
ituy	<i>v. (t)</i>	to stay, to remain
kir	<i>v. (t)</i>	to go to, to come from
ku	<i>prep.</i>	around, surrounding, on
mudu	<i>v. (t)</i>	to kill, to murder, to harm, to injure
mun	<i>n.</i>	floodplain, fertile land, home
muya	<i>conj.</i>	<i>if</i>
nursum	<i>n.</i>	master
	<i>prn.</i>	default male, superior, second person pronoun. If the speaker is a woman or child then this is the most common pronoun used. If the speaker is a man, then either they are junior to the second person or it sets the tone of the discourse as polite, formal and distant.
pa	<i>v. (t)</i>	to go from, to come to
simiw	<i>n.</i>	4-limbed creature, a being with magic
singayaditi	<i>n.</i>	magic, miracle, breath of Diti (Sun God)
su	<i>v. (i)</i>	to fly, to flap, to get up, to ascend
tar	<i>v. (t)</i>	<i>ditransitive</i> to cause
ti	<i>prep.</i>	before, in front, toward
tu	<i>prep</i>	over, above, <i>rare</i> on
	<i>v. (t)</i>	to do, to make
u	<i>v. (i)</i>	to sleep, to get down, to descend
um	<i>adj.</i>	big, old
ving	<i>adj.</i>	whole, any, each
yu	<i>n.</i>	house, home, dwelling, shelter
zu	<i>n.</i>	coast, edge, head, top, chief

Text 10

Tundra Chionian

Matthijs

Tundra Chionian (Önni öt Nementöq)

Yn en nau en önën la kypir umai, yn en nau en kypir nnu apën akë kī nnu mrī mökë lö taqai qi mai tāq mööt.

En nau ökēmen lē apën kī lē mrī mai tāq.

Nnu nökömen tö qeri kī ki ömë önën ööm em tō nikk.

Nnu la kupūn at nöq tö teknīm kī mēt ki ik nau ka qai em telunn mēn.

Ūmu lynn.

Yn ki ik nau em qai, yn nnu tö teknīm latu rauqai.

Tundra Chionian Grammar

0. General features:

Setting

Chionian is the major and best known language clade of the linguistic-cultural continuum covering the far northern lands of Hyperborea and the southern settlements of Chionia. The Chionian peoples are organized into a variety of moieties and clans, and make their living in the far north from fishing and hunting of land and marine animals. Within the wider continuum, there are also pastoralist groups, particularly herding sub-arctic ungulates. Even further north, deep into arctic and polar territory, there are small communities culturally and historically derived from the proto-Chionian migrations but now largely isolated and divergent in language and technology.

The different clans of this wide territory are frequently in conflict, but also often intermarry and gather. They speak divergent dialects within the same continuum across the wide expanse of northeastern and northwestern Hyperborea as well as the islands and the southern parts of Chionia. The form presented here is that of the hunters of southern Chionia and the east coast of Eastern Hyperborea. This form will be called Tundra Chionian - as opposed to the other end of the dialect continuum spoken by their more southern pastoralist brethren, which will be classified for our purposes as Forest Chionian.

Linguistic general features

Tundra Chionian is a fairly analytical language, with little affixation and extensive use of particles. It has a smallish consonant inventory, but a wide range of vowels, both long and short. It has ergative alignment, while it is mostly head-final with the basic constituent order being SOV. A notable feature is its use of several noun classes, which coexist with three cases (absolute, ergative, and oblique).

1. The noun phrase

1.1 Definiteness

There is no marking for definiteness in Tundra Chionian.

1.2.1 Noun classes

All independent nouns in Tundra Chionian are divided between 7 different noun classes. These are organized on a combination of semantic and phonological (historic) criteria, with many assignments being seemingly arbitrary in the present, although general semantic bases can be identified.

The noun classes are marked directly on the noun through prefixes, which also extend to agreement with other elements of the noun phrase: modifiers, determiners and numerals.

The list of noun classes and their rough semantic bases (keeping in mind these are *post facto* descriptions) is as follows:

Noun class	Semantic prototypes	Prefix
I (Human class)	Humans, agents, spirits	na-/ne- (*na-)
II (Life class)	Spirits, land animals, food-related items, augmentatives, things related to life and the body	a(n)/e(n)- (*a:-(n))
III (Water class)	Marine animals, liquids, weather, time, ships, birds	i- (*i:-)
IV (Nature class)	Plants, non-food animals, landscape features	k-/kë-ku-/ky-/w- (*ku-)
V (Artifact class)	Larger human artifacts, emotions, sensations, v. nouns	∅- (*o:?)
VI (Abstract class)	Various abstractions	te-/ti-/të- (*te-)
VII (Misc. class)	Miscellaneous, negative things	ū-* (*ʔu:-)
VIII (Dim. class)	Small creatures, small tools, diminutives, sweet things, valuables	ma/më-/etc (*mo-)

In the realization of the noun classes, there are also divergent ‘irregular’ forms. Although these emerge from regular sound change, for the present speakers of Tundra Chionian they appear as a kind of declensions that have to be learned, and add to the complexity of the language for outsiders. An example is class III, which occasionally has an *ā*-prefix instead of the expected *i*-; e.g. in *ānai* “lake”.

A moderately sized class of very old nouns do *not* carry noun class markers, although later nouns derived from them do. They still induce noun class agreement as usual (see

1.2.2). Which noun class they belong to simply has to be known to the speaker. (It is also indicated in the Lexicon.)

It's worth pointing out that this class has reduced over time due to the operation of analogical levelling, so that now some even very basic words do in fact take noun class prefixing where likely in the past they did not (e.g. *nemenöt*, "human"). Nonetheless, certain semantic classes - notably body parts, kinship terms, and some animal and plant names - often lack noun class prefixes in Tundra Chionian. (In Forest Chionian, which is more conservative in this regard, the class of unprefixated nouns is larger.)

1.2.2 Noun class agreement

There is agreement with noun class in modifiers and all determiners but cardinal numerals. The agreement markers are identical to those on the noun itself (at least underlyingly, allowing for variability in realization). Note that verbs, by contrast, do *not* agree with noun class.

1.3 Noun number

Tundra Chionian marks plural number directly on the noun for a small closed set of nouns, primarily old root words. These are indicated separately in the lexicon. For all others, the plural is exclusively marked in combination with the case particle (see 1.4). Note that the historic plurals also use the plural form of the case marker.

1.4 Noun case

There are three cases in Tundra Chionian: absolutive, ergative, and oblique. The absolutive marks the subject of intransitive verbs and the patient of transitive verbs. The ergative marks the agent of transitive verbs. The oblique is used for certain adpositional phrases (primarily covering locative and dative meanings).

All three cases are marked by a particle. These fuse with noun number, so that they each have a singular and plural form. They do not agree with noun class. The noun case particles always immediately precede the relevant noun in the noun phrase.

The overview is as follows:

Case	SG	PL
ABS	en (*an)	nnu (*anno)
ERG	ik (*ik)	ki (*iki)
OBL	la (*n [̣] a)	lē (*n [̣] ai)

1.5 Numerals

Cardinal numerals take no marking and do not agree with anything. They precede the nouns to which they apply.

1.6 Modifiers

1.6.1 Adnominal modifiers

Adnominal modifiers come after the noun to which they apply, except for a small class of modifiers relating to the following categories: size, quality, color, and age. Modifiers agree with the noun class of the noun to which they are applied in either case. Note that occasionally, morphophonological irregularity may occur in the agreement pattern (e.g. *ëmë anā* "large fire").

1.6.2 Adverbs

Tundra Chionian does not strongly morphologically distinguish modifying adjectives and adverbs in most cases; the difference is in the placement. Modifiers used adverbially appear after the verb, rather than after (resp. before) a noun. However, there are a few exceptions where the adverb is lexically distinct.

1.7 Determiners

Determiners ("each", "all", "many" etc.) behave in most respects just like adnominal modifiers. In case they coexist in the clause with those modifiers, they come before the modifier if the modifier is preposed, and after it if it is postposed (i.e., they are always further from the head noun than adnominal modifiers).

2. The verb

2.1 Tense/aspect

Tense and aspect are closely interwoven in Tundra Chionian, and expressed by means of preverbal particles. In the indicative mood, there are six main tense/aspect forms:

- the general past, meaning past events seen as a complete whole:

enā' en ōq ka qūn

"I ate fish"

- the imperfective past, meaning past events seen as ongoing at the time of narrative:

enā' en ōq ōr qūn

"I was eating fish"

- the perfect, meaning past events with present relevance:

enā' en ōq mai qūn

"I had/have eaten fish"

- the general present, meaning events that are considered valid habitually or generally:

enā' en ōq qūn

"I eat fish"

- the progressive present, meaning events currently ongoing, or ones that occur in the same timeframe as a previously used tense/aspect within the same narrative or sentence (e.g. within an established past or future):

enā' en ōq em qūn

"I am eating fish"

- the future:

enə' en ðq tö qūn
"I will eat fish"

As shown, each of these except the general present is represented by a particle, probably derived originally from serial verbs. The overview is as follows:

Tense/aspect	Particle
PFV.PST	ka (*ka)
IMPF.PST	ör (*or)
PERF	mai (*ma:)
PRES	0
PROG	em (*am)
FUT	tö (*to)

2.2 Mood

2.2.1 Indicative mood

The indicative is unmarked.

2.2.2 Imperative mood

The imperative is the stem of the verb preceded by the particle *ð* (*ʔo: - from a now antiquated form of the verb meaning "do"). For example:

ð qai!

IMP see

"look!"

It can be combined with future marking to imply a kind of future-oriented command:

ð tö qai!

IMP FUT see

"go look!" or "be on the lookout!"

2.2.3 Conditional mood

The conditional ("if... then") modal construction is formed by repetition of the particle *yn* in preverbal position. In the initial conditional clause, there is usually pro drop. For example:

yn ekk, yn en nau kiēnai tö mit

COND sleep, COND ABS 2SG tomorrow FUT run

"if (you) sleep, (then) you will (be able to) run tomorrow"

2.2.4 Potential mood

In Tundra Chionian, the potential and optative are identical, expressing a range of meanings from “may, could” to “hope that”, indicating essentially a general *irrealis* of uncertainty. It is also used to indicate permission, particularly in response to questions. It does *not* express ability.

The potential mood is formed by a (rare) prefix to the verb, which depending on morphophonology manifests as *te-* or *ty-*. Irregular forms are possible.

2.3 Verbal agreement

There is no verbal agreement of any kind, whether with person or number or noun class.

3. Pronouns

3.1 Independent pronouns

Because there is no verbal agreement or other kind of marking of subjects on the verb (see 2.3), pronouns are usually explicit in the sentence. They take case marking the same as nouns, but the first and second person do so according to *nominative-accusative* alignment, so that they take ‘absolute’ (nominative) marking when subjects of intransitive verbs and agents of transitive verbs, and ‘ergative’ (accusative) marking when patients of transitive verbs.

There are no ‘proper’ third person pronouns as such in Tundra Chionian; instead, demonstratives are used (q.v.). Otherwise, the pronoun table is like so:

Pronoun	Form
1SG	a' (*e:ʔ)
2SG	nau (*naqʰ)
(3SG*)	kēm (*ke:nʰam)
1PL	ān
2PL	nēn
(3PL*)	kēmen

* actually demonstratives, requiring noun class agreement; see q.v.

Note that the singular absolute and ergative markers for the first person singular and plural merge with the pronoun form. In other words, to mark ergative first person singular, one says *ika'* instead of *ik a'*, first person plural absolute is *enān*, etc.

4. Deixis

4.1 Demonstratives

In Tundra Chionian, as in related languages, there is a three way distinction of adnominal demonstratives: proximal, distal and visible, and distal and not visible. The last of those three is also used when referring to things that are past, metaphorical, abstract, or otherwise not really physically present.

Demonstratives take noun class prefixes and agree with noun number. The stem forms are as follows:

Demonstrative	Stem form
PROX.SG	kēm
VIS.DIST.SG	mēt (* <i>me:t</i>)
INVIS.DIST.SG	ru (* <i>iro</i>)
PROX.PL	kēmen
VIS.DIST.PL	mēn
INVIS.DIST.PL	run

4.2 Demonstratives used as pronouns

The proximal demonstrative also serves as the equivalent of an (ungendered) third person pronoun, since Tundra Chionian lacks a proper third person pronoun as such. Because demonstratives require noun class agreement, this means they must be used in conjunction with some noun. In practice this is cumbersome for simple sentences, so in some cases the proximal demonstrative can attach to the word for 'person' (*nemenöt*) - meaning it takes noun class I marking - which is then omitted:

en nökēm [nemenöt] em ekk.

ABS N.CL1-PROX.SG [person] PROG sleep

"He is sleeping" (lit. "this [person] is sleeping")

For third person pronouns not referring to persons (e.g. where English would use "it"), noun class V is used by default in the same way: *ökēm* etc.

Where possible, Tundra Chionian speakers tend to prefer pro drop in context to the (especially repeated) use of the demonstratives as pronouns. If there is a switch in case marking of the dropped third person 'pronoun', the new case marker may stand in for the implied pronoun.

4.3 Adverbial usage

The adverbial series of deixis ("here, there") is the same as the demonstratives, except they come in the adverbial clause slot (see 1.6.2) and naturally do not take noun case agreement. Note that this allows in Tundra Chionian to distinguish "there (sg.)" from

“there (pl.)”, which usually has distributive type implications: one specific spot or one specific individual going to a place vs multiple places or agents.

5. Predication

5.1 Predicate nominals (equatives)

Predicate nominals (ie, sentences of the structure “X is Y” where both are regular nouns or pronouns) are formed in Tundra Chionian using a restricted range of copular forms, which interact with tense and aspect:

Tense/aspect	Particle
PST	kū
PRES.GEN	ö
PRES.TEMP	mö
FUT	tö

As you can see above, there is only one past tense form of the copula, covering all past uses. There are two distinct present tense copulae; the first (glossed PRES.GEN) is used for equatives that are (assumed to be) enduring, characteristic, or general, whereas the second (glossed PRES.TEMP) is used for equatives that are incidental, temporary, or accidental/nonvolitional. Note that the future copula is the same as the future tense particle for regular verbs, so that there is essentially a zero copula in the future tense.

The two nominal elements of the equative predicate clause are still marked obligatorily with the absolutive case marker.

For example:

en nöqai en ttö ö.

ABS shaman ABS polar.bear PRES.GEN.COP

“The shaman is (has the spirit identity of) a polar bear”

en nökēm nīm en nemit kū.

ABS N.CL1-PROX.SG girl ABS hunter PST.COP

“This girl was a hunter”

ena’ en natuk tö.

ABS-1SG ABS crafter FUT.COP

“I will be a craftsperson”

5.2 Predicate existentials

Existential predicate clauses are those with the structure “there is X”. In practice, these are usually combined with locative phrases. In Tundra Chionian, these kinds of sentence structures usually simply use a zero copula, leaving the tense/aspect information to context:

Nnu iūmen la iltī.

ABS.PL whale.PL OBL water

“There are whales in the water”

5.3 Predicate locatives

As already shown above, locative clauses make use of the oblique case marker:

en enūq la kupūn mö.

ABS owl OBL tree PRES.TEMP.COP

“The owl is (currently) in the tree”

The oblique marker is quite generic when used locatively. Its meaning can range from “on” to “in” or even “under”. However, used on its own (without adpositions) it is always stative, never indicating a direction of motion.

5.4 Predicate adjectives

This covers constructions of the type “X is Y” where X is a noun and Y an adjective. The system is much like the nominals, as Tundra Chionian treats adjectives in a very nounlike manner. In predicate constructions, unlike adnominal usage, adjectives do not agree with noun class. For example:

nnu atë eq ö

ABS.PL mountain white PRES.GEN.COP

“The mountains are white”

5.5 Predicate possession

This form of possession is of the form: “X has Y”. In Tundra Chionian, this construction essentially combines the properties of the existential and locative predicates. It omits the copula, like the existential, but uses the oblique in combination with the possessor pronoun, which is then fronted:

la a' nnu myök

OBL 1SG ABS.PL snowberry

“I have/had/will have snowberries”

(lit: on me there are snowberries)

Other forms of possession are detailed below.

6. Possession

6.1 Pronominal possession

Pronominal possession is treated like a modifier. Like regular modifiers, the possessive pronoun follows the possessed noun; unlike them, however, noun class agreement does not occur. The table of possessive pronominals is as follows:

Pronoun	Form
1SG	aik
2SG	nauik
1PL	inuk
2PL	nēnuk

By way of illustration:

en ipun inuk la ānai mö

ABS ship 1PL.POSS OBL lake COP.PRES.TEMP

"our canoe is in the lake"

Since Tundra Chionian does not have 'true' third person pronouns, their possessive forms are handled differently. For third person possessives, the demonstrative has to be combined with a relevant noun (which can just be *nemenöt*), and the possessive construction for nominal possession applied. This is detailed below.

6.2 Nominal (attributive) possession

Attributive possession between nouns, including proper nouns, takes the form of a 'connector' - a particle that connects possessor and possessee. These connectors take the noun class prefix of the possessed thing. There are two main types, which for the purposes of this grammar will be called 'inherent' and 'contingent', the latter being the most common.

The contingent connector indicates a possession relationship that is contingent, occasional, or less inherent; the inherent connector is used to suggest a culturally standardized or salient inherent connection between the possessed and possessor. The nature of the latter can vary, but often relates to substances or body parts. It should not be confused with alienability - the inherent connector fulfills rather a function similar to compounding or noun incorporation in other languages.

The order of the possessive construction is: possessor - connector - possessee.

Unadjusted for noun class, the base form of the contingent connector is *-l(u)* (**n^o*). The base form of the inherent connector is *-t* (**et*). This produces the following table of connector forms:

Noun class	Contingent connector	Inherent connector
I	nalu	nöt
II	al	at
III	il	it
IV	kylu	kyt
V	öl	öt
VI	telu	tēt
VII	ūl	ūt
VIII	mēlu	möt

NB: all the *-lu* forms have final stress.

The basic contingent construction can be illustrated as follows:

nnu nīm mēlu mēlīlinu em qūn

ABS.PL girl N.CL.VIII-CON.CTG dwarf.caribou-PL PROG eat

“the girl’s dwarf caribou are eating”

Note that the possessive construction is treated as a single NP, so that the case marker precedes the NP as a whole, not the possessee.

The contrast between contingent and inherent possession can be seen from this set of examples (leaving out any other marking or particles for clarity):

iūm al akum

whale N.CL.II-CON.CTG fat
“a whale’s fat”

iūm at akum

whale N.CL.II-CON.INH fat
“whale blubber”

7. Negation

7.1 Clausal negation

Clausal negation is achieved with the particle *mööt* (**murt*). This always follows the verb (complex).

7.2 Imperative negation

Negative imperatives (“do not ...!”) are preceded by the negative imperative marker *ūmu* instead of its positive variant *ō*.

ūmu qai!

IMP.NEG see
“don't look!”

Tundra Chionian Lexicon

Romanization

a - a: <ā> - ai - au - b~b* - e~ε** <e> - e: <ē> - ə <ë> - i - i: <ī> - k - k: <kk> - l - m - m: <mm> - n - n: <nn> - ɔ <o> - o: <ō> - ø <ö>*** - p - p:/pʳ <pp> - q - r - t - t:/tʳ <tt> - u - u: <ū> - y - ʔ <ʔ>

* canonically implosive, but dialectally a regular stop (in the southern Chionian dialects) or in local variation (northeastern Hyperborea).

** in free variation - usually /ε/ following a previous /e/

*** long ø: is written <öö>

Guide to usage

Nouns are given with the noun class prefix realization where applicable. Where lexical plurals exist, they are given directly after the singular entry. Nouns that do not take noun class marking are marked with an asterisk. Verbs are given in their stem form, as are other word classes. This means modifiers, determiners, and other agreeing word classes are presented 'as if' without prefix.

Lexicon

akum	'akum	*kom	<i>n.II</i>	fat
alētu	'alētu	*nʳatu	<i>n.II</i>	foot, paw, claw
altir-ō, -ūn	alti'ro:	*nʳoti:rau	<i>n.II</i>	great auk
anā'	a'na:ʔ	*qʳna:R	<i>n.II</i>	fire
atë	'atə	*ita	<i>n.II</i>	mountain
ānai	a:'nai	*qʳna:	<i>n.III</i>	lake
apën	'apən	*a:pan	<i>n.II</i>	mammal, animal
aq	aq	*e:kʳ	<i>v</i>	1. push 2. force, cause
aqi*, -ni	'aqi	*a:qi	<i>n.II</i>	eye
ekk	ekk	*e:nk	<i>v</i>	sleep
emenu-k, -n	'emenuk	*mnuk	<i>n.II</i>	"giant caribou"
enai	en'ai	*a:na:	<i>n.II</i>	Sun
enū-q, -n	e'nu:q	*nu:nq	<i>n.II</i>	(snowy) owl
eq	eq	*i:q	<i>adj</i>	white, bright, shining
ën*	ən	*ʔa:n	<i>n.II</i>	breath, vital force
iltī	il'ti:	*nʳoti:	<i>n.III</i>	water
immi	'immi	*i:mmi	<i>v</i>	snow (lightly)
in	in	*i:nt	<i>v</i>	stand (up)
ipël	'ipəl	*panʳq	<i>n.III</i>	"arctic curlew"

ipun	'ipun	*pon	<i>n.III</i>	canoe, ship
iūm, -en	i'u:m	*o:m	<i>n.III</i>	whale
kei	ke'i	*ikiʔi	<i>v</i>	stack, pile up, accumulate
kēm	ke:m	*ka:m	<i>dem</i>	PROX.SG
			<i>pron</i>	3.SG
kēmen	ke:men	*ka:mn	<i>dem</i>	PROX.PL
			<i>pron</i>	3.PL
kē	kə	*kUR	<i>adv</i>	very
			<i>det</i>	many, much
kēmai	kə'mai	*ka:mkʰa:	<i>adv</i>	now
kiēnai	kie:'nai	*ki-a:na:	<i>adv</i>	tomorrow, next day
kitu	ki'tu	*kitu	<i>v</i>	throw
kī	ki:	*ki:	<i>adp</i>	(together) with
			<i>conj</i>	and
knīm	kni:m	*kni:m	<i>v</i>	climb, ascend
kö'	køʔ	*kUR	<i>n.II</i>	herd
kti	kti	*ita	<i>n.IV</i>	hill
kupūn	ku'pu:n	*pu:n	<i>n.IV</i>	tree
kutök	ku'to:k	*to:k	<i>n.IV</i>	"glacier sedge"
kymenu	kyme'nu	*pʰno	<i>n.IV</i>	bog, marsh
kypir	ky'pir	*pirq	<i>n.IV</i>	land, rock, stone
latu	la'tu	*nʰatu	<i>adv</i>	down(ward)
lö	lø	*nʰo	<i>adp</i>	by means of
lö*, löni	løʔ	*nʰo:ʔ	<i>n.II</i>	hand
lynn	lyn:	*nʰunʰ	<i>v</i>	1. stay, remain 2. dwell, live in/at
mēn	me:n	*me:tn	<i>dem</i>	VIS.DIST.PL
mēt	me:t	*me:t	<i>dem</i>	VIS.DIST.SG
			<i>conj</i>	since, because (of)
mētu, -n	'me:tu	*e:tu	<i>n.VIII</i>	snow hare
mēlili, -nu	məli'li	*nʰinʰi	<i>n.VIII</i>	"dwarf caribou"
mēlköm	məl'køm	*nʰokam	<i>n.VIII</i>	soapstone
mi	mi	*apʰa	<i>adj</i>	large, big
miöq	mi'øq	*mioq	<i>v</i>	carry, bear
mit	mit	*amit	<i>v</i>	run
mönn	mønn	*enʰ	<i>n.VIII</i>	"arctic star"
mööt	mø:t	*murt	<i>part</i>	not, clausal NEG
mrī	mri:	*mori:	<i>n.VIII</i>	arctic (bumble)bee
mūn*	mu:n	*mu:nt	<i>n.II</i>	face
myök	my'øk	*ik	<i>n.VIII</i>	"snowberry"
napun	na'pun	*pon	<i>n.I</i>	(sea) hunter
naqi	na'qi	*aqqā	<i>n.I</i>	kin group, family

natuk	nat'uk	*natuk	<i>n.I</i>	artist, craftsman
nemen-öt, -töq	neme'høt	*mnat	<i>n.I</i>	human
nemit	ne'mit	*amit	<i>n.I</i>	(land) hunter
nikk	nik:	*nink	<i>adj</i>	fast
			<i>adv</i>	quick(ly), with haste
nin	nin	*nin	<i>num</i>	two
nī-m*, -q	ni:m	*ni:m	<i>n.I</i>	girl
nni	n ^ŋ i	*unni	<i>v</i>	say, speak
nōmm	no:mm	*naum ^ŋ	<i>n.I</i>	wind, wind spirit
nöq*	nøq	*nuq	<i>n.II</i>	head
			<i>adv</i>	up(ward)
nöqai	nø'qai	*naqa:	<i>n.I</i>	shaman, diviner
ōq*	o:q	*o:nq	<i>n.III</i>	fish (<i>gen.</i>)
önēn	'ønən	*nant	<i>n.V</i>	house, home, dwelling
öp	øp	*op	<i>n.V</i>	pot, cauldron
öqanā'	øqa'na:ʔ	*q ^ŋ na:R	<i>n.V</i>	heat
pa'	paʔ	*peR	<i>n.II</i>	chest
pen	pen	*pan	<i>v</i>	drink
pēkai	pə'kai	*paka:	<i>v</i>	fall
pini*, -nu	pi'ni	*pini	<i>n.VII</i>	"giant arctic wolf"
ppanin	p ^ŋ an'in	*p ^ŋ nin	<i>v</i>	rain
qai	qai	*qa:	<i>v</i>	see, look
qanēn	qa'ne:n	*k ^ŋ na:n	<i>v</i>	snow (heavily)
qanūm	qa'nu:m	*q ^ŋ na:Ro:m	<i>v</i>	1. burn 2. melt, boil down
qeri	qe'ri	*k ^ŋ eri	<i>v</i>	go, go away, leave
qi	qi	*oqa	<i>v</i>	kill, slaughter
qūn	qu:n	*qu:n	<i>v</i>	eat
rauqai	rau'qai	*irok ^ŋ a:	<i>adv</i>	then, in that case, at that time
r-ō*, -ūn	ro:	*rau	<i>n.IV</i>	bird
ru	ru	*iro	<i>dem</i>	INVIS.DIST.SG
run	run	*iron	<i>dem</i>	INVIS.DIST.PL
taqai	ta'qai	*teqa:	<i>n.VI</i>	divination, shamanic power
tepu	te'pu	*tepu	<i>v</i>	forgive, grant, allow
timu*	ti'mu	*temu	<i>n.II</i>	skin, hide, fur
tō	to:	*eto:	<i>v</i>	come to, arrive at
tyk	tyk	*tuk	<i>v</i>	1. carve, shape 2. create
tt-ō*, -ūn	t ^ŋ o:	*t ^ŋ au	<i>n.VII</i>	polar bear
um	um	*u:m	<i>num</i>	one
umai	u'mai	*o:ma:	<i>v</i>	make, do, produce
u-q, -ton	uq	*tuq	<i>n.VII</i>	arctic lynx

ūm	u:m	*ʔo:m	<i>adj</i>	whole, complete, total
			<i>det</i>	each, every, all
wëkum	wə'kum	*akum	<i>n.IV</i>	shrub, small coniferous tree (<i>also coll. n.</i>)
wi	wi	*kua	<i>v</i>	sled
yn	yn	*un	<i>part</i>	COND mood, if
yt	yt	*ut	<i>v</i>	swim

Tundra Chionian (*Önni öt Nementöq*)

Yn en nau en önën la kypir umai, yn en nau en kypir nnu apën akë kī nnu mrī mökë lö taqai qi mai tāq mööt.

En nau ökēmen lē apën kī lē mrī mai tāq.

Nnu nökömen tö qeri kī ki ömë önën ööm em tō nikk.

Nnu la kupūn at nöq tö teknīm kī mēt ki ik nau ka qai em telunn mēn.

Ūmu lynn.

Yn ki ik nau em qai, yn nnu tö teknīm latu rauqai.

If you build a house on the land, then you had better not have caused the land to kill many mammals and many bumblebees with shamanic power.

You might have caused these things (to happen) to the mammals and the bumblebees.

They will go away and quickly come to every big home.

They may climb to the tops of the trees and they may stay there because they saw you.

Do not stay.

Then if they see you, they may climb down.

Text 11

Sushi-Framelang

Patrick

Part 0: Sushi-Framelang Text

TEXT

Building up big piles, gotta say rancov dog, before expenses beget the pines.

Gotta and dativ beget evil.

Mother had to fix father had big evil trust.

Wever they delve westerly to gotar improv dog liver ages.

Remotive.

Deliver up ages, however they say.

IPA TRANSCRIPTION

/bu.il'diŋ up big pi'les, got'ta sa'y ran'tʃov dog, befo're eks.pen'ses be'get θe pi'nes

got'ta and da'tiv be'get e'vil

mo'θer had to fiks fa'θer had big e'vil trust

we'ver θe'y del've wes.ter'ly to go'tar im'prov dog li'ver a'ges

re'mo.ti,ve

de.li'ver up a'ges, ho.we'ver θe'y sa'y/

Part 1: Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Sushi-Framelang. Sushi-Framelang Electromotive LLC is pleased to share the latest and finest in conlang technologies with you. This document contains material previously published as supplementary material for the LangTime series of podcasts.

This document was produced with no errors. If you find any errors in your copy of the document, it is likely that they were introduced erroneously at some point during data transmission. Contact your local Internet Service Provider and ask them why they hate Sushi-Framelang.

Any similarities to other languages you may be familiar with are superficial and no doubt coincidental.

Part 2: Phonology

An IPA transcription of your received text has been provided with this document. However, there are some sound changes involved with certain affixes, so some more detail may be required.

CONSONANTS

	labial	dental	alveolar	postalveolar	velar	glottal
nasal	/m/		/n/		/ŋ/ <ng>	
stop	/p/ /b/		/t/ /d/		/k/ /g/	
affricate				/tʃ/ <c> /dʒ/ <j>	/ks/ <x>	
fricative	/f/ /v/	/θ/ <th> /ð/ <dh>	/s/ /z/		/x/ <kh> /ɣ/ <gh>	/h/
approximants	/w/		/l/ /ɹ/ <r>			

Ks is not a true affricate, phonologically speaking, but it is treated as a velar affricate by Sushi-FrameLang's phonotactics. There are other details about consonants, but they are not expected to come up during this translation exercise.

VOWELS

	front	central	back
high	/i/ /y/		/u/
mid	/e/		/o/
low		/a/	

There are no diphthongs or long vowels. Two adjacent vowels, even the same vowel twice, are pronounced as two syllables. In particular, this means that noun case infixes will go between two adjacent vowels, if they are the first two vowels in the word.

PHONOTACTICS

The phonotactics are important, as many noun affixes are infixes applied to the coda of the first syllable. Impermissible codas and consonant clusters result in sound changes or epenthetic vowels. Understanding these principles is thus of paramount importance to proper noun declension. Basic structure is (C)V(C), with certain onset and coda consonant clusters permitted.

Permissible onsets:

- /ŋ/ *ng* is not permitted in a syllable onset. All other single consonants are permitted.
- Stops, affricates, and fricatives can be followed by an approximant.
 - After an /h/, the approximant will be devoiced, as described earlier.
- /s/ can also be followed by /m/, /n/, or voiceless stops.

Permissible codas:

- /h/ is not permitted in a syllable coda. All other single consonants are permitted. Note that, technically, the digraphs *th*, *dh*, *kh*, and *gh* do not contain /h/, so the sounds represented by those digraphs are

allowed in a syllable coda.

- Nasals followed by a homorganic stop, affricate, or fricative are also allowed. Note that /h/ is not considered homorganic to any nasal.
- /s/ or /f/ followed by a voiceless stop or affricate, or /z/ or /v/ followed by a voiced stop or affricate.
- /s:/ ss and /z:/ zz are also permitted as codas, but only word-finally, and in words of more than two syllables. If a suffix is added, they become s and z and pronounced as such. In practice, these geminates are typically pronounced as short.

When affixes are added to various parts of words, nasals will assimilate to the place of articulation of the following stop, affricate, or fricative. For this purpose, the dental and postalveolar consonants are considered alveolar: a nasal preceding *c*, *j*, *th*, or *dh* will assimilate to *n*.

- Nasals won't assimilate to a following /h/, since there is no nasal sound homorganic to /h/.
- Nasals will also not assimilate to a following nasal.

Part 3: Basic Summary

Some basic principles of Sushi-Framelang:

Nouns:

- Nouns obligatorily inflect for case, but there are a number of optional derivational affixes for nouns.
- Noun number is typically indicated through numbers or adjectives, especially demonstratives, rather than affixes on the noun itself, although there are a few affixes that can indicate groups.

Verbs:

- Verbs obligatorily inflect for subject person and number, but there are a number of optional affixes for verbs as well. These have derivational meanings, and can also indicate voice or mood.
- Sushi-Framelang is predominantly VOS.

Adjectives and adverbs:

- Adverbs and adverbial particles typically come after the verb. Some adverbs may be moved before the verb for emphasis, especially ones derived from nouns.
- Adjectives typically follow the noun they modify. They do not typically inflect, though most demonstratives have varying forms agreeing with the number of the head noun.
- Many words with conjunctive functions are treated as adverbs, and are often found before the verb.

Part 4: Nouns

Nouns in Sushi-FrameLang consist of stems, to which various affixes are attached. Nouns are not obligatorily marked for number. A noun with no number marked can be interpreted as singular, plural, or as a mass noun. Nouns are obligatorily marked for case, however.

NOUN CASE INFIXES

Most cases are marked by infixes. The infix is placed after the first vowel of the stem, before the coda of that syllable (if one is present).

- If this would create a forbidden consonant cluster, the vowel is duplicated after the infix as an epenthetic vowel.
 - *ancet* "permission, allowance" > **anncet* (the **nnc* cluster is forbidden) > *anancet* (nominative case, see *-n-* infix below)
- Remember that sequences of two vowels are two syllables. If the first vowel of a stem is part of a two-vowel pattern, the infix will come between the two vowels.
 - *bool* "logic, reason" > *bonol* (nominative case, see *-n-* infix below)
- In single-syllable words, if the coda is already the same as the infix, the infix isn't added and no change is made.
 - *bag* "leaf (from a tree)" > *bag* (accusative case, see *-g-* infix below)
- In single-syllable words, if there is no coda, the infix is simply added to the end.
 - *ji* "end (of a path or course)" > *jil* "to/at the end" (locative case, see *-l-* infix below)

Many infixes are subject to assimilations or other sound changes, which will be described for each infix.

Nominative: *-n-*

This is used to mark the subject of a sentence.

- As mentioned before, nasals like *-n-* assimilate to following obstruents.
 - *epty* "familiarity, intimacy" > *empty* (nominative case)
- If a nasal would make an unacceptable consonant cluster, it still assimilates before the epenthetic vowel is added.
 - *theft* "fur, body hair" > **themft* (**mft* is forbidden) > *themeft*
- In single-syllable words, if the *-n-* assimilates to a following obstruent, that obstruent is dropped. The assimilation still takes place.
 - /*hug*/ *hug* "distance, separation" > /*hun*/ *hung*, not /**hung*/ **hungg*
 - /*tif*/ *tif* "cheek (of face)" > /*tim*/ *tim*, not /**timf*/ **timf*
- In single-syllable words, if the *-n-* doesn't assimilate - that is, if it remains an *n* - the obstruent is not dropped.
 - *srad* "word" > *srand*

Accusative: *-g-*

This is used to mark the object of a sentence. Since there are no permitted coda clusters that begin with *g* before another consonant, the *g* infix doesn't undergo much assimilation.

- Here are a few examples:
 - *hloga* "knee" > *hlogga*. The cluster *gg* can exist across a syllable boundary, so there is no need for an epenthetic vowel.
 - *tif* "cheek" > *tigif*
- In single-syllable words, if the coda is a *g*, *k*, or *x*, it is replaced with the *g* of the infix. (Of course, in the case of *g*, this amounts to no change at all.)
 - *log* "base, support" > *log*
 - *tux* "ceremony, rite" > *tug*
 - *vak* "voice" > *vag*

Genitive: *-st-*

This is used to mark possession, composition, parts-whole relationships, and other similar constructions. It is similar to the familiar preposition "of". It follows the noun it modifies, like an adjective.

- Some examples:
 - *hloga* "knee" > *hlostga* "of a knee"
 - *omi* "sound" > *ostmi* "of a sound"
- Since *-st-* is a consonant cluster in itself, nouns in the genitive often have epenthetic vowels.
 - *bix* "house" > *bistix* "of a house"
 - *rancet* "prohibition, prevention" > *ranastcet* "of a prohibition"
- In single-syllable words, if the coda is an *s* or *t*, it is replaced with the *st* of the infix.
 - *gus* "chicken" > *gust* "of a chicken"

Locative: *-l-*

This is used to mark a place or destination, where the action is happening or what the action is heading towards. It is similar to the common prepositions "at" or "to". Locative nouns are typically placed either after the object and subject, or with the verb like an adverb.

- Some examples:
 - *hloga* "knee" > *hlogla* "at/to a knee"
 - *taho* "lake" > *talho* "at/to a lake"
 - *rexda* "river" > *relexda* "at/to a river"

Adverbial: *-x-*

This is used to create adverbs, meaning something like "with/by X, in the manner of X, X-ly".

- Here are a few examples:
 - *coset* "complaint, whining" > *coxset* "with complaints, whiningly"
 - *hwynnet* "violence" > *hwyxynnet* "violently, with violence, in a violent manner"
 - *isom* "sorrow, emotional pain" > *ixsom* "with sorrow, sadly, sorrowfully"
 - *rexda* "river" > *rexexda* "by means of the river"
- In single-syllable words, if the coda is a *g*, *k*, *s*, *x*, or *z*, it is replaced with the *x* of the infix. (Of course, in the case of *x*, this amounts to no change at all.)
 - *trog* "hand" > *trox* "manually, by hand"
 - *tux* "ceremony, rite" > *tux* "ceremonially"
 - *vak* "voice" > *vax* "with the voice, vocally"

There are other affixes that can be applied to nouns. However, none of them are expected to come up during this translation exercise.

Part 5: Verbs

The infinite form of the verb ends in a vowel followed by -v, which is usually abbreviated as -Vv, with the capital V representing the varying vowel. Examples for each vowel:

- *runav* "to flee, escape, get away"
- *susrev* "to oppose, challenge"
- *potiv* "to sell, vend"
- *ancov* "to allow, permit"
- *dhegruv* "to dance"
- *eryv* "to be awake"

VERB INFLECTIONAL ENDINGS

Verbs are inflected to agree with the person and number of the subject. Mass nouns are treated as singular with regards to verb agreement. Most of the endings include the vowel from the infinitive, though some don't:

number	person	ending base form	<i>runav</i>	<i>susrev</i>	<i>potiv</i>	<i>ancov</i>	<i>dhegruv</i>	<i>eryv</i>
singular	1st	-(V)pi ¹	<i>rumpi</i> ⁴	<i>susrepi</i> ¹	<i>potpi</i>	<i>ancpi</i>	<i>dhegrupi</i> ¹	<i>erpi</i>
	2nd	-tV, -Vng ²	<i>runta</i>	<i>susreng</i> ²	<i>potti</i>	<i>ancto</i>	<i>dhegrung</i> ²	<i>erty</i>
	2nd.im p	-Vve	<i>runave</i>	<i>susreve</i>	<i>potive</i>	<i>ancove</i>	<i>dhegruve</i>	<i>eryve</i>
	3rd	-V	<i>runa</i>	<i>susre</i>	<i>poti</i>	<i>anco</i>	<i>dhegru</i>	<i>ery</i>
plural	1st	-Vmv ³	<i>runama</i> ³	<i>susremi</i> ³	<i>potimi</i> ³	<i>ancomu</i> ³	<i>dhegrumu</i> ³	<i>erymi</i>
	2nd	-tVs, -Vx ²	<i>runtas</i>	<i>susrex</i> ²	<i>pottis</i>	<i>anctos</i>	<i>dhegrux</i> ²	<i>ertys</i>
	2nd.im p	-Vves	<i>runaves</i>	<i>susreves</i>	<i>potives</i>	<i>ancoves</i>	<i>dhegruves</i>	<i>eryves</i>
	3rd	-Vr	<i>runar</i>	<i>susrer</i>	<i>potir</i>	<i>ancor</i>	<i>dhegrur</i>	<i>eryr</i>

Notes:

1. If the addition of the ending *-pi* would create an unallowed consonant cluster, the infinitive vowel is included epenthetically.
2. If the addition of the endings *-tV* or *-tVs* would create an unallowed consonant cluster, the alternative ending is used instead.
3. The second vowel in the 1st person plural ending is based on the infinitive vowel: if V is a front vowel, the second vowel is *i*. If V is a back vowel, the second vowel is *u*. If V is *a*, the second vowel is also *a*.
4. The rules of nasal assimilation always apply.

Imperatives, labeled in the table with "2nd.imp", are made by adding *-e* (in the singular) or *-es* (in the plural) to the bare infinitive.

VERBAL DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

- *bV-*: causation, to cause X, to cause the object to do X. This vowel in this prefix varies based on the next vowel in the word. It is the same height as that vowel, but with the opposite frontness. (*a* is considered to be its own opposite with regards to frontness.)

If the next vowel is...	Then the form of the prefix is...
<i>a</i>	<i>ba-</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>bo-</i>
<i>i</i> or <i>y</i>	<i>bu-</i>
<i>o</i>	<i>be-</i>
<i>u</i>	<i>bi-</i>

- *eryv* "to be awake" > *boeryv* "to cause to be awake, to wake (someone else) up"
- *forev* "to die" > *beforev* "to cause to die, to kill"
- *de-*: focused activity, making oneself keep doing something. The *e* is dropped before vowels.
 - *bokev* "to hear" > *debokev* "to listen to, to focus on hearing"
 - *eryv* "to be awake" > *deryv* "to keep oneself awake"
- *ho-*: implies downward motion. Also has various idiomatic or metaphorical meanings, which are not likely to arise during this translation exercise.
 - *dativ* "to push" > *hodativ* "to push down, knock over"
 - *fathev* "to arrive at, get to, come to" > *hofathev* "to come downwards to, to get down to"
- *re-*: negation, opposite meaning. The *e* is dropped before vowels. This prefix is sometimes used on nouns and adjectives also.
 - *eryv* "to be awake" > *reryv* "to be asleep, to sleep"
 - *potiv* "to sell, vend" > *repotivity* "to not be sold, to not be for sale"
 - *susrev* "to challenge, oppose, fight against" > *resusrev* "to give in, surrender, not put up a fight"

Part 6: Other Syntax

MODAL VERBS

There are a small number of modal verbs. One common example is *gotav* "to be able to, can". The associated verb comes after it, in the infinitive. Example:

- *Gotpi livev tagho*. "I can see a lake." (*gotpi* "I can", *livev* "to see", *tagho*, accusative of *taho*, "lake")

CONJOINING SENTENCES

Another common syntax for using multiple verbs in a sentence is the pronoun *do*, which means something like "this, that" in reference to the following clause. It almost always appears in the accusative, as *dog*. In this case, the subordinate clause is a whole phrase in itself, with an inflected verb. Some examples will hopefully make its usage clear:

- *Livpi dog erty*. "I see this: you are awake." or more colloquially, "I see you are awake." (*livpi*, "I see", *dog*, accusative of *do*, "next sentence or clause", *erty* "you (s) are awake".)
- *Rancopi dog mothe ranin*. "I prevent this: a guest leaves." or more colloquially, "I prevent a guest from leaving." (*rancopi*, "I prevent, disallow", *mothe* "he/she/it leaves", *ranin*, nominative of *rain*, "guest").

When used in a sentence with a subject noun, *dog* typically comes last, an exception to the usual VOS order.

- *Ranco ranin dog mothpi*. "A guest prevents this: I leave.", or more colloquially, "A guest prevents me from leaving." (*ranco*, "he/she/it prevents", *mothpi* "I leave")

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional statements, of the form "if X, then Y", are marked with adverbial particles. The first sentence, the condition, is marked with *up*, "if X", and the second is marked with *say*, "then, in that case, thus".

- *Livte up beget, ominove say*. "If you see an animal, then be silent." (*livte*, "you (s) see", *up* "if", *beget*, accusative of *bet*, "animal", *ominove* "you (s, imperative) be silent", *say* "then, in that case")

Part 7: Lexicon

aes	pronoun	you (second person singular)
ancov	verb	to allow, permit
and	adverbial	(past tense particle)
bet	noun	animal, creature, critter
bix	noun	house, dwelling
dativ	verb	to push
deve	noun	top, top part, upper part
do	pronoun	that, this (refers to next sentence)
efo	adjective	that (singular distal demonstrative)
epenses	noun	magic, supernatural power
evil	adjective	those (plural distal demonstrative)
fathev	verb	to arrive at, get to, to come
fiz	noun	speed, haste, quickness
forev	verb	to die
gotav	verb	to be able to, can
had	adverbial	(future tense particle)
ildiv	verb	to stand (of an edifice), be vertical, erect, built up
improv	verb	to keep doing something, to continue
livev	verb	to see, look at
mothev	verb	to leave, go away
motiv	verb	to stay, to remain
pies	noun	rock, stone
rancov	verb	to forbid, prevent, deny
runav	verb	to flee, escape, get away
say	adverbial	thus, in that case, then
they	adverbial	maybe, perhaps, possibly, might
to	conjunction	and then, subsequently
tru	pronoun	them (3rd person plural pronoun)
up	adverbial	if (conditional particle)
werly	noun	tree
wevev	verb	to climb

Text 12

Lu Izhél

Magpie

Torch

Se yimlu utaazh níchéíl ikás, se mizhiqálú bubólú eitúllú uqaala iji nísó ikáz.

Se uloubada uqaala.

Qaala miqutlhu miyaaweilu nó itaazh ijél.

Jél mizhíd chébálú níchéíl ikáqo sunálú use.

Chéní!

Jél suutlhu use, jél mizhíd chébálú nó yám.

Phonology

This section is mostly here to help with pronunciation when this is presented - a translator only needs to pay attention to the section on tone (and you could probably get by without even that).

Romanization

Here's a table. It's pretty much what you'd expect.

IPA	tʃ	dʒ	ʃ	ʒ	ɬ	j	y	ø
Romanization	ch	j	sh	zh	lh	y	ü	ö

If a letter is not in that table, it's pronounced as its IPA equivalent. Double vowels are long, double consonants are geminates. Accents mark high tone.

Tone

Underlyingly, Lu Izhél has three tones: high (á), low (à), and neutral (ā). On the surface, it has only two tones: high (á) and low (a). This grammar and the wordlist have underlying tone written, while the torch has surface tone written.

Going from underlying tone to surface tone is pretty simple. First, word-initial neutral tones become low. Then neutral tones copy the tone of the preceding vowel.

In practice, this means a prefix with high tone can turn tones in the root high, and a suffix with neutral tone will change between high and low depending on the root it's applied to.

Nouns

Almost every word in Lu Izhél is either a noun or a verb. There's a very small handful of particles, but otherwise, everything is just a noun or verb in disguise. This means that nouns sometimes do things you would not expect nouns to do!

The only marking nouns take is for case. Number is unmarked; whether a noun is singular or plural is assumed from context (though a number can be specified with a modifier if necessary).

Cases

A noun can generally be identified by case marking prefixes.

	Consonant-initial	Vowel-initial
Nominative	-	-
Accusative	ū-	q-
Genitive	ī-	y-
Locative	né-	nīq-/n-

The nominative and accusative mark the subject and direct object, as you would expect.

The genitive can mark possession, but is more generally used when a word is modifying another word, often behaving like an adjective. It's also used for the object of a relational.

The locative marks a location. It's mostly used in relational phrases (discussed in the syntax section). The standard vowel-initial form is **nīq-**, but many common relationals simplify this to **n-**, which is noted in the wordlist. It might be helpful to think of it as forming prepositions.

Verbs

A finite verb must take a tense marker, and usually that is the only marking it will have. Secondary verbs will usually take the irrealis or be nominalized in some way. Imperatives and prohibitives are an exception and do not take any tense marking.

Tense

There are three basic tense affixes: the past, the present, and the irrealis.

The present is a prefix. It takes the form **mī-** before consonants and **m-** before vowels.

The past and irrealis are both suffixes. The past takes the form **-dà** and the irrealis **-lū**. After a voiceless consonant, these become **-tā** and **-lhū**, respectively. If a root in the wordlist ends with a vowel in parentheses, that vowel appears before any suffixes.

Additionally, there is a compound future tense, which consists of both the present and the irrealis.

The Prohibitive

To form a prohibitive, or a negative imperative (telling someone not to do something), the prefix **ché-** is added. No tense marking is used, and the subject is usually left implicit.

Auxiliary Verb Constructions

There are actually two types of auxiliary verb in Lu Izhél with different syntax, but lucky for you only irrealis auxiliaries appear in this text! They're used for a lot of different purposes.

In an auxiliary verb construction, the auxiliary verb takes full tense marking. It is followed by the lexical verb, which is placed in the irrealis. The direct object follows the lexical verb, and takes the accusative as you would expect.

Multiple irrealis auxiliaries can be chained together, which results in the first verb in the sequence taking full tense marking and all following verbs taking the irrealis.

Syntax

The basic word order is SVO. Modifiers follow nouns.

Relational Phrases

Lu Izhél doesn't actually have adpositions, but it has relational phrases which fulfill the same purpose and could probably be analyzed as prepositional phrases.

A relational phrase consists of two parts: the relational and its object. The relational is marked in the locative case, and is usually a word for a body part, but can sometimes be a verblike root. This is followed by the object, which takes the genitive case.

Conjunctions

To conjoin two verb phrases, they can simply be placed directly next to each other, with no special marking. This can describe actions occurring one after another or simultaneously.

Conditionals

If you see two connected clauses where the first has a verb in the irrealis and the second has a fully inflected verb, that's probably a conditional! These take no marking other than the irrealis in the first clause. The irrealis clause is the condition under which the finite clause occurs.

Dictionary

ám - (n) foot; (rel) down, bottom, below (loc. **nám**)

būbó - (aux) to prevent an action

chéb(á) - (v) to climb

chēil - (n) head, top; (rel) on top of

ēitúl - (v) to kill

jī - (n) pile, heap; (n) many, much

jél - (n) that, those, it (non-human)

káqò - (n) tree; (n) wood, wooden

kás - (n) stone, rock

káz - (n) magic; (v) to become a mage

ní - (v) to sit, to be located, to stay in a place (temporarily)

ó - (v) to go; (rel) to, towards (loc. **nó**)

qāālà - (n) animal

qùt - (v) to leave, to exit; (aux) negative auxiliary

sē - (n) person, human; (n) nonspecific pronoun, one

sō - (v) to use; (rel) instrumental; using

sūná - (v) to watch

sūūt - (v) to see

tāāzh - (n) house, home, dwelling

ūlōūbà - (v) to push out, to remove (of a category of thing, not an individual)

yāāwēī - (v) to come, to arrive

yīm - (v) to build, to make, to create

zhíd - (v) to reach; (aux) possibility, maybe, the action might occur

zhīqá - (aux) ability, the subject is capable of carrying out the action

English

If you build a house on rocks, then you can prevent rocks magically killing many animals.

You pushed the animals away.

They will leave and soon arrive at their houses.

They may climb to the tops of the trees and continue to look at you.

Do not stay! If they see you, they may climb down.

Text 13

Kam Pirngu

Tethys

Kam Pirngu Torch

Kam pam kun rattun tarru-mang pingga ruk pindum, ngaur kir ti-waak kiwup ti-wanga ti-ram ngaur kattak rundi. Tam-mang pam ngii ka mbi attu ri kaa tak punnu tak attu ri ti-rattun tarru. Ti-ram pa attu ri ngganna tak pip, kun ndiwi nua mang. Kaa kindang! Kam pam kir uttak, kir attu ri purrat tang-gir.

Smooth English

If a house is built on stone, it could prevent lots of animals who use magic from being killed. An animal that is removed will leave and come back to the house. This animal will climb a tree and look for someone. Don't sit! If it sees you, it will descend.

Kam Pirngu Torch

Kam pam kun rattun tarru-mang pingga ruk pindum, ngaur kir ti-waak kiwup ti-wanga ti-ram ngaur kattak rundi. Tam-mang pam ngii ka mbi attu ri kaa tak punnu tak attu ri ti-rattun tarru. Ti-ram pa attu ri nnganna tak pip, kun ndiwi nua mang. Kaa kindang! Kam pam kir uttak, kir attu ri purrat tang-gir.

Phonology

Here is the Kam Pirngu phonemic inventory and romanization.

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	Voiceless	p - p	t - t		k - k
	Prenasalized	m̂b - mb	n̂d - nd		ŋ̂g - ngg
	Nasal	m - m	n - n		ŋ - ng
Approximant		(w - w)	r - r	(j - j)	

	Front	Back
High	i	u
Low	a	

Doubled consonants are geminates, and doubled vowels are long. Geminate /ŋ/ is spelled *nng*, which is not to be confused with the prenasalized velar stop /ŋg/ *ngg*. The letter *r* is generally a tap when single and a trill when double, but there's enough dialectal variation that you can really use any kind of voiced alveolar continuant.

Stress is always initial, except for the definite article *ti-*, which is never stressed.

Grammar

Kam Pirngu is an isolating, analytic, strongly head-initial language with ergativity and volition-based syntax. Zero derivation is a prominent feature of Kam Pirngu, and every content word can be used nominally, verbally, or adjectivally.

The ordering of a verb and its arguments is dependant on the volition the agent, if it is present. By default, a verb comes before its arguments, but if the agent acts with volition then it comes before the verb. Alternatively, the agent always comes before the verb, unless it lacks volition, in which case it follows the verb.

The majority of verbs require a patient (unmarked), a usually optional agent (ergative), and an optional recipient (unmarked). Verbs concerning sensations rather than actions require an experiencer (unmarked), and can take either a stimulus or agent (both ergative) as the source of the sensation, as well as an optional recipient (unmarked).

Nominals

The nominal class is probably the largest word class in Kam Pirngu, followed by the verbs, and contains the open subclasses of nouns and adjectival nominals, as well as the closed pronoun and deixis marker subclasses. Nominals all share the ability to act as the argument of a verb, the complement of a preposition, to take the ergative case marking, and to be marked for definiteness.

Case

One of the defining characteristics of nominals is that they can inflect for case, and agree in case with the head noun they modify. Nominals stay in the unmarked absolutive case when they are the patient, recipient, or experiencer of a verb, or the complement of a preposition. They take the ergative suffix *-(C)ak* when they are the agent or stimulus of a verb. This suffix lengthens a final consonant, and turns a final high vowel (*i* or *u*) into a glide (*j* or *w*).

Definiteness

Nouns and noun phrases in Kam Pirngu can be either definite or indefinite. Definiteness is marked with the proclitic *ti-*, which frequently triggers lenition of the initial consonant. It also pairs with the deixis markers to form demonstratives. A singular indefinite thing is marked with the enclitic *-mang*, which attaches to the end of a noun or noun phrase and triggers lenition or assimilation in final consonants. Mass nouns, which refer to what are conceived as substances rather than objects and items, do not take an article when indefinite.

Modifiers

Nominals can serve as modifiers to other nominals. These modifiers include standard nouns zero-derived as adjectives, nominals that almost exclusively fill an adjectival role, numerals, collective nouns, and special deixis marking particles.

As Kam Pirngu is strongly head-initial, a noun phrase always begins with the head noun, and is followed by modifiers. There is probably some hierarchy that determines the order of a series of modifiers, but I don't have the specifics of that yet, other than that deixis markers and the indefinite article go on the outside.

Deixis

Kam Pirngu has particles that distinguish three levels of spatial deixis: proximal *pa* (near the speaker), medial *ki* (near the listener), and distal *mbi* (far from either one). These act as adverbs and adjectives and follow what they modify. To fill the function of demonstratives, they simply follow a definite noun. These spatial deixis markers can also act as generic place nouns.

	Plain		Definite	
	Absolutive	Ergative	Absolutive	Ergative
Proximal	<i>pa</i>	<i>paak</i>	<i>ti-wa</i>	<i>ti-waak</i>
Medial	<i>ki</i>	<i>kiak</i>	<i>ti-wi</i>	<i>ti-wiak</i>
Distal	<i>mbi</i>	<i>mbiak</i>	<i>ti-mi</i>	<i>ti-miak</i>

When acting adjectivally, the deixis particles follow the noun they modify. Like other nominal modifiers, they agree in case with their head nominal.

Pronouns

Below is a table of Kam Pirngu personal pronouns. They cliticize when functioning as possessive pronouns, which is where the reflexive and reciprocal forms come from.

Singular	personal		reflexive		reciprocal	
	absolutive	ergative	absolutive	ergative	absolutive	ergative
1st person	<i>nda</i>	<i>ndaak</i>	<i>tan-na</i>	<i>tannau-naak</i>	<i>ina-na</i>	<i>inaau-naak</i>
2nd person	<i>ut</i>	<i>uttak</i>	<i>tan-nut</i>	<i>tannuk-kuttak</i>	<i>ina-ut</i>	<i>inaaw-wuttak</i>
3rd person	<i>kir</i>	<i>kirrak</i>	<i>tang-gir</i>	<i>tannuk-kirrak</i>	<i>ina-wir</i>	<i>inaak-kirrak</i>
Plural	personal		reflexive		reciprocal	
	absolutive	ergative	absolutive	ergative	absolutive	ergative
1st person	<i>ndara</i>	<i>ndaraak</i>	<i>tan-nara</i>	<i>tannau-naraak</i>	<i>ina-nara</i>	<i>inaau-naraak</i>
2nd person	<i>unda</i>	<i>undaak</i>	<i>tan-nunda</i>	<i>tannuk-kundaak</i>	<i>ina-unda</i>	<i>inaaw-wundaak</i>
3rd person	<i>kirra</i>	<i>kirraak</i>	<i>tang-girra</i>	<i>tannuk-kirraak</i>	<i>ina-wirra</i>	<i>inaak-kirraak</i>

Verbs

There are two broad classes of verbs in Kam Pirngu. The majority are agent/patient (A/P) verbs, where the agent (A) is ergative, and the patient (P) is absolutive. The agent can come before or after the verb, depending on its volition, but it is always before the patient. Verbs concerning emotions and sensations are experiencer/stimulus (E/ST) verbs, where the experiencer (E) is unmarked absolutive and the stimulus (ST) is ergative. The experiencer always follows the verb, and the stimulus always follows the experiencer.

The present tense uses the unmarked form of the verb.

The past tense is made by reduplicating the first syllable of the verb, which triggers some lenitions and/or assimilations.

The go-future expresses future events that are done with volition and intent. It is made with the auxiliary *attu* “to go”, and the lexical verb or verb phrase is nominalized with the definite article *ti-* and reintroduced as a dependant clause headed by the preposition *ri* “to”. When a transitive or ditransitive verb is used in the go-future, the argument with the most volition becomes the S of *attu*, and the remaining objects stay in the dependant clause with the verb. (There’s also a non-volitional future, but that doesn’t show up here.)

The imperative is used for commands, and is identical to the present indicative, except that the agent is omitted.

Prohibitives, or negative imperatives, use the verb *kaa* “leave” in front of that which is prohibited. Like positive imperatives, the agent is omitted.

The auxiliary verb *pam* “see” is used to form a passive voice that focuses the P argument of a transitive verb and defocuses the A argument. The lexical verb follows *pam*, and the A argument disappears.

The antipassive voice uses the auxiliary verb *kun* “do, make”, which takes a transitive agent/patient verb as a modifier, gets rid of the patient, and promotes the agent to the subject of the newly formed compound intransitive verb.

Prepositions

Kam Pirngu has a set of words which primarily function as prepositions indicating spatial, temporal, or semantic relationships and roles, and some also see use as conjunctions. These prepositions are mainly derived from body part nouns and motion or posture verbs.

Syntax

Like other modifiers, relative clauses follow the noun or noun phrase they modify. They are not explicitly marked with complementizers or relative pronouns, and the shared noun is gapped in the relative clause without a resumptive pronoun. Relative clauses are also used in deverbal adjective constructions, where the adjective is a stative verb in a relative clause. Relative clauses can be distinguished from nominal modifiers in two ways. Firstly, they don’t agree in case because they’re acting as verbs instead of nouns, and secondly they come after the indefinite article *-mang*.

Verbs like *ngaur* “know” and *pam* “see” can have the stimulus role filled by a standard noun phrase or a dependent clause. By default, the stimulus is marked ergative, which is no issue for a noun phrase. Kam Pirngu, however, doesn’t permit full clauses to have an ergative marking, so the stimulus role is commonly filled by the proximal demonstrative in the ergative (*ti-waak*), which then takes the content clause as a subject complement in a null copula construction.

Kam Pirngu lacks dedicated coordinators, and typically joins elements by placing them next to each other without overt marking.

The preposition *tak* “with” can be used like English “and” to join non-contrasting elements. Because the implicit unmarked coordination also has a default cumulative meaning, *tak* is never required, but can be helpful for disambiguation. It also implies a sense of connection and togetherness that the unmarked coordination lacks.

The verb *kam* “say, speak, tell”, which is found in the name of the language, is used as a subordinating conjunction. It introduces clauses that are equivalent to English “if” sentences.

Lexicon

The following lexicon is a list of all existing relevant Kam Pirngu words, their pronunciation, the reconstructed Proto-KP form, their part (or parts) of speech, and their English translation.

Stems are listed with all relevant forms in bold. Verbal stems have the reduplicated form, and nominal stems have the definite, indefinite, and ergative forms.

Abbreviations used in this lexicon are:

<i>a.</i>	agent
<i>art.</i>	article
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>deix.</i>	deixis marker
<i>e.</i>	experiencer
<i>n.</i>	nominal
<i>p.</i>	patient
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>ptcl.</i>	particle
<i>r.</i>	recipient
<i>st.</i>	stimulus
<i>v.</i>	verb

attu, akkattu, tj-attu, attu-mang, attwak [attu] *haktu - *n.* trip, journey, *v.* (a)/(r)/p. to go, to send, *the GO-future auxiliary*

ka [ka] *ka - *prep.* from, *shortened from kaa* “to leave”

kaa, kakkaa, ti-waa [ka:] *kah - *v.* (a)/(r)/p. to leave, *prohibitive*

kam, kanngam, ti-wam, kam-mang, kammak [kam] *gam - *n.* mouth, language, speech, *v.* (a)/(r)/p. to speak, say, tell, *conj.* if

kat, ti-wat, kar-mang, kattak [tam] *tam - *n.* body, person, animal, *reflexive marker*

kat rundi - *n.* magic, spells, *lit.* “hidden words”

kindang, kinggindang, ti-windang, kindam-mang, kindanngak [kindaŋ] *gintaŋ - *n.* ass, buttocks, seat, *v.* (a)/(r)/p. to sit, place, set

kir, kirrak, -wir [kir] *kir - *3rd person singular pronoun*

kiwup, kiwiwup, ti-wiwup, kiwuu-mang, ming-giwup, kiwuppak [kiwup] *kigup - *n.* stillness, *v.* (a)/(r)/p. to be calm, still, silent, to be stuck, to stop, fasten, to be dead, to be smooth, free of waves

kun, kunggun, ti-wun, kum-mang [kun] *kun - *n.* an act, something that is done, *v.* a/(r)/p. do, make, *auxiliary for the causitive and antipassive*

mang, mamang, ti-mang, mam-mang, manngak [maŋ] *maŋ - *art. singular indefinite, n.* one, sole, lone, *v. p.* to be alone

mbi, ti-mi [m̂bi] *mbi - *deix.* yon, *distal marker*

ndiwi, ndiniwi, ti-niwi, niwi-mang, min-niwi, ndiwjak [ndiwi] *ndibi - *n.* eye, *v. a/p.* to see, look at, *see also pam*, *v. p.* to play **ndiwi**

ngaur, ngangaur, ti-ngaur, ngaur-mang, ngaurrak [ŋaur] *ŋahur - *n.* knowledge, *v. e/(st).* to know

ngganna, nggannanna, ti-nganna, ngganna-mang, ming-nganna, nggannaak [ŋganna] *ŋgannda -
n. a climb, a mast, a tower, v. (a)/(r)/p. to climb, mount, ascend

ngii, ngiingii, ti-ngii, ngii-mang, ngijak [ŋi:] *ŋih - v. a/(r)/p. to drive, push, compel to move

nua [nua, nw] *nuha - *prep.* for

pa, ti-wa [pa] *pa - *deix.* here, *proximal marker*

pam, pambam, ti-wam [pam] *pamb - n. look, v. e/(st). to see, v. (a)/(r)/p. to show, *passive auxiliary*

panga, pawanga, ti-wanga, panga-mang, pangaak [paŋa] *paŋa - n. death, v. (a)/(r)/p. to die, to kill

pindum, pimbindum, ti-windum, pindum-mang, mim-bindum, pindummak [pĩndum] *pĩntum - n.
rock, stone

pingga, pimbingga, ti-wingga, pingga-mang, mim-bingga, pinggaak [piŋga] *bidga - n. cover, canopy,
shade, shadow, top, v. a/(r)/p. to cover, hide, to protect, close, to be tall (*in the antipassive*)

pip, ti-wip, piu-mang, pippak [pip] *pip - n. tree

punnu, pummunnu/pumbunnu, ti-wunnu, punnu-mang, punnwak [punnu] *bunnu - v. (a)/(r)/p. to
spin, rotate, turn

purrat, pupurrat, ti-wurrat, purrar-mang, purrattak [purrat] *pudrad - n. fall v. (a)/(r)/p. to drop, to
fall, to let go, to release

rattun, raurattun, ti-rattun, rattum-mang, rattunnak [rattun] *raptun - n. shell, shield, v. a/p. to
protect with a shield

rattun tarru - n. house, *lit.* "rest shell"

ri [ri] *ri - *prep.* to, *dative marker*

ruk, ti-ruk, ruu-mang, rukkak [ruk] *rug - n. earth, ground, land, v. (a)/(r)/p. to land

rundi, rundundi, ti-rundi, rundi-mang, rundjak [ruĩdi] *runti - n. hiding space, v. (a)/(r)/p. to hide

tak, tattak, ti-rak, tau-mang, takkak [tak] *tag - *prep.* with, against, *conj.* and, n. side, flank, v. p. to
flank, to be near, *can take a prepositional complement using ri*

tam, ti-ram, tam-mang, tammak [tam] *tam - n. body, person, animal, *reflexive marker*

ut, uttak, -ut [ut] *hut - *pron.* you, thou, *2nd person singular pronoun*

Text 14

Epaluese

Sicilanguageist

Epaluese Torch

Öth kailafi fötän'i guvizmen'e, lä k'ité ai t'e gaiygú dour-n'inaw k'ité säme ai. Veve, s'ütn'í s'ibn'é, öthro ipär fit'ivil'é. Su viven'i, aitho gaifn'é, t'ewro bul'üpi ai. Säme rosöl'é! Lä täw bulozömn'í, s'í ai.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Epaluese language was developed by me, partly with my brother, for speakers of an area that closely resembles the Mediterranean coastal area.

2 PHONOLOGY

Here is the Epaluese phonemic inventory and romanisation. Characters and digraphs in bold are used if the romanisation is different from the IPA symbols.

		Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar	Uvular
Stops	plain	p / b	t / d		k / g	
	palatlsd.		ʈ t' / ɖ d'		ɕ k' / ɟ g'	
Fricat.	plain	f / β v	θ th , s / z		x kh	ʁ gh
	palatlsd.		ɕ s' / ʒ z'		ɕ kh'	
Approx.	plain	(w w)	r, l			
	palatlsd.		ɾ r' , l l'	j y		
Nasals	plain	m	n			
	palatlsd.		ɲ n'			

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɤ ü	u
Mid	e	ə ö	o
Low	æ ä	ɛ a	ɔ ö

Diphthongs: [ɔɤ] **ou**, [æɪ] **ai**, [ɛɤ] **au**, [əɪ] **öi**

The language has free stress placement between the ultimate and penultimate syllable.

STRESS ROMANISATION: The stress is not written (1) if a word ends with a heavy syllable and the stress is on the last syllable and (2) if a word ends with a light syllable and the stress is on the penultimate syllable. If these two conditions are unmet, the stress is romanised with an acute accent.

2.1 PHONOLOGICAL ALTERNATIONS (PLEASE READ THIS SECTION)

Epaluese displays extensive vowel (and sometimes palatalisation) alternations which, unfortunately, are not yet well described in my documentation, and their study and description would need more than 48 hours to complete. I promise they are the result of regular sound changes; these alternations are not random!

As a rule of thumb, remember that if stress moves it will probably change vowels around a bit. Also, some suffixes change the previous vowel.

If a form is too unrecognisable from its vocabulary entry form, it will be listed in the vocabulary section. The declension tables should also help. There should be enough information in this document for this not to be a problem, but if you have any questions, please contact me on Discord! (@teangacha)

3 GRAMMAR

Epaluese is a synthetic, mostly agglutinative, head-final language, which tends to be more fusional in some aspects (see [Phonological alternations](#)).

The word order is strictly SOV (with auxiliaries usually being placed after the lexical verb).

3.1 NOUNS

Epaluese nouns inflect for number (singular, plural, sometimes dual) and case (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, locative, ablative).

The plural of non-human nouns is highly irregular and unpredictable. It derives from an old reduplication pattern that is now opaque. Since there are no human nouns in the text, the way human plurals work will not be shown here.

As a note, the dative, aside from its traditional role, might have a directional meaning (“to, towards”).

The following are tables to help you navigate the rough waters of noun declension in Epaluese. I recommend using these as an indication for vowel alternations and how the cases are reified differently with different forms.

<i>kailo</i> “rock”	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>kailo</i>	<i>kekhelou</i>
Accusative	<i>kailōvo</i>	<i>kekhelouw</i>
Genitive	<i>kailōve</i>	<i>kekhelouw</i>
Dative	<i>kailōro</i>	<i>kekhelour</i>
Locative	<i>kailan’i</i>	<i>kekheloun</i>

Ablative	<i>kailön'í</i>	<i>kekhelöin'e</i>
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<i>sanmö</i> "frog"	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>sanmö</i>	<i>söznam</i>
Accusative	<i>sönmaŵ</i>	<i>söznamo</i>
Genitive	<i>sönmaŵ</i>	<i>sözname</i>
Dative	<i>sönmar</i>	<i>söznamro</i>
Locative	<i>sönmän</i>	<i>söznamn'í</i>
Ablative	<i>sönmän'e</i>	<i>söznemn'í</i>

3.2 PERSONAL PRONOUNS

The following are tables of the declension of personal pronouns in Epaluese. Personal pronouns display dual forms. Pronouns in brackets are unstressed.

First Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	<i>pä (pe)</i>	<i>pi</i>	<i>pät</i>
Accusative	<i>päw</i>	<i>pivo</i>	<i>päto</i>
Genitive	<i>päw</i>	<i>pive</i>	<i>päte</i>
Dative	<i>pär</i>	<i>piro</i>	<i>pätro</i>
Locative	<i>pen</i>	<i>pin'í</i>	<i>pät'n'í</i>
Ablative	<i>pen'e</i>	<i>pin'í</i>	<i>petn'í</i>

Second Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	<i>tä</i>	<i>t'i</i>	<i>tät</i>
Accusative	<i>täw</i>	<i>t'ivo</i>	<i>täto</i>
Genitive	<i>täw</i>	<i>t'ive</i>	<i>täte</i>

Dative	<i>tär</i>	<i>t'iro</i>	<i>tätro</i>
Locative	<i>t'en</i>	<i>t'in'i</i>	<i>tät'n'i</i>
Ablative	<i>t'en'e</i>	<i>t'in'í</i>	<i>tetn'í</i>

Third Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nominative	<i>lä (la)</i>	<i>lai</i>	<i>lalö (lal)</i>
Accusative	<i>läw</i>	<i>laivo</i>	<i>lölavo</i>
Genitive	<i>läw</i>	<i>laive</i>	<i>lölave</i>
Dative	<i>lä'r</i>	<i>lairo</i>	<i>lölaro</i>
Locative	<i>lain</i>	<i>lain'i</i>	<i>lölän'i</i>
Ablative	<i>lain'e</i>	<i>lain'í</i>	<i>lolen'í</i>

3.3 DEMONSTRATIVES

There are three types of demonstratives in Epaluese. A proximal demonstrative, a medial demonstrative and a distal demonstrative, which can have both pronominal and modifier function. The proximal demonstrative is *so* (from *su); the medial demonstrative is *s'öt* (from *su-ti); the distal demonstrative is *soe* (from *su-he).

Demonstrative pronouns in the locative, dative or ablative case can have an adverbial function (i.e., they can be translated into English as *here* and *there*).

3.4 ADJECTIVES

Adjectives (and modifiers in general) are really easy. They do not inflect at all. They can be used predicatively or attributively.

Ok, the easy stuff is done. Let's talk verbs!

3.5 VERBS

Apart from the verb *ai*, which is the copula, all finite verbs forms are composed of two parts (except for the positive imperative). The two parts usually are:

1. the lexical verb, which is non-finite and can be
 - a. the perfective converb,
 - b. the imperfective converb,
 - c. the locative converb declined in the dative,
 - d. or the bare dictionary form (which is the same as the imperative);
2. the auxiliary verb, which is either the copula *ai* for the present tense or the auxiliary *ku* for the past.

The following table shows the meanings of some lexical verb – auxiliary verb combinations, and also other combinations. For how the converbs are formed, see [Converbs](#).

	Perfective Converb	Imperfective Converb	Locative Converb in the Dative	Bare Form
<i>ai</i>	Recent Past	Present	Present Desiderative (“to want”)	Present Subjunctive
<i>ku</i>	Perfect (Perfective Past)	Imperfect (Imperfective Past)	Past Desiderative	Past Subjunctive
<i>vu</i> (“to go”)	/	/	Future	/

3.5.1 Passive

The passive is just *-vi-*. It can be stressed but only in the bare (subjunctive) form.

3.5.2 Imperative

The imperative is formed through the bare form of the verb.

The negative imperative (the “prohibitive”) is formed using the verb *säme* (“to prevent”) + the imperfective converb.

3.5.3 Non-Finite Verb Forms

3.5.3.1 Converbs

Converbs are also used for “adverbial subordination”. Adverbial subordination refers to the grammatical relationship in which a subordinate (or dependent) clause functions as an adverb, modifying a main clause.

Converbs may cause vowel alternations, but these forms are always listed in the dictionary, ensuring you can easily identify the converb forms of any given verb.

3.5.3.1.1 Imperfective converb

This is probably the most common verb form. It can be formed through either the suffix *-y* or *-(l')é*. Its base meaning is “while, at the time when”, but can also be used with the meaning of “because”.

3.5.3.1.2 Perfective Converb

It can be formed through either the suffix *-n'é* or *-l'i*. Its base meaning is “after”, but can also be used with the meaning of “because”, or even “and”.

3.5.3.1.3 Conditional Converb

It can be formed through either the suffix *-zmen'e* or *-zömn'i*. Its base meaning is “if”.

3.5.3.1.4 Locative Converb

This converb actually has three forms: locative-locative (“where X happens”), dative-locative (“towards where X happens”) and ablative-locative (“from where X happens”), but you only need the dative-locative and it will be provided in the dictionary.

Bare in mind that the dative-locative can be governed (i.e., required) by some verbs. This will also be listed in the dictionary.

3.5.3.2 Verbal Noun

The verbal noun is formed through the suffix *-pi*. It can be used to express obligation (“must, have to”); the person who must do something is in the locative in these constructions.

4 DICTIONARY

For nouns and pronouns, the nominative singular, accusative singular, ablative singular, nominative plural and ablative plural will be provided.

For verbs, the bare form, the imperfective converb, the perfective converb, the dative-locative converb and the bare passive will be provided.

ai [ˈæi] *he: (“to live”) (v.) {oo} to be (copula); {oo} present auxiliary; {oo} to want (used with dative-locative converb)

aith, aitho, aithn’í, aythi, öythen’e [ˈæiθ] *ha:ti (n.) {oo} tree

bulu, bulul’é, bulun’é, buluparo, buluví [ˈbu.lu] *bo:lu: (n.) {oo} to see

dour, douro, dourn’í [ˈdɔʊr] *do:ra (n.) {oo} fog, mist

dour-n’inö [ˌdɔʊr.ni.nə] (n.) {oo} magic

fatö, fötavo, fötän’í, föwtö, föwtain’e [ˈfɛ.tə] *fat:a: (n.) {oo} earth, land, soil

fit’í, fit’il’é, fit’in’é, fit’iparo, fit’iví [ˈfi.ti] *fe:ti: (v. tr.) {oo} to push; to compel (*to do* = dative-locative converb)

gaiḡ, gaiḡl’é, gaiḡn’é, gaiḡparö, gaiḡv’í [ˈgæiḡ] *ge:po (v. tr.) {oo} to climb

gaiyḡú, gaiyḡú, gaiyḡ’ün’e, gaiyḡhogu, gaiyḡhug’ün’í [gæj’gu] *gaiy* (“to die”) + *-gu* (result noun suffix) (n.) {oo} death

go, goy, gul’í, gupär, guv’í [ˈgo] *gu (v. tr.) {oo} to do, to make

k’et, k’ité, k’itn’é, k’itparö, k’itv’í [ˈkjet] *k:it:u (v. tr.) {oo} to know

kailafi [kæi.ˈle.fi] *ke:lɔ:pi: (adj.) {oo} rocky, full of rocks

n’inö, n’inaw, n’inän’e, nen’än, nen’inn’í [ˈni.nə] from the passive participle of *yöy* “to say” (n.) {oo} word

öth, ötho, öthn’í, awthu, äthön’e [ˈvθ] *hatu (n.) {oo} house

rösö, rosöl’é, rosön’é, rosöparö, rosöv’í [ˈrɔ.sə] *rus:a: (v. intr.) {oo} to sit

s’eb, s’ibl’é, s’ibn’é, s’ibparö, s’ibv’í [ˈsieb] *s:ib:o (v. intr.) {oo} to leave

s’í, s’iy, s’in’í, s’ipär, s’iv’í [ˈsi] *si: (v. intr.) {oo} to fall

s’öt, s’öto, s’ütn’í [ˈso] *su (det.) {oo} this/that, medial demonstrative

säme, semel’é, semen’é, semeparö, semev’í [ˈsæ.me] *seme: (v. tr.) {oo} to stop, to block; to prevent (person prevented in the accusative; *from doing* = imperfective converb); {oo} don’t (prohibitive auxiliary)

so, su, sön’e [ˈso] *su (det.) {oo} this, proximal demonstrative

t’e [tʰe] from a contraction of *t’íwl’é*, imperfective converb of *t’íw* “to give” (n.) {oo} that (*complementizer*)

t’ew, t’ebbo, t’íwn’í [ˈtʰiw] *tibo (num.) {oo} one, 1

veve, vivävo, vivin’í, vivvait, vivvaitn’í [ˈβe.βe] *wibe: (n.) {oo} person

ye, iy, il’í, ipär, yiv’í [ˈje] *ji (v. intr.) {oo} to come (non-finite stem *i-*)

Text 15

Ts'íts'àsh

David

LANGTUME STUDIO MINI PELAY

TS'ÍTS'ÀSH TEXT (ORTHOGRAPHIC)

Ḷ'áttis Ḷfâ'sh shá r pàká dôr, pff̀tò ts' shàt'árù'sh pfùkh ùkh, bùs. Êt'ò ts' sôss áddú
rì Ḷfâ fi rái. Fsh ùsh pàkh fù, êt'ò fâbê'sh bê ì bìrá kòkò. Òf ùkhó! Bê'sh khû ì bìrá
dôr, bê'sh sùrá báì!

TS'ÍTS'ÀSH TEXT (ROMANIZED)

K'áttis Ḷfâ'sh shá r pàká dôr, pff̀tò ts' shàt'árù'sh pfùkh ùkh, bùs. Êt'ò ts' sôss áddú
rì Ḷfâ fi rái. Fsh ùsh pàkh fù, êt'ò fâbê'sh bê ì bìrá kòkò. Òf ùkhó! Bê'sh khû ì bìrá
dôr, bê'sh sùrá báì!

PHONOLOGY NOTES

The romanization is identical to IPA save for standard replacements (e.g. <f> for [ɸ] and <sh> for [ʃ]). A consonant followed by an apostrophe is an ejective (e.g. <k'>, <t'>, or <ts'>), but the apostrophe is also used for common contractions. The only one that occurs in this text is the contraction of *ùsh* to *-'sh* when it follows a word ending in a vowel. Ts'íts'àsh is a tonal language and uses accent marks to indicate tone (specifically an acute accent <á> for high tone, a grave accent <à> for low tone, and a circumflex <â> accent for falling tone).

GRAMMAR NOTES

Ts'íts'àsh is a head-final, almost exclusively isolating language. Relevant word orders are as follows:

SOV
ADJ-N
N-DET
N-POST
ADV-V

Ts'íts'àsh is *not* a pro-drop language. If you should encounter a sentence without a subject, it indicates one of the following:

1. The sentence can be understood to have a generic interpretation. This means the subject will be “one”, as in the sentence, “One should expect to find a cat in the pantry.”
2. The subject of the sentence carries over from a previous clause. Here is an example with an underscore where the subject should be: I walked to the store and _ bought a bag of cookies.
3. The subject of the sentence is introduced in a succeeding clause. Here is an example with an underscore where the subject should be: _ Having walked to the store I bought a bag of cookies.

Only two verb forms are used in this text: the imperfect (the basic form of the verb), and the conditional (co-occurs with an -á suffix in one form or another).

The imperfect form of the verb can be understood as a progressive (e.g. “I am speaking Ts’íts’ásh”) or in the kind of bare narrative/instructive tense (e.g. “I speak Ts’íts’ásh”). In some sentences one understanding will make sense while in some the other will.

The conditional tense is either required by certain postpositive particles or is used to express wishes (“I hope I’ll see you”), predictions (“I may see you”), or subjunctive/subordinative actions (“...that I see you”).

In general, nouns occur with postpositions which describe their grammatical function in the sentence. Pay close attention to the definitions of these postpositions to understand what precisely a sentence is saying.

Finally, there are a number of particles that occur after the final verb of a sentence which add information or coordinate two sentences, describing the relationship the two share. Again, the definitions of these particles will help to make their usage in each sentence clear.

If you have any questions, contact me via Discord and I’ll try to respond as quickly as I can.

LEXICON

áddú, áddfá (vi.) to leave

bái (part.) emphatic particle used sentence-finally with warnings

bái, bírá (v.) to see (the subject [the one who sees] is followed by *ùsh*, while the object [the one seen] is followed by *ì*)

bê (pron.) he, she, it (third person singular personal pronoun)

bùs, bùsá (v.) to know

dfâ (n.) house

dôr (part.) if (occurs *after* the final verb of the sentence in the construction *x dôr y*, where *y* occurs *if x* occurs; requires the preceding verb to be in the **conditional**)

êt'ò (n.) person, being

fâbê (det.) this (**proximal**; follows the noun it modifies)

fî (post.) to, toward, into (**allative/illative**)

fsh (n.) tree

fù (part.) after, following (occurs after a full clause in the construction *x fù y*, where *y* occurs *after x*)

ì (post.) to (**dative**)

k'áttis (adj.) rocky

kòkò (part.) must, to have to (occurs *after* the final verb of the sentence; requires the preceding verb to be in the **conditional**)

òf, òfá (vi.) to sit

pák', pàká (vt.) to build

pàkh, pàkhá (v.) to climb

pfftò (n.) death

pfùkh, pfùkhá (vt.) to stop, to prevent, to put a stop to

r (post.) in, on, at, near, around (**locative**)

ràì, rìrá (vi.) to come, to arrive

ri (cc.) and, and then, and next

shá (n.) dirt, earth

shàt'árù (n.) fog

-*'sh* (post.) contracted form of *ùsh* (used after a word that ends in a vowel)

sôss (adv.) from there, from that place (**distal ablative**)

sûr, sùrá (vi.) to fall (the subject [the one who falls] is followed by *ùsh*)

ts' (post.) **ergative**

ùkh (part.) negative particle (occurs sentence-finally)

ùkhó (part.) negative **imperative** particle (occurs sentence-finally)

ùsh (post.) **absolutive** (used after a word that ends in a consonant)

GLOSSARY

ablative: The ablative case co-occurs with a nominal argument that is moved away from (e.g. if one leaves a concert, the concert is in the ablative case).

absolutive: The absolutive case co-occurs with the nominal argument that is *most directly affected* by the action of the verb. This is the object of a transitive verb, but also, often, the sole argument of an intransitive verb.

allative: The allative case co-occurs with a nominal argument that is moved toward (e.g. if one goes *to* a concert, the concert is in the allative case).

conditional: The conditional is used when the action of the verb is something that may occur, or which one would like to occur.

dative: The dative case co-occurs with an indirect object (e.g. if a girl gives a fish a flower, the fish is in the dative case).

distal: Referring to a place far from the speaker (in an expression like “here and there”, this refers to “there”).

ergative: The ergative case co-occurs with the nominal argument that initiates the action of the verb. Where one argument both initiates *and* is affected by

the action of the verb (e.g. walking, jumping, etc.), the ergative takes precedence over the **absolutive**.

illative: The illative case co-occurs with a nominal argument that is moved into (e.g. if one goes *into* a building, the building is in the illative case).

imperative: Another term for a command.

locative: The locative case suggests a static location that makes the most sense given the type of noun and the action of the sentence (e.g. *in* a house, *on* the floor, *in* the lake, etc.).

proximal: Referring to a place near to the speaker (in an expression like “here and there”, this refers to “here”).

ABBREVIATIONS

adj. = adjective

adv. = adverb

cc. = coordinating conjunction

det. = determiner

n. = noun

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LANGTUME STUDIO MINI PELAY

EPALUESE TEXT

Öth kailafi fötän'i guvizmen'e, lä k'ité ai t'e gaiygú dour-n'inaw k'ité säme ai.
 Veve, s'ütn'í s'ibn'é, öthro ipär fit'ivil'é. Su viven'i, aitho gaifn'é, t'ewro bul'üpí ai.
 Säme rosöl'é! Lä täw bulozömn'í, s'i ai.

LITERAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF EPALUESE TEXT

House rocky earth make-stop/don't, it know is that death fog-word know stop/
 prevent is. Person, this leave, to-house come do/compel. This person, tree climb,
 to-one see is. Stop sit! It you see-stop/don't, fall is.

SMOOTH ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF EPALUESE TEXT

If one is building a rocky house in the earth, one knows that death does not
 prevent the fog-word. A person, after leaving here, comes to the house. This
 person must, after climbing a tree, see one. Don't sit! If it sees you, it will fall.

TS'ÍTS'ÀSH TEXT (ORTHOGRAPHIC)

Öth kailafi fötän'i guvizmen'e, lä k'ité ai t'e gaiygú dour-n'inaw k'ité säme ai.
 Veve, s'ütn'í s'ibn'é, öthro ipär fit'ivil'é. Su viven'i, aitho gaifn'é, t'ewro bul'üpí ai.
 Säme rosöl'é! Lä täw bulozömn'í, s'i ai.

TS'ÍTS'ÀSH TEXT (ROMANIZED)

K'áttis dfâ'sh shá r pàká dôr, pffto ts' shàt'árù'sh pfùkh ùkh, bús. Êt'ò ts' sôss áddú
 rì dfâ fi rái. Fsh ùsh pàkh fù, êt'ò fàbê'sh bê ì bìrá kòkò. Òf ùkhó! Bê'sh khù ì bìrá
 dôr, bê'sh sùrá báì!

SMOOTH ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF TS'ÍTS'ÀSH TEXT

If one is building a rocky house in the earth, death does not prevent the fog, one knows. A person leaves there and comes to the house. After climbing a tree, this person must see it. Don't sit down! If it sees you, it will fall down!

PHONOLOGY NOTES

The romanization is identical to IPA save for standard replacements (e.g. <f> for [ɸ] and <sh> for [ʃ]). A consonant followed by an apostrophe is an ejective (e.g. <k'>, <t'>, or <ts'>), but the apostrophe is also used for common contractions. The only one that occurs in this text is the contraction of *ùsh* to *-sh* when it follows a word ending in a vowel. Ts'íts'àsh is a tonal language and uses accent marks to indicate tone (specifically an acute accent <á> for high tone, a grave accent <à> for low tone, and a circumflex <â> accent for falling tone).

GRAMMAR NOTES

Ts'íts'àsh is a head-final, almost exclusively isolating language. Relevant word orders are as follows:

SOV

ADJ-N

N-DET

N-POST

ADV-V

Ts'íts'àsh is *not* a pro-drop language. If you should encounter a sentence without a subject, it indicates one of the following:

1. The sentence can be understood to have a generic interpretation. This means the subject will be “one”, as in the sentence, “One should expect to find a cat in the pantry.”
2. The subject of the sentence carries over from a previous clause. Here is an example with an underscore where the subject should be: I walked to the store and _ bought a bag of cookies.

3. The subject of the sentence is introduced in a succeeding clause. Here is an example with an underscore where the subject should be: _ Having walked to the store I bought a bag of cookies.

Only two verb forms are used in this text: the imperfect (the basic form of the verb), and the conditional (co-occurs with an *-á* suffix in one form or another).

The imperfect form of the verb can be understood as a progressive (e.g. “I am speaking Ts’íts’àsh”) or in the kind of bare narrative/instructive tense (e.g. “I speak Ts’íts’àsh”). In some sentences one understanding will make sense while in some the other will.

The conditional tense is either required by certain postpositive particles or is used to express wishes (“I hope I’ll see you”), predictions (“I may see you”), or subjunctive/subordinative actions (“...that I see you”).

In general, nouns occur with postpositions which describe their grammatical function in the sentence. Pay close attention to the definitions of these postpositions to understand what precisely a sentence is saying.

Finally, there are a number of particles that occur after the final verb of a sentence which add information or coordinate two sentences, describing the relationship the two share. Again, the definitions of these particles will help to make their usage in each sentence clear.

If you have any questions, contact me via Discord and I’ll try to respond as quickly as I can.

LEXICON

áddú, áddfá (vi.) to leave

bái (part.) emphatic particle used sentence-finally with warnings

bái, bírá (v.) to see (the subject [the one who sees] is followed by *ùsh*, while the object [the one seen] is followed by *ì*)

bê (pron.) he, she, it (third person singular personal pronoun)

bùs, bùsá (v.) to know

dfâ (n.) house

dôr (part.) if (occurs *after* the final verb of the sentence in the construction *x dôr y*, where *y* occurs *if* *x* occurs; requires the preceding verb to be in the **conditional**)

êt'ò (n.) person, being

fâbê (det.) this (**proximal**; follows the noun it modifies)

fî (post.) to, toward, into (**allative/illative**)

fsh (n.) tree

fù (part.) after, following (occurs after a full clause in the construction *x fù y*, where *y* occurs *after* *x*)

ì (post.) to (**dative**)

k'áttis (adj.) rocky

kòkò (part.) must, to have to (occurs *after* the final verb of the sentence; requires the preceding verb to be in the **conditional**)

òf, òfá (vi.) to sit

pák', pàkà (vt.) to build

pàkh, pàkhá (v.) to climb

pfftò (n.) death

pfùkh, pfùkhá (vt.) to stop, to prevent, to put a stop to

r (post.) in, on, at, near, around (**locative**)

ràì, rirá (vi.) to come, to arrive

ri (cc.) and, and then, and next

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Text 16

Iberian Auxlang

Bubba

I chose my Iberian Auxlang, which I am now, maybe, reviving. I did not understand Woku enough to use my sister-lang of it. Hope you enjoy and find it easy.

Interiberic:

Una casa de pedra construïda en la terra, si la nebra para, la morto no sabe.

Una persona saë i vei a la casa.

Un'ábroë vei, seguindo persona i ten que ser vista pola persona.

¡No senta-se! ¡Si no ser-lo pola persona, lo caërá y será la persona.

Orthography:

The letters are mostly IPA equivalent. The following are the: <r> = /r/, <rr> = /R/, and after <g> or <q>, <u> is silent. Acute accents mark stress and the double-dots mark hiatus. The apostrophe <'> marks that thing in French where it goes "j'amour" (Conjunction?)

Vocabulary:

1. ábroë (n.) tree
2. caër (v.) to fall
3. casa (n.) house
4. construïda (v.) built
5. de – of
6. lo/la – definite article m./f., 3rd Person Pronouns
7. en – on
8. i – and
9. morto (n.) Death, Grim Reaper
10. nebra (n.) fog, mist, tension
11. no – no
12. parar (v.) to stop, to halt
13. pedra (n.) rock
14. persona (n.) a person, an individual
15. por – by, for, in order to
16. que - that
17. saber (v.) to know
18. salir (v.) to leave
19. ser (v.) to be
20. sentar-se (v.) to sit oneself
21. seguindo (v.) following

- 22. si – if
- 23. tener (v.) to have
- 24. terra (n.) Earth, ground, dirt
- 25. una – definite article f.
- 26. ver (v.) to see
- 27. vista (n.) sight

Grammar:

The sentence structure is identical to Spanish and other Iberian Romance Languages. Some words are conjuncted together such as “por” + “la” become “pola”.

The following tables are very conjugation tables, I will give you the proper tense to be generous.

Caër		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Caëré	Caërémos
2 nd	Caërás	Caëréis
3 rd	Caërá	Caërán

Parar		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Paro	Paramos
2 nd	Paras	Paráis
3 rd	Para	Paran

Saber		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Sé	Sabemos

2 nd	Sabes	Sabéis
3 rd	Sabe	Saben

Salir		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Salo	Salimos
2 nd	Sales	Salís
3 rd	Saë	Salen

Ser		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Seré	Seremos
2 nd	Serás	Sereïs
3 rd	Será	Serán

Sentar-se		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Sento-me	Sentamos-nos
2 nd	Sentas-te	Sentáis-os
3 rd	Senta-se	Sentan-se

Tener		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Teño	Tenemos

2 nd	Tenes	Tendes
3 rd	Ten	Tenen

Ver		
Present	Sing.	Plu.
1 st	Vejo	Vemos
2 nd	Ves	Vedes
3 rd	Veï	Ven

Text 17

Vuochanad

Jessie

Teavyok alèmiotha taidhomit tedhuo. Zhiwozhin vuola, tenegien Ikrè. Muhen chanat wo naisen taidhomidaña. Naisen wodh othin riet tèjanat. Tegatnaisen tèjanat. Daneyome! Zhine'ikshin riet ojanat, azbun. Wo'zbun chanadam!

=====

[te.'a.vjok a.lə.'mio.θa 'tai.ðo.mit te.'ðuo]

[zi.'wo.ʒin 'vuo.la te.ne.'gien 'ik.rə]

[mu.hen 'tʃa.nat wo 'nai.sen 'tai.ðo.mi.da.ɲa]

[nai.sen woð 'o.θin 'riet tə.'dʒa.nat] [te.'gat.nai.sen tə.'dʒa.nat]

[da.ne.'jo.me]

[zi.ne.'ik.ʃin 'riet o.'dʒa.nat az.'bun] [woz.'bun 'tʃa.na.dam]

=====

There is a house of rocks built on the ground. If the fog melts away, Death doesn't know it. A person leaves and sees the house. A tree sees and follows the person. The person, it watches. Don't let the tree sit! If the tree is not near the person, it falls and so does the person!