

Kasa Tai “Language of the Kasa”

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The language is spoken by speakers in around 9 villages each of about 120 people. Each village has a chief “Mimu” and there are 2 medicine women “Taa Paφin” in each village except for 1 which has 3 and another which has 5 which is by far the largest with 193 people. These individuals are believed to be the only ones who can do magic. Sustenance is based on Taro “Φoko” most commonly baked “Apan” or in the form of porridge “Φei” but supplementary fishing from local lakes are seen in 2 villages and along the river in another. The Ttiriku Singing Dog is used for hunting and also eaten but it is forbidden to eat the ones of the chiefs and medicine women. Belief in a separate class of spirits or gods known as “Ema or Nema the latter of which are apparently based on animal or elemental totems” who can intercede in human affairs is seen. This brief lexicon is written at the beginning of the Ttiriku Metal Age during which iron “Jonoo” is beginning to appear.

Example Ema or Nema

“Uφon” “father above”

*kaka “talking spirit”

“Sekim” “spirit of winds”

“Kakan” “a dog Nema”

*p *t *k

*φ *s

*w *j

*m *n

Allophony

An *o is pronounced *u finally and before or after nasals and before liquids

*p and *φ are *pc and *φç before *i

*k palatises to *j after high vowels

In fast speech intervocalic glides are often elided and intervocalic stops and nasals lenite to approximants and nasalised glides respectively but this is rare in careful speech

Syllable structure is maximally CVN where N is any nasal.

Sentences

kan si niakaen piφi tei

dog DEM.ANI.1 tongue-CONS lick binturong

“The dog licks the binturong with his tongue”

kaka jano φi nono kanen ku mi

outsider bring ABL massive dog-CONS COM 3.sg.f

“The foreigner brings a massive dog with her”

Modified nouns took a simple construct.

poa kamtuen

red pot-CONS

“The red pot”

And reduplication formed a past tense on verbs.

om kokoa no

1.sg PST-find DEM.INA.1

“I had found it”

Other than that there was no inflection

Numerals

*so “one”

*tu “two”

*ɸam “three”

*tei “four”

*soon “five”

Demonstratives

Inanimate

*no “1”

*ti “2”

*nono “3”

Animative

*si “1”

*ka “2”

*sasū “3”

Prepositions

*po “DAT”

*ni “LAT/DAT”

*ɸi “ABL”

*a “LOC”

*oo “INST”

*ku “COM”

*na “Essive”

Aspect Markers

*φæ “IMPF”

*se “Perfect”

Lexicon

*aa “to avoid”

*ai “stick”

*ai “procession”

*am “hat”

*amin “marten”

*amo “otter”

*an “sun/day”

*apa “blood”

*apan “to be baked”

*apapa “to flow”

*apo “to have sex”

*asa “carp”

*asajan “to fish”

*ato “to crown”

*awa “bat”

*e “to look”

*ean “spear”

*ekon “wood”

*ema “spirit”

*eφieφi “to splash”

*ewi “to see”

*i “to wonder”

*ii “tree”

*ii “lake”

*iiikani “ttiriku forest leopard”

*iiikon “ttiriku giant dog”

*iinin “anaconda”

*ipo “to cut”

*iφi “sacrifice”

*iφoe “to howl”

*iφon “to burn”

*iso “rat”

*ita “sacred bundles”

*iwe “to cover”

*iwi “skin”

*iwin “bone”

*jeji “ice”
*jenϕin “to give”
*jiin “night”
*jimp̄ii “to take”
*jojan “cold”
*jonoo “iron”

*kamtu “pot”
*kan “(t̄tiriku singing) dog”
*kaϕasa “friend”
*kasa “ethnonym”
*kasaϕa “penis”
*kaso “to be cute”
*katon “star”
*kawa “fur”
*kei “pet”
*ken “to be loyal”
*kon “companion”
*kii “to bite”
*kikii “to smell”
*ko “ghost”
*koe “to sing”
*koko “axe”
*kokon “wolf”
*kosa “she dog”
*kosean “to hunt”

*mem “mother”
*men “to fart”
*meϕim “village”
*meϕu “bee”
*mimo “chief”
*mipe “nectar”
*moko “to fell”
*mon “water”
*mon “pig”
*mona “danger”

*na “to follow”
*naa “to precede”
*napo “earth”
*naja “idol”
*naja “luck”

*nan “sacred place”
*nana “rock”
*nata “fox”
*ne “to stink”
*nea “sister”
*nee “to sink”
*nema “animal spirit”
*neφo “to shape/mold/warp”
*neφoi “clay”
*newi “fish”
*niaka “tongue”
*nii “sacred”
*niφin “awl”
*niwo “to guide”
*nio “garden”
*nisui “tʰiriku giant dog”
*niwin “fire”
*no “bear”
*noe “spirit world”
*noe “to watch”
*nono “to be massive”

*paφin “woman”
*pei “breast”
*pei “to render”
*peipei “to melt”
*pepo “secretion”
*peφo “honey”
*peo “to crack”
*pipesiwi “belly/stomach”
*piφi “to lick”
*poa “snake”
*poa “red”
*poko “fat”
*poso “bird”

*φan “bark”
*φawei “to piss”
*φe “to arrive”
*φee “juice”
*φei “poi/taro porridge”
*φewe “to go”
*φi “2.sg”
*φia “2.pl”

*ɸim “egg”
*ɸim “milk”
*ɸiɸi “frog”
*ɸiɸo “poison fish”
*ɸo “to scout”
*ɸoko “taro”
*ɸokon “trunk”
*ɸoɸon “hoe”

*oa “to twist”
*oam “penis sheath”
*oi “lightning”
*oii “snake”
*oko “eye”
*om “moon”
*om “1.sg”
*oma “1.pl”
*on “wonder”
*ona “bushfire”
*oo “to kick”
*oto “obsidian”
*owa “night”

*taa “divine power”
*tai “voice/language”
*tai “to sit”
*tain “to display”
*tanka “to talk”
*taɸa “to enchant”
*tasa “drinking vessel”
*tata “father”
*tei “binturong”
*tei “to whistle”
*tein “sky”
*teko “to invite”
*tim “mouth”
*tetein “giant binturong”
*to “to converse”
*toe “to bless”
*toija “path”
*ton “berry”
*too “land”
*toon “lemur”
*toso “child”

*tota "to command"

*totan "grandfather"

*toto "virile"

*toto "end"

*toton "buttock"

*saa "ritual"

*san "sun"

*sataa "ceremony"

*sonoo "grandmother"

*soo "to slap"

*woomo "fruit"

*wosan "stone"