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Phonology

All the phonemes

Consonants

IPA	Typical orthographic representation (alternate spelling if you're restricted to ASCII)
p	р
b	b
f	f
V	v
t	t
m	m
d	d
S	s
Z	z
1	r
I	I
4	s (lh)
В	ż (lz)
n	n
t {t}	t (th)
n {d}	d (dh)

k	k
g	g
x	h (kh)
γ	ġ (gh)
ŋ	n (ng)
ħ	ĥ (hh)
h	h

Voiceless obstruents can be geminated after a short vowel.

Vowels

Short	Long	Orthography (+ semivowel form)
a~æ	ä:	а
е	ε:	е
i	i:	i (j)
Λ~Υ	0:	0
w∼i	u: ~ u :	u (w)
i	y:	y (ỳ)

Diphthongs use the long form of the dominant vowel.

Phonotactics

- one of:
 - a consonant
 - o a plosive or fricative plus /ɹ/, /l/, or (depending on voicing) /ɬ/ or /ʦ/
 - /m/
 - o nothing at all, if at the start of the word
- , plus one of:
 - o a short or long vowel plus a voiced non-nasal continuant
 - o a long vowel plus any voiced obstruent
 - a long vowel plus a silent voiceless obstruent that does not geminate the onset of the following syllable
 - o a long vowel plus a nasal

- a short vowel with any consonant, including one that geminates the onset of the following syllable
- a diphthong

Allphony

- obstruent1<+voiced> / obstruent1<-voiced> / obstruent2<-voiced>
- obstruent1<-voiced> / obstruent1<-voiced +aspirated> / obstruent2<-voiced>
- obstruent1<-voiced> / obstruent1<+voiced> / obstruent2<+voiced> _
- vowel<+long> obstruent1<-voiced> obstruent1<+voiced> / vowel<-long> obstruent1<-voiced +geminate>
- vowel<+long> nasal / vowel<+long +nasal>; e. g. /sä:n/ as [sã:]
- obstruent<-voiced> / Ø / vowel<+long>; e. g. /to:sku/ is pronounced [to:kw]
- 4| / 4:

Stress

Stress usually occurs on one of the last three syllables¹. To decide which syllable receives the stress, use the following rules:

- Long vowels or diphthongs are preferred, in the order penultimate \rightarrow antepenultimate \rightarrow ultimate.
- Any other syllable is preferred, in the same order.

There are some exceptions that are orthographically marked.

Orthography

Refer to the tables in "Phonology" for basics.

Long vowels are usually notated using circumflexes: kûtun / ku:twn/

Long vowels forced to be unstressed are notated with macra: kūtun /ku: 'twn/

Short vowels forced to be stressed with acutes: haké /haˈke/

Grammar

Grouping vowels

Vowels are grouped into two parts: always-unrounded and rounded-when-long.

In the U group: $\mathbf{a} \rightarrow \mathbf{e} \rightarrow \mathbf{i}$

In the R group: $o \rightarrow u \rightarrow y$

The arrows show the ascension hierarchy. <i> and <y> direct to themselves.

¹ In rare cases, inflections can cause stress to fall before the antepenultimate syllable. For example, *nebewgalu* (lava) has its stress on the antepenultimate syllable, but with the appositive suffix *-vek*, it becomes *nebewgaluvek* with stress on the fourth-to-last syllable.

Only the dominant vowel is mutated in a diphthong (e. g. <aw> directs to <ew>). Also, <ej> and <je> direct to <î>. <uỳ> and <ýu> direct to <ŷ>. <ow> and <wo> direct to <û>.

Nouns

Exactly what you think.

Number

Nouns are given in the singular form by default.

The plural form is derived by replacing the stressed vowel with the next vowel in the ascension hierarchy. For example, the plural of *nâki* is *nêki*.

The dual form of a noun in ergative case is derived by appending a *-t* at the end (without any stress change). If the nucleus of the last syllable is a diphthong, it decays into a long vowel. For example, the plural of *nâki* is *nâkit*.

A noun with dual number but without absolutive case is declined as if it were plural.

Case

Nouns are given in the absolutive case by default.

Ergative case is derived by appending -s (after short) or -z (after long), while keeping stress on the original syllable. For example, the ergative form of resa is resas. For words ending in -s or -z, -ti or -di is appended and stress is shifted one syllable forward. For consonant-final words, -si or -zi is appended and stress is shifted one syllable forward.

Genitive case is derived by appending -*l* and shifting the stress one syllable forward (also appending -*i* afterwards if the stress is already at the last syllable or the word ends with a consonant). For example, the genitive form of *nâki* is *nākil*. Exception: words ending in -*ew*, -*ej*, -*eŷ*, or -*ê*, the ending is simply -*êl*.

Alternatively, for common cases, it can form a compound word with the noun it modifies, without further inflection.

Adverbial case is formed by appending -r and shifting the stress one syllable forward.

Exception: words ending in -ew, -ei, -eý, or -ê, the ending is simply -êr.

Locative or temporal case is derived by appending *-ma* and shifting the stress one syllable forward. For example, the locative form of *nâki* is *nākima*.

Directional case is derived by appending *-me* and shifting the stress one syllable forward. (also can mean "until")

Causal or final case (e. g. book \rightarrow because of a book, went for the book) is derived by appending *-kane* and shifting the stress to the penultimate syllable.

Final causal case (e. g. book \rightarrow went **for the book**, pieces \rightarrow broken **into pieces**) can be distinguished, if necessary, by using the particle $\dot{t}a$ after the noun.

Benefactive case (e. g. you \rightarrow on behalf of you) is derived by appending *-sane* and shifting the stress to the penultimate syllable.

Comitative case is derived by appending *-nylu* and shifting the stress to the penultimate syllable.

Instrumental case is derived by appending *-rul* and shifting the stress one syllable forward.

Coaspects

Occur before case but after number.

- -tu additional (also A, even A)
- $-(k, g, \dot{h}, \dot{g}, \dot{n})a$ exclusive (only A)
- -do superlative (the most A)
- -tsek completive (entirety of A)

Misc.

Diminutive: prefix *ki*-Augmentative: prefix *to*-Excessive: prefix *dû*-Demonstrative prefixes:

- *hana-* this
- rina- that
- dana- yonder
- *hê* other

Appositive suffix (appears on the base word, not the clarification; e. g. on A in "A, a B, Cs", and keep stress where it was): -vek

Emphatic: -hraw

Verbs

Infinitive forms end in an unstressed -ek.

Finite forms of a verb use the following format:

[Relation]-[Direction]-STEM-P-[A]-[[DislocatedP]-CAUS]-[Evidentiality]-[Sense]-Aspect*-[Tense] Infinitive forms use the following format:

[Relation]-[Direction]-Aspect*-STEM-ek

The ending is changed to account for the person / number of the patient, and optionally the agent. Consider *zanek* (to move).

Person \ Number of P	SG	DU	PL
1	zana	zanat	zena
2	zanu	zanut	zenu
3 anm	zanel	zaneś	zenel
3 inanm	zane	zanes	zene
indefinite	zano		

relative	zanaha	
relative	zanoba	

And an additional optional suffix for A:

Person \ Number of A	SG	DU	PL
1	-(t)o	-(t)ot	-(t)u
2	-(t)oso	-(t)osot	-(t)uso
3	-(t)a	-(t)at	-(t)e
relative	-(t)eba		
reflexive	-(t)ame		

And optionally, for a causative, the dislocated patient and a causative suffix -du. e. g. £z takika leneta (I have happiness / I am happy) \rightarrow Tanek lena-takikaduta (To go would give me happiness / make me happy)

And an optional evidentiality suffix:

- *haka* by direct evidence
- *hana* by hearsay
- *hame* inferential
- *hala* by hope
- *hale* by imagination
- *hapa* by allegation

And an optional sensory suffix:

- -ġa sight
- -gy sound
- -be smell
- -bi taste
- -raj touch

And zero or more aspect suffixes:

- (unspecified if none)
- -mo habitual
- -ke progressive
- -he gnomic
- -sit iterative
- sal frequentative
- -nas tendency (≠ gnomic)
- -su momentane
- -dû excessive

- -hu probably
- -fe epistemic possibility (maybe)
- -ge situational possibility
- -van epistemic necessity
- -gan situational necessity
- -da try to
- *ha* be able to
- *-ne* again
- -ki a little
- -kla defective (almost)
- -tśek completive
- *-tro* imperative or hortative (*-troki* is just a recommendation)
- -ma inceptive, inchoative (start)
- -de / -du (depending on vowel group of previous syllable) cessative (stop)
- -kju continuative (continue)
- -pa intentional
- -ży unintentional
- -vluỳ hypothetical (if)
- *-to* conditional (would)
- -sej willingly (formal)
- -krej unwillingly (formal)
- -hraw emphatic
- -tsalu no use
- -nelu doesn't matter
- -tu additional (also A, even A)
- $-(k, g, \dot{h}, \dot{g}, \dot{n})a$ exclusive (only A)
- -do superlative (the most A)
- -niho apparent (seems)
- *-bûr* by deservation (formal)
- -kebûr not by deservation (formal)
- *-vir* sometimes (formal)
- -tsak despite-(formal)
- -fsu the actual state (formal)
- -*n*e reciprocal
- -żir temporary
- -vlo manage to
- -pah antipassive (mostly literary)

And an optional tense suffix:

- (unspecified if present)
- -ra if past
- -rus if immediate past (just did)
- -tys if immediate future (about to)

• -ta if future (less commonly used)

And an optional relational prefix (particularly in formal registers):

- *nê-* inside
- *kun-* outside
- mu- to the side of
- *kej* around
- saj- on top of

And (after) an optional directional prefix (also formal):

- sun- to a lower place
- lak- to a higher place
- ren- inwards, towards
- sak- outwards, away from
- *len-* with oneself

And (after) $\dot{g}\dot{z}o$ - (if present) turns the verb into an applicative that compares A to P

The infinitive may be used as a noun. In any form other than the nondual ergative or causal, it receives an -e before any suffixes. (The causal of an infinitive has the *k* doubled.) The causative of an infinitive drops the final -*k* and includes the (optional) dislocated patient followed by -dek.

Verbs are negated by using the particle *kêl* before the verb.

Conjunctions

Having two nouns in the same case, or two verbs, means that the two are conjoined with an implicit (parallel) "and".

In addition, there exist the infix particles *ka* and *gy* (inclusive and exclusive or, respectively), and *ruk* (sequential and, or "and then").

The "and" and the "or" particles have the same precedence as each other, and are evaluated right to left. Explicit grouping is possible using $re \dots zo$.

- e.g.
 - A B ka C = A and (B or C)
 - C ka A B = (A and B) or C
 - (A or B) and (C or D) = re A ka B zo C ka D

Numerals

Base 12. Not always necessary to inflect for genitive.

#	Cardinal	Ordinal (both adj and adv forms)	1/n
0	nâ	n/a	n/a
1	sel	troma	(sel)
2	mon	iramu	saga
3	tak	takru	takkul
4	len	lenru	lenkul
5	bê	bêru	bêkul
6	fû	fûru	fûkul
7	żat	żatru	żatkul
8	ko	koru	kokul
9	rej	rejru	rejkul
10	gym	gymru	gymkul
11	ĥуk	hykru	hykkul
12	vôn	vônru	vôṅkul / bżarit
13	vônsel		võnselkul
14	vômon		
15	vônṫak		
16	vôlen		
17	vônbe		
18	vônfu		
19	vônżat		
20	vôńko		
21	vôre		
22	vôṅgym		
23	vônhyk		

24	monvôn		
144	sanu	sanru	kaslo
1728	pôre	pôru	navam
12 ⁴	rakir	rakiru	rakirlo
12 ⁵	fegi	fegiru	fegilo
12 ⁶	ĥada	hadaru	ћаdalo
12 ¹²	vaza	vazaru	vazalo

Non-distributive numerals

Formed by suffixing -kô (and shifting stress to the last syllable).

e. g.

Takkô tego linetat zaneśra.

three-NONDISTRIBUTIVE box\PL-ABS hold\PL-3-ERG=3ANM-DU move-3-DU-PAST

The two carried three boxes between them.

Multiplicative

Formed by suffixing -fsal (no stress shift)

Kajnes vônlenfsal atúl kajne keme.

height twelve-four-MULTIPLICATIVE person-GEN height-ABS equal-3

It is sixteen times as tall as a human.

Derivations

Input	Output	Description	Method
Verb	Verb	Opposite – e. g. learn → forget	prefix slu-
Verb	Verb	Repeat – e. g. learn → relearn	prefix hela-
Verb	Noun	Doer (animate) – e. g. work → worker	-ek → -eplū [A] -oplū [P] -kaj → kaplū [A] -kuplū [P]
Verb	Noun	Doer (inanimate)	-ek → etanu [A] -otanu [P]

			-kaj → ketanu [A] -kotanu [P]
Verb	Noun	Doer (abstract) – e. g. see → appearance; [P] only	-ek → -esa
Verb	Noun	Action – e. g. fight → battle	-ek → -ew
Verb	Noun	Place (natural) – e. g. ?	-ek → -ekolo -kaj → -kekolo
Verb	Noun	Place (manmade) – e. g. eat → restaurant	-ek → -elenka -kaj → -kalenka
Verb	Noun	Time – e. g. learn → schooltime	-ek → -eṡu -kaj → -kaṡu
Verb	Noun	Pattern – e. g. cook → recipe	-ek → -élaj -kaj → -kélaj
Verb	Noun	Used in practice of – e. g. walk → walking (stick)	-ek → -ive -kaj → kajve
Verb	Noun	Derivative (natural)	-ek → eṅej -kaj → keṅej
Verb	Noun	Derivative (manmade) – e. g. draw → drawing	-ek → -eklane -kaj → -kaklane
Verb	Noun	Tendency to be – tempt → tempting	-ek → -ura -kaj → kura
Verb	Noun	Art of – e. g. experiment → science	-ek → -yw -kaj → -ṅyw
Noun	Noun	Collection – e. g. tree → forest	append -kaỳ
Noun	Noun	Full of – e. g. life → fertility	append -tanu
Noun	Noun	Negative – e. g. finite → infinite	prepend kê-
Noun	Noun	Opposite – e. g. square → square root	prepend ślu-
Noun	Noun	Things that are X – e. g. redness → red things	append -ko
Noun	Noun	Derivative (natural) – e. g. ?	append -nej
Noun	Noun	Derivative (manmade) – e. g. tree	append -plane

		\rightarrow wood	
Noun	Noun	Part of – e. g. tree → branch	append -mân
Noun	Noun	Friend-of – e. g. anarchy → anarchist	append -tûn
Noun	Noun	Possessor – e. g. wisdom → wise person	append -kâdu
Noun	Noun	Container – e. g. arrow → quiver Typical home of – e. g. spider → web	append -sew
Noun	Noun	Study of – e. g. number → mathematics	append -relu
Noun	Noun	Change into – e. g. abstract → abstraction	append -ha
Noun	Noun	Reflexive / reciprocal – e. g. different → diverse	prepend ne-
Noun	Noun	Art of – e. g. experimentation → science	append -nyw
Noun	Noun	One who does – e. g. mathematics → mathematician	append -hat
Noun	Verb	Become (adj) – e. g. red → redden	append -nek

Subordinate clauses

A-kâl B [stress shifted to ultimate] = a B that does A. Essential clause.

e. g. ponelamokâl hânu = a dog that bites [has a habit of biting]

A-kâs B [stress shifted to ultimate] = the B, which does A. Nonessential clause.

e. g. ponelamokâs hânu = the dog, which bites

A-kaj (-kân, etc, but -kālí for GEN) = the fact that A

e.g. TODO

Misc.

Calendar

Time units

kaku (= year)	8 or 9 diku, 365.25 mene
deku	44 or 45 mene
nusa	6 mene
mane (= day)	

Start of the kaku (year)

The *kaku* starts on the first day of the first *deku* on or after the 12th *mene* before the spring equinox.

Names of diku

- zandek (< zany robin; 44 mene)
- kazdek (< kasla lily; 45 mene)
- têdek (< *têke* sun; 44 mene)
- mevdek (< mevu rain; 45 mene)
- sundek (< sunuhek to fall down; 44 mene)
- sidek (< siki dust, powder; 45 mene)
- guldek (< guli ice; 44 mene)
- mordek (< moru black; 45 mene; only in 9-diku keku)
- hraldek (< hrale fire; 44 mene)

Names of mene of the nusa

Starting from first day of work:

- pakuỳ-mane
- sanlu-mane
- kônre-mane
- grefu-mane
- zekku-mane
- Idisa-mane