The Kahtsaai Language

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1. Introduction

Begun in April 2011, Kahtsaai is created for experimenting with various ideas, including pervasive noun incorporation, especially for discourse rather than lexical reasons, but Mithun’s class IV noun incorporation, classifiers, is also being played with. I’m also aiming for a less subordinating style than I normally favor.

The language is highly verb-focused, with a preference for nouns derived from verbs, though there is a good set of root nouns, too. The border between lexical and grammatical nominalization is thin.

Kahtsaai also incorporates various ideas that have been in development in several language sketches going back to early 2010. A good deal of the vocabulary is motivated by politics and economics (somewhat after the fashion of Frank Herbert), as well as a desire to avoid Tolkien-esque prudishness and technophobia.

2. Phonology and Phonetics

2.1. The Consonants. Kahtsaai has a modest consonant inventory:

\[
\begin{array}{llllll}
\text{p} & \text{m} & \text{w} \\
\text{t} & \text{n} & \text{l} & \text{l} \\
\text{ts} & \text{y} & [j] \\
\text{k} & \text{h} \\
\text{s} & \text{r}
\end{array}
\]

- The /r/ is a flap.
- The voiceless stops are moderately aspirated as onsets; a word-final stop is also likely to be aspirated, especially in pause. The affricate ts is most strongly aspirated.
- After a coda glottal stop, voiced resonants (m n r l) and glides (w y) will have a glottalic release, teiló’mé I will go [te:lo?m’ɛ].
- Double l, ll, is pronounced [lɛ].
2.2. **The Vowels.** It has a four vowel system, with contrastive vowel length. Some long vowels have quality changes, which are reflected in the orthography. There is only one diphthong.

\[
i [i] \quad ii [i:] \\
e [e] \quad ei [e:] \\
o [o] \quad ou [u:] \\
a [a] \quad aa [a:] \quad aai [a:j]
\]

In open syllables o is [o], in closed syllables it is [ʊ].

2.3. **Tone.** It has a simple two-tone system, low (a) and high (á), with tone contours possible on long vowels: áá, áa, aá. Note the spelling for tone contours in ááí and aái.

2.4. **Syllable Structure.**
- All syllables must have a consonant onset. At the beginning of a word, initial glottal stop is not written.
- Any consonant except w or y may be a syllable coda.
- Any consonant except h or glottal stop may be geminate. Geminate ts is tts.
- A small number of interjections break syllable rules, ma’ss darn.

2.5. **Phonotactics.**
- coda -y becomes -ł, e.g. asríye + ko > *asríyko > asríłko modest
- coda -w becomes -h, e.g. áskowe + ko > *áskowko > áskohko naive
- hh and ”> ’h, e.g. heweiyé’hípi it got very strange < he-wei-yé’-’ípi
- ll and lľ > ll [lɬ:], e.g. sááł + -léí > sááłléí to marry (one another); before a front vowel it is liable to palatalize, [lɬ:].
- C + y + i > Cii; the entire long vowel inherits the tone of the following /i/, so that *yí > íi; e.g. werya + ko > *weryiko > weriko be bitter
- Before voiced resonants (m n l r) and glides (w y) the voiceless stops are pronounced voiced, and l may be pronounced [ɬ].
- The cluster -ly- is pronounced [lɬ:].
- At morpheme boundaries, h + s > -ss-, yo’ássaaím he hurried them < yo-’áh-saaí-m.
- At morpheme boundaries, t + s > -tss-, yonnotssó’ei he can drink it < yo-n-not-só’ei. Thus, the results of ts + s and t + s are identical.
- The diphthong aai combines with agent nominalization suffixes irregularly (see §8.5.0.1).
- In suffixes a leading -r- tends to pattern as a cluster after other resonants (m, n, l) and l, preferring an epenthetic vowel, kénirén < kén + -(i)rén.

3. **Morphology and Basic Syntax**

3.1. **Noun.** Kahtsaai nouns are not marked for number, though number can be indicated for core arguments since number is marked in subject and direct object verb forms: wéíla te’ássitsák I saw people.
3.1.1. Possessed Forms. A small number of nouns, most of them family and social relationship words, lose an initial vowel or syllable when taking possessive prefixes. This is indicated in the vocabulary when needed, as in “emmé (-mmé) mother.”

3.1.1.1. Some nouns are augmented when possessed, which is marked the same in the dictionary, aaptaraai his health from taraai (-ptaraai).

3.1.2. Inanimate, Transitive Subjects. Inanimate nouns require special treatment to be the subjects of transitive verbs. Inanimate nouns take the ending C-is, V-s and a different verb prefix is used for transitive vs. intransitive inanimate subjects.

Kítánik wé kaarimis. This book is interesting to me.
Heléíkouts wé kaarím. This book is dull.

3.1.3. Ambiguous Subject Marking. A transitive verb with two noun-phrase arguments of the same animacy is potentially ambiguous, since there is no case marking. See the particle mo (§9.3) for a way to disambiguate.

3.1.4. Incorporation. Noun stems undergo some changes when incorporated into verbs.

- If a final short vowel, remove; if resulting stem has consonant cluster, add -í-.
- If a final long vowel, shorten (ei > e, aai > aa, ou > o); if high-toned or a contour, the shortened vowel has a high tone.
- In a number of words ei > a.¹ For example, márei year has mára-. These are noted in the lexicon as exceptions.
- If the stem ends in a final consonant, add -í-.
- Some words have irregular incorporation stems, such as mon- from mouno word.

Only one of the rules above will operate. So, the incorporation stem of kopi water is kop- (by the first rule), not *kopí which would combine the first and the third.

3.2. Pronoun. Independent pronoun forms are used mostly for focus or contrast. Usually pronouns are affixed. The possessive prefixes are also used with the postpositions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg. tán(e)</td>
<td>tá-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg. rin(e)</td>
<td>ri-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3an. atsne</td>
<td>aa-, ats-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3inan. o’né</td>
<td>on- (oni-, ni-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl. katne</td>
<td>kat- (kati-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl. wéin(e)</td>
<td>wéí-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3an.pl. áhne</td>
<td>áh- (áhí-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>refl. len(e)</td>
<td>le-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Original *ai merged with ei.
• The forms in -(e) have or drop the final vowel according to personal taste.
• The 3an. possessive prefixes are in free variation, though ats- is more common before resonants and glides.
• The possessives in parentheses are used before nouns which have separate possessed forms beginning with a consonant cluster, katiimmé our mother, and postpositions beginning with a consonant cluster, áhíhta with them. The 3an. prefix is always aa- before possessed forms starting with a cluster.
• The shorter 3inan. form, ni-, is more frequent than the longer oni- on nouns and postpositions of more than a single syllable.
• The third person pronouns are marginal, with the demonstratives (hón, etc.) more often used instead.

3.2. Independent Possessed Forms. The prop nouns wim, for inanimates, and sii (§6.4), for animates, are used for mine, yours, etc., sei riwim mo wé that is not yours.

Kamtíríik’é mo táwin.
kamte-ríík-’é mo tá-win
story-true-NMNL mo 1SG-PROP.INAN

The true story is mine.

3.3. Deixis.

3.3.1. Demonstratives. Kahtsaai demonstratives may act as both pronouns and adjectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animate</th>
<th>Inanimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>this</td>
<td>hón (pl. hón’áh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>ran (pl. ran’áh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what, which, who?</td>
<td>yen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.1.1. The short form wé is most common, hő’é is focused. The onset is glottalized, w’ é, though there is no change in the spelling.

3.3.1.2. The short form ra’ is somewhat less frequent than wé, but is still common, and is especially likely before nominalized verbs (§8.5).

3.3.1.3. The animate plurals are used when the demonstratives are acting as pronouns, and even that is not a requirement.

3.3.1.4. Indefinites. Indefinites are created by prefixing á- to the question words, áyen someone.

3.3.1.5. Free-choice Indefinites. Indefinites marking free choice (“-ever” in English) are marked by suffixing C-wáI V-náI to the question words, ye’énáI so’olípto pick whichever (one you want).

3.3.1.6. Compound Adverbials. Nouns of measurement may be paired with the demonstratives and the question words to form adverbial expressions. For example, lóuté weight combined with ye’ é means how heavy, how much (weight), as in ye’ é lóuté herá rihaanéí? how much does your bed weigh? These are listed in the lexicon.
3.3.2. Other Determiners. Several determiners, mostly quantifiers, are marked for animacy like demonstratives. These follow the noun, or may be used as pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animate</th>
<th>Inanimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>some, a certain</td>
<td>laahkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>málin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the same</td>
<td>kop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>such</td>
<td>oyo’in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all, every</td>
<td>tasin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>many</td>
<td>pétei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>some, any (amount, partitive)</td>
<td>ne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whole, entire</td>
<td>péken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The four quantity determiners, tasin, pétei, ne and péken, may be used with the others (see §9.1 for usage).

3.3.3. Intensives. Intensive nouns, pronouns and demonstratives are marked with the obligatorily possessed form -ssi’, which follows the word being intensified.

Tássi’ te’etsák.
tá-ssi’ tei-n-tsák
1SG-self 1SG-3INAN-see
I saw it myself.

Mo keil aassi’ yo’áhlentén yolleile.
mo keil ats-ssi’ yo-’áh-lenté-n yolleile
SUBJ soldier 3SG.AN-self 3SG.AN-3PL-save-EVID children
The soldier himself saved the children.

3.3.4. Adverbials. The correlative adverbs of place, time and manner are moderately regular:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Manner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>this</td>
<td>hó’wei</td>
<td>hó’lin</td>
<td>hó’pas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>ra’wei</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which?</td>
<td>táá</td>
<td>ye’lin</td>
<td>louh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all</td>
<td>tastáá</td>
<td>taslin</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with the demonstratives, prefixing á- to the question forms creates indefinites, and suffixing C-wal V-nal creates free-choice indefinites.

3.3.4.1. The adverbs of place (and time?) may take the directional suffixes (§5.2). The base sense is locative, but the suffix -taak may be used anyway for asseveration or focus.

3.4. Verb. The verb template:

Preverb Subject DO Adv NI Verb Tense/Aspect Evid./Mood

The verb stem itself may be complex, with valency and other derivational elements.
3.4.1. Preverb. Verbs, especially verbs of motion, may take one of five prefixes which occur to the left of the subject prefixes. In verbs of motion they describe the path, but they are very often used in idiomatic senses for which the dictionary is the best reference.

ła- translocative, movement away from focus, usually the speaker
kóh- cislocative, motion toward the focus
weri- indicates downward motion, or contraction; sometimes marks sense of completion or thoroughness
ís- indicates upward motion, or inflation or expansion; may carry an overtone of something getting out of control
pité- back and forth, to and fro, cyclical motion

With verbs of motion in the perfective, pité- may have the sense of a single round trip.

3.4.1.1. There is an additional, non-productive preverb, ná-, which is only used with a few verbs (and one coerced noun). The resulting verb is always transitive and almost always takes a human object. See łára, reik, rif, terká, maar, yortá in the dictionary. The meaning of the prefix relates to interpersonal relationships, but is not very specific beyond that.

3.4.2. Conjugation. Verbs are always conjugated for subject, and transitive verbs are always also marked for direct object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>(Relative Object)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg.</td>
<td>tei- (te-)</td>
<td>-tá-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg.</td>
<td>sou- (so-)</td>
<td>-ri-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3an.</td>
<td>yo-</td>
<td>-ts- ats-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3an.indef</td>
<td>ma-</td>
<td>-'ou-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3inan. (intr. he-)</td>
<td>ki-</td>
<td>-n-, -ni-, -V'V-</td>
<td>-ni-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3inan.indef</td>
<td>wé-</td>
<td>-k-</td>
<td>ki-C, h-V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl.</td>
<td>káá- (ká-)</td>
<td>-kat-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl.</td>
<td>was(i)-</td>
<td>-véí-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3an.pl.</td>
<td>háái-</td>
<td>-'áh-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>refl.</td>
<td></td>
<td>-le-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The indefinites (“someone, something”) are indifferent to number.
- Tei-, sou- and káá- shorten to te-, so- and ká- when in a closed syllable: teiristsák I see you vs. tektsák I see things.
- The short te-, so- and ká- may be used in open syllables if the following syllable is long: te'oustsák I see people. This is more likely when the onset consonant of the long syllable is a resonant or glide, kámaana we were sleeping, and very common before object affixes with long vowels.
- The subjects tei-, sou- and káá- also combine with a 3rd person inanimate ending irregularly, resulting in te'e-, so'o- and ká'a- (note tone): ká'atsák we see it.
• The subject prefixes he- and hááí- merge with the distributive prefix -na’a-; see §3.4.3.1.
• The third person inanimate -n- takes an epenthetic i before verbs starting with r, as in yonirel she carries it < *yonrel
• The “relative object” forms are used when a transitive verb takes subject nominalization (see §8.5, §9.13).

3.4.2.1. Some examples of fully conjugated verbs. Forms in italics are missing expected noun incorporation to make the forms clear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>te'iristsák</td>
<td>I see you</td>
<td>te'iáhtsák</td>
<td>I see them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wastátsák</td>
<td>you all see me</td>
<td>wasittsák</td>
<td>you all see him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>háááktsák</td>
<td>they see things</td>
<td>hááiletsák</td>
<td>they see themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kááritsák</td>
<td>we see you</td>
<td>ká'atsák</td>
<td>we see it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>káwéítsák</td>
<td>we see you all</td>
<td>te'etsák</td>
<td>I see it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>souló</td>
<td>you go</td>
<td>maló</td>
<td>people go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.3. Adverbials. There is a large collection of affixes which encode adverbial, aspectual and sometimes modal ideas. They can be used together, limited mostly by semantics. However, no more than one from any of the following three slots can be used.

3.4.3.1. Slot One: Various. Some of these prefixes are prone to lexicalization, with some verbs taking on fixed idiomatic meanings when used with them.

• -laá- “together with, con-, co-,”
• -rou’- “apart, separating, separately”
• -na’a- distributive; the sense is primarily local, for overspreading actions such as weather or actions repeated over space, but extends to mark one of the core arguments of the verb as being a distributive plural

The distributive -na’a- has portmanteau forms when it occurs with the person prefixes he- and hááí-.

he- + na’a > he’a-

hááí- + na’a > háá’ya-

He’a’ántsi it’s hot (everywhere), háá’yawósénats they were running all over the place.

3.4.3.2. Slot Two: Modals and Degree.

• -'éwó- “enough, sufficiently”
• -'íl- used only with negative, “must not” (see §9.11)
• -lóú- “must, have to” (compulsory obligation)
• -mátór- “completely, fully, utterly”
• -not- “be able”
• -pewár- “too (much), excessively”
• -riim- “try”
• -sakke- “should” (non-compulsory)
• -tsít- “a little, a bit, somewhat”
• -weí- “very, very much”; yoweilóúktsi he is very large

3.4.3.3. Slot Three: Aspect.
• -kiits- versitive, “re-, again”
• -kís- “for a little bit; for a (little) while” (purely temporal; slot two -tsít- is amount or degree)
• -weíri- reversitive, “un-”
• -tsó- habitual
• -yé’- inceptive, inchoative, “get X” (of statives), “start to X”

3.4.4. Verb Stem. Verb stems may be primitive or complex. Most of the complex forms are the result of deriving verbal forms from nouns. For these, see the section on derivations.

3.4.5. Valency.
• Causative of intransitive: C-im, V-m
• Detransitive: C-ki, V-k
• Detransitive of causative: -ríi-se
• Reciprocal: -léí (intransitive)
• Benefactive (and malefactive) applicative: -(o)lpa
• Instrumental applicative: -koh

The causative ending -(i)m is not used on bare transitive stems (see §3.4.5.4). The detransitive of causative -ríi-se loses the -se element if any other suffix follows,

Teiwósé'ííse I hurried.
Teiwósé'ííña I am/was hurrying.
Yowósé'ííts She hurried.

3.4.5.1. The applicative adds a single argument to the verb structure. When an intransitive verb is marked with an applicative, the new argument becomes a core argument, and an object prefix is used with the verb. When the main verb is transitive, the new argument does not fill the object slot in the verb chain. Pragmatic NI can open up the object slot for the applicative object.

Tso'o tettsáapa. I cooked a duck.
Hóká tettsáapokoh tso'o. I cooked the duck with fire.
Hóká te'etsó'tsáapokoh. I cooked the duck with fire.
Tettsáapalpa tso'o atsne. I cooked the duck for him.
Tettsó'tsáapalpa. I cooked the duck for him.
3.4.5.2. The instrumental applicative can mark the means by which an action takes place, but it also often marks the cause or reason for an act.

Hááíláálñats. They were complaining.
Wé Hááínláálkohnats. They were complaining about this.

Te’ewimtsaaikikoh to’pose’á.
tei-n-wime-tsaaiki-koh to’pose’á
1SG-3INAN-eye-itch-APPL.INST allergy
My eyes itch from allergies.

3.4.5.3. The applicatives may not be used with the causative, detransitive or reciprocal suffixes, nor with each other. Instead, the anaphoric verb ya, do so, is used with the appropriate applicative in a following dependent verb,

Wé te’esaaímmé teiriyalpal.
wé tei-n-saaí-m-mé tei-ri-ya-lpa-l
this 1SG-3INAN-be.fast-CAUS-FUT 1SG-2SG-do.so-APPLIC-DEP
I will rush this for you, lit. “I will rush this, I will do so for you.”

3.4.5.4. Causative of Transitive. Only intransitive verbs take morphological causativity. The causative of a transitive uses complex syntax with the verb ka’má make, do, cause, ká’aka’má’mé yontsákye we will make him see it.

3.4.5.5. Quite a few transitive verbs are also causativized idiomatically with compounding, especially with -kaai, as in yotáłaatskaai kaarim she reminded me of the book.

3.4.6. Aspect and Tense. Action verbs without other aspect or tense marking are perfective.

• Imperfective: -na
• Future: C-mé, V-mé

3.4.6.1. The imperfective affix -na combines with the adverbial clause suffix -hte/-ne to produce -naan. This should not be confused with -nan < -na-n, the imperfective with the hear-say evidential.

3.4.6.2. A few verbs have an imperfective in -rá/-réí. This combines with the the adverbial clitic -ne/-hte (§9.17) as -réí. The verbs that take this imperfective may also have suppletion or other stem changes,
Perfective | Imperfective
--- | ---
aas come | saréí
er float | eréí
harár purr | harará
hém snow | hérrá
hour stand | houréí
ka’yaas lightening | ka’yaará
kíísi rain | kííréí
les move | lerá
łááísa storm | łááírá
pél lie (loc.) | péréí
ríts hang | rítsrá
siwe flow | siwerá
waakou remain | waakourá
yo’ sit | yo’ra, yo’réí

Note: hehérráts it was snowing, hehérréín when it was snowing...

3.4.6.3. The imperfective is not used with stative verbs, yoháátin he’s smart (I hear), never *yo-háátinan.

3.4.7. Evidentiality and Mirativity.

- Direct: C-tsi, V-ts
- Hear-say, indirect: C-in, V-n (with future -’mé + -n > -’méín)
- Narrative hear-say: C-nin, V-’nin
- Inferential: -kol
- Mirative: C-immér, V-mmér

3.4.7.1. With the adverbial suffix -hte, the direct evidential will always take the form -tsi.

3.4.7.2. The direct and indirect evidentials are generally not used when a first person pronoun is a core case, except for ironic purposes, lateséítin I hear I’ve died. They are also dropped with certain modal adverbs, such as e’áána perhaps.

3.4.7.3. The narrative hear-say evidential is used at the start of a narrative, and at major transitions in the narrative. It is also standard in proverbs and can add a rather sentential feel when stating commonplaces. Kíkatlesó’nin layosis the grave is waiting (for us), a saying to motivate people to action.

3.4.7.4. The mirative, which marks new, surprising or remarkable information, is not uncommon with first person involvement, teróúrkommér, how stupid I am! It occurs with the particle lop (§10.4.2) to accent novelty.
3.4.8. Mood. Evidentials are not used when the verb has a mood suffix.

- Contrafactual: C-
  kem, V-'hem
- Dependent: C-
  ye, V-ł
- Imperative: C-
  to V-tto
- Optative: -waal

3.4.8.1. The contrafactual is only used with the perfective or imperfective, never the future.

3.4.8.2. In certain constructions the optative varies with the dependent mood, with the optative expressing a greater deal of personal interest or involvement by the speaker, or a judgement that a state of affairs is less likely,

  Te'ewén temaal. I want to sleep.
  Te'ewén temaawaal. I wish I could sleep.

3.4.9. Examples.

 Łateiló.
lā-tei-ló
TRANS-1SG-go.come
I went.

 Kóhteiló.
kōh-tei-ló
CIS-1SG-go.come
I came.

 Weriyolóts.
weri-yo-ló-ts
down-3SG-go.come-EVID
He went down (I know).

 Ísyolón.
is-yo-ló-n
up-3SG-go.come-EVID
She went up (I hear).

 Łakáálaáló.
lā-káá-laá-ló
TRANS-1PL-together-go.come
We went together.

 Hewei’ántsi wé.
he-wei-’án-tsi wé
3INAN-too-hot-EVID this
This is too hot.
Heyé’hántsi wé.
he-yé’-’án-tsí wé
3INAN-INCEP-hot-EVID this
This got hot.

Te’eyé’paaitána.
tei-n-yé’-paaitá-na
1SG-3INAN-INCEP-understand-IPFV
I’m starting to understand (it).

Ii so’okórýe ra’ kaarim?
ii sou-n-kór-ye ra’ kaarim
Q 2SG-3INAN-read-DEP that book
Can you read that book?

So’okórto ra’ kaarim!
Sou-n-kór-to ra’ kaarim
2SG-3INAN-read-IMP that book
Read that book!

Hááínotmaats.
hááí-not-maa-ts
3PL-can-sleep-EVID
They can sleep.

Tor yonkoptsáapa’mékol.
tor yo-n-kop-tsáapa-’mé-koł
leaf 3SG.AN-3INAN-water-cook-FUT-EVID
I suppose he’ll make tea.

4. Noun Incorporation

Kahtsaai uses noun incorporation for both lexical and pragmatic functions. Most uses often change the transitivity of the verb complex, with some resulting complexes having both transitive and intransitive uses.

4.1. Animacy. The higher a noun is in the animacy hierarchy, the less likely it is to be incorporated except in lexical incorporation. Human beings are almost never pragmatically incorporated, and motile animals are rarely incorporated except when discussing them as food, kááts’wo we ate the duck, or to background them completely in a narrative. Such backgrounding is likely to indicate the end of that incorporated animate as a discourse topic.

4.2. Subject Incorporation with Unaccusatives. Low-control, intransitive verbs — including statives — may incorporate grammatical subjects, as in heháñínáána the stick is burning. Note that the subject prefix is still used in this situation. This use is for definite but non-topical and non-focused subjects.
4.3. **Lexical Incorporation.** Incorporated nouns are used with verbs to create new lexical senses. The transitivity of the resulting form is fluid. If the incorporated noun is a conventional object — *tsommaanáás* berry-picking — the resulting form is usually intransitive. However, the more generic the object the more likely such an incorporation is likely to interpreted as classificatory, leaving a transitive verb.

Some verbs may also incorporate a location, especially destinations. These usually retain the transitivity of base verb.

4.4. **Instrumental Incorporation.** This is a variant of lexical incorporation, with the incorporated noun indicating the means by which an action was accomplished. While any suitable noun may in principle be used this way, in practice a fairly restricted set of nouns are so used. Body parts and some basic tools and materials are the most frequent.

4.4.1. **Transitivity.** Instrumental prefixes result in transitive verbs, without the need of any overt valency affix. For example, the intransitive verb *nop* fall over, when combined with *mál* foot, gives *málínop* knock something over with one's foot, a transitive.

\[
\text{Yonmálínopin ráwas.}
\]
\[
\text{yo-n-mál-nop-in ráwas}
\]
\[
3\text{SG-3INAN-foot-fall.over-EVID table}
\]

*He kicked over the table.*

If, for some reason, you wanted to say that someone knocked over the foot of the table, *nop* would have to take the transitivizer, *-málí-nop-im*.

4.4.1.1. A verb with an instrumental noun may be detransitivized with the usual marker, *C-ki V-k*, as in *málílatouk* to censor oneself, and *mesle’sóuk* be resentful.

4.5. **Classificatory Incorporation.** Even when there is an overt, non-incorporated object noun, sometimes verbs take NI to classify the object being acted upon. There are two situations likely to trigger classificatory incorporation. First, if the object is a human being or a larger animal (most mammals, larger reptiles, but not fish or bugs), the “body” or “animal” classifier stem will be used. Second, certain verbs of handling and manipulation almost always use shape and consistency incorporation.

4.5.1. **Body.** The incorporated noun for animate bodies is highly reduced, and bears no relationship to any full noun. If the nearest prefix ends in a vowel, the form is *s*-; if it ends in a consonant, it is *si*-

\[
\text{teisoustsák I see you.}
\]
\[
\text{tetssitsáak I see him.}
\]

4.5.1.1. With verbs where it is appropriate, incorporation of *s(i)*- is very likely — in the absence of other NI — when the subject of a stative verb or the object of a transitive verb are human beings, and very common for land-dwelling, motile animals (not insects).
4.5.1.2. More specific nouns may be incorporated instead of -s(i)-, which will evict it, teri-hákyáá I hear you, lit. I voice-hear you.

4.5.1.3. In intimate registers the incorporated noun is not -s(i)- but -yá’re-, which also has no unincorporated stem.

4.5.2. Animal. The incorporated noun for most animals is -ppó- after a vowel, -pó- after a consonant.

Kaahtsápi ne yo’áhpówékin.
kaahtsápi ne yo’-áh-pó-wék-in
rabbit some 3SG-3PL-animal-catch-EVID
(I hear) he caught some rabbits.

Dogs, horses and bovines take -s(i)-.

4.5.3. Mind. The incorporation stem mes- refers to the mind, emotions and cognition. It has no free noun, and may be used for both classificatory and instrumental incorporation.

meshem investigate, analyze (hem hunt, pursue)
meskén motivate, inspire (kén set in motion)
meskokła confuse (kókla cloud, muddy)
mesyáá hear (with attention)

4.6. Pragmatic Incorporation. New topics are not generally introduced with incorporation, except for certain routine expressions, such as kó’hem to fish.

[Many examples needed here].

5. Postpositions

Kahtsaai relies mostly on postpositions with pronoun prefixes, in combination with a few directional affixes.

5.1. Postposition Form. The postpositions other than the directionals can only appear with possessive prefixes2, táhta with me, onpor wanting it. As with possessed noun forms that begin with multiple consonants, some postpositions begin with a consonant cluster, and the longer possessive forms are used, katiihta together with us.

5.1.1. With Nouns. Nouns don’t take most postpositives directly, but appear as the bare stem followed by a postposition suffixed to an agreeing possessive pronoun, támmé aahta with my mother, lit. my mother, her-with.

5.1.2. With Deictics. Demonstratives and question words are treated like nouns, not taking postpositions directly, yen aahta lasoulól with whom did you go? lit. who him/her-with?

2Some nouns have postpositional uses, and all of the postpositions proper can be thought of as such.
5.2. **Directional Suffixes.** The directional suffixes may be attached to nouns, pronouns, some adverbs, and verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Plain</th>
<th>Attributive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Locative, “in, at, on”</td>
<td>-taak</td>
<td>-teim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lative, “to, towards”</td>
<td>-te</td>
<td>-tim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablative, “from”</td>
<td>-lii</td>
<td>-liyom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Up to, as far as”</td>
<td>-miits</td>
<td>-miim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The plain suffixes are most often used in clauses. The attributives are used when a location or postpositional phrase is used attributively (§9.1.1).

5.2.1. **With Nouns.** All the directional suffixes are freely added to nouns to convey the general sense of direction, *mar’ááte lakálótto let’s go (to) home.*

5.2.1.1. **The Body.** Locating things on or in the body (injury, adornment, sensation, etc.) is marked with the locative -taak, *teiyé’siilki tsaaataak I started bleeding in my hand, my hand started to bleed.*

5.2.1.2. **Point of Comparison.** With stative verbs, the locative directional marks the point of comparison,

*Nal’taak yoháátin. He’s as smart as a rock (I hear).*

5.2.1.3. **Partitive.** The ablative directional has a partitive sense with verbs of consumption or use,

*Kahtsálii káákopsó’eí. We drank water from the river.*

5.2.1.4. **Indefinite Possessum.** The attributive form of the ablative is also used for an indefinite possessum, *sour atsmar’áá the man’s house vs. sourliyom mar’áá a house of the man.*

5.2.2. **With Postpositions.** When attached to postpositions, these suffixes clarify path or location. If the meaning of the verb makes path or location information clear, there is no need to use these.

1. *Hepélnaan hokta onkotok. It lies behind the wall.*
2. *Yolóts hokta onkotokte. He went (to) behind the wall.* or
3. *Łayolóts hokta onkotok.*

In the third example, the translocative prefix *ła-* is sufficient to indicate path.

5.2.3. **With Verbs.** Two of the directionals may be used with verbs to express relations of time (see §9.14).
5.3. **List of Postpositions and Adverbials.** There are many words with postpositional morphology that are better thought of as adverbialized nouns, such as -wéín willingly, by the will or permission of...

Atswéín łateiló. I went with his permission, with him willing.

Such adverbialized phrases are included in the list below.

5.3.1. -'aayen. This postposition has two uses, the first is spatial and temporal, “short of, not reaching,” the second is used with stative verbs to mean “less than.”

Hááítséíts lotna on’aayen. They walked to just short of the fork in the road.
Ri’ayen teiláhme. I am less angry than you.

This may also be used with non-stative verbs that admit scalar interpretations, áh’aayen so’owén-in you want it less than them.

5.3.2. -háá’. Meaning “in exchange for,” -háá’ can be used for all sorts of exchanges and trade, barter, labor, simple payment or favors.

Lére teirikaai’mé tsommaai onháá’. I’ll give you the apple for the blueberries.

5.3.3. -hta. This means “with” in the sense of “together with, accompanying.” See also -te’êli.

5.3.3.1. In formal or literary registers this may attach directly to nouns referring to people, including names. It takes the form -ahta if noun ends in a consonant.

5.3.4. -keíya. “Alone.” Li temaana tákeíya and I sleep alone (Sappho PMG 976).

5.3.5. -kotok. This means “behind, beyond, at the far side of.”

5.3.6. -lesáa. “Above.”

5.3.7. -ltik. This means “away from, apart from” or “fleeing.” Due to its intrinsic sense, it does not need a directional suffix; taking -lii is exaggerated.

5.3.8. -hta’áki. The central notion of this postposition is the crowd or group as a destination, “among.” It is thus only used with plural or collective nouns.

5.3.9. -meh. “Using, with, by means of,” the core instrumental postposition.

5.3.10. -mmaal. Overlapping somewhat with the instrumental applicative, this means “because of, on account of, by reason of.” It replaces the instrumental applicative when the verb cannot take that morphology, to clarify possible ambiguity or as somewhat wordy stylistic variant.

5.3.11. -mo’im. This means “before, in front of.”

5.3.12. -nwaas. This postposition answers for comparative adjectives, tánwaas yoláhmets he’s angrier than me. With non-stative verb, it means simply “more than,” rinwaas te’eyol ra’ê I know that more than you.
5.3.13. -naai. This means both “about, concerning,” as well as “in reply to, in answer to.” In this latter sense, it refers to deeds and things, not people.

5.3.14. -pó’e. “Between, through.”

5.3.15. -por. The central notion of this suffix is that of the goal or end of some action, and means “wanting, after, in search of.”

5.3.16. -próh. This postposition has two uses. First, it is used in certain verbal phrases of emotion and judgement, to mark the person experiencing the emotion or judgement. This use is basically idiomatic, and verbs that take it are marked in the lexicon. For example, tápróh heléíkou wé this bores me.

It is frequently found in the company of detransitive of causatives in -ríí-se,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Táróóka</th>
<th>aapróh</th>
<th>hemeyáríits</th>
<th>wé</th>
<th>taraai</th>
<th>oyo’ín.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tá-róóka</td>
<td>aa-próh</td>
<td>he-meyá-ríise-ts</td>
<td>wé</td>
<td>taraai</td>
<td>oyo’ín</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1SG-dog 3AN.SG-to 3INAN-holy-DETRANS,CAUS-EVID this weather such.INAN
Weather like this terrifies my dog.

5.3.16.1. The second use is the judicantis role, that is, it marks the person in whose judgement a statement holds true.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Táttá</th>
<th>aapróh</th>
<th>máámo</th>
<th>lakíntsááltsi</th>
<th>mo</th>
<th>wés.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tá-ttá</td>
<td>aa-próh</td>
<td>máámo</td>
<td>ła-kí-n-tsáál-ts</td>
<td>mo</td>
<td>wé-s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1SG-father 3AN.SG-to wealth TRNS-3INAN.S-3INAN-misuse-EVID S this.INAN-INAN.SUBJ
To my father, this is a waste of money.

5.3.17. -pset. This means “on, upon,” referring to a surface in any orientation.

5.3.18. -skiil. This has the meaning “stuck or impaled on,” such as hán niskiil ká’atsáapa we cooked it on a stick.

5.3.19. -sóp. Means “without, not having, lacking.”

5.3.20. -te’éli. “Under the covers or blankets with” is the base meaning of this postposition, táte’éli kohyoýé’lóts mohááí the cat got under the blankets with me. It is also used in place of -hta with a somewhat disapproving or exasperated sense, “in cahoots with.”

5.3.21. -tsiir. This means “across, crossing.”

5.3.22. -waraan. “Like, resembling, similar to.” sei atswaraan helortsí it doesn’t smell like him/it

5.3.23. -wéín. This means “willingly,” with the willingness on the part of the pronoun attached,

Táwéín teiya. I do so willingly.
Aawéín teiya. I do so with her willing, with her permission.

The negative of this is -wohkéín, and has the same use patterns.
5.3.24. -wer. This means “in, within, into.” Mar’áá onwer herákoł it must be in the house.

5.3.25. -wol. “Near, beside.”

6. Numbers, Time and Measurement

Kahtsaai has a simple base ten number system.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>teim</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>saai</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>kós</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>war</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>piil</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>piirte</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sóhte</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>rous</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>tamse</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>sáwi</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1. Ordinals. Suffixing the detransitive marker (C-ki, V-k) to a number creates an ordinal verb, teimki (be) first.

6.2. Repetition. Adverbials of repetition (“once, twice,” etc.) are formed by adding the suffix -míín to a number.

6.3. Time Affixes. There are two number suffixes which are used with noun phrases of time to indicate past and future.

6.3.1. -rós. This suffix marks the following time unit, yéi saairós the day after tomorrow.

6.3.2. -tir. This suffix marks a previous time unit, yéi saaitir the day before yesterday, mátei sáwil piirítirós fifteen years ago.

6.3.3. With Nouns. These suffixes can be attached to bare nouns, which then refer to a single instance of the time unit, máreitir last year, but mátei saaitir two years ago. Note, though, that single day units have their own vocabulary, óúri yesterday and mós tomorrow. However, for more than one day, the normal pattern applies, yéi kóstitir three days ago.

6.4. As Nouns. Numbers by themselves may not be used as nouns. To say something like, “I see three,” a prop noun is used, wim.

Ii mohááí ne sou’áhpótsák? Do you see any cats?
Wim saai tei’áhpótsák. I see two.

When counting humans, though, the prop is sii.

Táá hááirál tá’héiri? Where are my sisters?
Hó’wei yoráts sii teim. One is here.
6.5. Measurement and Distance. The basic syntax for measurement of quantities and distances is the same: the noun for the thing being measured is followed by the unit measurement then the number.

Hemki posaa saai. *Two bottles of beer*, lit., “beer bottle(s) two”

With a single unit, it is not necessary to say teim one, ke’náá móól (teim) a cup of milk.

7. Ideophones

Ideophones are words that depict sensory events, and in Kahtsaai are most frequent in narrative. In less narrative language they can be used as a way to solicit involvement from listeners. Kahtsaai’s ideophones conform the phonology and syllable structure of other words in the language. There is a large collection of “root” ideophones, stems with no obvious repetitions — lá ál ik, tsop, etc. — but reduplication patterns of various sorts are very common — ei’ín’ei’in, harasras, koppíkoppí, etc.

Ideophones may, depending on the logic of the narrative, come at the start of the clause, immediately before the verb or immediately after the verb. When there are overt verb arguments, the ideophone will usually be deferred until after the verb.

8. Word Building

8.1. Noun Affixes. The forms in this and in the following section on affixes for noun-building are usually attached directly to unmodified noun stems (unlike the shortened NI forms or lengthened with the link syllable used in N-N compounds).

8.1.1. -haam. This suffix means “old, venerable” and implies at least a modicum of respect, olhaam a grand, old oak.

8.1.2. -(o)kma. The augmentative is only used to indicate actual size.

8.1.3. -(i)'la. The offspring of most animals is created with the suffix -(i)'la, as mohááí'la kitten.

8.1.3.1. This suffix is also commonly used for the smaller, individual members of some larger mass, hémí'la snowflake (from hém to snow). This sense can be extended to the results of some action, náá'la ash from náá be on fire.

8.1.3.2. The suffix is also used to mark membership, hási'la citizen from hási city; ikati'la follower of fads and fashion from i tak shape, fashion, fad.

8.1.4. -mol. Attached to nouns or verbs to define areas of study, “-ology,” tí'amol botany, ýóra- mol astronomy.

8.1.5. -mol'aa. Basically a derivation on -mol, for a person who studies something, “-ologist,” tí'amol'aa botanist.
8.1.6. -(i)pyaa. This may attach to nouns or verbs, and marks someone for whom the root is somehow characteristic, aaisipyaa “believer,” kaarimipyaa a book person.

8.1.7. -ral. Evaluative names or descriptions for people are created with this suffix, which can attach to nouns or verbs:

- kopra _ral_ cry-baby
- leit _ral_ coward
- ípí _ral_ wierdo

8.1.8. -tát. This diminutive ending is not used to be affectionate or endearing. It is used primarily for things that are genuinely small, éitát _ral_ bush, shrub, from é _le_ tree. It can also be used to indicate that something is minor or ancillary, such as síílantát _ral_ light jacket or sweater from síílant _le_ cloak.

8.1.8.1. Can be used with animate reference disparagingly, especially to suggest incompetence or impotence, or that they are of little consequence, hón álálat _tal_ sei yonyoltsi _tsé_ this guy doesn’t know, with álélat _tal_ suggesting a certain ineffectual cluelessness.

8.1.9. -táái. The affectionate diminutive may attach to either nouns or to verbs, forming affectionate agentives. The vocative is -táái’ _le_.

8.1.10. -tsokwi. Marking nouns in the past is done with -tsokwi, with sense of former or ex-. When attached to things has the sense that something is worn-out or broken. With people, marks a relationship that no longer applies.

8.1.11. -(l)tsrí. Nouns for places of work or business end in -(l)tsrí, as in hemkitsrí _tsé_ tavern, bar. Can also attach to verbs.

8.1.12. -yettsé. This pejorative suffix has a rather routine, even stuffy, feel about it. To be really rude, Kahtsaai has other resources (see §10.7). With titles, it has rather the aroma of “so-called,” that someone or something is not living up to expectations, possibly not very exacting expectations.


8.2.1. -(o)l. This produces process and result nouns, but occurs much less frequently than -(i)t below. While most -(i)t derived nouns need not be in the lexicon, all -(o)l nouns are, séítol _tsé_ death from séít _le_ to die.

8.2.1.1. If the stem ends in -n, and sometimes -t, the -l simply replaces it, wél _tsé_ want, desire from wén _le_ to want.

8.2.2. -mou. Nouns of quality, “-ness” and the like, can be derived from other nouns (in incorporation form) and stative verbs, such as háát _tsé_ intelligence from háát _tsé_ intelligent and kíhapí _tsé_ inescapable inelegance, hackishness from kíhap _tsé_ something inelegant. In verbal derivations it can take on more concrete meanings, for things embodying the quality, tsoukmou _tsé_ danger from tsouk be dangerous.
8.2.3. -paak. Means “getter, receiver of ...” and is for animates. It’s attached to the incorporation stem of nouns, ko’wipaak someone who benefits from privilege.

8.2.3.1. This is the normal agent noun formation from compounds ending in par, instead of -(‘)aa (§8.5).

8.2.4. -(i)rén. This suffix produces a noun describing a complex system of or relating to the root. Can attach to verbs or nouns (incorporation form, usually).

8.2.5. -síín. A collection of the noun, conceived as a whole entity, is marked with this suffix, mounosíín dictionary, éísíín forest.

8.2.6. -sína. Derived mostly from other nouns, forms in -sína mean “model of X, copy of X,” éísína bonsai (< éí tree).

8.2.7. -(i)t. This very productive suffix (cf. -(o)l above) produces resultative nouns, especially from intransitive verbs, as in haalit surrender, from haal give way, latout silence from latou be silent.

8.2.7.1. With transitive verbs this suffix covers some of the same ground as verbs in -wen (§8.5.1). The suffix -(i)t produces nouns of a generic character, while nominalizations in -wen are specific.

8.2.7.2. When attached to nouns this creates words of material, such as éít wood from éí tree, kaahomémat brick from kaahoméma mud, clay, heí’át string, thread from heí’á vein, sinew.

8.2.7.3. The noun incorporation form is -(i)’í, not *(i)tí. In noun compounds it remains -(i)t, with the usual ligature, giving -(i)tyo-.

8.2.8. -tsa’. Nouns of means and instrument are derived with -tsa’, káartsa’ preservative, kitratsu’a any means for producing tameness or civility, education.

8.2.9. -waal. This suffix creates word for tools, implements or other human-made artifacts related to the stem. When attached to nouns it tends to indicate a man-made substitute or simplification of the noun (the noun takes the compounding stem), kahtsowaal canal from kahtsá river.

8.2.10. -yat. This nominalization of the anaphoric verb ya, do so, is suffixed to verbs to form action nouns, wóséyat taraai hehiilolpan running is good for your health, they say.

8.2.11. Nouns of Place. Derived words of place make a distinction between those characteristically related to or inhabited by an animate agent, and everything else.

8.2.11.1. Nouns of place associated with animate agents are formed with -yá, to either verbs or nouns. These nouns almost never appear without possessive prefixes, támaayá my bedroom.

8.2.11.2. Other derivations of place end in -míi, such as koltémíi garden.
8.2.11.3. Rooms, small buildings and even some other things constructed and which in regular use hold humans are created with compounds ending in *pér room, maapér bedroom, kopyopér boat.*

8.3. **Verb and Verb-building Affixes.** Unless otherwise indicated, suffixes which attach to nouns use the incorporation stem.

8.3.1. -’áális. This suffix creates a verb which means “to lack X, to not have X.” It somewhat implies a characteristic lack, rather than a merely temporary state of affairs, *hááí’amáá’áálistsi they have no laws, they are lawless.*

8.3.1.1. May be used with agent nominalizer, *amáá’áálisaa a lawless person, sir’áálisaa a bald person.* It can also be used attributively, *kaarim’áálisé mar’áá a house without books.*

8.3.2. -’át. The attenuative, “-ish,” is created with this suffix, *he’aán’átttsi it was hot-ish.*

8.3.3. -’íil. This derives from nouns a verb meaning, “to have X,” and suffixed to the full form of the noun, *tekaarim’íil I have a book.* Note that the resulting verb is formally intransitive.

8.3.3.1. As with -’áális, verbs derived with -’íil readily take agent nominalization, *toultí’íilaa someone with a master, tsañí’íilaa someone having or suffering from a delusion, kaarim’íilé mar’áá a house with books.*

8.3.4. -kaałke. Attached to nouns, or rarely stative verbs, this suffix creates a transitive verb meaning “consider X, consider to be X, treat as an X,” *hááítáróúrkaałke they think I’m an idiot.*

8.3.5. -ko. The general quality of a noun is indicated with -ko, which comes closest to a pure adjective marker in Kahtsaai.

8.3.6. -ohk-. Infixed after the initial syllable of a primitive root, -ohk- is a modestly productive marker of privation and oppositeness, *lohkei unjust < lei just.*

8.3.6.1. Nouns that take this infix will be converted to their incorporation stem and take the -ko suffix, *rohkóúrkoyá a moron-free place < róúre moron and the place suffix -yá.*

8.3.7. -irwa. Only verbs take this suffix, which creates a stative verb which describes things or people having the quality of causing or allowing the verb action. If the stem ends in l, ñ, r, m or n the suffix is simply -wa. Examples probably make the meaning easier to see:

- **leit** fear, be afraid of
- **leitirwa** scary
- **weir** be sick
- **weirwa** contagious
- **póse** trust, believe
- **póserwa** trustworthy, believable.

8.3.8. -taas. This suffix creates intransitive verbs of making, building or creating. Such forms are the most common way to express this idea, *hááihoktítaasnats they’re building a wall.*

8.3.9. **Valency Marker.** A noun is promoted directly to a verb when taking either the causative or detransitive suffix, *stiliki bleed < siila blood, éltsim steep, brew < éltsi tisane.*

---

3Stative verbs will often prefer a construction with -próh, §5.3.16.
8.3.10. **Intensives.** Verbs that end in a consonant other than h double that consonant and suffix -éín, as in **mattéín** be malevolent from **mat** bad. Verbs that end in a vowel suffix -'séín, and verbs that end in h take -séín, which gives -sséín after assimilation. Intensives tend to be highly lexicalized and idiomatic.

8.4. **Prefixes.** There are only a few lexical prefixes.

8.4.1. **Laá-.** Like “con-, co-,” etc., marks things characterized by mutuality or co-occurrence. This is the same as the slot one adverbial verb prefix (§3.4.3.1).

8.4.2. **sor-.** For animals, marks the male, **sor’áá bull < áá bovine.** This is a reduced form of **sour man.**

8.4.3. **Taas-.** For animals, marks the female. This is a reduced form of **taaswe woman.**

8.4.4. **Yár-.** Any noun or verb may take this prefix, which indicates that the thing or event is somehow mediated by communications or computing technology. It answers to the English “e-, cyber-, online,” etc. For example, **yárwęíla avatar < weiß person,** or:

   Tekyárkórna.
   tei-k-yár-kór-na
   1SG-3INAN.INDEF-online-read-IPFV
   I’m reading (stuff) online.

8.5. **Nominalization.** The most basic agent nominalizers are C-aa, V-’aa for animates and -’é for inanimates. These form many lexical items from verbs or NI-verb complexes. For example, **hánináá’lé candle, torch, flashlight (< hán stick and náá to burn). This mechanism is also used in relative clauses (§9.13).**

8.5.0.1. Verbs ending in -aai (with any tones) alter the stem slightly when combining with these suffixes:

   -aai + -’aa > -aa’yaa
   -aai + -’é > -aa’yé

   If the -i- element of the diphthong has a high tone with -’aa, the nominalizer takes on a glide, so róú’áá’yaa from róú’áái, but saa’yáa from saaí. The -aa- element keeps whatever tone it had before, and the tone of the -i- portion has no effect on the -’é contraction. A simple example, **monkaa’yaa for speaker (< monkaai + -’a).**

8.5.0.2. It is most common for nominalized transitive verbs to use the indefinite object conjugation prefixes. The animate indefinite is easily accommodated, **ouwo’aa ferocious,** lit., “people-eater.” The inanimate indefinite, -k-, needs a prop to be prefixed to the verb. Before a vowel — remember this conceals a glottal stop — it merges with the stop and becomes h-, **houhtimaa vulgarizer, one who makes things pointless,** from **ouhti.** Before a consonant, it becomes ki-, as in **kike’lí’aásomeone who screws things up,** from **ke’lí.**

   Certain vocabulary, however, will take different object prefixes. This is most common when the agent noun refers to a person who has a fairly direct relationship with someone. Thus, **kat-tííno’aa our neighbor,** literally, “one who is a neighbor to us.”
8.5.1. **Object Nouns.** When the referent of the nominalization is the object of a transitive verb, different endings are used, -ke for animates and -wen for inanimates. Though the bare verb stem may be used in a few fixed lexical items, usually a subject affix is used, usually an indefinite, masókwen *what one thinks, thought*, but teisókwen *what I think*.

8.5.2. **Manner.** Nouns of manner or method are marked by attaching -(i)kyaan to fully conjugated verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teklámikyaanis</th>
<th>kí’áhkaalin.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tei-k-lám-kyaan-s</td>
<td>kí-’áh-kaal-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SG-3INAN.INDEF-speak-NMNL.way-INAN.NOM</td>
<td>3INAN-3PL-annoy-EVID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The way I speak irritates them (I hear).*

8.5.3. **Clause Nominalization.** Clauses are nominalized with the suffix C-ó, V--hó. Verbs within nominalized clauses are not marked for evidentiality or dependency.

8.6. **Compounds.** In addition to the many N-V compounds (covered under noun incorporation), head-final N-N compounds are common. The link syllable -yo- combines the two elements, ka’wákyoháke *the cry of a crow*, from ka’wák *crow* and háke *voice, sound*.

8.6.0.1. If the noun stem ends in a short vowel, that is likely to be elided before the link syllable is inserted, yórolourá *outer space* from yóra *star* and lourá *void*. Long vowels always take -yo-, yéiyokaarim *diary* from yéi *day* and kaarim *book*.

8.6.1. **Stem Alterations.** Final short vowels are dropped before the addition of the link syllable -yo-. If the resulting stem ends in a resonant (l r m n), glide (w y), glottal stop or consonant cluster the link is reduced to -o-, waatrokopi *rose water* from waatre *rose* and kopi *water*. Stems in -aai turn the i into y, dropping any tone.

8.6.2. **Incorporation.** In general, incorporation of compounds is avoided. In pragmatic NI, the head noun or a classifier will be incorporated.

8.6.3. **Possessed Forms.** If the non-head noun in a N-N compound has a possessed form, that form will be used in the compound. For example *mountain, tsel*, has the possessed form -rotssel. So, tselyomar’áá *mountain home, vacation home* when possessed is áhirotsselyomar’áá *their vacation home*.

8.6.3.1. When the head noun of a N-N compound has a possessed form, that is used in the compound, such as lópi’yostoulta *carpenter ant* from lópi’ *ant* and toult (s-toult) *lord, master*.

8.7. **Verb Incorporation.** Complex verb stems may be produced by combining two verbs. The first verb of the compound gives a circumstantial or adverbal sense,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kááktséítsapa’na</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>káá-k-tséí-tsapa’-na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1PL-3INAN.INDEF-walk-discuss-IPFV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We were talking while walking.*

Unaccusative verbs are not used this way except to create new lexical entries. Unaccusatives are generally adverbal adjuncts in -ne/-hte (§9.17).
8.7.1. Łom. The verb Łom, throw, shoot, pelt, can be used like a suffix on either transitive or intransitive verbs to create irresultatives. The resulting verbs describe states or events that don’t quite accomplish their goal, or meet expectation.

Yotásekliitaal tíkłe. The snake struck me, vs.

Yotásekliitaałłom tíkłe.
yo-tá-seklii-taal-lom tíkłe
3SG-1SG-sting-strike-throw snake
The snake struck at me.

Toulta matssisekliiłomne matsłóúníír.
lord 3INDEF-3SG-body-strike-IRRES-ADV 3INDEF-3SG-must-kill
If you strike at the king you must kill him.

It can also be used with intransitive verbs or inanimate subjects.

Hekísílíomtși.
he-kíísi-łom-tsi
3IN-rain-throw-EVID
It was supposed to rain (but didn’t).

Though the base verb Łom is transitive, when used for the irresultative sense, it inherits the transitivity of the verb it is attached to.

8.7.1.1. In irrealis or dependent clauses, the irresultative may have a purely conative sense, “try to” and the like, with a stronger sense that success is harder to attain.

8.7.1.2. Irresultatives are not negated.

9. Syntax

9.1. Noun Phrase. Word order within noun phrases is very strict:

Deixis  Noun  Determiner  Quantifier, Number

Examples:

kaarim mál’ė  (the, an) other book
ra’ė kaarim mál’ė  that other book
hón mohááí  this cat
hón mohááí oyo’in  such a cat as this
hón mohááí oyo’in tas’ė  all cats such these
hón mohááí oyo’in saai  two cats such these
hón mohááí kop  this same cat
mohááí tasin  every cat, all cats
mohááí máłin tasin  every other cat, all other cats
9.1.0.1. The determiner kop, kopé same is always found with a demonstrative.

9.1.1. Attributive Directionals and Postpositions. The attributive forms of the directional suffixes (§5.2) may modify noun phrases.

Mar’áátaak sour yomaanats. The man is sleeping at home.
Mar’ááteim sour yomaanats. The man at home is sleeping.
Hispaniyaliyom taaswe the woman from Spain.

The attributive phrase will always precede the noun.

9.1.1.1. Postpositions can also take an attributive morpheme, -m after a vowel, -om after the consonants h, ’ and r, and -em after all other consonants, atsporom teyahtí desire for him/her, katihtiham mohááí the cat with us.

9.1.1.2. If the postposition has a directional suffix, then that will take the attributive morphology,

táte’éliteim mohááí the cat under the blankets with me
támar’áá onmo’ímteim tospa the road in front of my house

A postposition of location or movement will generally use the directional attributive, rather than a direct attributive.

9.2. Possession. A possessed noun will always have some possessive prefix. If the possessor is a noun, it comes before the possessed noun with the agreeing possessive pronoun:

atsmar’áá
ats-mar’áá
3SG-house
his house

sour atsmar’áá
sour ats-mar’áá
man 3SG-house
the man’s house

sour áhmar’áá
sour áh-mar’áá
man 3PL-house
the men’s house

Possession chains forward naturally,

táttá atsmar’áá
tá-ttá ats-mar’áá
1SG-father 3SG-house
my father’s house

This construction marks a definite possessum. For indefinites, see §5.2.1.4.
9.3. Argument Disambiguation. Without case marking, there is a potential ambiguity in transitive verbs about who is doing what to whom. The particle mo before a noun phrase selects it as the subject, yeitssitsák mo taaswe mahááí the woman saw the cat.

9.3.1. Subject Focus. The particle mo is used in unambiguous phrases to focus the subject (but see §10.5.1).

9.3.2. Single Word Answers. When a simple noun acting as the subject of an implicit verb in an answer or other brief correction.


9.3.3. Copula Dropping. It is more usual to use mo with a subject and an unmarked predicate noun than it is to use the copula:

Kirááni’aa mo kaahtsápi.
k-rááni-’aa mo kaahtsápi
things-steal-AGT mo rabbit

The rabbit is a thief.

Non-fronted adverbs in such clauses will typically come before mo, as in róúre yal mo ran he’s still an idiot. The copular verb ye will reappear if mood or evidential marking is necessary.

9.3.4. Switch Reference. Kahtsaaí has a simple switch reference system which is only used with third person pronouns. The word mots marks same subject (SS) and mám marks different subject (DS). Both words contain a reduced form of mo.

Te’ewén temaal. I want to sleep, but Yonwén mots yomaał She wants to sleep (herself). Yonwén mám yomaał She wants him to sleep.

9.4. Pronouns. It is least marked for the pronouns to occur as affixes on nouns, verbs and postpositions. The independent forms (§3.2) are used for focus and with the directional suffixes.

9.4.1. Focus with Postpositions. To focus a pronoun in a postpositional phrase, the independent form appears before the postposition with prefix,

Łouh tán táltik hááítséíł? Why did they walk away from me?

9.4.2. Pronouns with Directional Suffixes. In comparisons (§5.2.1.2) and in certain idioms taking directional suffixes, the full pronouns take the directional. The long form of the pronoun is used, táne rather than tán, as in rinete yohááttsi he’s as smart as you.

9.5. Ditransitives. With ditransitive verbs one object is the “core” object, which is cross-referenced by the direct object verb prefixes, and one is “secondary,” which is always external and almost always overt. Most of the time, the core object will be that object naturally higher on the animacy hierarchy. For example, with the verb kaai give, the recipient is the core object, tetskaai’imé wé I’ll give this to him.
9.5.0.1. Certain derivational processes may alter the core object, or raise the verb’s valency and thus require a shuffle of arguments. For example, the verb laats remember takes as the core argument the thing remembered. However, when combined with kaai to form a kind of causative, łaatskaai remind, the core object becomes the person reminded, with the thing remembered moved out to secondary status (see §B.1), amáán káá’áhłaatskaai we reminded them of the law.

9.5.0.2. In a language like English, the ditransitive construction is often used in a benefactive construction, “I made tea” vs. “I made her tea.” Where the benefactive applicative cannot be used, such as when other valence suffixes are used, or when using the applicative might produce a word the speaker finds unwieldy, Kahtsaai’s ditransitive construction can also be used for a benefactive sense. For example, the causative suffix on éltsim steep means the benefactive cannot be used, so tets’éltsim tor I made her tea.

9.6. NI and Definiteness. Inanimate discourse topics which have already been introduced into a conversation will frequently be incorporated into transitive verbs when used as objects. This can be the noun itself, but a classificatory noun is sufficient if it is unambiguous, and especially if the discourse topic was introduced with classification.

9.6.1. Part of the Whole. It is very common for constituent parts of a discourse topic to be incorporated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hetorítérkats</th>
<th>kaarim asaal.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he-tor-térka-ts</td>
<td>kaarim asaal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3INAN-leaf-let.go-EVID</td>
<td>book to.my.disadvantage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The book lost a page (which is a problem for me).

9.7. Negation. Simple negation is marked with the adverb sei, which comes before the verb.

9.7.1. Indefinites. Negative indefinites — nobody, nowhere — are indicated with indefinite demonstratives and adverbs and the negative adverb sei, as in sei áye’é te’eyöl I know nothing, sei yonyóltsi áyen no one knows.

9.7.2. Negative Answer. In the answer to a yes-no question, the negative answer is mo sei, not just sei.

9.7.3. Negative Verbs. A small number of verbs have suppletive forms which must be used when negated. “I don’t want it” is sei te’epits, not *sei te’ewén.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>maa sleep</td>
<td>rél</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>séít die</td>
<td>sénaméí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wén want</td>
<td>pits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any compounds with one of these verbs as the final element will also take the suppletion.
9.8. **Adverbs.** Adverbs can fall anywhere in the clause where they make sense. Those with more restricted scope will typically come before the word or phrase they apply to. In general the adverb will not follow the verb, unless the verb has been focus fronted (§10.4.8).

Adverbs with scope over the full clause will often fall in the second position in the clause, and may separate a noun from its postposition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tá’heiri</th>
<th>e’áána</th>
<th>aahta</th>
<th>souló’mé.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tá-eiri</td>
<td>e’áána</td>
<td>aa-hta</td>
<td>sou-ló-’mé</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1SG-sister perhaps 3AN-with 2SG-go-FUT

*Perhaps you will go with my sister.*

9.9. **Questions.** Yes-no questions are marked with the clause-initial particle *ii*.

9.9.1. **Eí.** The clause-final particle *eí* is informal, and equivalent to *ii* in full clauses. It is common, and least informal, in questions that aren’t full clauses with verbs.

- Souyats taai! *You did this!*
- Mo táne eí? *I did?*

9.9.2. **Choice Questions.** Either/or questions mark each clause with *ii*. If the choices are simply noun phrases, the particle may either be deferred from initial position, or may be repeated. All three of the sentences below mean, *will you read this or that?*

- Ii so’okórméł wé ii ra’é?
- So’okórméł ii wé ii ra’é?
- Ii so’okórméł ii wé ii ra’é?

The last one is least common, the first is most common.

9.9.3. **Question Verb Mood.** All question types — yes-no, with question words, indirect — are marked dependent.

- Ii so’otsáknał? *Do you see it?*
- Wé yen yonyólye? *Who knows this?*

9.9.4. **Conjectural Questions.** All question types may take the inferential evidential -*koł* instead of the dependent mood. These are conjectural questions — the speaker doesn’t know the answer and further doesn’t think their audience does either.

- Yen yoyakoł? *I wonder who did this.*
- Ii hetsoki’mékoł ra’é? *I wonder if that’ll be easy.*

9.10. **Verb Agreement and Valency.**

9.10.1. **Number Marking.** The only time (animate) nouns are marked for number is when they are the subject or direct object of a transitive verb, since the conjugation forms have number,

*Hááítémnał mohááí. The cats were playing around.*
9.10.2. **Indefiniteness.** The indefinite subject and object prefixes are not used when overt indefinite pronouns are used. These prefixes are most often used to describe generic situations, where they almost have the sense “people, things.”

*Tápa yo’ouwon.* Mountain lions eat *people* (I hear).

The indefinite prefixes may also be used to describe long-standing states of affairs. [“I didn’t see anyone” normally, vs. trapped on an island, say.]

9.10.3. **Reflexives.** The reflexive object prefix, *-le-* is only used for true reflexives, and not as that middle voice marker so common in Western European languages.

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Teiletsákkoh} & \text{kiitstléíp’é}.\\
\text{tei-le-tsá-koh} & \text{kiit-stléíp’é} \\
1\text{SG-REFL-see-INST.APPL} & \text{again-shine-NMNL}
\end{array}
\]

*I saw myself in (“with”) the mirror.*

9.11. **Negative Obligation.** The two positive obligation modal affixes, *-łóú-* must and *-sakke-should*, have only a single negative, the affix *-ił-* with the negative adverb *sei*. Non-compulsory, negative obligation is marked with the clause-final particle *pá*.

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Łasoulóólló.} & \text{You must go}.\\
\text{Łasousakkeló.} & \text{You should go.}\\
\text{Sei łasou’iłłó.} & \text{You must not go.}\\
\text{Sei łasou’iłłó pá.} & \text{You should not go.}
\end{array}
\]

9.12. **Dependency.** Kahtsaai does not have infinitives, so dependent subclauses have fully conjugated verbs marked for dependency, usually in the dependent mood (*C-ye*, *V-ł*), but with some verbs the optative will be used.

*Te’ewén ḥateilół.* *I want to go* (lit., *I want (it) I go*).

9.12.1. **Person Chaining.** In many dependent constructions there may be subject or object chaining. In verbs of perception, the subject of the dependent clause is the object of the verb of perception,

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Tei’ássitsák} & \text{hááímorlaainal}.\\
\text{tei-áh-si-tsák} & \text{hááí-morlaai-na-ł} \\
1\text{SG-3PL-body-see} & \text{3PL-dance-IPFV-DEP}
\end{array}
\]

*I saw them dancing.*

With subject chaining, the main and the dependent verb have the same subject, as seen with the example with “want” above. Some verbs will take subject chaining somewhat idiomatically,

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Hááímaríts} & \text{hááímorlaainal}.\\
\text{hááí-marí-ts} & \text{hááí-morlaai-na-ł} \\
3\text{PL-likely-EVID} & \text{3PL-dance-IPFV-DEP}
\end{array}
\]

*It’s likely they are dancing.*
9.13. **Attributive Nominalization and Relative Clauses.** The lexical nominalization markers (§8.5) can be used with full subject and object marking. The resulting word can stand alone or be used in apposition to another noun, acting much like a relative clause (RC).

*Yomaa’aa mahááí tettssitsák.* I see a cat that is sleeping.

*Kaarim yonsourlo’aa sour sei tetei’ifyol.* I don’t know the man reading the book.

*Łasotssitsákke taaswe yomaknits.* The woman you see over there was rude.

*Łaso’otsákwen éi heweiwáspéts.* The tree you see over there is very old.

Note that the RC always comes before the noun it goes with.

9.13.1. **Word Order.** Within RC the word order is much more restrained, (Adv) - S - O - V. If more elaborated clause or discourse structure is needed with such a clause, it will be pulled out into a separate statement.

9.14. **Directional Suffixes with Verbs.** Two of the four directional suffixes have idiomatic senses when attached to a verb, forming adverbial adjuncts to a main clause. Clauses with verbs so marked tend strongly to be verb final. Clauses so mark typically come before the main clause, and may be further marked with the adverbial -ne (§9.17).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somaanataak</th>
<th>tekkórmé.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sou-maa-na-taak</td>
<td>tei-k-kór-me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SG-sleep-IPFV-while</td>
<td>1SG-3INDEF-read-FUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll read while you sleep.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.15. **Conjunctions.** All conjunctions occur in the left-most position in the clause. There are no postpositive conjunctions.

9.15.1. **Im.** or.

9.15.2. **Kihi.** but.

9.15.3. **Li.** Meaning and,...

9.15.4. **Lííhar.** (and) therefore.

9.15.4.1. With the dependent mood it forms result clauses, *hááínka’má wé lííhar hááínlen téł háši they did this so that they saved the city.* This use is somewhat formal, with plain indicative just as common.

9.15.5. **Mil.** and then, next.

9.15.6. **Óran.** because.

9.15.7. **Tson.** This conjunction, meaning rather than, instead of, has several different senses depending on the mood of the dependent verb.
9.15.7.1. Non-Optative. With independent or dependent verbs, the basic meaning is “instead of,”

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Hó’wei} & \quad \text{tewaakou’mé} & \quad \text{tson} & \quad \text{tekleitmé}. \\
\text{hó’wei} & \quad \text{tei-waakou-’mé} & \quad \text{tson} & \quad \text{tei-k-léit-mé} \\
\text{here} & \quad \text{1SG-stay-FUT} & \quad \text{instead.of} & \quad \text{1SG-3INDEF-fear-FUT} \\
& \quad \text{I will stay here instead of being afraid.}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that the tense marking is used in both clauses.

9.15.7.2. Optative. With the optative in both clauses, the situation is hypothetical,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Hó’wei} & \quad \text{tewaakouwaal} & \quad \text{tson} & \quad \text{tekleitwaal}.
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{hó’wei} & \quad \text{tei-waakou-waal} & \quad \text{tson} & \quad \text{tei-k-léit-waal} \\
\text{here} & \quad \text{1SG-stay-OPT} & \quad \text{rather.than} & \quad \text{1SG-3INDEF-fear-OPT} \\
& \quad \text{I would rather stay here than be afraid.}
\end{align*}
\]

9.15.7.3. Elision. A full clause is not required to follow tson. For example, \text{wé te’ekórmé tson ra’é} \text{I will read this book instead of that (one).} With the optative, nothing need follow at all, giving the idiom “would rather,” \text{sei te’eyólwaal tson} \text{I would rather not know.}

9.16. Asyndeton. Normally Kahtsaai prefers overt connection between clauses, much more than English does. But several common circumstances will result in clauses occurring in succession without connection.

9.16.1. Parallel Determiners. Repeated determiners can be used in contrasting clauses,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Máł’é} & \quad \text{katwer} & \quad \text{herá’nin}, & \quad \text{máł’é} & \quad \text{sei} & \quad \text{katwer} & \quad \text{herá}. \\
\text{máł’é} & \quad \text{kat-wer} & \quad \text{he-rá-’nin}, & \quad \text{máł’é} & \quad \text{sei} & \quad \text{kat-wer} & \quad \text{he-rá} \\
\text{other} & \quad \text{1PL-in} & \quad 3\text{INAN-be-EVID}, & \quad \text{other} & \quad \text{not} & \quad 1\text{PL-in} & \quad 3\text{INAN-be} \\
& \quad \text{Some things are up to us and other things are not up to us.}
\end{align*}
\]

9.17. Adverbial Clauses. Single words and simple clauses may be turned into clause adjuncts with an adverbial suffix: C-ne, V-hte. Verbs are not marked for evidentiality when this suffix is used with them.

9.17.1. Portmanteaus. The imperfective -na combines with this suffix to form -naan. The few verbs with the imperfective in -rá or -réí form -réín.

9.17.2. Stative Verbs. With stative verbs this suffix creates what English speakers would recognize as basic adverbs, \text{hehíílné yoklámtsi} \text{he speaks well.} Note that the stative is fully conjugated.

9.17.3. Pleonastic. Root adverbs of time or manner — but not of place — may also take this suffix for stylistic or prosodic reasons. This is especially common in single word utterances.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{A:} & \quad \text{Łayolół ye’lin? When did he go?} \\
\text{B:} & \quad \text{Awaróhte Today.}
\end{align*}
\]

This use is more common when the adverb is describing background information. If the adverb is focused or especially salient, it is used bare.
9.17.4. **Conditionals.** The adverbial suffix is used to mark the protasis of a conditional sentence. There are a few conditional types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Protasis</th>
<th>Apodasis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Clause -hte</td>
<td>Clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td>Clause in future -hte</td>
<td>Clause in future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothetical</td>
<td>Clause in optative -hte</td>
<td>Clause in optative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrafactual</td>
<td>Clause in cf. -hte</td>
<td>Clause in cf.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.17.4.1. The general condition is not really distinguishable from a temporal use of the adverbial,

```
Hekíísihte, tewaakou mar’áá.
he-kíisi-hte tei-waakou mar’áá
3INAN-rain-ADV 1SG-remain home
```

*When/if it rains I stay at home.*

---

10. **Discourse**

10.1. **Constituent Order.** The basic word order is determined by topicality and definiteness:

```
(Topic) Focus Verb (X)
```

The focus slot may either contain new information or be set up as a point of contrast. Note especially that old discourse topics are often incorporated into the verb, either directly or with classificatory elements.

10.2. **Definiteness.** Definiteness is only weakly marked in Kahtsaai. There is a modest tendency for know, definite discourse topics to follow the verb, but this is by no means required.

```
Sour tetssitsákna. I see a man.
Tetssitsákna sour. I see the man.
```

10.3. **Narrative Control with Demonstratives.** When discussing two or more third person discourse topics, confusion can arise since Kahtsaai only distinguishes animacy, and number is marginal. Talking about two people could get messy unless you wanted to keep repeating names. Kahtsaai uses the demonstrative pronouns to keep discourse topics clear.

10.3.1. **Topicality.** The most topical or salient element in a discourse will get the proximal demonstrative (*hón, wé*), and all others⁴ will get the distal (*ran, ra’é*).

---

⁴In Algonquian languages this is called the “obviative.”
10.4. Discourse Particles. Most discourse particles accumulate in Wackernagel position (after the first constituent of the clause), though they very commonly follow basic conjunctions. A few, due to their meaning, may follow whatever word they go with.

Limited by sense, the particles may gather together:

| síín (má), (óts) | li | lop, łak, mel | taai, páán |

Due to its meaning, óts rarely combines with other discourse particles, except sometimes taai.

When a clause consists of a single verb and particles, the particles may either follow the verb or the clause has a prop mil and then or hó’owa thus at the start which the particles use as the base. Hó’owa is sometimes used with a particle and no other word at all.

Hó’owa taai hááímaats! They are asleep!

10.4.1. Li. This marks commonplaces, statements of fact the speaker expects to be widely acknowledged as true. It typically evicts any evidential,

Tápa li hááítsouk. Cougars are dangerous.

This particle is different from the conjunction li and. Prosodically, this li is pronounced with the word it follows, while the conjunction is pronounced with the word it comes before.

10.4.1.1. The combination li lop means something like, “after all,”

Porí li lop yonlempó. She tried it in secret after all.

10.4.1.2. The combination li taai is either sincerely regretful of a realization made too late, or piously sentential.

10.4.2. Lop. This particle marks either a realization or the acceptance of a state of affairs. For example, it may be used when conceding a dispute. Operates at the level of the clause.

Yoróúrkommér lop! yo-róúre-ko-mmér lop
3AN-idiot-STATATIVE-MIR lop
Wow, how stupid he is!

The phrase hó’owa lop matches the wearied or exhausted “so there’s that,” summing up and concluding a distressing or annoying topic.

10.4.3. Łak. A complement to mel, it marks an event that is against expectation, inappropriate, or unsuited to the current context.

10.4.3.1. The combination łak taai is used when the speaker wants to prop up a statement they don’t expect their listener to believe.

Mil yolónats łak taai yoklámna. And then she actually kept talking.
10.4.4. Mel. Translated variously, “as expected, indeed, (and) so,” this particle indicates situational or narrative integrity.

He’asasots — kehiné mel soutákaaitto. It’s cold — (so) give me a blanket.

10.4.4.1. With questions, indicates that the question is expected and natural to the context.

10.4.5. Óts. Incrédulous disparagement is marked with óts. Operates at the level of the clause, but may also occur after a bare noun.

10.4.6. Pá. Unlike the others in this list, pá comes at the end of a clause. It used to soften assertions when it might be rude or uncomfortable for the listener to hear what is being said. It is especially used with the direct evidential. It is also used with negative verbs of obligation (see §9.11).

10.4.7. Páán. This particle solicits the involvement or agreement of the person being spoken to, meaning something like “you know” or “you see.”

10.4.8. Síín. A focused verb is moved to the head of its clause, and must be followed by this particle. It marks contrast, surprising information or asseveration, te’eké’li síín I did screw it up.

10.4.8.1. When the adverb má only, just, merely goes with a verb that verb is focused and moved to the head of the clause, hekeltsi síín má ra’é that just happened!

10.4.9. Taai. The basic sense of taai is asseveration, “really, truly,” but it interacts with moods, tenses, evidentiality and other particles for various other related senses.

10.4.9.1. With the future, taai marks the intent of the speaker, mats’ákwí’mé taai he will be sanctioned.

10.4.9.2. With the optative, it marks a very sincere desire, hekiísiwaal taai may it rain! It has a somewhat pleading tone.

10.4.9.3. With the evidential -kol, taai marks a supposition or an inference in which the speaker is quite confident, hááíhaanáreiklíénakol taai I rather imagine they are sleeping together.

10.4.9.4. The clause-final particle pá may be used to soften the blow of a statement propped up with taai. The speaker may also use this combination to signal their own discomfort with a state of affairs, sei taai hó’wei yoráts pá he’s really not here.

10.5. Discourse Enclitics. These enclitics occur after all other suffixes and enclitics are added.

10.5.1. -(i)tní. Focus particle for nouns or nominalized elements only. Verbs use síín (§10.4.8). In a noun phrase usually the enclitic goes with the noun and scopes over the entire phrase, but any element of the noun phrase can be focused with this particle.
10.5.1.1. Verb subjects are more often focused with the particle mo (§9.3). A subject marked with -(i)tní carries the sense of asseveration or confirmation, “truly, really, indeed.” In this sense, mo and -(i)tní are often used together.

(Mo) ran ááłatní yohóustsi. It really is that guy who shouted.

10.5.2. -aap. This suffix (C-aap, V-hap) means “also, even.” The independent pronouns can take these,

Wé te’ekoprikaai tánaap.
Wé tei-n-kopra-kaai tán-aap
this 1SG-3INAN-tear-give I-even.
Even I cried about this, or I also cried about this.

Wéhap te’ekoprikaai.
Wé-hap tei-n-kopra-kaai
this-every 1SG-3INAN-tear-give
I cried about this, too, or I cried about even this.

The suffix is also used in single word utterances announcing the presence of something or a realization, á, mohááihap oh, (it’s the) cat.

10.5.3. -yááh. This marks the lower limit of any word capable of a scalar interpretation, “at least.” It is usable on numbers,

Sour waryááh te’áhssitsák.
Sour war-yááh tei-áh-s-tsák
man four-at.least 1SG-3PL-BODY-see
I saw at least four men.

10.5.3.1. With Names. This enclitic cannot attach to names of people or relations. In that situation, -yááh is attached to a pronoun or demonstrative, typically at the end of the clause,

John li Mary yo’áhyémkaain ran’áhyááh.
John li Mary yo-áh-yémá-kaai-n ran’áh-yááh
John and Mary 3SG.AN-3PL-invite-give-EVID those.AN-at.least
She invited at least John and Mary.

The third person animate plural áhne may be used in place of ran’áh

---

3This, of course, is the same translation given to taai. This enclitic has scope only over the noun phrase it’s attached to. Taai has scope over the entire clause.
10.6. **Commentary Particles.** These particles allow a speaker to comment on what is being said in various ways. Unlike the broader discourse particles that tend to land in Wackernagel position, these usually come at the end of a clause. However, they may from time to time migrate to immediately after that constituent the speaker is commenting on.

These particles may comment either on the state of affairs coded in the clause they appear in, or, like certain conjunctions, may instead relate to the reasons for making the statement in the first place. These reasons may be already established information, or completely unmentioned but implicit. For example, when talking about a matchmaker, hááíreikléínan *they are hanging out together*, could take the addition of atóú to signal the finesse of that matchmaker, rather than anything the people hanging out are doing.

10.6.1. **Asaal.** “To the speaker's disadvantage.”

```
Teiyé'kaptísíwe lop asaal.
tei-yé'-kapto-síwe lop asaal
1SG-INCH-nose-flow PRT.realization PRT.to.my.disadvantage
I'm getting a cold.
```

10.6.2. **Atóú.** “Finesse, done with excellence.”

10.6.3. **Het.** “Faddish, hyped, current likely transient.”

10.6.4. **Iyé.** “Amorous interest or intent.”

10.6.5. **Kóhá.** “So-called,” purporting to be one thing but not really.

10.6.6. **Kou’ára.** Interpersonal marker, indicating that the audience is a colleague or comrade with the speaker in some state of affairs or undertaking.

10.6.7. **Láái.** “About which nothing can be done.”

10.6.8. **Łiin.** “To the speaker’s advantage.”

10.6.9. **Ápa, Ápaar.** Marks that the speaker’s personal desires are focused on one of the clause constituents; quite blunt when used of sexual desire, and would only be used that way among very close friends.

10.6.10. **Rowi.** “Cultivated nonsense, opportunistic skepticism, bullshit, theoretical delirium.”

10.6.11. **Satwí.** “Baffling, completely outside one’s usual worldview.”

10.6.12. **Síhour.** “Touching on the speaker’s pride, honor, dignity, sense of self-worth, etc.”

10.6.13. **Tís.** “Causing impatience.”

```
Yoklámnats tís.
yo-k-lám-na-ts tís
3SG-3INDEF-speak-IPFV-EVID PRT.causing.impatience
He’s still talking!
```

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10.6.14. Tsappi. “Dilberto-machiavellianism,” that is, power politics, especially of an incompetent and amoral variety (in any context, not only the office)

10.6.15. Tsepou. “Mercenary, done for gain without regard for consequences.”

10.6.16. Wá’riiye. “Saudade, with nostalgia, longing for something absent or unattainable.”

10.7. Cursing, Insults and Other Unfriendliness. In cursing both the imperative and the optative are available, with the latter somewhat milder in tone. For example, lasounátto, in the imperative, is more or less go to hell, while lasounátwaal is better understood as get lost or the like.

10.7.1. Unlikely Experiences. Kahtsaaai symbolic verbal violence consists of, in increasing levels of hostility, róúka a dog, má’aat a donkey, kamlai a horse, or aais ghosts doing unexpected things to one’s enemies, vexing tools, etc.

The most mild form of such curses uses the verb mahti mount (lit., “cover”), with the target as the direct object. Leaving out an explicit subject forms the most basic curse against things, yonmahtitto, and is roughly equivalent to “damn it” where “it” refers to something in particular. Against a person, yorimahtitto. A complaint about the general state of affairs can be shown with the third person inanimate indefinite object. In such general expressions a commentary particle is necessary, which comments on the state of affairs rather than the unkind suggestion of the verb expression. So yokmahtitto tsappi might be uttered in frustration with the general (small-scale, office) political situation.

Far more aggressive is the compound verb tsóhkípar (< tsókha buttocks, par receive), má’aat yoritsóhkípar to! may a donkey take you.

Short, sweet, to the point — and highly aggressive — a simple noun followed by the appropriate form of the postposition -skiil stuck or impaled on also gets the job done, aais áhíískiil.

Wishing things away or discreetly dead is another way to express displeasure. The most common verb for this is la-nát disappear, perish (lit., “fall away”), which answers more or less to English “go to hell” for people but is freely usable with inanimates. Again, indefinite conjugation can be used for generalized dissatisfaction, lawénátto. Similarly, layoste “(in)to the grave” is a brief and very minor curse, but may be added to a form of la-nát for more punch.

10.7.2. Unfriendly PRO-Nouns. The demonstratives combine with certain nouns, often marked with the diminutive or augmentative, to provide disparaging or dismissive ways to refer to people. The most common nouns for this role are póš shit implying irritation, méma mush implyng incompetence especially, and tsóhka buttocks also marking irritation. The diminutive accents ineffectualness or general irritation, while the augmentative is aggressive.

Yoye’taas ra’é połtát? What did that little shit do?
Rou yonke’li wé mémakma. This colossal putz screwed it up again.

Note that though nouns phrases are formally inanimate, verbal agreement is animate.

Creative individuals may use the wé/ra’é + N-tát/N-kma frame for additional entertainment. The demonstratives are fundamental to this disparaging use, and can only be omitted if replaced by the vocative particle ni.
A. Vocabulary

For the most part, animacy is semantic (animals and insects are animate, other things are not). There are some exceptions, marked with n.an. below. The primary object of a ditransitive verb is the one marked in the prefix chain.

A word with a trailing dash that appears after a noun headword is the incorporation form of a noun (e.g., mon-, the incorporation form of mouno word). A word with an initial dash is for nouns that take separate forms when possessed (e.g., -mmé, the possessed form of emmé mother).
The symbol ~ refers to the main lemma in idioms and subdefinitions.

Compounds with the final element -kaai, -par and -noró (§B.1) are listed under the first element, but otherwise verb compounds are defined under the final element. So, kalkaai is found under kal, but amááyém is defined under yém.

Examples with ideophones are often translated bluntly, since English is so impoverished in this regard. A descriptive translation should be taken as a stop-gap. Ideophones are supposed to depict — to be mini-performances, in effect.

Determiners are marked det. and give the animate and then inanimate forms in the lemma. Commentary particles are marked with com.part.

A A A A A

á interj. ah, oh.
áá 1. n. bovine, cow, bull. 2. n. beef.
áa'epé interj. holy crap! for surprise; more positive than kónyaá́̄.

aahpé n. viscera, “guts.”
  a. -aahpé kinyé’wetsim idiom, unsettle someone,
ta’aahpé taai kinyé’wetsim mo ra’és that was re-
ally unsettling, lit., “that really made my guts start
to tremble” (see wets).
aafl n. ancestor.
aaïROU -.aais n.an ghost, spirit, daemon, god.
áál n.an. seed; semen.
áálokókka n. pumpkin.
áála n. man, dude, guy, colloq., most often with vocative, ni áála; not actually gender-specific.
aamá 1. v.in. be dead. 2. of water, be stagnant, be flat (cf. la’kfi); of any drink, be “flat,” insipid, flavorless.
aamné v.tr. weave.
aamnél n. cloth, fabric.
ááñi adv. lately, recently.
aap v.tr. alarm, startle; mes’aap preferred with human objects, wés kitámes’aap that startled me;
kaarim yonkórnaan, tetsmes’aap — pehem! she
was reading a book when i startled her — thunk!
aaru (’haaru) n. brother.
aas (ipfv. saréí) v.in. come; prefers ego-or discourse-based deictic center, otherwise cisloca-
tive kóh- with ló is preferred.
áátsíhke n. dominance gift, something given to demonstrate social or political power rather than generosity; almost always from someone of significantly more power than the recipient; act of giving is with either kaai or, expressing misgivings, neno;
when possessed, the possessor always refers to the giver; áátsíhke yotákaai — liriílirií he gave me the
dominance gift and smiled superficially.
-’aayen postpos. short of, not reaching; less than.
a. on’aayen idiom scarcely, hardly, follows the verb immediately, wé werite’eyoł on’aayen I
E E E E E

e'áána adv. perhaps, maybe; usually inhibits evidential marking, and often follows the verb, yos yosár e'áána maybe she’s already arrived.

eí n. tree.
eí part. post-sentence question particle. Colloquial, and in verbless questions.
ei'ín'ei'ín ideo. for something small to protrude out horizontally; also of minor nuisances and interruptions.

éík 1. n. head. 2. in general, the uppermost part of something, apex. 3. geography, the top of a hill or mountain. 4. of people, chief, boss, or otherwise of people in charge of something.
eíri (-'heiri) n. sister.
eít 1. n. wood. 2. n. timber, lumber, wood for construction.

éiyomoutit n. syrup; sugar.
elnaan adv. yet, nonetheless.
éltsi n. tisane.
a. éltsim v.tr. brew, steep.
éméí n. future.
emmé (-mmé) n. mother.
er (ipfv. eréí) 1. v.in. float, hover, of anything in the air on its own power, including things moving around without apparent goal, including clouds of bugs, hummingbirds, celestial objects, etc. 2. with inceptive, come out, be out, of celestial objects or bugs, hááiyé'hertsi hókyowálé fireflies are out, heyé'hertsi rohwe the moon has come out.

éspimeisáái'é n. “barren crisis,” a major event which should have pushed a change in a situation,
but didn’t in fact do so.

éspin (éspi-) n. balance point, inflection point; of events, turning point. With verbs and postpositions of location, this indicates remaining at a balance point, while movement into or away from éspin indicates everything from a change in state to a change in fortune. Éspinmiits kááhour we stand on the brink (for good or ill); helááísakół éspinlii the storm has turned.

eyá’ 1. n. acorn. 2. n. (slang) head of the penis; by metonymy, penis.

H H H H H

-háá’ postpos. in exchange for, (in payment) for, in place of.
háá’ya- = hááí- + -na’a- (see §3.4.3.1).
hááke n. floor (of a room, not levels of a building, for which see sán’e).
háákmahti’é n. rug, carpet.
haal v.in. yield, give way, surrender;
   a. haalkaai v.tr. surrender to, give way to.
   b. haalló see ló.
   c. háálepeki see pek.
haanéi (haaná-) n. bed, couch; haanéitaak yomaana she’s sleeping in bed.
háát v.in. be intelligent, smart; only of animate agents; tasin katiinwaas yohááttsi she’s smarter than all of us.
háke n. voice, of human or animal; of non-living things, sound, noise in general.
   a. háke on sóp idiom, without a word, without a sound.
hakóú n. chaos, confusion, disorder.
halte n. baby, infant.
haltotsa’ n. woman, a rather rude word used when speaking of those groups who deny women full agency.
hälttsí 1. v.in. be exhausted, be used up. 2. of ideas and style, old-fashioned.
hamsa n. lake, pond.

hán n. stick; often classifier for long, thin things.
   a. hánim v.tr. to stake something, such as a plant.
hániyol see yol.
hapka 1. n. substitute; with -háá’ for the thing substituted for, éyomoutit sei heyets páya onháá’om hapka sugar is not a substitute for honey. 2. n. man or woman someone has an affair with.
   a. hapkam 1. v.tr. substitute, replace; with -háá’ for the thing replaced, wasinhapkammé wé on-háá’ you all will replace it with.
harár (ipfv. harárá) v.in. purr.
harasras ideo. sound of wind, blowing through broadleaf trees.
hárkí n. last day of the month.
harwá n. gay man.
hási n. city, town; hásiitaak matsáámtsi things are expensive in the city.
hási’la n. citizen.
háskii v.in. be sophisticated, be subtle, be refined.
hátyou v.in. to fail by being overwhelmed (cf. si-háán).
he’á- = he- + -na’a- (see §3.4.3.1).
he’olá adv. finally.
heí’á n. vein, artery; sinew.
heí’át n. string, thread.
heílo n. trace of previous existence, footprint, impres-
sion, memory; history.

hem v.tr. pursue, hunt.
  a. kó'hem v.in. fish, with -por to specify a particular type of fish, generally in the plural, naksoul áhporgááhñémmna we were fishing for salmon.
  b. lo'hem v.in. to seek profit, seek gain.

hém (ipfv. hérirá) v.in. to show.

hemki n. beer; hemki háápéwársó'ein, li memná'toná' hááítsóukák they drank too much beer and set off home staggering.

hemki'la n. vinegar.

hemkitsrí n. tavern, bar.

héméén v.in. to snow.

hemki n. beer; hemki hááípewársó'ein, li memná'toná' hááítsóukák they drank too much beer and set off home staggering.

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hém (ipfv. hérirá) v.in. to snow.

hemki hááípewársó'ein, li memná'toná' hááítsóukák they drank too much beer and set off home staggering.
hourol n. party, faction; side; ye’é hourol souy-olye? which side are you on? which party do you follow?
-hte adverbal adjunct suffix after vowels (cf. -ne)
hóus v.in. yell, shout.
hoyáat n. (earth)worm.

ii clause-initial question particle.

íítsé n. mosquito; yapáątaak pétei íítsé hááírátí Hááírátí there are many mosquitoes in the swamp.

ikat (iktí-) 1. n. form, shape. 2. n. fashion, fad.

ikatí’la n. follower of a fad, follower of fashion.

iktíyol see yol.

im conj. or.

ímte n. aspiration, fantasy, “dream”.

ípaaro n. cousin (male).

ípeiri n. cousin (female).

ípi v.in. be strange.

iriki n. rat.

ísáá n. bird.

ískelit n. outcome, aftermath (see kel).

ítkéí n. summer.

iyé com.part. amorous interest or intent.

ka’má v.tr. to make, to do; to cause.

ka’wák n. crow.

ka’yaas (ipfv. ka’yaarā) v.in. to lightening.

a. ka’yaasłom v.tr. lightening strike (see łom), tá- mar’áá taai kínka’yaasłom lightening struck my house.

b. wimka’yaas v.tr. to fall in “love at first sight”.

kaah n.an. land, earth, terra firma, ground.

kaahi’la n. plot (of land).

kaahoméma n. mud, clay.

kaahomémát n. brick.

kaahopér n. coffin.

kaahtsápi n. rabbit.

kaai v.tr. give; he’asasots — kehiné mel soutákaaitto it's cold — give me a blanket.

kaaíké v.in. to “do,” to suffice for a time.

kaal v.tr. vex, irritate, annoy.

kaálei v.in. be enough, be sufficient; be “ok,” be so-so.

weri-kaáleim v.tr. be sufficient for, in the philosophical sense that the subject causes the object, though it may not be the only cause in existence, kítle’as penket werikínkaáleim our sun is sufficient for life.

kaałóú v.tr. teach, instruct.

kaałóúpér n. elementary school.

kaałóuyá n. school (post-elementary).

káání n a kept man or woman, someone willingly in thrall to a person or system. To be really offensive, use the diminutive, kááníntát mo ran’áh they’re minor courtiers.

kaanaai v.in. stand back up; get up and continue after some problem.
káar v.tr. save, preserve, store for later use
kaarim n. book.
kaarimpér n. library, a room in a building (see kaarimyá).
kaarimyá n. library (the institution).
kááwa v.tr. use, make use of.
káhkapi v.in. masturbate.
káhwe n. coffee.
kakó n. millet.
kal n. greeting; may be used by itself as a greeting, “hello;” often used with kou’ára when addressing a group of like-minded individuals, kal kou’ára.
akámpéí v.tr. be welcome, be agreeable; of things and events only, not people (cf. nakí).
kap n. (purposeful) movement, gesture, strategem; frequently of actions that further a plan.
káplá v.in. be new.
akalnoró v.tr. be suitable, be appropriate.
kahtsá n. river.
kahtsowaal n. canal.
kahtsowaar n. tributary.
kahtsówá n. library (the institution).
kalmei n. widow, widower.
akalmei’la n. orphan.
kálkał info. for something revealing itself to be crap; tâyárhák kálkał hepiisik my phone dropped the damn call! (this focuses on the unwelcome realization that a phone thought to be quality has turned out to be, in fact, crap).
kamáái v.tr. to fight, to battle.
kamlaai n. horse.
kámoł n. sweet potato.
kamte n. story, narration
a. kamítikaaí v.tr. tell a story to.
kanón v.in. be ready, be prepared; with subject chaining, ií waskanónye káálo’mét are you all ready for us to go? lit., “are you ready (that) we will go.”
a. weri-kanón v.in. be suitable, be appropriate.
kap info. hitting your head on something, but not too hard (see also kouppó); moháá ouht yonhem-natsihte — kap! — hoktate the cat was chasing the toy and — bonk! — into the wall.
kapei v.in. be welcome, be agreeable; of things and events only, not people (cf. nakí).
kapín n. (purposeful) movement, gesture, strategem; frequently of actions that further a plan.
káplá v.in. be new.
akalnoró v.tr. be suitable, be appropriate.
kahtsá n. river.
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a. weri-kanón v.in. be suitable, be appropriate.
keityém - -.

-keiyá adv. alone, obligatorily possessed, tákeiyá

teíó I went alone.

kel v.in. happen, occur.

kelwa v.in. be potential, be possible.

kél 1. n. belt. 2. n. anything that goes around like a belt, esp. in compounds.

tákeiyá I went alone.

kélyá adv. alone, obligatorily possessed.

kelwa v.in. be potential, be possible.

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kél 1. n. belt. 2. n. anything that goes around like a belt, esp. in compounds.

tákeiyá I went alone.
engaging in customarily obnoxious behavior (see
naar).

ko'wii n. a prerogative that follows from being part of
a particular social or economic class.
  a. ko'wikááwa v.in. enjoy, use one's prerogatives;
      may take dependent clause, yoko'wikááwats pá,
      mám sei háátsí’ákwil she used her position to
      avoid punishment, lit. “she used her prerogatives
      and-DS they didn’t punish her.”
  b. ko'wiirén n. social or economic class (as a sys-
     tem)
  c. málíko'wiim v.tr. impose or assert prerogatives
     over someone else.

ko'wiyolki see yol.

kó (kóhí-) n. onion.

kóhá com.part. so-called, purporting to be one thing
but not really; very likely to follow a noun.

kohkapei v.in. be unpleasant, be disagreeable, espe-
  cially of sensations and experiences; with -próh
  for the person judging something unpleasant, aapróh
  hekokapein maro she found the music unpleasant.

kohkel v.in. be anomalous, be out of place.

kohni 1. v.in. be in pain, hurt.  2. with NI expe-
      rience privation, a lack of satiety, mostly with instru-
      mental NI as a derivational base;
      a. kopkohni v.in. be thirsty.
      b. wo'kohni v.in. be hungry.

kohnil n. pain, hurt.

kóhtsa n. fear and anxiety in response to sudden and
      uncertain social or political developments.

kóhtsílatou’é n. the sudden hush that comes over
      a conversation when an unexpected person ap-
      proaches and one is uncertain of their loyalties;
      katiita’aiki kéhtsílatou’é hesárin the sudden hush
      came over us, lit., “the sudden hush arrived among
      us.”

kókka n. squash.

kokkát n. great blue heron, Ardea herodias.

kokla v.tr. muddy, cloud, muddle.

a. meskokla v.tr. confuse (someone).

b. meskokłak v.in. be confused.

c. mohkikokla v.in. be dispirited; be of uncertain
      mood.

d. łakkokla’aa n. an agent of bullshit; propagandist.

e. tarakokla v.tr. disappoint, dishearten, disillus-
      tion, of inan. subjects only.

kóktéí v.in. be poor; be in misery; máámkóktéí for
      clarity about being poor in wealth (v. máámo).

kól v.in. be long, be tall.

kolté v.tr. plant.

      a. koltémíi n. garden (but see kólap).

kóna 1. n. crowd, large gathering, esp. if noisy; may
      be animate plural or inanimate singular; kéna yos
      heye’reikkinats a crowd is already starting to form.

2. n. (crowd) noise, uproar.

kónyaál interj. wow!, holy crap!, crap!, marking sur-
      prise, usually unwelcome; see also áa’epé.

kop, kopé det. the same.

kopi n. water; often used in classifier NI to indi-
      cate liquid direct objects, tor yon koptsáapana
      he’s preparing tea.

kopkohni see kohni.

koppíkoppí ideo. of provoking, button-pushing or
      provocative behavior; can only refer to people (or per-
      haps a naughty monkey).

kopra n. tears.

      a. kopríkaai v.tr. cry (about, for).

kopyopér n. boat, ship.

kór v.tr. read.

kós num. three.

koskin (koski-) n.in. the coercive or bullying force
      of a community; as animate (singular or plural), the
      community as exercising that force.

kosó v.in. be (on the) left (side).

kotá adv., n. later today.

kótar n. a burly man.
-kotok  postpos. behind, beyond, at the far side of.

kótra  v.in. thunder; he’akótrats, mil pekatáák
              teilám  it thundered and I woke up suddenly.
              a. kótrapaak  n. a possessed person, a frenzied person; a lunatic.

kóts  1. v.in. be fair, of complexion.  2. of hair, be blond, often with sir- incorporated.

kótsóu  n. drought.
              a. kótsóuk  v.in. for a drought to be on, usually with
                              -naa-, ááni he’akótsóuknats lááí there has been
                              a drought recently.

kotswe  n. shelf, cupboard, cabinet.

kotswola’se  n. stairs; motion along stairs marked
              with the instrumental applicative on a verb of
              motion, aamné wériyo’aaskoh kotswola’se her
              mother came down the stairs (note the wéri- for downward motion); īsrlótto kotswola’sel go up the stairs!

kóú  1. n. source, origin, wellspring.
              2. v.tr. pound (with fist); crush, grind.

ko’wikóú  v.tr. assert one’s dominance over a weaker or outsider group, for no purpose except to reinforce dominance. The violence may take non-physical forms (verbal, economic, etc.).
              a. ko’wikóúrén  n. authoritarianism, specifically, the interrelationship between the followers and
                              the leaders.

kou’ará  com.part. interpersonal marker, indicating that the audience is a colleague or comrade with the
              speaker in some state of affairs or undertaking.

kóu’ó  n. size.
              a. ye’é kóu’ó  adv. how large, how big/small? takes
                              the verb rá for asking size, áhmár’áá ye’é kóu’ó
                              herá? how large is their house?

kóú’wa  v. fish.

kouppó  ideo. hitting your head on something, fairly hard (see also kap).

kour  v.tr. ask (for), request (petó).

kouróm  ideo. a round or amorphous mass of large size falling to the ground; metaphorically of clumsy or impaired people and animals; áála pemó yon-
              pewárs’eits, li... kouróm the guy drank too much mead... and thud!

kouté  (-kyouté) n. penis.

kóuto  v.in. freeze; gel, congeal.
              a. kóutot  1. n. ice.  2. n. crystal (mineral, not
                              glassware).

kóutokíísi  v.in. sleet.

kowa  v.tr. please; sei kítákowa  I don’t like it.

koyoł  n. coyote.

lá’ei  v.in. open.

lá’kí  1. v.in. be stagnant, be brackish, be foul(ed) (of water); esp. water that has a foul aroma or might be dangerous to drink (cf. aamá).  2. of people, intellectually stubborn or isolated.

láá  v.in. be far, be distant; with ablative -lii for what one is distant from, hó’weilií helááts it is far from here.

láái  com.part. about which nothing can be done.

laáka  n. party; compounded to specify the occasion, lááityolaáka birthday party.

láál  v.in. to grumble, grouse, complain; with instrumental applicative or -mmaal for cause of complaint.
              a. láálkaai  v.tr. complain to (someone), with NI possible for the thing complained about.

laari  n. flower, bloom.
láármo n. red cedar, Juniperus virginiana.
láarohehe n. dragonfly, damselfly
láarou 1. n. reed, any large water grass, not just family Poales, but also cattails (Typha). 2. musical instrument, flute.
láarohhemaa n. dragonfly, damselfly
láarou 1. n. reed, any large water grass, not just family Poales, but also cattails (Typha). 2. musical instrument, flute.
láarou n. reed, any large water grass, not just family Poales, but also cattails (Typha).
láarou v.tr. work through (problems, tasks), talk through (matters).
láhme 1. v.in. be angry, be unpleasant. 2. of the weather, bad.
   a. X-próh láhmeri-se v.in. to anger X, make X angry, ii ripróh yoláhmeríił? did he make you angry?
laká v.tr. bind, tie.
   a. nísłaká v.tr. be loyal to.
lákhme 1. v.in. be angry, be unpleasant. 2. of the weather, bad.
   a. X-próh láhmeri-se v.in. to anger X, make X angry, ii ripróh yoláhmeríił? did he make you angry?
lah v.in. cease, stop; a more formal, literary word than ramék (similar to the difference between “cease” and “stop” in English).
lah v.tr. work through (problems, tasks), talk through (matters).
láhme 1. v.in. be angry, be unpleasant. 2. of the weather, bad.
   a. X-próh láhmeri-se v.in. to anger X, make X angry, ii ripróh yoláhmeríił? did he make you angry?
láir v.in. cease, stop; a more formal, literary word than ramék (similar to the difference between “cease” and “stop” in English).
láir v.tr. mean, signify.
láiri ide. sticky, tacky; álááí te’enaar — láiri I touched the pine — sticky! (of getting pitch on your hands).
láriyeł v.in. be important, be significant, in general; for personal significance, see under loké.
lás classifier noun, marking long, thin and floppy things.
aláir v.in. cease, stop; a more formal, literary word than ramék (similar to the difference between “cease” and “stop” in English).
láir v.tr. mean, signify.
láir v.in. cease, stop; a more formal, literary word than ramék (similar to the difference between “cease” and “stop” in English).
láir v.tr. mean, signify.
láiri ide. sticky, tacky; álááí te’enaar — láiri I touched the pine — sticky! (of getting pitch on your hands).
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láir v.tr. mean, signify.

lamó’ n. news, report; fame; lamó’ yotslámtsi — lamó’íkaai v.tr. be a fan of someone, especially as part of a larger fan base.

layos n. mound, small hill; grave.
   a. hekatlesó’nin layosis idiom, the grave is waiting (for us), an exhortation to get to work.

lé v.in. exist, use for “there is, there are,” hó’wei helén éi kopé there are the same trees here.
   a. kóh-lé v.in. exist, identical to plain lé in usage, but indicates that speaker is significantly influenced or affected by the existence, kó’heléts látnem v.tr. compel (someone).

le’sóu v.tr. wear away at, abrade.
   a. le’sóuk v.in. be cranky, be crabby (with animate subjects).
   b. X-próh le’sóuk v.in. make one weary of, make one tired of; wé tápróh helé’sóuk this makes me weary, I’m sick of this.

lei v.in. be just, be fair.

léilkáál n. carrot.

léikou 1. v.in. be insipid, have little flavor; be dull, boring. 2. with -próh, bore, áhíípróh heléikoun
tákaarim  my book bores them (I hear); tápróh  taai   wéléíkou  I'm bored!

lein  v.in. be soft (to the touch), be smooth.

leis  v.in. seek, search, with -por for what is sought, eyá’  onpor  teleísha  I'm looking for acorns.

lekáá  n. tools, kit, implements, all of which are of a kind or belong to a single individual or shop.

léle  -

lempó 1. v.tr. try, tempt. 2. v.tr. put someone or something through its paces, in the search for weakness or flaw.
    a. wimlempó  v.tr. (try to) seduce.

lemya  v.in. function (properly), "work."

len(e)  pron. oneself, reflexive pronoun.

lenaa  n. iron.

lenako 1. v.in. iron, of iron. 2. of hair color, red, "ginger."

lenke 1. n. worth, value. 2. n. appropriate, fair response, whether in words or deeds.

lenté  v.tr. save (from harm), with -ltik for the thing saved from.
    a. lenték  v.in. escape, avoid, also with -ltik for the thing escaped, séitol niltik hááílenték  they escaped death.

lépe  n. war.
    a. lépkaai  v.tr. make war on.
    b. lépnoró  v.in. be at war (of multiple parties only).

lépiin  ideo. something small and saliently stick-like hitting the ground; Áláái  heyé’tsówarnakoł. Rál lépiin  helámtsi. The pine must be getting dry. The needles are falling.

lepyar  n. thyme.

lerá  see les.

lére  n. apple.

leryál’ei  n. ginko, the tree; just the fruit is leryál’ë.

les  (ipfv. lerá)  v.in. move.
    a. lesit  1. n. movement.  2. n. movie.

-lesáa  postpos. above.

1li  conj. and, joining both noun phrases and clauses.

2li  postpositive discourse particle, marks a general truth; tápa li hááítsouk  cougars are dangerous.
    a. li lop  postpos. “after all,” porí li lop  yonlempó  she tried it in secret after all.

lííhar  conj., with indic., (and) therefore. with dependent mood, (with the result) that.

líír’í  adv. basically, fundamentally, essentially.

lííre  (-mlííre)  n. grain (in wood or stone), character, fundamental nature.

líírola’se  n. habit(s).

lís  v.tr. lead, guide; rule.

liitskat  n. a terrible thing, an awful thing.
    a. ~ X-próh  sárríi-se  v.in. an awful thing happens to one, or reaches one.

ló 1. v.in. go, come; except in certain idioms, this will always have a directional affix either on the noun or a preverb. But also see aas for come; awaró  mar’áálii  sei  łateiló  I didn't leave home today.  2. in ipfv., with another verb, keep (on), continue to. This will not have any preverb, and occurs in apposition with another verb phrase in the ipfv., teilóna  teisatseina  I kept on coughing.
    a. haalló  v.in. retreat.

lo’a  1. n. gain, reward, profit.  2. n. goal, aim.

lo’hem  see hem.

lokkat  v.in. be pliant to power, susceptible to corruption or bribery.

lokróú  1. n. feather.  2. n. pen (writing implement).

lóm’í  1. adv. upriver, upstream.  2. of time, in the past.

lómme  n.an. forest.
lónou  v.tr. endure, submit, be patient (about).
   a. weri-lónou  v.tr. submit to, with a disapproving implication of cowardice, weakness or disinterest leading to the submission.

lop  particle marking realization or acceptance.
lor  v.in. have an aroma; often takes incorporated noun, hetsomirlortsi it smells of leaf mould; or an incorporated stative verb for qualities, heweikohkaeilortsi it smells terrible; or with post-position -waraan like, which is more common with high-animacy comparands that normally resist NI, atswaraan sei helortsi it doesn't smell like him/it.

lót  v.in. be closed.
lótta  n. gratitude, thanks; also as expression, thank you;
   a. lóttyol  v.tr. thank, person thanked is core argument, the thing thanked for is secondary, yo-rilóttyoltsi kaarim he thanked you for the book.

lopto  1. n. finger; digit.  2. n. toe, if complete clarity is needed, mál nilopto.
loptokél  n. ring (for the finger).
   -lóú-  preverb aux. must, have to.

łáai  ??,part. -.
łááírá  see łááísa.
łááísa  (ipfv. łááírá)  v.in. to storm;
   a. łááísa’é  n. storm.
   b. łááísa’yotei’  n. gust front, the first big, cool gusts of wind before a storm finally arrives.

łáalik  ideo. of slick, slipery unusually quick and easy motion.
łaats  v.tr. remember;
   a. łàatskaai  v.tr. remind; the thing reminded
   is an external secondary object, ii sots-łàatskaai’mél ra’é will you remind him of that?

łak  adv. against expectation, inappropriately, not according to the current context; gravitates to Wackernagel position, but is not required to go there (cf. mel).
łakal  n. one who deforms or abuses the character, mind or spirit of another person; demon, monster.
łáam  v.tr. smell, sniff.
łanta  v.tr. be content with, be satisfied with, have
enough of;

a. rómíłantak v.in. be “full”, not hungry;
b. kopłantak v.in. not be thirsty.

lára v.tr. ἐραμαι, have sexual attraction to someone.
a. ná-lára v.tr. love (romantic).

láral n. sexual attraction.
a. náláral n. love (romantic).

łásaa v.in. burst, explode;

Łat n. metal.

łatsá v.in. wise, σοφός, possessing, demonstrating, or appreciating, skill requiring insider knowledge or training; the artist, their work, and their connoisseurs all possess this quality, for example; an outsider might use this word of a work to condemn it for insularity.

tei’iłatsál n. wisdom.

łe’a n.an. sun.

łe’tsóp v.in. be noon.

łéiká v.in. be surprised, be astonished; with inst. applic. for thing astonished at, hááíka’máwen ká’ałéikákoh we were surprised at what they did.

łéíp v.in. shine, glisten; be smooth.

łeit v.tr. fear, be afraid of.

łeitirwa v.in. be scary, frightening.

łekké v.in. be brutal, savage; implies greater violence than tsakleı;

łekkérwa v.in. brutalizing, causing people to become savage, náaya helekkerwats the age was savage.

łesek ideo. glowing coals; hókpér henáánats łesek the fire was burning with the coals glowing red.

łesó v.tr. wait for; ká’alesó éspin we’re waiting for (the weather) to change.
a. la-łesó v.tr. omit, put aside, delay; ra’ė łaso’olesótto put that away; leave that out.

łesó’séin v.tr. expect, anticipate, hope; with either subject or object chaining with future, dependent verb, tei’ellesó’séin teinotmaa’méł I hope I will be able to sleep, kátslesó’séin sei yoya’méł we hope he will not do so.

łéltsei 1. v.tr. contaminate by aroma (as a cut onion in the refrigerator), often metaphorical of any sort of noxious contagion. 2. figuratively, “haunt,” as in a memory or history affecting someone, heilos tasın k’áhlétsei’mé the memory will haunt them all.

łéyonísa n. “connections,” the network of associations one might call upon to further one’s own aims, which in turn they might call upon you for. The relationship may be interpersonally and socially benign, or may be outright cronyism or an old boy network. The less positive sense is usually marked with the augmentative, łéyonískakma.

łi’ye v.tr. peel, skin;
a. łi’yek v.in. have an erection.

łiiké interj. ouch!

łiin com.part. to the speaker’s advantage

łíp v.tr. select, decide, judge; cf. messár under sár.
a. weri-łíp v.tr. decide carelessly or with too little thought.

łirííłiríí ideo. smiling superficially, making a fake smile; áátsíhke yotákaai — łirííłiríí he gave me the dominance gift and smiled superficially.

łís v.in. hiss, whisper.

łíta n. stringed instrument; more often used in derivations.

łitííłitíí ideo. smiling in a menacing or mean-spirited way; lamó’ yotslámtsı — łitííłitíí she gave him the news, smirking.

łíwan 1. n. foreskin. 2. n. cap, cupule, of an acorn especially, but more generally, too.

łoaai adv. earlier, previously, before.

łaháyoł ideo. sound of wind, through pines or during a winter storm through mostly bare trees; łaháyoł se’a helámtsı the trees whooshed.

łoké v.tr. invest something with significance, kaarim
hááínpewárłokéts they invest the book with too much significance; with -háá’ to specify a specific significance, aais atsháá’ hááítslokéts le’a they invest the sun with the significance of a spirit, they see the sun as a god, etc.

a. X-próh łokém v.in. be personally significant to someone, hááí tápróh heweiłokém the city is important to me.

łom v.tr. throw, shoot, pelt; direct object may be either the thing thrown, or the person thrown at with the thing thrown will use the instrumental applicative, nal yotáłomkoh he hit me with a rock.

a. sóukłom 1. v.in. spit (saliva). 2. v.tr. spit at; spit out.

łópi’ n. ant; with wé’ko walk (wander) for movement or location, mar'áátaak łópi’ hááíwé’kona there are ants in my house, lit., “ants are wandering in my house.”

łópi’yostoulta n. carpenter ant.

łorou v.tr. bury.

łosníí’itsrí n. restaurant (< łosteítíníí’itsrí).

łosteí v.tr. divide, portion.

a. łosteít 1. n. division, portion, part. 2. n. meal.

łotómárei n. pizza.

łouh adv. why?

łous v.in. abound, be plentiful. This is the normal idiom to say that there is much or many of something, rather than lé, as in hö’weĩ wéíla oyo’in hááíłoustsi there are many such people here.

-łta’áki postpos. to or among a crowd or group, among only used with plural or collective nouns, katiitla’áki hááíwóséríits they rushed to (the group of) us.

má adv. only, just, merely, follows the word it goes with, raaitsa má mo hón he’s merely a slave; when following a verb, that verb is focused and takes síín, heraméktsi síín má it just stopped.

má’aat n. donkey.

ma’laái n. darkness.

ma’ss interj. drat, nuts, darn, marks mild irritation.

má’sil n. a clearing in the woods, meadow.

a. ~-te sár idiom, reach a clearing, refers to overcoming a minor difficulty, especially intellectual or emotional.

maa (neg. stem rél) v.in. sleep; hö’owa taai hááímaats they are asleep!

maal n. pistachio (nut and tree).

maaik v.in. be firm, hard, rigid.

mááíł v.tr. regret, repent.

a. wimmááíł v.in. have an affair, cheat; with -hta for the person the affair is with; with applicative for the unfortunate one.

maak 1. v.tr. follow (after). 2. of trains, ride; hökse te’emaakmé táttá atsmar’ááte I will ride the train to my father’s house.

maál 1. v.in. thrive, flourish, of living things. Most often is-maál; tosparenaa íshemaáltsi asaal unfortunately dandelions thrive here.

máámo 1. n. wealth, riches. 2. n. money.
the night was humid and the katydids were making a racket.

- a. rikmaan v.in. be humid and hazy.

maapér n. bedroom.

maáse n. amber.

maatri n. basil.

maatsáikki v.in. dream.

maatsákki v.in. dream logic, myth logic, the mystifying inviolable rules of dreams and stories.

mahéí n. bullshit, exalted nonsense; verbs of communication take the instr. applic. to employ this word, mahéí hááíklámkohna they're talking nonsense, or with -meh, mahéí nimeh hááíklámna they're talking nonsense.

mahéí hááíklámkohna they're talking nonsense.

mahti 1. v.tr. cover. 2. v.tr. “mount” sexually, most often of animals, and used in less hair-raising sorts of cursing (§10.7). Somewhat vulgar in reference to people, signifying casual sex only.

makis v.in. be dirty.

makni v.in. be rude, self-involved; act in an entitled fashion.

makinirwa v.in. be selfish.

mal n. foot.

mal’ááí v.tr. to hate (things).

a. tei’imal’ááí v.tr. to hate (people or their actions).

maláá n. oats.

malárik’é n. barley.

málitó’om v.tr. impose cultural or religious structures on someone.

málohán n. leg.

málonísa n. enforcing a dependent or subordinate social or political status on someone.

a. málonísake n. someone locked into such subordinate position.

mal n. cloud; mal heyé’reikkits the clouds are starting to threaten.

a. mal he’aléts idiom, it's cloudy (see lé).

málin, mál’é det. other, another.

malke n. underwear.

mám switch reference particle for different subject.

mar’áá 1. n. home, house; awaró mar’áálíi sei łączielo I didn't leave home today. 2. n. family.

mar’ámahti’é n. roof, ceiling.

mar’ásim v.in. move (to a new home), with -taak to specify new location, -lii the original.

mar’áwime n. window.

marááí v.tr. be anxious about, worry about.

márei (mára-) n. circle, cycle; year.

máre’la n. season.

marí v.in. be probable, be likely; uses subject chaining (§9.12.1); hááímarí hááísáláché’mél it is likely they will marry, lit., “they are likely, they will marry.”

maro n. music.

masaa n. deer.

masaayo’éi n. sumac (any of the edible species of Rhus).

mat v.in. be bad.

a. mesmat v.in. be (morally) bad, be evil, only of beings with agency.

mattéín v.in. be malevolent.

mattii n. mushroom.

matóú 1. v.in. be beautiful; with -pset to specify a particular portion, öre nipset hematotús wé éi this tree has beautiful fruit. 2. of people for men or women, be beautiful, be handsome.

mé v.in. appear, become visible or otherwise apparent to one of the senses

-meh postpos. using, with, by means of; kaarim
pilóú nimeh yonnaainim I wrapped the book with paper.

mei v.in. be (on the) right (side).

méí v.tr. qìlì, be a friend to, be friendly with.

meir n. tongue.

meisái v.in. be barren, be unproductive; to have no effect.

méli n. cape; serape.

mel particle marking situational or narrative integrity, as expected, indeed, (and) so; tends to fall in Wackernagel position (cf. ́lak).

mellémellé ideo. something crappy behaving crap-pily — as expected; táyárhák mellémellé hepiisik my crappy cell phone dropped the call.

méma n. mush, goo, powder.

menná’toná’ ideo. stagering walk, as if stunned or intoxicated; hemki hááípewársó’ein, li menná’toná’ hááítsóukák they drank too much beer and set off home staggering.

menaple n. poor thing, sad/pathetic thing, miserable thing.

menle n. violin, or any member of that family of instruments.

merór n. lime; also the default term for citrus, esp. as a compound element.

mes- classifier noun mind, spirit, cognition; sometimes also used in instrumental NI.

meshem v.tr. investigate, analyze (cf. hem).

meskén v.tr. motivate, inspire an idea, a vision, etc. (cf. kén).

mesképém v.tr. “get to” someone, upset (cf. képé).

meskokla see kokla.

meslé’sóuk v.in. be aggrieved, be resentful; with instrumental applicative for the cause, yonn- meslé’sóukkiin teiámwen she is resentful of what I said.

-mesló v.tr., always with weri-, be done with, be fed up with, put something out of mind.

meslou’ v.tr. to occur to one; sei he’áhmeslou’tsi ra’é that didn’t occur to them.

mesmat see mat.

messáh see sáh.

messár see sár.

messímim v.tr. persuade.

metssi n. liquor.

metyek (-hmetyek) n. medectasia.

mewaas ideo. depicts stepping into something soft and mushy; mohááí yoweirkol — mewaas kiit teiám the cat must be sick — I just stepped in something.

meyá v.in. be forbidden (access), be either holy or blessed, or cursed, be inviolable. The fundamental idea is of something remote, untouchable, probably dangerous and straining the edges of comprehension or ability, though not necessarily supernatural — the speed of light is meyá.

a. X-próh meyárii-se v.in. to terrify X, to horrify X, táróúka aapróh hemeyáriits wé taraaí oyo’ín weather like this terrifies my dog.

miits v.tr. cultivate, grow;

a. kóh-miits v.tr. study, especially focused, long-term study of a single thing (cf. mos).

miitsla’se n. intellectual tradition.

miittséín v.tr. collect resources intensively; colonize;

a. miittséínyá n. colony.

mil conj. and then; implicitly same-subject.

misri n. Egypt.

-mmaal postpos. because of, on account of.

mo 1. part. subject focus particle. 2. with neg-
ative, mo sei no, it’s not, he doesn’t, etc. Used instead of bare sei in an answer. 3. with adverbs, where English can use single adverbs in an utterance for answers or clarification, in Kahtsaal will use mo before the adverb, Yomaanats. Mo rou. He’s sleeping. Again.

-mo’ím postpos. before, in front of.

mohááí n. (domestic) cat.

mohkíkokla see kokla.

mohko n. vital spirit; emotional, instinctual mind, anima.

a. sei k’outsák X-mohkos idiom, be single, esp. be lonely, with possession of mohko for the person; sei k’outsák atsmohkos s/he is lonely.

móka 1. v.tr. deceive, trick. 2. with -por, trick someone for, if there is a larger goal for the deception, máámo onpor yokatmókats pá he tricked us for the money.

a. mokak v.in. be in error, make a mistake; refers primarily to cognitive errors (cf. yetí); with instrumental applicative for the thing one is in error about.

moksá v.in. hint at, intimate; speak in riddles.

a. moksá’é n. enigma, puzzle.

mól n. cup, (drinking) glass.

mólo v.tr. change.

mópá n. shoulder; upper arm.

mor’a v.tr. starve.

móri v.tr. “work” someone, manipulate someone psychologically.

a. kóh-móri v.tr. to scam or con someone.

morlaai v.in. dance.

mórpé n. sea, ocean; for specificity pentsámórpé may be used for ocean.

a. weri-ló ~-te idiom, die, “pass away.”

mos v.tr. investigate, study.

móš adv., n. tomorrow.

mosla’se n. theory, as a guiding set of principles for some field.

mossi n. computer mouse.

mots switch reference particle for same subject.

móts v.in. retire or withdraw from society.

a. wimmót v.in. be celibate.

motsrou v.in. be heavy; be difficult.

móu’ n. king, queen, “prince,” any hereditary leader.

móúkte n. bear.

móuíl n. deep time into the future.

a. móúlíte idiom forever.

mouno (mon-) n. word;

a. monkaai v.tr. speak to someone, yotá-monkaaina he was speaking to me; b. monnáás v.tr. discuss, plan together, discuss with a goal in mind.

c. monnoró v.in. chat together (cf. noró).

d. monséípe v.tr. (verbally) threaten (cf. séípe).

móúnsó v.in. swell, grow large, grow protuberant, such as an injury.

móúro n. incense; móúro te’eyé’náámmé I will light incense.

a. móúrkaai v.tr. sacrifice. In English one can sacrifice things temporarily; móúrkaai is permanent.

mouri n. language.

mouritát n. sublanguage, jargon, argot.

mout 1. v.tr. “juice,” extract liquid from something; 2. a very vulgar term for sexual intercourse;

a. la-moutki v.in. to waste one’s time or resources pursuing trivialities or pleasures, also quite vulgar.
na’á  v.in. subside, go down (of swelling).
náá  v.in. burn, be on fire.
a.  náám  v.tr. burn (something); móór  te’eyé’náámme  I will light incense.
náá’la  n. ash, cinders.
náá’loméma  n. black ink.
-naai  postpos. about, concerning; in response to, in answer to.
naain  v.in. bend, fold.
a.  naainim  1. v.tr. bend, fold.  2. v.tr. wrap;
kaarim pilóú nimeh yonnaainim  I wrapped the
book with paper.
nááít  1. v.in. be highly-wrought, detailed, complex;
teikerímwen henááíttsi  her work is very detailed.
  2. of people, high-maintenance.
-naan  combination of imperfective -na and adver-
bial adjunct -ne.
naar  1. v.tr. touch, handle; amáát wéíya’wéí hááí-
aarnats — píhiim  they were handling the coins care-
lessly, and clink!  2. v.tr. undertake, engage in.  3. of
musical instruments, play.
náás  v.tr. gather, collect.
náaya  n. period, age, lifetime, aeon, epoch.
náayokii’  n.an. Zeitgeist, spirit of an era.
nah  interj., yes; most often mo nah.
náké  v.in. be pleasant, be agreeable; of people only
(cf. kapei).
nal  n. stone, rock.
nantel  n. tarragon, Artemisia dracunculus.
náp  ideo. any computer or computerized appliance
crashing hard;  kit náp helámts  it just crashed.
a.  nápáápe  ideo. crashing of multiple devices, for
some sort of collective malfunction, probably of
the same cause, not just a few crashes that hap-
pen to coincide in time.
nárta  v.tr. to shade;
a.  nártat  n. shadow, shade.
b.  náratteim matóú’é  proverb beauty in the
dark, descriptive of exalted nonsense.
náséí  1. v.tr. to comfort; to make safe.  2. milit. pro-
vide supplies and personnel to.
nát  v.in. fall (free fall in gravity); eyá’ he’anánts
kíriim kíriim the acorns are falling, plonk plonk.
a.  la-nát  1. v.in. disappear (utterly), perish.  2. in
swearing, get lost, go to hell;  wé lakenáatto — simél-
simél helámts  damn this thing! — it’s locked up.
b.  weri-na’anát  v.in. descend, settle, of dew and
frost.
nátssá  n. cheese.
ne’sa  n. tooth.
-ne  adverbial adjunct suffix after consonants (cf.
-hte).
ne  pospos. some, quantifier of general amount,
kopi ne te’ewén  I want some water.
neí  v.in. be tired.
neksoul  n. salmon.
nela  1. n. flavor, taste.  2. possessed, idiom for
taste,  wé sorlo ninela hehiiłtsi  this bread tastes good,
lit., “the flavor of this bread is good.”
nemyó  v.in. be out of season; occur at a bad time.
neno  v.tr. stick to, attach to; with -miits for the
point of attachment.
a.  nenok  v.in. adhere to, be stuck to, again with -
miits.
b.  tsaneno  v.tr. clutch, esp. clutch to one’s chest.
ner  com.part. -
newe  1. v.in. labor, work; with instrumental ap-
plicative for the task being engaged in,  koltémíi
teinewena  I was working in (on) the garden; or a verb
chain,  teinewena tekkolténa  I was working planting
things.  2. with -por, work with the goal of, mark-
ing the final goal or purpose of the work,  kopi un-
por hááipá’una  they were digging (to get) water; for
a verbal goal, use a demonstrative with a depen-
dent verb, teinewe wé onpor mar’áá kóhtekníí’ye
I worked to buy a house.

newe’márei n. career.

ni vocative particle, comes before the name, relationship or title noun. Kal, ni Bob Hi, Bob. In a single utterance, has the effect of English “you X,” as in ni róúre you moron!

ní’ v.tr. transact business, mostly with preverbs in the simple stem. The primary object is the thing changing hands, and the person one is doing business with is with -hta with.

a. nií’aav n. trader, businessperson.
b. la-ní’ v.tr. sell; late’eníí’mé rihta I will sell this to you.
c. kóh-ní’ v.tr. buy; kóhte’eníí’mé rihta I will buy this from you.

niim n. container, vessel.

nír v.tr. kill.

nik v.tr. be of interest to, matter to; sei kítáník ra’es that doesn’t interest me; see also loup’oráá under oráá.

nimme v.tr. leave (from), depart; abandon; of people, takes body incorporation, -s(i)-, mar’áátaak Hááításnimme they left me at home.

nirou v.in. be hard (to cut or break), be tough.

nír n. the main fig crop; cf. tsíla.

níril v.tr. harvest.

a. la-níril v.tr. forage, go out to collect food or resources.

nísa n. the flow of political or social power and authority. Conceptualized as flowing water, so that strong authority is téí’o wide and weak authority is yáh narrow.

nísakit n. tribal, in-group loyalty.

nísattá n. patron, influential supporter, especially in political and economic contexts; nísattá sóukkaairén hááinaarnats the patrons are engaging in kayfabe.
a. aahpínóú v.in. prognosticate, tell the future, practice haruspicy; always carries a contemptuous tone.

nóum v.tr. find, discover.

nóúr v.in. fine, subtle, delicate.

nówei (nówa-) 1. n. straw, hay. 2. final element of compounds, with words for grains to name the plant that produces them, malááyonówei oat grass.

-nwaas 1. postpos. -er than, creates comparisons, aanwaas soháátkokol you must be smarter than him. 2. with non-stative verbs, more than, of degree or quantity.

O O O O O

o'ón'o'ón iedo. for something large to protrude out horizontally.

o'né pron. it, them inanimate 3rd. person pronoun, indifferent to number.

ó'ya adv. now.

oké n. breast.

ol n. oak.

ópa, ópaar com.part., marks that the speaker’s personal desires are focused on one of the clause constituents; quite blunt when used of sexual desire

óraá v.tr. to excite desire in someone.

a. loup’oráá v.tr. to interest someone, to be interesting to someone, with a covetous overtone, unlike nik.

órán conj. because, for, since.

oráyo v.in. fanatical, zealous; prone to trying to convert people to certain way of thinking;

a. ís-oráyo v.in. dangerously fanatic.

b. kiits’oráyot n. religious or partisan revanchism.

óre 1. n. fruit. 2. n. grain (as in oats, wheat, etc.).

osnoró v.tr. to gossip together, always with plural subject (cf. noró).

oso n. gossip (without the strong pejorative sense that word has in English), catching up.

otnó v.tr. to shrink from, to hesitate, to delay; hakóú yon’otnóts he pulled back from chaos; hááín’otnón hááíyał they hesitated to do so, they delayed doing so.

a. wim’otnó v.tr. deliberately avoid romantic entanglement with someone.

óts particle marking incredulous disparagement.

otyéin n. culture, lifeway, lifestyle, religion.

ouhti v.in. empty, vain, μάταιος, futile.

ouhtil n. toy, plaything.

óúri adv., n. yesterday.

ówa n. corn (maize).

oyíí interj. yuck! icky!

O O O O O

pá clause-final particle which softens assertions, especially with statements having the direct evidential.

pa’ou v.in. dig.

pa’ri adv. soon.

paa’ v.tr. poke, jab; “bug” or pester someone, often with mon- word incorporated for this sense.

a. oupaa’aa n. jerk, asshole.
paahím  n. painting, drawing, fresco; general term for any static, visual art piece.

paáí  v.tr. count, calculate.

paaitá  v.tr. know, understand. This refers to indirect knowledge especially (as opposed to forms of yoł). Further, one might use it to be tentative, or to disparage a source or method of knowledge, kaarim so'opaaitákohtsi het you (merely) know this from a book.

paálaal  n. computer.

paák  n. web, net, mesh.

paalípek  see pek.

paáló'í  n. butterfly.

paalyom  (paalí-) n. touchstone; proof.

páán  interactional particle which solicits audience involvement or agreement, “you know, you see.”

paarka  n. hazlenut (tree and fruit).

páát  v.tr. paint, draw, write, inscribe; instrumental incorporation very common.

paátsa  n. -

pahál  n. horn (of an animal).

páhwe  v.in. be red.

palaatyom  n. palace, capitol (building and institution).

paprá  n. flour, groats, any hulled or ground grain.

papráte  v.tr. grind (up).

papráť  n. porridge; halte papráť yonlomnats — pil the infant was throwing porridge — plop!

papti  n. cave.

par  v.tr. accept, receive.

patsi  n. chance, luck, fortune.

páwí  1. v.in. decrease, diminish, fade, wane. 2. of the sun, moon and other celestial objects, to set.

páya  n. honey.

pé (-spé)  n. garment, clothing.
from one’s homeland, with -lii for home location. 2. by metaphor, be alienated, also with Ł-lii, mar’áálii yopesáts she’s alienated from her family.

pétei, péte’yé quant. much, many.

petrik n. salt.

petssi v.in. fart.

píhiim ideo. something small and saliently flat falling to the ground; amáát wéiyawéí hááínaarnats — píhiim píhiim they were handling the money carelessly, and clink!

píl v.tr. forget, usually with translocative łate’epíl I forgot (it).

piill num. five.

piillita n. banjo.

piirte num. six.

piis 1. v.tr. cut. 2. of electronic communications, end, stop, hang-up.

a. piisik v.in. disconnect, hang-up, of electronic communication, usually unexpected, but a scheduled or correctly functioning disconnect can use this verb, too; táyárhák melléméellé hepiisik my crappy cell phone dropped the call.

pilóu n. paper.

píl ideo. depicts something mushy falling to the ground; halte paprát yonłomnats — píl the infant was throwing porridge — plop!

pílpa v.in. be false, be untrue; be untrustworthy.

a. X-próh pilparíi-se v.in. be considered untrustworthy by, be distrusted by, aapróh teipilparíise she distrusted me.

piske v.in. be black.

piskol n. charcoal, specifically, that intended for making marks with.

pitélou’aa see lou’.

pitétsákit see tsák.

pits the negative stem of wén.
other matters; with -mo’ím for the thing contingent on; or with object chaining.

pottse 1. n. things (or people) indirectly connected by a shared item or person; with people, the word is usually prefixed with laá-co(n)-. 2. geometry, hypotenuse. 3. of people, two people who have had a relationship with the same person, but not necessarily each other, usually laápottse.

pouhóm ideo. something large and saliently flat falling to the ground; hokta heyé’wetkin, li he’olá — pouhóm! the wall became weak and finally — crash!

poulaai n. desert (desolate place).

poul n. straight guy.

póur n. hole, pit; well.

póús v.in. be short (horizontally or vertically).

-prí n. alone, by oneself; takes possessive prefixes and is used adverbially, káánewena katiíprí we were working alone.

-próh 1. postpos. to, used in verbal idioms of emotion and judgement. These uses will appear in the lexicon with the verbs it is used with. 2. postpos. to, as judicantis, marking the person in whose judgement a statement holds true, tápróh róúre mo hón to me, he’s a fool.

-pset postpos. on, upon, for a surface in any orientation; terou onipset in the sky; kaarim onipset in a book.

rá v.in. be, copula, used with adverbs and positional phrases, mar’áá onwer yoráts he’s in the house; used with ri to attach nouns to clauses, kíhá heráts ri hó’wei káánewel it’s an unfortunate necessity that we read here. See also ye.

ra’é (often just ra’) prn.inan., adj.inan. that.

rá’ni (rán-) n. ear;
  a. ráńkaai v.tr. listen to.

raaha n. song, poem.

raal n. autumn, fall.

ráámpa num. half.

rááni v.tr. steal.

ráás v.in. engage in dominance or sexual display behavior, show off, with -mo’ím or benefactive applicative for the person the subject is trying to impress.

raaitsa n. slave.

rakaa n. flesh; meat; rakaa hááinwots they don’t eat meat.

rakór 1. v.tr. slaughter (of food animals). 2. v.tr. murder (of people).

rál 1. n. conifer needle; Álááí heyé’tsówarnakoł. Rál lépiin helámtsi. The pine must be getting dry. The needles are falling. 2. n. the scent of pine.

ramáálta adv. always, at all times, on all occasions; distinguish from moúlte (under moúl) for the sense “for all time.”

ramé 1. v.tr. dam (up a river). 2. of plans or methods, obstruct, block, impede. 3. in verb chains, prevent, stop, keep from; the verb takes the negative, yotáramé sei tekwoł he kept me from eating.
  a. ramék 1. v.in. back up, stop (up); (see also laan).
  2. of plans or methods, be stuck, be stopped. 3. v.in. stop, cease; usable with subject chaining.

ran (pl. ran’áh) prn.an., adj.an. that.

rarkéíl n. coriander, seeds or leaves.

ras v.in. be wet; mohááí louh yorasye? why is the cat wet?

rasáái 1. v.in. be calm, be tranquil. 2. of weather and water, be good for traveling.
  a. heyé’rasáái’mé pá idiom, it will get better, also
wéyé’rasáái’mé pá things will get better.

rássé 1. n. cause, reason; motive.  
   a. rásláám v.tr. explain to, give the reasons.

ráwas n. table, desk; ráwastaak teiyo’na I’m sitting at a desk.

rehánóu n. copper.

réi 1. v.in. be high (up), be elevated.  
   2. of geographic features, be expansive, be large, as in the open ocean or the deep desert, poulaare’félé.

reik v.tr. associate with, hang out with; with the reciprocal -léí for plural subjects acting in concert.
   a. haanáreik v.tr. sleep together with (in the sexual sense); with reciprocal -léí for plural subjects acting together.
   b. ná-reik v.tr. to date (a person).
   c. reikki 1. v.in. gather together.  
       2. of clouds, blow up, threaten; màl heyé’reikkits the clouds are starting to threaten.

réiké n. consent by silence.

reikléítsa’ n. meeting, gathering.

reili v.in. to serve;
   a. reilikaaí v.tr. to serve someone or something.

reirme 1. n. youth.  
   2. n. prime of youth, strength of youth

réísu n. highly androgenous person; (etym. Wraeththu).

réítwol v.tr. defile, taint, spoil (see also yáł).

reká 1. n. sheep.  
   2. n. mutton.

rél negative stem of maa.

relá v.tr. stab, pierce, with locative for part affected.

rel 1. v.tr. carry, bear.  
   a. ís-rel 1. v.tr. carry up.  
       2. v.tr. to pretend, put on a pretense; mahéí ísyonirel he put on a show of bullshit; íste’erelmé teiyortál I will pretend to be happy.

ren n. wheat.

renááhe v.in. be still, be quiet, be undisturbed.

renaaí v.in. be yellow.

reséí v.tr. push, move by pushing, shove.
   a. -s(i)reséí v.tr. jostle a person.

reséíl 1. n. a push.  
   2. n. influence; often nísreséíl for social influence.

ret v.in. be vulgar, be crude, be crass (of people or things); háállámwen hewëirettsi what they said was very crude.

reténha n. excellence, virtue, àperří.

reténharén n. ethics.

ri conj. that introduces several kinds of dependent clauses.
   -riim- modal prefix, try (to), teriimteipto’mé I will really try to succeed.

riis v.in. spread out horizontally, of water and other flowing materials, and of animals and people.
   a. weri-riis 1. v.in. spill (out), leak.  
       2. v.in., with animate subject, urinate; with -te for urinate on.
   b. weri-riissim v.tr. pour (onto the ground).

rík v.in. be true; be real, be genuine;
   a. kóh-rík v.in be reliable, trustworthy, of people and things.
   b. ná-rík v.tr. to trust someone, to rely on someone.
   c. tei’íríík v.in. be honorable, be of good character; cf. póserwa.

rik v.in. be white.

rin(e) pron. you (sg.).

ríts (ipfv. rítsrá) v.in. hang; the location where something is hanging takes the lative directional -te, éite herítsi it’s hanging on/from the tree.

ritse n. fur, hair (on the body).

ro’ou conj. even though, in spite of.

ro’wei n. month.

róhaa adv. later, afterwards.

rohwe n. moon;
a. hetéír rohwe  idiom, the moon is full.
rohwokopi  n. dew.
rokii  v.tr. conquer, defeat.
rokkaai  n. testicles, scrotum.
a. li tárokkaai  idiom, yeah, right! X, my ass! a vulgar expression of dismissal, contempt or disregard; may take augmentative or diminutive to lighten the tone somewhat.
rol'o 1. n. night. 2. adv. at night; often ról’ohte.
a. ról’o awaró, ról’awaró  adv. this evening;
b. ról’o mós  adv. tomorrow night.
c. ról’o óúri, ról’óúri  adv. last night.
róúka  n. dog.
róul  n. animal (but see §4.5.2 for incorporation).
róukko  v.tr. measure.
roul  v.tr. to feel, to experience, to suffer, πάχω.
a. monroul  v.tr. to gossip about, to slander someone.
b. ís-roul  v.tr. be the victim (of a crime or offense).
roúmé  1. n. board, plank, tablet; can be used in classifier NI for stiff, flat things.  2. n. bridge. 3. n. plate (for eating from).
róupá  n. broccoli.
rou 1. v.in. be grey. 2. of people, be aloof, be distant, be distant from common concerns, used especially of people of high status or power, to describe the inability to see beyond one’s own interests.
a. rouraa  n. elite, any member of a distant ruling class.
róúre  n. idiot, moron, fool.
rous  num. eight.
rowi  com.part. cultivated nonsense, opportunistic skepticism, bullshit, theoretical delirium

S S S S S

sá  (séí-)  n. bag, sack; sorlo sá niwer heráts the bread is in the sack; sálii so’olousto remove it from the bag.

saai  num. two.

saáí  v.in. be quick, be fast, usually of inanimates; with animates, forms of wósé run are used.
saaikiyánlirén  n. conspiracy theory (cf. kiyánli).
sááíł  n. frost, ról’óúri sááíł werihe’anáttsi last night there was frost (see weri-na’anát under nát).
saapéi  v.in. be beefy, burly, muscular.
saal  n. matter, business, affair

a. ye’é saal  idiom, what’s up? what’s going on?
b. saal -na’a-teipto  idiom for wishing any endeavor well, such as wéísaal he’aiteiptowaal may your event go well.
sáál  v.tr. marry, one person to another.
a. sáálléí  v.tr. marry (one another), the usual form used in the plural of two people.
sáálit  1. n. wedding  2. n. marriage.

saapéi  v.tr. avert one’s eyes from; in negative, stare at.
a. weri-saapéi  1. v.tr. be shy around, with people only. 2. with indef. object -‘ou-, be shy (in general), weriyo’ousaapéin he’s shy.
saa r  v.in. practice, exercise, train; with instrumental applicative, or incorporation, for the thing training in, róháa piilíta te'esaarkohmé later I will practice the banjo; with -s- (§ 4.5.1) for physical exercise, hááíssaarna they were exercising.

sááré  v.tr. twist, braid, coil.
   a. messááré  v.in. “think too much,” engage in over-analysis.

sáárik  v.in. be auspicious, well-omened, be a good sign; with -naai be a good sign for.

sáárpaai  n. kipple.

saas  v.tr. answer, reply to.

sáh  v.tr. take, grab, seize.
   1. v.tr. remove, take away.
   2. of tasks, accomplish.
   a. messáh  v.tr. learn (after study).

saas  v.tr. learn (after study).

sahlo  n.an. zahhlut.

sáhpáa  n. lesbian.

saká  n. thread, line, rope.

sakaai  adv. on arrival, after arriving; sakáa áhpórt teiye'leis I started to look for them when I arrived.

sáknó  v.tr. flee, run away, usually la-sáknó.

sákohá  v.in. be well-behaved.

salo  1. n. stand, patch (a place where plants of the same kind grow). 2. of animates, haunt, hang-out (place).

sámká  n. knee.
   a. sámkálii  idiom, on the knees, sámkálii yokkór-nats she was reading on her knees.

sán’e  1. n. flat ground, level ground. 2. of buildings, level. 3. of intellectual or social projects, foundation, fundamentals.
   a. sán’e henal’il  idiom, the foundation is rocky, focusing on a lack of sufficient preparation.

sápo  n. chalk.
   a. lenaayosápo  n. sanguine chalk, used in drawing.

sár  1. v.in. ēk’wó, reach, arrive; by default refers to the location most current in the discourse, likely where the speaker is; for other locations theative directional suffix -te is used, possibly also with the translocative prefix la-, (la)káásár mar’átte we reached home. 2. of celestial objects, rise; mil hesárti le’a and then the sun rose. 3. with dep. verb, come to, to eventually, of intellectual, emotional or social attainments acquired over time, teisár tetemésyolye I came to understand her.
   a. kiitssár  v.in. return.
   b. kóh-sár  v.in. turn into, become, the target of the transformation takes -te, attáte kóhyosármé pa’ri he will become a father soon.
   c. messár  v.tr. decide on, select; implies deliberation (cf. ēl’p).

saré see aas.

a. saso  v.in. be cold; of weather, with -na’a; he’asasots — kehiné mel soutákaaitto it’s cold — give me a blanket.

satwi  com.part. baffling; completely outside one’s usual worldview

satsei  v.in. to cough.

sáwi  num. ten. For the teens, it is sáwil, as in sáwil teim eleven, etc.

saya’án  1. v.in. be simple, obvious, banal. 2. of an idea or person, naive.
   a. X-próh saya’ánríi-se with -próh, -(some day I will find an English word for this)

se’á  n. wind; air.
   a. se’par  v.in. have a cold.
   b. se’á hekéíntsi  idiom, the wind howls (lit., “sings”).

se’ísáarék’é  n. tornado.

se’kóuto’é  n. quartz.

se’yomik  n. flag, standard.

sei  adv. not.
   a. mo sei  idiom, no; used in answers rather than bare sei.

séiknáá  v.in. be nude, be naked.
séino  n. mercenary; commonly of anyone who follows on their own interests—especially monetary—at the expense of others.

séipe  v.tr. threaten (not verbally), menace, endanger; see also monséipe under mouno.

seirírí  ide, for surprised pain.

séít (neg. stem sénaméí)  v.in. die, often là-séít; a. kóh-séít  v.in. to give up (in a fairly profound way). b. kopséít  v.tr. drown (someone or something). c. kopséítki  v.in. drowned.

séítol  n. death.

sekłii  v.tr. bite, sting.

sénaméí  negative stem of séít.

sépaan (sépa-)  n. machine, engine.

serwa  1. v.tr. sharpen (a tool); képé yonserwanats, sísiri sísiri she was sharpening the blade. 2. v.tr. tune (a musical instrument or radio receiver). 3. v.tr. fix, shape up, bring back into a preferred state.

siháán  v.in. to fail due to internal flaw or weakness (cf. hátyou); paaíwaal rou hesiháántsi the computer crashed again.

sihour  com.part. touching on the speaker’s pride, honor, dignity, sense of self-worth, etc.

sii  1. n. the prop noun for using (almost) bare numbers as nouns (§6.4). Used only with humans (cf. wim). 2. possessed, prop noun for independent possessive pronouns, sei risii mo hón he is not yours.

siila  n.an. blood;
  a. siilkí  v.in. bleed; prefers -taak to noun incorporation to locate source, teiyé’siilkí tsaataak I started bleeding in my hand, my hand started to bleed.

siilaasí  n. vampire.

sílam  n. cloak, any large article of clothing worn over other clothing for warmth.
  a. sílamtát  n. light jacket or sweater.

síín  verb focus particle, follows a verb that has been fronted for focus; te’ehákyáá sín ra’é I heard that.

sím  v.in. turn, rotate; roll; things with which one uses “stand” usually use yém instead of sím.
  a. síím  1. v.tr. rotate something. 2. v.tr. affect, drive or motivate someone, especially of mental states, nísakitis kl’ássimintsí pá tribal loyalty moves them.

simélsimel  ide, for a computer to be stuck, that is, locked in a loop or a bad network connection; in Apple parlance, beachballed; wé lahénátto — simél-simél helámtsi damn this thing! — it’s locked up.

símwa  1. v.in. be persuadable, be pliant. 2. slang, be “easy,” sexually available. 3. v.in. be turnable, be easy to turn or rotate.

sirí  n. hair (on the head).

sisáhaa (< sáh)  n. policeman, policewoman.

sísiri  ideio. sharpening a blade, often repeated, képé yonserwanats, sísiri sísiri she was sharpening the blade.

síwe  (ipfv. sówérá)  v.in. run (of liquid).

-skiil  postpos. impaled on, stuck on; hán niskiil ká’atsáapa we cooked it on a stick.

só’ei  1. v.tr. to drink; kahtsááli káákopsó’ei we drank water from the river; 2. with tsótsok, gulp down, hemki tsótsok yonsó’ei he gulped down the beer.
  a. kiitshóksó’ei  v.in. be an (out)rage junkie, be in a snit (cf. hóká, só’ei).
  b. wimsó’ei  v.tr. to stare at one’s beloved.

sohkímwa  v.in. be stubborn.

sóhte  num. seven.

sók  v.tr. opine, be of the opinion, think; with object nominalization, opinion, teisókwen my opinion(s).

solsol  ideio. drizzling, light rain.
  a. solsolmáá  ideio. drizzling, light rain, that has gone on for a long time; awaró mar’áálii sei áateiló, óran solsolmáá he’alámtsi I didn’t leave the house today because it was rainy and dreary.
son  v.tr. promise, make an oath to; person promised to is the primary object, thing promised is secondary, wáarat yotásontsi she promised me freedom to act.
   a. kóh-son  v.tr. commit oneself to.

sonyéím  v.in. forswear, break an oath; person promised to is the primary object, thing promised is secondary, nísattá sóukkaairén hááínaarnats the patrons are engaging in kayfabe.
   a. sónyémkaai  v.tr. break an oath to, betray.
   b. sónyémwa  v.in. be treacherous.

-sóp  postpos. without, lacking, not having.

soptéí  1. v.in. be abandoned, be desolate.  2. of ideas or culture, intellectually impoverished.
   a. wimsóptéí  v.in. to be coming out of a romantic relationship.

soráán  n. sarrane.

sóritori  n. churn, upheaval; also used as an ideophone.

sorlo  n. bread.

sóú  v.in. be free (in the political and social sense).
   a. hesóú ko’oukrá  idiom, (their) junk is free, idiom for any absurdly constrained definition of freedom (see ko’oukrá). With hearsay evidential, this is very sarcastic.

sóuka  n. spit, saliva.

soukesouke  idiom. full to overflowing; the primary sense is liquid, but can used for any sort of overflowing fullness, including having eaten too much; mól hááínyemóts — soukesouke they filled the cup to overflowing.

sóukkaairén  n. kayfabe.
   a. sóukkaairén naar  idiom, engage in kayfabe.
   b. sóukkaai’aa  n. someone engaging in kayfabe.

sóunka  v.in. be sweet.
   a. tei’ísóunka  v.tr. flatter, cajole.

sour  1. n. man.  2. n. husband, esp. if possessed.

souri  1. v.in. be raw, uncooked.  2. of people, be inexperienced, with -mo’ím for the area of inexperience, kolté onmo’ím yosouríts pá he knows little about plants.  3. of ideas or actions, be premature, be “half-baked.”  4. of finance, gross, before taxes and operating costs are factored in.

sourispo  v.in. be sexually attracted to men.

-ssi’  intensive, myself, yourself, -self; see §3.3.3.
táám n. vulva, vagina.

táapéhá -.-

táár v.tr. plan, intend, scheme.

taaswe 1. n. woman. 2. n. wife, esp. if possessed.

taaswispo v.in. be sexually attracted to women.

táár v.tr. plan, intend, scheme.

taaswe 1. n. woman. 2. n. wife, esp. if possessed.

taaswispo v.in. be sexually attracted to women.

táatsitóts ideo. of dripping sounds or motions.

táátsitóts ideo. of small things flying around in a cloud.

take n. bee.

tál (-ktááł) n. γέρας, (political) right.
	tamse num. nine.

tán(e) pron. I.
	tanki v.tr. hold or consider first, give advantage to, privilege.

tápa n. mountain lion, cougar.

tapoul 1. n. parsley. 2. n. tabouli.

taraa’ais n. elemental spirit, not unlike Japanese kami; in the plural, elements, especially of the weather or local conditions.

taraa (ptaraa; in n. compounds taraa- or taraayo-) n. state, status, condition, health, weather; frequently incorporated element in describing weather and sometimes health; wóséyat taraai hehiilolpan running is good for your health, they say.

taraakokla see kokla.

tará v.tr. to call (to), beckon.

tasin, tas’é quant. all, every; tasin katiinwaas yoháattsi she’s smarter than all of us.

táttaai n. eyass (unfledged hawk).
	tatki n. feces, excrement; (cf. pol).

táts v.tr. spread a fork further apart, such as legs, or branches of a tree (cf. lotna).
	-te directional to, towards.
	-te’éli postpos. under the covers with; in cahoots with.

té’wí adv. almost, nearly.

tei’ 1. n. face. 2. n. stance or attitude toward something.
	- a. tei’itaas v.in. perform an act to assert one’s independence or identity.
	- b. tei’lli idiom face to face.

tei’imal’ááí see mal’ááí.

tei’ínoró see noró.

tei’írík see rík.

tei’ísóunka see sónka.

tei’ítsaplim see tsapli.

tei’iyéím see yéím.

tei’iyológ see yól.

té’io v.in. be wide, be broad.

tei’oyémá n. guest of an organization or in some formal capacity, such as an invited speaker, someone staying at a hotel, etc. (cf. yémá, which refers to friendly house-guests only).

téih n. straight woman.

téik n. vegetable.

teim num. one.

teipto v.in. to succeed; with instrumental applicative for the thing at which one succeeds.

téír 1. v.in. full, round; ripe. 2. of leaves, be in autumn colors.
	- a. téírpar v.in. attain one’s aim, get what one worked for; with subject chaining, ii sotéírpar so’omessáhye raaha? did you learn the song (you were trying to)? with -por for nouns, sei ats-por yotéírparin she didn’t get what she sought from/about him.

téik v.in. be bold, be unafraid, be brave; be forthright.

teknór v.tr. cross, go across.

tél 1. v.in. to fit; to harmonize. 2. with próh, to suit, be acceptable to.
a. télaa n. insider, a person who belongs to a
group.
tém v.in goof off, play around.
temmi n. mint.
tenyé v.in. be lost at sea; hááiyé’tenyén they were
lost at sea (I hear).
tép n. smoke.
a. tépki v.in. to (give off) smoke; usually with mo-
tion preverbs, ís- for rising smoke, ła- for smoke
spreading out.
b. téppar v.in. to smoke (tobacco, etc.).
tépyomohááí n. dustbunnies.

b. téppar

b. ná-térka v.tr. let someone go,
in the sense of
moving on from the loss of a relationship.

terou n. sky.
tétsi v.in. be dried out; droop, be flacid, be floppy.
teyahtí n. sexual desire.
tít’a n. plant (terrestrial or aquatic).
tíkle n. snake.
tíí v.tr. approach, come near; álááí te’etííhte,
“tsop!” waar helámtsi I approached the pine, and
“snap!” went the branches.
tííno v.tr. live near, be a neighbor to.
timse n. sand.
timsolére n. pear (cf. lére).
tirta v.in. break (in many pieces).
tís com.part. causing impatience.
tó’o n. rule, custom, tradition.
a. aailyotó’o n. tradition, emphasizes the an-
ciency of practice.
b. máilitó’om v.tr. impose a political or social regime
on someone.
tó’olépe n. culture war.
tó’pe n. spruce.
tó’pose’á n. allergy; the conditions producing aller-
gies.
tohkél 1. v.in. to not fit, be disharmonious. 2. with
-próh, to not suit, be unacceptable to.
a. tohkéláa n. outsider, a person who doesn’t be-
long to a group.
toké v.tr. rule, command.
tol v.in. smile
tólap n. decorative or ornamental garden (as distinct
from koltémíi).
tólal n. hummingbird.
topaa n. goat.
topaayoláarou n. bagpipes.
tor 1. n. leaf. 2. n. tea. 3. of books, page or a
sheet of paper in general. 4. computing, file.
tori’la n. bud of leaf or flower.
tórii v.in. be meretricious, seem good but lack sub-
stance.
tóriirén n. Crapification.
torolapri n. file system (computing).
toronísá n. non-hierarchical power (cf. hes’éiýoní-
sa).
tospa n. road, path.
a. tospíyetí v.in. get lost, lose one’s way.
tosparenaa n. dandelion.
totó n. frog.
touk v.in. to breathe.
a. touki’íméí v.tr. kiss (cf. méí).
b. toukit 1. n. breath; 2. with the verb saknó
(“flee”), to lose consciousness, hesaknón toukit he
passed out (I hear).
toulta (-stoulta) n. lord, master, tyrant.
a. toulta n. lord, master, tyrant.
subject chaining, káátoltak ká’amessárye we were arbitrary in our decision, lit., “we were arbitrary (when) we decided on it.”

tóúl v.in. be complete, be whole, be finished.
  a. tóúlit n. finish, end, completion.
  b. lastóúlit n. end, of any line-like thing, roads, queues, etc.

tóúlnéí 1. v.in. be cooked, be prepared.  2. of people, be knowledgeable.  3. of finance, net, after taxes and operating costs are factored in.

tóúpaái n. thorn.

tóúro v.tr. to have enmity toward, to be an enemy of; to hate.

tóútsento v.tr. to scratch, specifically addressing an itch; with NI for the part scratched.

tóútsaai v.in. last a long time, persist, endure (without any sense of suffering); uses subject chaining, yotóútsaaitats yomaaii he slept a long time.

tówaar conj. meanwhile, and in other news; topic discontinuity marker, both interruptions and the start of a new topic;
  a. tówaar li conj. marker of incredulity, especially common as a question, ii tówaar li.
  b. tówaar rou conj. anyway, resuming an interrupted topic.

-tsaaan postpos. -.
tsakléi  v.in. vicious, cruel; implies less overt violence than lekké.

tsál v.in. be different; the comparand may be marked with the ablative, -lii, wé ra'élii hetsáltsi this is different from that.

tsalé v.in. be old (of people only).

tsaltsih (tsaltsí-) n. jade.

a. tsaltsih hetirta idiom, the jade broke, referring to any self-inflicted loss of face, acts that result in public loss of status (see tirta).

tsaneno see neno.

tsananna n. hammer; tsanna nimeh yoletaaltsi — lapen he hit himself with the hammer — thud!

tsapła’ v.tr. talk about, discuss.

tsapłi v.in. to smart, to sting; usually incorporating the body part affected.

a. tei’ítsapłi v.tr. insult, demean, “dis.”

tsappli v.in. to smart, to sting; usually incorporating the body part affected.

a. tei’ítsappli v.tr. insult, demean, “dis.”

tsappi com.part. dilberto-machiavellianism, that is, power politics, especially of an incompetent and amoral variety (in any context, not only the office).

tsat yem v.in. be loud, be noisy.

tséí v.in. walk (with a destination); cf. wé’ko; tsromámá layotséíts he walked away, acting suspiciously.

tseik v.tr. lack, be free of, be missing.

a. X-tseikki v.in., always with NI, have a craving for, be wanting, be in the mood for.

tséípa n. wolf.

tséípyolapri 1. n. wolf pack. 2. n. a group of young males, esp. if out carousing or otherwise cause for wariness.

tséír v.tr. heal; object may be a person or affected part, with NI more likely for part.

a. la-tséír v.tr. heal, cure, with the malady as object, to’pose’á sei lahetséírtsi it didn’t cure the allergies.

tseim v.tr. destroy, ruin.

tsekó v.in. be absurd, be preposterous.

tsekkít tsekkít ideo. the sound of katydids in the night; ról’o he’amaantsi li tsekkít tsekkít he’alámtsi the night was humid and the katydids were making a racket.

tsékró v.tr. wipe, always with the filth as the direct object, -lii for what is being cleaned, mar’áwimelii yoktsékrón he wiped the windows.

tsél 1. n. scale, as in juniper leaves, or of fish. 2. n. flake, chip.

tsel (-rotssel) n. mountain;

tselínáá’é n. volcano.

tsém v.tr. perform magic on; with person as object, enchant.

a. pité-tsém v.tr. display one’s wares, of commerce only, with secondary objects the things being presented, pitéyotátsém tor péte’yé he showed me many teas.

b. weri-tsém v.tr. perform destructive magic on, more commonly “black magic.”

tseméí (tsemá-) n. garbage, refuse.

tsén n. spume; foam.

tsepou com.part. mercenary, done for gain without regard for consequences.

tserí n. car, truck, van, any motorized vehicle except trains.

tséya n. tendon.

tsí (tsí; in n. compounds, tsíyo-) n. air.

tsii v.in. begin, start; káátsii kóhká’amiitsye we started to study it.

tsíla n. breba (the season’s first crop of figs which grows on the previous year’s growth); idiomatically for any result of deliberate waiting or cultivation.

a. tsíla hesártsi idiom, come to fruition, of long-term plans that finally pay off.

-tsiir postpos. across, crossing.

tsiktsi v.in. yammer, babble, jabber.
tsili v.in. small, little.

tsire n. body; the incorporation stem is -s(i)- in public registers, and -yá’re- in intimate registers; see §4.5.1.

tsista v.in. to laugh;
   a. tsistakaai v.tr. to laugh at.

tsittsikááí n. chipmunk.

tsitú ideo. the sound of piercing or stabbing.

tsiwaaspí n. cicada.

tsiyasla (tsii’-) n. drug, poison.

tso'o n.an. duck.

tsóhka n. buttocks; incorporated into verbs of motion to humorously refer to careless movement or travel.
   a. li tátsóhka idiom, yeah, right! X, my ass! a vulgar expression of dismissal, contempt or disparagement; may take augmentative or diminutive to lighten the tone somewhat.

tsohkááí (< tsák) v.tr. be careless about, be thoughtless about, be inattentive to; as a general statement with indef. obj., yoktsóhkááktsti pá he is careless.

tsoki v.in. be light (weight); be easy.

tsókkan v.in. be weak, submissive, humbled; be dejected.

-tsokwi noun suffix, former, ex-; of objects, marks something worn-out or broken.

tsolóú v.in. unexpected, unhoped-for, unanticipated.

tsól 1. v.tr. look at. 2. v.tr. take care of, look after.

tsomirá n. layer of leaves on the ground of a forest, or at least under a stand of trees.

tsommaai n. blueberry.

tson conj. rather than, instead of.

tsop ideo. for something bent to snap straight, such as a branch or spring, álááí te’etíhá, “tsop!” waar helámtsi I approached the pine, and “snap!” went the branches.

tsóp 1. v.in. be straight, going directly to where one is heading. 2. of plans, be effective.
   a. sei hááítsópin idiom, they are out of favor, i.e., people hold them in poor opinion.
   b. tsópkaalke v.tr., idiom in the negative hold someone in low esteem or low opinion, sei yokattsóp-kaalken he has a bad opinion of us (I hear).

tsór'ei (tsór’a-) 1. n. pig. 2. n. pork.

tsoromáá ideo. suspiciously, behaving or acting suspiciously; tsoromáá layotséíts he walked away, acting suspiciously.

tsótaak v.tr. program a computer (to).

tsótsok ideo. make gurgling sound, gulping, tsótsuk yonsó’ei hemki he gulped down the beer.

tsóu’óú n. cucumber.

tsouk v.in. be dangerous, be a risk, sotáárwen he-tsouktsi what you intend is dangerous.

tsóuká 1. v.tr. send. 2. v.tr. send away, dismiss.
   a. tsóuká v.in. depart on one’s way home, set off homeward.

tsoukmou n. danger (both the quality of being dangerous, and an actual threat).

tsóún v.tr. sew.

tsóúri n. peace.

tourse n. dragon.

tsówar v.in. be dry; Álááí heyé’tsówarnakoł. Rál lépiin helámtsi. The pine must be getting dry. The needles are falling.
wá’ v.in. narrowly avoid messing up or having a problem.

wa’á n. corpse.

wa’íwo’aa n. ghoul; a literal, corpse-consuming ghost or monster; the more figurative sense is (ou)wa’ipaa’aa.

wa’mek n. courtier; suck-up, brown-nose.

wá’ríiye com.part. with nostalgia, saudade, longing for something absent or unattainable.

waail v.tr. mix, combine, N-te with; mil só’òwaail to páya kopite and then mix the honey with water.

a laáwaailki v.in. to mix together (always with adverbial prefix -laá-).

waaimapyé 1. adv. downriver, downstream. 2. of time, in the future.

waakou (ipfv. waakourá) v.in. stay, remain; the location is typically not marked in any way, howaakou’mé mar’áá he will remain at home.

-waal nominal derivation suffix for tools and man-made artifacts.

wáal (-wáalé as final element of compounds) n. insect, bug.

waanóú n. spring (season).

waar 1. n. arm. 2. of a tree or bush, branch.

a. ná-waar v.tr. embrace, hug, almost always with -s(i)- incorporation.

wáarat n. free room, space to act; choices, options.

waarolotna 1. n. armpit. 2. n. puberty; (rante) waarolotna hesártsi s/he entered puberty.

wáas 1. v.in. bloom, blossom. 2. of leaves and leaf buds, open.

waatre n. rose.

wakei (wak-) 1. n. mouth. 2. n. entrance.

waklaká v.in. keep a secret, -naai about, concerning; ra’é onnaai sei teiwaklaká’mé I will not keep that secret, lit., “I will not keep secret about this” (cf. wakei, laká).

walpe n. oil, fat, grease, lard.

walpoyéi n. festival, holiday.

walou 1. v.in. be “rich,” of food. 2. of soil, be fertile, be fecund. 3. colloq., be “sweet,” in the colloquial use to signal approval, ra’é paaíwaal hewalouts! that computer is sweet!

walká v.tr. torment, torture;

a. la-walká v.tr. torture, specifically with the goal of gaining information, with -s(i) incorporation.

walkárwa v.in. depraved, immoral.

wán adv., n. earlier today.

war num. four.

-waraan postpos. resembling, like, similar to.

waríit n. remit, legitimate privileges as well as obligations that come with a job or social role.

wasaa’te n. spoon.

wáispé v.in. be old (of things).

wé adj., prn. the usual, non-focused form of hó’é this.

we’aamá n. steam, fog, mist.

wé’ko v.in. walk (with no particular destination), wander; cf. tséi.

we’wá n. sphere, ball, often incorporated as a classifier.

weikli n. nape of the neck.

wéfla (wé-) n. person, human.

-wéín postpos., adv. willingly, by the will or permis-
wéí(n) (pron. you (pl.)).

weir v.in. be ill, have a sickness; instrumental applicative to say what one is sick with; mohááí yoweirkot — mewaas kiit teilám the cat must be sick — I just stepped in something.

weirwa v.in. be contagious, be infected.

weihte adv. in vain, to no purpose, without effect. There is no independent root *wei.

wéíya'wéí 1. adv. here and there, back and forth.
2. of people working on a task, carelessly, distractedly.

wék v.tr. catch, capture; win.

wektéi n. priest(ess); monk.

wél (< wén + -l) n. desire, want.

Welé v.in. be young.

wele n. birch.

welé n. birch.

weleko 1. v.in. made of or relating to birch. 2. of people, be adult but young, between the age of 20 and the mid-thirties.

wén (neg. stem pits) 1. v.tr. want. 2. modal with dep. clause, want to; te’ewén teilól I want to go.

-wer 1. postpos. in, into, within; mar’áá onwer herákol it must be in the house. 2. of the body, on; tá’čik onwer hekísits it’s raining on my head. 3. of people, up to, under one’s control, in one’s power; sei ra’ táwer heráts that is not up to me.

weriiko 1. v.in. of or relating to willow. 2. of flavor, be bitter.

werina’alípit n. fall-out, consequences of poor decision-making; (see líp).

weriwerí ideo. when something known to be crap behaves, against expectation, non-crappily; wé káhwe on-nela weriwerí helámtsi hey, this coffee tastes good!

werya n. willow.
-wol  postpos. near, beside.
womyó  n. rosemary.
worki  n. door, gate, portal.
worop  v.in. be rough, be shaggy.
wósé  1. v.in. run;  2. of inanimates, be fast; frequently used in verb incorporation this way.
a. wóséríí-se  v.in. rush, hurry.
wot  n. food, generally anything edible (see tsáapal).
wowaal  n. eating implement, specifically a fork or chop-sticks, most of the time.

Y Y Y Y Y

ya  1. v.in. do so, do thus, anaphoric verb.
-yá’re- see tsire.

yáá  v.tr. hear; when hearing people, takes classifier incorporation, with háke (hák-) voice to focus on attention to the sound heard, and mes- (§4.5.3) to focus on attending to the meaning or message. Someone with an important message expects their audience to mes-yáá; hák-yáá would seem careless.

-yááh  enclitic, at least, marking the lower limit of a scalar value only. See §10.5.3.

yaai  n. rite, ritual, ceremony.

yáá’no  v.in. to back the loosing side in a dispute; ramáálta teitsóyáá’no I always back the wrong side.

yaaiyoteyahtí  n. sexual fetish.

yaal  v.in. tear, rip (note transitivity).

yáh  1. v.in. be narrow, be thin.  2. v.in. be tight.

yakar  v.tr. make it a point to, attend to.

yal  adv. still, yet.

yál  1. v.in. be spoiled, be rotten (see also réítwol).  2. v.in. be stinky, smell badly.

yapáá  n. marsh, swamp; yapáátaak pétei íítse hááíráts there are many mosquitos in the swamp.

yárhák  n. cell phone (< yárhákláátsa’).

yártsá  see tsá.

ye v.in. to be, copula only; doesn’t take imperfective. But see mo (§9.3.3). And see also rá

ye’é  prn.inan., adj.inan what?

ye’é, ye’éit  n. whatchamacallit, thingie.

ye’taas  v.in. to do what? kiit souye’taasye what did you just do?

yéi  n. day.

yéím  v.in. turn, turn aside; things with which one uses “sit” or “lie” use sim instead of yéím.
a. amááyéím  v.in. commit a crime; with instrumental applicative to name a crime, ráánit yon’amááyéímkohin he committed a theft (I hear).
b. pité-yéím  v.in. be obsessed, preoccupied with, with either incorporation or the instrumental applicative for the focus of the proccupation, either pitéyotsaairyéímtsi or tsaaíró pitéyonyéímkohtsi he is obsessed with purity.
c. sááli’íyéím  1. v.in. divorce, end a marriage; usually with plural subject hááílááli’íyéímméín I hear they will be getting divorced.  2. with singular subject and X-ltk, get divorced from aaltik tesááli’íyéím I divorced him.
d. tei’íyéím  v.tr. abandon, lose interest in (things, not people).
e. -wer yéím v.in come under someone’s control; táronloupe atswer heyéímtsi my mind came under his control.

yéiyokaarim  n. diary, journal.

yeile  n. daughter.

yéle  v.tr. wash, clean.
yémá  n. guest in someone’s home. Note carefully the meaning of the derivations with kaai and par.
  a. yémkaai  v.tr. to invite someone to your home.
  b. yémpar  v.tr. to be a guest in someone’s home.

yemó  v.tr. fill, with -meh for material, kopinimeh te’eyemó i filled it with water.
  a. yemók  v.in. be full, again with -meh for material, hemkini nimeheyemóktsi it’s full of beer.

yen  prn.an., adj.an. who, which, animate.

yerááí  v.tr. take revenge on; with instrumental applicative for the cause, áá tei’áhyerááíkoh I took revenge on them on account of the cow; with benefactive applicative for a person, tá’haaru tei’áhyerááílpá I took revenge on them for my brother.

yetí  v.tr. err, make a mistake, mess something up; refers primarily to actions (cf. mókak under móka).

yétóu  v.tr. flood, inundate; kíkyétóuna hó’wei it’s flooding here; támar’áá kínyétóu my house got flooded.

yéts  v.tr. raise, bring up, rear, nourish.

yo’ (ipfv. yo’rá, yo’réí) v.in. to sit.

yohkol  v.tr. be ignorant of/about.

yolleile  n. children; descendents, always plural.

yol  1. v.tr. know (sth.). 2. of social obligations and some mental states, recognize, acknowledge, grant; ye’è hourol souyolye? which side are you on? which party do you follow?
  a. háníyol  v.tr. meddle in, interfere with.
  b. iktíyol  v.in. follow a fad, follow fashion, be up to date.
  c. ko’wiyolki  v.in. “know one’s place,” in a social hierarchy; used for anyone in such a hierarchy, not just those on low the ladder.
  d. kóh-yol  v.tr. forgive, wéíla ne sei áye’lin kóhkáá’áhyolmé we will never forgive some people.
  e. la-yolki  v.in. self-lionize, to talk up or praise one’s own character or virtue; of keyboard commandos, la-yárlyolki is the best form.
  f. mesyol  v.tr. to understand a person.
  g. paalíyol  v.tr. accept someone’s epistemology or manner of argumentation; sei taai teiripaalíyol I really don’t accept your (manner of) argument.

h. tei’íyol  v.tr. to know a person (cf. tei’).
  i. weri-yol  v.tr. understand, usually by direct effort (cf. paaitá).
  j. wimyoł  v.tr. be “sweet on” someone.

k. makkiitsyolne  idiom in retrospect, in hindsight, in reconsideration (< ma-k-kiits-yol-hte). The indefinite subject ma may be replaced with an appropriate subject pronoun for the utterance.

yóp  v.tr. accept, go along with; this root and derived forms may not take an animate object, sei hááinyópye teisókwen they did not go along with me (my idea).
  a. kóh-yóp  v.tr. approve of.

yóra  n. star.

yórokél  n. milky way.

yóramol  n. astronomy.

yóramol’a  n. astronomer.

yórolourá  n. outer space.

yortá  v.in. be happy, be joyous.
  a. yortákoł  v.tr. enjoy, with non-human objects only.
  b. ná-yortá  v.tr. like (a person only); sei náyortákoł she must not like me.

yos  1. adv. already, yos yosár e’áána maybe she’s already arrived. 2. when used with sei not yet.

youlo  n. son.

yóúmar (yóúm-; in n. compounds, yóúmo-) 1. n. tip, point, furthest point, extremity. 2. in instrumental Ní by the handle, by the tip; in this use the notion of extremity may be absent.

yóúma’se  n. border (of a territory, possibly metaphorical).

yóúmmóri  v.tr. manipulate or motivate an entire group by focusing on a few key members.

yous  v.tr. inhale, suck (up).
  a. tsaltsíyous  v.in. to suck up, be obsequious, with benefactive applicative for the person one is suck-
ing up to.

yout  v.in. to lie, tell an untruth; often adverbiaized complement to a verb of communication, yoyout-naan ra’ê yorilámtsi pá he was lying when he told you that.
B. Monlári’é: Principles of Kahtaai Semantics

B.1. Kaai, Par and Roul, and Noró. The verbs kaai give, par receive and roul experience, suffer are very common elements in compounds, combining freely with both nouns and other verbs. Kaai has a wide range of uses, most of them idiomatic and a bit difficult to predict. But a few patterns can be seen.

With a few intransitive verbs kaai serves to add an animate object, as in reilikaa to serve someone or a cause, from reili to serve (in general), and haalkaaai to surrender to someone from haal yield, give way. With transitive verbs also, suffixing kaai serves to promote the animate recipient of an action to a core argument,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ii yonlaatsmél ra’é?} & \quad \text{Will he remember that?} \\
\text{Ii sotslaatskaai’mél ra’é?} & \quad \text{will you remind him of that?}
\end{align*}
\]

Note that the secondary argument remains when transitive verbs take kaai.

With nouns, suffixed kaai means either that the agent produces the noun or uses it. These verbs are always transitive, kalkaaai to greet someone from kal “hello!”, kamтикаaii to tell a story to from kante story, narration.

Par and roul cover much the same semantic ground, with roul preferred for low- or no-control situations, with a strong implication that the subject of the resulting verb suffered a notable or salient disadvantage.

Teiyé’se’par. I got a cold (of a normal sort).
Teiyé’se’roul. I got a cold (a bad one).

The agent noun of compounds in par is irregular, -paak instead of the expected -paraa, se’paak someone with a cold.

Verbs in both kaai and par can form idiomatic extensions of meaning with noró, which also provides the usual reciprocal derivation of such verbs.

Káá’áhkalkaai. We greeted them.
Káákalnoró. We greeted each other.

Tetsmonkaai. I talked to him.
Káámonnoró. We chatted.

B.2. Mál. Though it means foot, when incorporated as an instrument már quite often conveys the notion of political and social control. Even violence may be so indicated, though that sense is fairly marginal.
B.3. Nísa. In Kahtsaai the flow of political and social power and authority is a mutual experience — superior and inferior both give and receive nísa. Other words are used to mark status.

The transitive verb níspar means for one to join with a group in a nísa relationship, yokatnís-parmé she will join us. The agent noun nísparak refers to someone in such a relationship. Laánís-parak is someone with whom one is in such a relationship.

The noun málonísa, by virtue of the mál incorporation, defines a one-sided relationship, enforcing a dependent or subordinate social or political status on someone, and málonísake, someone locked into such a subordinate position.

B.4. Taraai and Lýre. When incorporated into stative verbs, taraai state, condition marks the state as transient, while incorporating lýre grain, character marks a more fundamental state or disposition. These are especially common in describing the personalities of people.

B.5. Tei’. The word face is used for notions of priority, being first or in the vanguard, as in lááísa’yotei’ gust front, lit., “storm’s face,” the cool, strong wind that arrives just before a thunderstorm hits. See also the conceptual metaphor “Honor is the Face,” §C.1.

C. Conceptual Metaphors

Various conceptual metaphors guide Kahtsaai idiom and expression. Some metaphors chain, which can lead to a wide range of possible expressions.

C.1. Honor is the Face. The word tei’ face covers a wide range of meanings relating to one’s personal status and respect, not unlike the sense used in the phrase “lose face,” though that particular expression does not exist in Kahtsaai. For example, tei’ísóunka from sóunka sweet, means to flatter someone. The verb mal’ááí hate refers to things, but when incorporating tei’ it can be used of people, hááítátei’imal’ááíkoł they must hate me. Tei’íke’lí, with ke’lí botch, screw up, refers to publicly doing something embarrassing.

C.2. A Plan is a Path. Words relating to paths, roads and travel can be used with plans, processes and methods. The verb tsóp be straight, going directly is used with plans to mean be effective. The adverb wéíya’wéí has the core sense of back and forth, hear and there but with tasks it means distractedly, carelessly.

C.3. States are Travelers vs. States are Destinations. States may tíí approach, sár arrive or nimme leave, depart from us, or, completely oppositely, we may approach and leave states. The difference is one of control, with low-controls states reaching us, and us reaching states over which we have some control. For example, tsaairó ká’animm me we became impure (lit., “we left purity”), but (rante) hesártsi waarolotna s/he entered puberty (lit., “puberty reached (him/her)”)

C.4. The Eye Houses the Attracting Force of Love. Somewhat similar to the European notion that the eyes are the gateway to the soul, in Kahtsaai wime, the eyes, embody the attracting force of the beloved on the lover: wimyoł be “sweet on” someone, wimsó’ei to stare at one’s beloved (“drink the eyes”), wimka’yaas fall in love at first sight (“be struck by lightening from the eyes”), etc.

More abstractly, sei ki’outsák atsmohkos literally, his spirit doesn’t see people, but means “he is lonely.”
C.5. The Passage of Time is Water Travel. Near time may be expressed with terms relating to travel by rivers, such as lóm’í upriver which can be used to refer to past time, such as lóm’í heráts ra’é that’s upriver meaning that’s in the past.

Deep time is travel by sea or ocean. Things long forgotten can be tenyé lost at sea.
D. Examples

D.1. Conversation. Some very basic conversational phrases and turns. This needs a lot more work.

Kal. Hello. Hi. (Neither very formal nor very informal.)

Li riptaraai? How are you?

Hehiil I’m good (lit., “it is good.”)

Wéhiiltsi. I’m well (lit., “things are good.”)

Ye’é saal? What’s up? (lit., “what matter/business?”)

Awaróhte hetaraaláhmets. The weather is bad today.

D.2. Quotations. Quotes from various sources, probably too many from the works of Frank Herbert.

Ripenket wénséípehte, mosla’se má sei werisoupósetto.

2SG-life 3INAN.IND-3INAN-endanger-ADV, theory only not DOWN-2SG-trust-IMP.

Do not rely only on theory if your life is at stake.

— Bene Gesserit Commentary, Chapterhouse Dune

Patsis tékaa kí’áhnotsnin. (MP3)

chance-SUBJ be.brave-NMNL 3INAN-3PL-help-EVID

Fortune favors the bold.

— Latin proverb

Kaaíké’étní sei ye’lin manlaatsnin.

suffice-NMNL-FOC not when 3AN.IND-3IN-remember-EVID

The sufficient is never remembered.

— Wm being cranky