

Relaysper: Branch  $\delta$ , Round 1 — Ipwar  
salp#2753 to Pancake#7400 (*glossed and translated*)

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Passage

Kersiaqsei,  
tamaretcia,  
beuxi paiwiat puadiat,  
qauxi qawayadiat,  
huŋ tuequnde werustina manqi:

Heikuasa buiŋe nuhuŋ ŋe-raunjie kuttider.

Awatirik ukide sainya,  
suana Heikuasaŋ anexu-juin tue tuiqasebin-juineji yiner,  
suanette asda xaica-beibuxirik duaser saiwe,  
da paca-kasarik,  
esiep-puarik wexidurriar kutte irtabade Kersiaqseyiar.

Qeyatte cian suannie bewayak isnaumber nacunrer,  
pi esqaxpinik hetatcer.

## Lexicon

**anexu** pc one, 1

**asda** ptcl *rather, or instead, or; otherwise, on the other hand; also, additionally, on top of* (COM)

**awati** nu year

**beibuxi, beibuay-** nu sack, bag; bin; jar, amphora; barge; any large container or vessel used for transporting or sometimes storing heavy goods

**beuxi, beway-** nh herder; leader

**buij, bui-** vt *deals with it; hunts it; kills, slaughters it; punishes it*

**cia** nu accident, slip-up; failure, loss; not doing sth; lack of sth

**da** ptcl or; nor (COM)

**esiep** pc two, 2

**esqaxpij, -pin-** nu amends, reparations; fine, penance, penalty

**hat** pn third person singular human; ERG **huŋ**, COM **haik**, DAT **hak**, LAT **hujes**, GEN **hujε**, **ŋε-**

**Heikuasa** [xɪ̃'kʊ̃asa] nh *Heikuasa*; proper noun

**hetap, heta-** va repeats (sth), does (sth) again; ramps (sth) up, increases (sth)

**irtab** nu soldier

**isnaum, isnaumb-** nu farmland

**juinj, juin-** nu part, portion; allotment; earnings

**kasa** nu boat, ship, vessel

**Kersiaqsei, -sey-** [kəɾ'ciqsiɪ] nh *Kersiaqsei*; proper noun

**kutte** nu fistfight; battle; in plural unrest, war

**maq, ma-** vt says, utters it; speaks it

**nacuk, nacu-** ve grabs, nabs it; takes it forcefully

**nuhu** nu town, large village; community

**pi** ptcl and; also, as well as (COM)

**paca** pc big, large

**paiwe** adj sacred, holy, sanctified

**puar, pua-** nu group, company; people, nation; plurale tantum; countable when meaning groups, peoples, never persons

**qauxi, qaway-** nh captain; leader; mayor, village head

**qeyar, qeya-** vi tries (to DAT); vt causes it, forces it, makes it; i.e. such that sb does sth; does it; will, going to; future tense auxiliary

**rauk, rau-** va dares; transgresses; commits a crime (against sth)

**sainye** adj tall, high; deep; total, utmost, at its zenith

**sate** adj this, that, these, those; one's own; SG.A **hite**, N **saiwe**, U **hime**; PL.A **sar**, A **hituedne**, N **sayude**, U **higidne**

**suane** vt gives it; donates, gives it up; sacrifices it

**tamares, tamare-** va sings for (sth); reveres, exalts (sth)

**tue** prep out, out of, out from; taken from

**tuequnde** adv loud, clearly, audibly

**tuiqasebij** pc eight, 8 (senary 12)

**werusti** vt commands it; decrees it

**wexidur, -du-** ve bruises it, beats it up; is bruised, beat up; tempers it, trains it; is tempered, trained; strengthens it; is strengthened

**ukya, uki-** nn summer

**xaica** pc many, much

**yinū** nu silver; wealth

# Grammar

## *Basic morphosyntax*

Mostly head-initial: VSO with prepositions and noun-adj order. Proclitic adjectives (pc), however, go directly before the noun. Things get fronted sometimes, usually only in the main clause. Ergative in nominal morphology; verbs are split depending on how they handle transitivity.

## *Verbs*

Usually clause-initial, but fronting of a focused argument is possible. Marked for transitivity, tense, aspect, and limited evidentiality; agree polypersonally for person, number, and animacy. On top of simple transitives (vt) and intransitives (vi), there are two kinds of ambitransitives divided by which argument is kept when conjugating intransitively instead of transitively:

ergative verbs (ve)—ERG subject dropped, ABS object becomes ABS subject

accusative verbs (va)—ERG subject becomes ABS subject, ABS object dropped

Conjugation is weird because of thematic verbs, whose stems end in theme consonants: **k, m, ŋ, p, q, r, or s**. These are deleted in certain environments or can undergo unusual lenitions.

## *Verb morphology:*

- n(e)**-      perfective; if there is a theme consonant, it is infixes before it
- e**            third person singular animate object < third person singular subject
- a**            third person singular inanimate object < third person singular subject
- tte**          plural inanimate object < third person singular subject

Participles deserve a special mention for being broken and encoding person marking—but with no clarity as to what it is marking for: subject, object, or even neither, purely framing the verb from a particular perspective in vague accordance with how an action is conceived of. Don't worry about these too much. They're mostly just deverbals that tend to take the genitive.

### *Participles:*

- i- third person singular animate participle
- (i)r(e)- third person singular inanimate participle
- tc-, -ra- plural animate participle

### *Nouns*

Two numbers: singular, plural. Some singular and plural tantum, sometimes only in particular meanings. There are also four noun classes grouped into two animacies:

human nouns (nh)—humans and some personifications; agree animately with verbs

animate nouns (na)—non-human animals, specific beings or body parts with spiritual relevance, powerful forces including natural phenomena; agree animately

natural nouns (nn)—plants, fungi, minerals, topography, weaker natural phenomena, the sky, or occasionally any other nouns ending in **-(y/i)a** by analogy; usually agree inanimately but often highly specific/definite singulars may instead be promoted to agreeing animately

unnatural nouns (nu)—anything else; agree inanimately

There are 6 cases (which certain constructions implicitly take):

absolutive—dictionary form; sole argument of intransitive verbs; patient, experiencer, or direction of transitive verbs (optional for accusative transitives) given as “it” or “sth”

ergative—agent or reason of transitive verbs, not used with intransitives

comitative—marks a noun as accompanying another noun, as an instrument or means, or otherwise as an adverbial that describes manner—but it can also just mean “and”

dative—indirect argument for impetus, goal, direction, endpoint, or an optional recipient

lative—indirect argument for adjacency, association, outset, reason, movement along, toward, or away

genitive—standalone used as an indirect argument indicating the location, expected recipient, or overseer of an action; can also act like the argument of a participle (not necessarily corresponding to its person marking); as a possessor, cliticized on possessed inalienables or used as an adjective modifying possessed alienables

### *Noun morphology:*

<b>-a</b>	singular absolutive (rare, only in natural nouns; unmarked in other classes)
<b>-(e)ŋ</b>	singular ergative
<b>-ik</b>	singular comitative
<b>-(r/en/ma)ik</b>	plural comitative
<b>-ak, -(a/en)de</b>	singular dative
<b>-(i/(eŋ)y)e</b>	plural dative
<b>-i, -((t)e)s</b>	singular lative
<b>-(e(n))ji</b>	plural lative
<b>-e-</b>	singular genitive
<b>-(a/i/en)de</b>	plural genitive

### *Pronouns*

Not very special, just less regular. Sometimes their genitives look different when cliticized.

### *Proclitics*

A small closed class of basic descriptors, numerals, inalienable possessors, and such. Indeclinable, no agreement to worry about. Attributively they are always cliticized.

### *Adjectives*

Stems always end in **-e-**. Placed after nouns, with number and class agreement.

<b>-iat</b>	with singular human nouns
<b>-Ø</b>	with singular unnatural nouns and the first person
<b>-iar</b>	with plural human nouns
<b>-r</b>	with plural natural and unnatural nouns

Genitives functionally live here as well, the sole difference being that non-genitives don't have nearly the same flexibility in modifying verbs. Actual adjectives tend to just modify nouns.

## *Phonological processes*

deletion of **e** before other vowels sporadically (but especially at common morpheme boundaries)

breaking of **ea** to **ia** (required if the above has not yet applied)

deletion of vowels in general before other vowels, even more sporadically

deletion of a vowel followed by an identical vowel

dissimilation of **e** to **a** in the first syllable of a word when the following syllable contains **e**

**y** > **i** when not followed by a vowel

**i** > **y** intervocalically, or sometimes just when followed by a vowel

**-uxi** alternating with **-way-** in place of **\*-uxy-**

**p k** > **b g** after nasals rarely, usually when thematic

**k g** > **c j** before **i** rarely, usually when thematic

**ŋ** > **n** before coronals, and **n** > **ŋ** before velars and uvulars

**n** > **r** sporadically to dissimilation from a nasal in the following syllable

$C_1C_2C_3$  reduction to  $C_1C_3$  or  $C_2C_3$  depending on things (but usually dropping theme consonants)

## Gloss and translation

**Kersiaqsei, / tamaretcia,**

**kersiaqsey-Ø                      tames-tc-e-iat**  
*K-SG.ABS                      exalt-PTCP.PA.IPFV-SG.GEN-SG.H*  
*Kersiaqsei,                      exalted,*

**beuxi paiwiat puadiat,**

**beuxi                      paiw-e-iat                      pua-ade-iat**  
*herder\SG.ABS                      sacred-SG.GEN-SG.H                      people-PL.GEN-SG.H*  
*the people's sacred herder,*

**qauxi qawayadiat,**

**qauxi                      qaway-ade-iat**  
*leader\SG.ABS                      leader-PL.GEN-SG.H*  
*leader of leaders,*

**huŋ tuequnde werustina manqi:**

**huŋ                      tuequnde                      werusti<n>-a                      ma<n>q-i**  
*3S.H.ERG                      clearly                      decree<PFV>-3SI<3S                      say<PFV>-PTCP.3SA-SG.LAT*  
*clearly decrees as follows:*

**Heikuasa buiŋe nuhuŋ ŋe-raunjie kuttider.**

**Heikuasa-Ø buiŋ-e                      nuhu-ŋ                      ŋe=rau<n>k-i-ye                      kutt-ide-r**  
*H-SG.ABS                      punish-3SA<3S                      town-SG.ERG 3SG.H.POSS=dare<PFV>-PTCP.3SA-PL.DAT                      battle-PL.GEN-PL.U*  
*Heikuasa will be punished by the community for their transgressions in the war.*

**Awatirik ukinde sainya,**

**awati-rik                      uki-nde                      sainya-e-a.**  
*year-PL.COM                      summer-SG.DAT                      high-SG.GEN-SG.N*  
*Each year in the height of summer,*

**suana Heikuasaŋ anexu-juin tue tuiqasebin-juineji yiner,**

**suane-a                      Heikuasa-ŋ                      anexu=juin                      tue                      tuiqasebin=juin-eji                      yin-e-r**  
*give-3SI<3S                      H-SG.ERG                      one=part\SG.ABS                      from                      eight=part-PL.LAT                      silver-SG.GEN-PL.U*  
*Heikuasa will give up one part out of eight parts of silver,*

**suanette asda xaica-beibuxirik duaser saiwe,**

**suane-tte                      asda                      xaica=beibuxi-rik                      duas-e-r                      saiwe**  
*give-PI<3S                      instead                      many=container-PL.COM                      wheat-SG.GEN-PL.U                      DEM.SG.N*  
*alternatively giving many containers of their wheat,*

**da paca-kasarik, / esiep-puarik wexidurriar**

**da paca=kasa-rik                      esiep=pua-rik                      wexidu<n>r-re-e-iar**  
*or                      big=boat-PL.COM                      two=people-PL.COM                      temper<PFV>-PTCP.3SI-SG.GEN-PL.H*  
*or big boats,                      and two groups of people*

**kutte irtabade Kersiaqseyiar.**

**kutt-e-Ø                      irtab-ade-Ø                      Kersiaqsey-e-iar.**  
*war-SG.GEN-SG.U                      soldier-PL.GEN-SG.U                      K-SG.ERG-SG.GEN-PL.H*  
*tempered in the battle amongst Kersiaqsei's soldiers.*

**Qeyatte cian suannie bewayak isnaumber**

**qeyar-tte** **cia-ŋ**                      **suan<n>-i-e-Ø**                      **beway-e-Ø**                      **isnaumb-e-r**  
*force-PI<3S failure-SG.ERG give-PTCP.3SI-SG.GEN-SG.U herder--SG.GEN-SG.U farmlands-GEN-PL.U*  
*Failure in delivering these to the herder will cause farmlands*

**nacunrer, / pi esqaxpinik hetatcer.**

**nacu<n>k-re-e-r**                      **pi**    **esqaxpin-ik**                      **hetap-tc-e-r**  
*grab<PFV>-PTCP.3SI-SG.GEN-PL.U and reparation-SG.COM repeat-PTCP.PA.IPFV-SG.GEN-PL.U*  
*to be seized, and reparations to be repeated.*