

Relaysper: Branch δ , Round 1 — Ipwar

salp#2753 to Pancake#7400

Passage

Kersiaqsei,
tamaretcia,
beuxi paiwiat puadiat,
qauxi qawayadiat,
huj 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

juij, 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

rau, 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:

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

-iat	with singular human nouns
-Ø	with singular unnatural nouns and the first person
-iar	with plural human nouns
-r	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)