Part 1: Text in Mattaua

Kirasakesi, te ta tenae i nu me'e, te araua i me'e ro kukawanu ehoa ō ātire 'e o tēwa, o arauari seta roarauari me'e, kenteranu i acae tati: ē' ta paroa ra nu ka tanaï Aikasa wu me'e katari. Ē' qekkae ra Aikasa wēna apa ersa 'e arese, raï pier ine canu, aii hune momāi, ka araua raa moāmi 'e Kirasakesi ō wewara raï popakaï wēre. Ine oho pawe ra eia mei o pari teu cacare, ē' kaffe ra wewanna, ē' taemo ra sisuaro.

Part 2: Mattaua Grammar

1 Phonology

Mattaua has a very limited set of consonants, and free variation occurs widely, with as much as 5 possible realizations for one phoneme.

Consonants

	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal	Laryngeal
Nasal	m	n	ŋ	
Plosive	p	t	k	ʔ
Fricative	f	s	x	h
Liquid	ʋ	r		

and an archiphoneme /Q/

Vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i|iː	u|uː
Mid	e|eː	o|oː
Open		a|aː

Diphthongs are: /ai̯/, /ei̯/, /oi̯/, /ui̯/, /au̯/, /eu̯/, /ou̯/, /iu̯/

Long vowels are represented with a macron, /ŋ/ is written as <q>, /ʔ/ as <'>, /x/ as <c> and /ʋ/ <w>. If a high vowel stands after another vowel, it is marked with diaresis, to distinguish it from an off-glide of a diphthong. All other phonemes are written with the corresponding IPA symbol.

Syllable structure is (C)V(V)(C), but (C)V(V) word-finally. Only nasals, liquids, /Q/, and /h/ can be in the coda position

Before another (non-glottal) consonant, nasals assimilate in place of articulation with it. Non-glottal plosives and all fricatives are voiced when next to a voiced consonant. Plosives are also aspirated before open vowels. /Q/ geminated/lengthens the next phoneme. Close vowels syllabify intervocalically.

2 Nouns

Mattauan nouns can only be morphologically marked for number. They are marked using a fairly complex reduplication system. To form the plural form, an initial reduplicant is formed that consists of the first consonant and the last vowel of the stem. Vowel alteration takes place, /e/ becomes /a/ and vice versa and /i/ becomes /o/ and vice versa. If the first consonantal phoneme is the archiphoneme /Q/, the vowel becomes long. To form the collective form, the

reduplicant is repeated again. Long vowels become short, and if the reduplicant has no onset, a glottal stop is inserted between the two vowels.

(1) appu > ūappu > uʻūappu
/aQpu/ > /QuaQpu/ > /uʔQuaQpu/
hut > huts > all the huts

(2) neï > noneï > nononeï
/ne.i/ > /none.i/ > /nonone.i/
bird > birds > all the birds

3 Articles & Noun Classes

Mattauan uses a definite article that is inflected for number and noun class. All nouns in Mattauan belong to one of two noun classes: Communal or Non-Communal. There is no way of knowing which noun class a noun belongs to by looking at the stem, so it must be memorized.

Definite Article

	Singular	Plural	Collective
Communal	o	ro	teu
Non-Communal	ka	ne	neu

Articles stand before the noun and cannot be separated from it by other words. Definite article is used when the noun has been mentioned before, is regarded as being unique, or well-known to the speaker.

4 Verbs

While Mattauan verbs are only morphologically marked for evidentiality, the verb phrase can consist of up to 4 particles, 2 of which are always mandatory. Those are: an aspect-mood particle and a tense particle. Additionally, there are optional negation and focus particles. These particles have a fixed order shown in the table below.

Word Order					
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
(Negation)	Aspect/Mood	(Focus)	Verb Stem	Evidentiality	Tense

4.1 Aspect-Mood particle

Mattauan verbs can take upon 3 aspects: Perfective, Imperfective, and Habitual. Mattauan verbs can take upon 5 moods: Indicative, Imperative, Interrogative, Subjunctive, and Debitive. Perfective and Imperfective aspects can be combined with any of the moods, but it's not possible for Imperative and Debitive moods to be combined with the Habitual aspect.

	Perfective	Imperfective	Habitual
Indicative	ka	Ø	te
Imperative	aï	ha	
Interrogative	ai	tu	atu
Subjunctive	oho	so	nai
Debitive	ē'	ne	

4.1.1 Perfective Aspect

For the most part, perfective aspect looks at the event as a single whole, without considering its internal structure.

However, when used in present tense, it denotes a general truth and aphorisms, much like a typical gnomic aspect would.

4.1.2 Imperfective Aspect

The imperfective is used to describe the event viewed with interior composition. It's used when events are ongoing and repeated, but not habitual.

4.1.3 Habitual Aspect

The habitual aspect is used when the event is a usual state for something to be in. It cannot be used together with Imperative and Debitive moods.

4.1.4 Indicative Mood

Indicative mood is used to talk about real events. It is the only realis mood.

4.1.5 Imperative Mood & Interrogative Mood

Do not appear in the text

4.1.6 Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is the main irrealis mood in Mattauan. It is used when the event is not a known fact, but a wish, possibility, opinion, and sometimes conditionality.

4.1.7 Debitive Mood

Debitive mood is used to express necessity, but also may suggest a strong opinion or conviction, so it is often used in threats, oaths, and calls for action.

4.2 Evidentiality

Mattauan distinguishes 5 types of evidentiality – Visual, Auditory, Sensory, Reported and Inferref. Visual and Sensory evidentials also distinguish between progressive and resultative evidence.

	Progressive	Resultative
Visual	pa	qe
Auditory	nu	he
Sensory	ru	
Reported	ʻi	
Inferred	Ø	

Evidentials are mandatory with Past and Present tenses, but not with Future tenses. The two evidentials used in the text are Inferred, which means that the speaker is uncertain about the evidence, but also can be used to show that the event is a fact known to all, and the source is not needed, and Auditory Progressive, which means that the speaker heard the event unfolding.

4.3 Tense

Mattauan distinguishes 6 tenses, 3 past tenses, 2 future tense and 1 present tense. The three past tenses are:

- Recent Past, used for events that happened earlier today, yesterday, and the day before yesterday
- Remembered Past, used for events that happened during the lifetime of the speaker, or when the precise time is unknown
- Remote Past, used for events that happened before the speaker was born

The 2 Future tenses are:

- Near Future, used for events that will happen later today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow
- Remote Future, used for events that happened after the day after tomorrow

Note that these tenses can sometimes be used in a non-literal manner. So, if, for example, an event happens in a week, but the speaker believes that it is a relatively short time, or that the time will pass by quickly, he will use the near future tense.

	Marking	Period
Remote Past	'o	before the speaker was born
Remembered Past	waa	before the day before yesterday
Recent Past	wa	after the day before yesterday
Present	i	
Near Future	ra	until the day after tomorrow
Remote Future	raa	after the day after tomorrow

4.4 Voice

Mattauan doesn't have a grammaticalized way to change a verb's valency. An active voice sentence without a subject is most often used to demote the subject and promote the object, but the object still has to take on an object marker.

5 Determiners

Mattauan only has 1st and 2nd personal pronouns, for the 3rd person, a determiner **me'e** is used instead.

6 Syntax

Mattauan is a verb-initial language, while the focus always comes last. If the verb is the focus of the sentence, the verb remain in the initial position, but a focus particle **ta** is inserted between the Aspect-Mood particle and the verb stem. The object normally stands after the subject, and otherwise subject **re** or object **nu** particles are used. The object particle is also used if the subject is not mentioned in the sentence. Adjectives appear after the nouns they modify.

Part 3: Mattaua Lexicon

Aikasa – *(n.)* – name of a kingdom / [ˈai̯.kʰa.sa]

acae – *(n.)* – decision, rule

aii – *(con.)* – and, also, both…and

apa – *(prep.)* – from, out of, since

araua – *(v.)* – to lead, to drive, to teach

arauari – *(n.)* – leader, king

arese – *(n.)* – gold, money, treasure

āmi – *(n.)* – army, battalion

ātire – *(n.)* – pace, way, move; *(v.)* – to move *(non-transitive)*

canu – *(n.)* – grain, wheat, seeds, tall grass

care – *(n.)* – product, good, proposition, offer

ehoa – *(pronoun)* – one's own

eia – *(con.)* – if, when

ersa – *(num.)* – eight

hune – *(num.)* – two

ine – *(con.)* – if not, or *(the options are exclusionary)*

kaffe – *(v.)* – to rob, to destroy, to loot, to disregard

katari – *(n.)* – schedule, calendar, daily planner

kawanu – *(n.)* – member of a commune, citizen

kentera – *(v.)* – to announce, to declare, to exclaim

Kirasakesi – *(n.)* – male given name / [ki.ra.ˈsa.ke.si] (note: [r] is in free variation with [ɾ], [l], [ɹ], [ɻ])

māi – *(n.)* – soldier, warrior, master, professional

mei – *(prep.)* – in front of, before

me'e – *(det.)* – this, *also used as 3rd person pronoun*

nu – *(part.)* – *marks the object*

ō – *(prep.)* – in, on

pakaï – *(n.)* - year

paroa – *(n.)* – punishment; *(v.)* – to punish

pawe – *(v.)* – to deliver, to send, to share

pāri – *(n.)* – time, period, lesson

pier – *(n.)* – beer

raï – *(adv.)* – much, many, a lot of, plenty

seta – *(prep.)* – between, among

suaro – *(n.)* – claim, demand, cause

ta – *(part.)* – *shifts the focus to the verb*

taemo – *(v.)* – to enlarge, to get closer, to increase

tanaï – *(n.)* – kingdom, monarchy, foreign country

tati – *(adj.)* – important, urgent, heavy

tenae – *(n.)* – praise; *(v.)* – to extol, to praise

tēwa – *(n.)* – G-d, deity, spirit, soul

qekkae – *(v.)* – to pay, to bribe, to give up

wanna – *(n.)* – territory, land, island, country

wara – *(n.)* – fight, battle; *(v.)* – to fight, to battle, to rival

wēna – *(num.)* – one

wēre – *(adj.)* – another, different

wu – *(prep.)* – with, by

'e – *(part.)* – of, *marking possessee*