

October Torch Text in Xiri

(Spoiled Version)

Üiyegiruwe'a Unajinse, i ferō ñojo suže. Uña cahew, ē favo uña. Mija sayu'uñ. Su sa noha fagara'e Hacwazaño. Ña fa'iyō xi suže kyē fa'ō užžēruyo xi sēbaže, ē fa'ō warań, ma'is, ē rhōyagayo xi Hacwazanxe. Sa fī ferōyo āń xi weruže, su ci saverō mimyo, ē ci fo su mimyo.

Üi- egiruwe'a Unajinse, i ferō ñojo su-xe . Uña cahew, ē favo
Grand-mother NAME , IMP cover fat 2s-GEN. 1p.INCL.NOM live , CONJ know
uña . Mija sayu'uñ . Su sa no -ha fagara'e
1p.INCL.NOM. There.is disagreement. 2s.NOM NEG PST-PFV make.angry
Hacwazan-yo . Ña fa'iyō xi su-xe kyē fa'ō u- xižēru-yo xi
NAME -ACC. 1s.NOM command DAT 2s-DAT CONJ bring PL-slave -ACC DAT
sēba -xe , ē fa'ō warań , ma'is, ē rhōyaga-yo xi Hacwazan-xe .
party-DAT, CONJ bring alcohol, corn , CONJ ceramic-ACC DAT NAME -GEN.
Sa fī ferō -yo āń xi u- eru -xe , su ci saverō mimyo , ē
NEG have clothing-ACC REL DAT PL-person-GEN, 2s.NOM FUT expose 3p.ACC, CONJ
ci fo su mimyo
FUT kill 2s.NOM 3p.ACC

[u:'i.je.ɲi.ru.we.ʔa u'ɲa.ḍʒĩ.se i 'fe.ro: 'ɲo.ḍʒo 'su.ʒe | 'u.ɲa 'tʃa.heɥ e: 'fa.vo 'u.ɲa | 'mi.ḍʒa
sa'ju.ʔũ | 'su 'sa 'ɲo.ha fa'ɲa.ra.ʔe ha'tʃʷa.za.ɲo | 'ɲa fa'ʔi.jo xi'su.ʒe 'kie: 'fa.ʔo: uʒi'ʒe: ru.jo
ʃi.se'ba.ʒe 'e: 'fa.ʔo: 'wa.rã 'ma.ʔis 'e: io:'ja.ɲa.jo ʃi.ha.tʃʷa.zã.ʃe | 'sa 'fi: fe'ro: jo 'ã: ʃi.we'ru.ʒe
'su sa've.ro: 'mi.mjo 'e: 'fo 'su 'mi.mjo]

Grandma Unajinse, cover your fat. We live, and we know. There is a disagreement. You didn't make Hacwazan angry. I command you to bring slaves to the party, and bring alcohol, corn, and ceramic to Hacwazan. To those who do not have clothing, you will kill them, and you will expose them.

Note: The names *Unajinse* [u'ɲa.ḍʒĩ.se] and *Hacwazan* [ha'tʃʷa.zã] are not native Xiri words.

Pertinent vocab:

Lemma form *part of speech* - Definition

- Üiyegiruwe'a *n.* - Grandmother

- Ferō
 - *v.* - To hide, cover
 - *n.* - Clothing
- Ñojo *n.* - Fat
- Cahew *v.* - To live; to persist
- Ē *conj.* - And, So, That
- Favo *v.* - To know
- Mija *v.* - There is...; there are
- Sayu'uñ *n.* - Disagreement
- No *v.* - *Past Auxiliary verb*
- Fagara'e *v.* - To make angry
- Fa'iyo *v.* - To command
- Kyē *conj.* - *following fa'iyo* To, That
- Fa'ō *v.* - To move, to take, to carry
- Xižeru *v.* - Slave, Underground-Person
- Sēba *n.* - Party, Festival, Gathering
- Warań *n.* - Alcohol
- Ma'is *n.* - Corn *non-native word, loaned*
- Rhōyaga *n.* - Ceramic, Glassware
- Fī *v.* - To have
- Eru *n.* - Person
- Ci *v.* - *Future auxiliary verb*
- Saverō *v.* - To uncover, to expose
- Fo *v.* - To kill

Xiri Reference Grammar

Phonology 1

Consonants 1.1

	Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Dorsal	Glottal
Nasal	m	n	ɲ ⟨ñ⟩	ŋ ⟨ń ~ ɳ⟩	
Stop	p	t		k	ʔ ⟨'⟩
Fricative	f	s ⟨s⟩	ʃ ⟨x⟩		h
Affricate		tʃ ⟨c⟩			
Approximate	w	ɹ ⟨rh⟩	j		

Vowels 1.2

	Front		Back	
	Short	Long	Short	Long
Close	i	i: ⟨ī⟩	u	u: ⟨ū⟩
Mid	e	e: ⟨ē⟩	o	o: ⟨ō⟩
Open			a	a: ⟨ā⟩

Syllable Structure and Stress 1.3

Legal Xiri dialect syllables can have an open onset, an onset containing a single consonant, or consonant glide (/j w/). Xiri dialect codas can be open or containing a nasal consonant, fricative consonant, or glide. Phonemically speaking, vowels cannot come next to one another in a syllable. Onset consonant-glide clusters are realized as a palatalized or labialized consonant. Observe the following table for examples of legal syllable features in Xiri dialect:

Syllable Shape		Example word with IPA
Open onset	V	Ību /'i.pu/ ['i:.bu] <i>sky</i>
Consonant initial syllables	CV	Ye /je/ ['je] <i>plant</i>
	CGV	Ximyu /'ʃi.mju/ ['ʃi.m̩u] <i>truth</i> Kwi /kwi/ ['k̩i] <i>yam</i>
Coda present	VN	Fāń /fa:ŋ/ ['fā:] <i>moon</i>
	VG	Hew /hew/ ['heu] <i>life</i>
	VF	Haskāzi /has'ka:.si/ [has'ka:.zi] <i>arrow</i>

The Xiri dialect has a fairly regular stress pattern. In words containing one or two syllables, the first syllable is stressed; in words with three or more syllables, the second syllable is stressed. Observe the following table:

Number of syllables	Example word with IPA
One syllable	Kwi /'kwi/ ['k̩i] <i>yam</i>
Two syllables	U'o /'u.ʔo/ ['u.ʔo] <i>night</i>
Three syllables	‘urazi /ʔu'.ɪa.zi/ [ʔu'ra.zi] <i>knife</i>
More than three syllables	Āńurōgi /a:'ŋu.ɪo:.ki/ [a:'ŋu.ro:.ŋi] <i>bug</i> ¹

This stress is affected by case suffixes and aspect suffixes. Observe the following:

- 1 syllable: Kwi /'kwi/ ['k̩i] *yam* → 2 syllables Kwiyo /'kwi.jo/ ['k̩i.jo] *yam-ACC*
- 2 syllables: Na'a /'na.ʔa/ ['ŋa.ʔa] *mouth* → 3 syllables: Na'ayo /na'ʔa.jo/ [na'ʔa.jo] *mouth-ACC*

Note, however, that stress is unaffected by the pluralizing prefixes, like *u-* and *ugu-*.

Allophony 1.4

- /n t/ are dentalized
 - Na'a /'na.ʔa/ ['ŋa.ʔa] *mouth*
 - Tu'o /'tu.ʔo/ ['t̪u.ʔo] *egg*
- All unvoiced sounds are voiced intervocalically, with the exception of /k/ and palatalized/labialized consonants.
 - Tu'o /'tu.ʔo/ ['t̪u.ʔo] *egg* → Udu'o /u't̪u.ʔo/ [u'd̪u.ʔo] *eggs*

¹ This specific bug is known as the Ahngoorohgi. Its name is a compound word meaning Big-Flesh-Bug; it is a large cockroach-like bug that can grow about the size of an adult male's forearm and it eats the flesh of dead animals and people.

- Saga /'sa.ɬa/ ['sa.ŋa] *foreigner* → Xezaga /ʃe'ʂa.ɬa/ [ʃe'za.ŋa] *foreign country*
- Pwa /pwa/ [pʷa] *land* → Upwa /u'pwa/ [u'pʷa] *lands*
- /ɬ/, intervocalically, is realized as [ɾ]
 - Rhi /ɬi/ [ɾi] *language* → Xiri /'ʃi.ɬi/ ['ʃi.ɾi] *Xiri, True-Language*
- /k/ is realized as [ŋ] intervocalically.
 - Ko /ko/ [ko] *cut* → Ugo /u'ko/ [u'ŋo] *cuts*
- Nasalized sounds in the coda are realized by nasalizing the preceding vowel.
 - Sām /sa:m/ [sã:] *if*
 - Fān /fa:ŋ/ [fã:] *moon*
- Coda /j w/ are notated as [i̯ u̯]
 - Na'ay /'ŋa.ʔaj/ ['ŋa.ʔai̯] *summer*
 - Hew /hew/ [heu̯] *life*

There are letters added, ⟨b⟩, ⟨d⟩, ⟨g⟩, ⟨v⟩, ⟨z⟩, ⟨ž⟩, ⟨j⟩, and ⟨r⟩, to represent the intervocalic realizations of /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/ and /ɬ/, respectively. The spelling changes are simply to make the language more phonetic and more accurately represent the language as it is spoken.

In phonemic transcription, intervocalic voicing is notated by marking the unvoiced sound with the voiced diacritic. In phonetic transcription, the characters are marked more accurately. This is the standard for all dialects which experience intervocalic voicing. See the following:

- ⟨b⟩ /p/ [b]
- ⟨d⟩ /t/ [d̥]
- ⟨g⟩ /k/ [ŋ]
- ⟨v⟩ /f/ [v]
- ⟨z⟩ /s/ [z]
- ⟨ž ~ ʒ⟩ /ʃ/ [ʒ]
- ⟨j⟩ /tʃ/ [d̥ʒ]

Transcription and Romanization 1.5

Xiri is written with its own syllabary called the Ugugo (U-Ku-Ko) or *Many-Cuts* as this script is often written by delicately scratching into leaves. Because this script is most often written on leaves by scratching or on wood using one's fingers and dye, it is very curvy, having almost no straight lines. This syllabary also does not allow for the transcription of codas with glides, fricatives, or specification as to the nature of the nasalized coda – whether it is /ŋ/, /m/, or /n/; it also does not allow for CG onsets or intervocalic voicing; and, lastly, it does not distinguish /ɬ/ from [ɾ]. Observe the following:

- Romanization: Saw; direct transcription: Sa-Wo
- Romanization: Hew; direct transcription: He-Wo
- Romanization: Kare (*demon*); direct transcription: Ka-Rhe
- Romanization: Haskāzi (*arrow*); direct transcription: Ha-Sa-Kā-Si or Ha-Su-Kā-Si
- Romanization: Iža (*question*); direct transcription: I-Xa

- In the syllabary, coda /y/ is transcribed as ⟨yi⟩; coda /w/ is transcribed as ⟨wo⟩; labialized /palatalized consonants are transcribed as ⟨Cu-wV⟩ / ⟨Ci-yV⟩, respectively; coda fricatives are transcribed as either ⟨-Fa-⟩ or ⟨-Fu-⟩ depending on the writer; intervocalic voicing is simply not marked at all; and coda /ŋ/ and /m/ is transcribed as ⟨ña⟩ and ⟨ma⟩ while coda /n/ is marked with a special diacritic. In this list ⟨C⟩ stands for consonant, ⟨V⟩ stands for vowel, and ⟨F⟩ stands for fricative.

The Behavior of Coda Glides in the Presence of Suffixes 1.6

Onset element	Behavior description	-y example	-w example
/j/	When /j/ is the onset of a suffix or a compound word, this disrupts the coda.	$\acute{N}a'ay + -yo \rightarrow \acute{N}a'ayo$ <i>tattoo-ACC</i>	$Saw + -yo \rightarrow Sayo$ <i>summer-ACC</i>
/w/	When /w/ is the onset of a suffix or a compound word, this disrupts the coda.	$\acute{N}a'ay + Wa$ <i>correct</i> $\rightarrow \acute{N}a'awa$ <i>tattoo correction</i>	$Saw + We'a$ <i>wind</i> $\rightarrow Sawe'a$ <i>summer-wind</i>
Nasal	Nasal consonants are changed in accordance with the coda; /j/ coda yields /ɲ/; /w/ coda yields /m/	$\acute{N}a'ay + \acute{N}uru$ <i>flesh</i> $\rightarrow \acute{N}a'añuru$ <i>tattooed-person</i>	$Saw + \tilde{N}ere$ <i>tear</i> $\rightarrow Samere$ <i>rain</i> ²
Stop	Stop consonants experience metathesis where the onset stop becomes palatalized or labialized. This is excluding /ʔ/.	$\acute{N}a'ay + Pozi$ <i>knowledge</i> $\rightarrow Na'apyozi$ <i>the quality of being adept at tattooing</i>	$Saw + Ka$ <i>breeze</i> $\rightarrow Sakwa$ <i>summer-breeze</i>

² This is a very poetic word for rain that comes specifically in the summer-time.

/s/	Coda /j/ turns onset /s/ into /ʃ/. Coda /w/ labializes /s/ into [sʷ]	Ŋa'ay + Sa <i>not</i> → Ŋa'aža <i>a non-Xiyeru,</i> <i>one who is not</i> <i>tattooed</i>	Saw + Sō <i>blue</i> → Saswō ³ <i>sky</i>
/ʃ/	Coda /j/ is deleted. Coda /w/ labializes /ʃ/ into [ʃʷ]	Ŋa'ay + Xi'i <i>needle</i> → Ŋa'aži'i <i>tattoo-needle</i>	Saw + Xi'o <i>grass</i> → Saxwi'o <i>summer-grass</i> ⁴
/f tʃ h ɹ ʔ/	These sounds simply delete the coda they follow.	Ŋa'ay + Rha'a <i>joy</i> → Ŋa'ara'a <i>growing up</i> ⁵	Saw + He'i <i>blossom</i> → Sahe'i <i>bloom</i> ⁶

Grammar and Morphology 2

Syntax 2.1

Xiri is primarily an SVO language. However, dependent clauses are always VOS or VSO. Passive construction is marked by changing the word order to SOV or OSV. Verbs always come before the nouns they modify but they are never marked to agree. In sentences using a copular verb to link two nouns, both nouns are left unmarked or marked with a genitive subcase for various, more specific meanings.

Noun Morphology 2.2

Xiri has 3 marked cases, nominative, accusative, and genitive. The genitive case can be broken up into 5 subcases, locative, dative, instrumental, equative, and comitative. Observe the following tables:

Xiri Cases		
Name	Usage	Marker
Nominative	The nominative case is used to mark the subject of a transitive or intransitive verb.	-Ø
Accusative	The accusative case is used to mark the object of an intransitive verb. This can be left unmarked in independent clauses as word order context can suffice. If this follows a coda nasal, the nasal and suffix	-yo

³ This is a poetic word specifically for a blue, summer sky.

⁴ This is a type of tall grass that grows in some places on Mid South-Eastern Island.

⁵ Tattoos are associated with age and life stage, so growing up comes with tattoos and joy.

⁶ This is specifically the way the flowers bloom because of rain that comes in the summertime.

	merge to -ño.	
Genitive	The genitive case marks an attributive relationship of one noun to another; it also has possessive functionality as well.	-xe / -že

Genitive subcases		
Name	Usage	Marker
Locative	The locative case marks someone's location generally; when used with a copular verb it means “at” or “in”. When it is combined with movement verbs it can take the implication of “to” or “in the direction of” <i>or</i> “from”. It can also be used in conjunction with other prepositions to mark for various, more specific locations such as “between”, “beside”, “above”, etc.	-xe’e / -že’e
Dative	The dative case marks the direct object of a sentence. When used with the copular verb, it carries the meaning of belonging.	Xi... -xe / -že
Instrumental	The instrumental case marks the means / item / people by which an action was completed.	Ka... -xe / -že
Equative	The equative case carries the meaning of “like... / as...” and “in the capacity of...”; when used as the subject complement of a copular verb it can mean “similar to...”.	Ki... -xe / -že
Comitative	The comitative case carries the meaning of “in the company of” or “with”.	U... -xe / -že

Lastly, there are 4 plurality prefixes in Xiri. Observe the following table:

Xiri Plurality	
Plural Marker	Usage
U-	This plurality marker is used on nouns that begin with a consonant.
W-	This plurality marker is used on nouns that begin with a vowel other than /u/.
Ū-	This plurality marker is used to mark plurality on nouns that begin specifically with /u/; the plurality marker and the initial /u/ merge.
Ugu- / Uw- /	This plurality marker acts as the reduplicated forms of the previous plurality

Ugū-	markers. It is used as an intense plurality marker; where the previous plurality markers simply mark if a noun is singular or plural, this plurality marker marks whether there are very many of a given noun.
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Pronouns and Pronoun Morphology 2.2.1

Xiri has a 3 person pronoun distinction with morphological patterns to mark case and person. The 1st person plural is inflected to mark an inclusive / exclusive distinction as well.

	1st			2nd		3rd	
	Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
		Incl.	Excl.				
Nom.	Ña	Uña	Ñaña	Su	Suzu	Mi	Mimi
Acc.	Ño <i>or</i> Ñayo	Uño <i>or</i> Uñayo	Ñño <i>or</i> Ññayo	Xu <i>or</i> Suyo	Sužo <i>or</i> Suzuyo	Miyo <i>or</i> Myo	Mimiyo <i>or</i> Mimyo
Gen.	Ñaže	Uñaže	Ññaže	Suže	Suzuže	Miže	Mimiže

Verb Morphology 2.3

Xiri verbs are only marked for aspect. Tense is communicated through the use of auxiliary verbs, *No* and *Ci*. The past tense auxiliary verb, *No*, has no meaning anymore; originally, it had been a copular verb to be used with locative and adjectival compliments, but its usage in this way has faded from popularity. Similarly, the future tense auxiliary verb, *Ci*, has no meaning of its own anymore; originally, it had meant “to go”, but, like *No*, this meaning has faded with *Canēs* “to walk, step” becoming the more dominant term carrying the meaning of “go”.

Verbs can also follow modal articles which have a tendency to cliticize to the verb proper.

Observe the following charts:

Aspect and Tense	Present	Past	Future
Imperfective	-Ø	No	Ci
Perfective		Noha	Ciha
Prospective			Cije

Continuative	-yo	Noyo	Ciyo
Inceptive/Inchoative	-ri	Nori	Ciri
Terminative	-kyo	Nokyo	Cikyo
Resumptive	-ño	Noño	Ciño
Defective	-pe / be	Nobe	Cibe
Iterative	-twa	Notwa	Citwa
Accidental	-ī / -yi	Noī	Ciyi
Intentional	-ē / -ye	Noē	Ciē

Xiri Aspect Usage		
Name	Usage	Example
Imperfective	Used for ongoing actions, combining habitual, progressive, and stative meanings. The habitual / progressive ambiguity can be erased by reduplicating the first syllable of the verb. If this is done, the verb takes an unambiguously progressive meaning.	Ña fo wijiyo. <i>I kill/am killing pigs.</i>
Perfective	Used for viewing actions as a whole; it can be used with the past tense to specify that an action has been completed, and it can be used with the future tense to specify that an action has yet to begin.	Ña noha fo wijiyo. <i>I killed pigs (in the past).</i> Ña ciha fo wijiyo. <i>I will kill pigs (but I haven't started yet)</i>
Prospective	Used for actions that are in the immediate future.	Ña cije fo wijiyo. <i>I'm about to kill pigs.</i>
Continuative	Used for actions that are still happening. It can be used with the past tense to specify that an action will continue happening into the present, and it can be used with the future to specify that an action will continue happening into the future.	Ña foyo wijiyo. <i>I (am) still kill(ing) pigs.</i>
Inceptive / Inchoative	Used to mark the start of an action. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Ña no āza, ē nori fo wijiyo ña. <i>I was very young when I</i>

		<i>started killing pigs.</i>
Terminative	Used to mark the end of an action. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Ña sa cikyo fo'u wijiyo. <i>I will not stop eating pigs.</i>
Resumptive	Used to mark the restarting of an action. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Ña noño ca'o'o. <i>I started sneezing again.</i>
Defective	Used to mark an action that almost happened but ended up failing. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Ña noño cave'i. <i>I almost fell.</i>
Iterative	Used to mark an action that repeats over a small period of time. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Mi notwa ca'o'o. <i>She had a sneezing fit.</i>
Accidental	Used to mark an accidental action. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Mi noī cave'i. <i>He accidentally fell.</i>
Intentional	Used to mark an intentional action. When used in the present tense, it has a combined, unmarked habitual implication.	Ña foē wijiyo. <i>I very carefully kill pigs.</i>

Xiri Modal Particles		
Name	Usage	Article
Indicative	Used to tell statements of facts.	Ø
Optative/Subjunctive	Used for wishes and hopes as well as opinions, emotions, judgements, opinions, etc.	Ō
Permissive	Used for actions that the speaker permits.	Ax
Imperative	Used for actions that the speaker commands.	I
Conditional	Used for actions that <i>would</i> be.	Ha
Interrogative	Used to form questions. This can	Xa

	be used as an adjective as well to make complex questions.	
Negative	Used to form negative construction	Sa
Relativizer	While not a true mood, this particle essentially functions like the others. It is used to make relative clauses; it is placed after a verbal phrase and the noun that verbal phrase is modifying	Āñ

Evidentiality 2.4

Xiri has 10 sentence final thematic words to mark for evidentiality. These are not required and can be freely omitted while still maintaining a grammatically correct sentence; however, they are frequently added to statements to add more credibility

Observe the following chart:

Xiri Evidentiality			
Name	Usage	Word	Example
Visual Sensory	Used to mark that something is true / false due to it being visually affirmed.	Mu	Hēre noha ca'e mu <i>It rained (because I see it).</i>
Non-visual Sensory	Used to mark that something is true / untrue due to it being non-visually affirmed (heard, smelled, felt, etc.).	Se	Hēre noha ca'e se. <i>It rained (because I heard/smelled/felt/etc. it).</i>
Inferred	Used to mark something that has been inferred.	Kwa	Hēre noha ca'e kwa. <i>It rained (because it's summer, and it typically rains during the summer).</i>
Possible untruth	Used to mark something that was from a possibly untruthful source.	Rhe	Hēre noha ca'e rhe. <i>(I heard that) it rained (but that might be untrue since Jimmy has been known to lie).</i>
Definite untruth	Used to mark something that is from a definitely untruthful	Tu	Hēre noha ca'e tu. <i>(I heard that) it rained (but</i>

	source.		<i>that is definitely untrue since Johnny is a total liar).</i>
Possible Truth	Used to mark something that was from a possibly truthful source.	Hi	Hēre noha ca'e hi. <i>(I heard that) it rained (and that might be true since Suzy typically tells the truth).</i>
Definite Truth	Used to mark something that is from a definitely truthful source.	Am	Hēre noha ca'e am. <i>(I heard that) it rained (and that is definitely true because Margaret always tells thruth).</i>
Hearsay	Used to mark something that is from a source whose truthfulness is yet to be determined.	Pya	Hēre noha ca'e pya. <i>(I heard that) it rained.</i>
Wisdom	Used to mark something that is wisdom.	Ne	Hēre noha ca'e ne. <i>(It is wisdom) that it rained.</i>
Common knowledge	Used to mark information that is common knowledge	Mi	Hēre noha ca'e mi. <i>(It is common knowledge that) it rained.</i>

Conjunctions 2.5

Xiri has 3 main conjunctions that serve to link clauses and noun phrases.

The first is *ē*, and it can be translated as “and, so, then”. When with the past imperfective, it means “when”. It is used following a *Sām* (“if”) clause to mean “when.

The second is *fū*, and it can be translated as “but” or “however”. When used with the past-imperfect it means “until”. *Fū* can serve as an alternative conjunction, acting as “or”.

The last is *kyē* and this is a quotative marker used in conjunction with the verb *Fa'ña'a* to indicate a quotation. *Kyē* is also used after verbs like *Fa'iyō*, “to command”.

Final Example Sentences 3

Direct Transcription: Ño Ca-Nē-Sa Ā-Mu-Ko-Xe-'e.

Romanization: Ño canēs āmugože'e.

[ɲo 'tʃa.ɲe:s a:'mu.ɲo.ʒe.ʔe]

ño canēs-ø ā- mugo-xe'e

1s.NOM go -NPFV AUG-hill-LOC

I (am) go(ing) to the mountain.

In this example the locative takes on the meaning of “to” instead of “at” or “in” as it is used in with the verb *canēs*. Lastly, the verb is rendered in the present-imperfective meaning that, either, the action is being done now or is done habitually. Had the speaker said *cajanēs*, however, this ambiguity would have been erased and the verb would have taken an unambiguously progressive meaning.

Direct Transcription: Sa-Wo Ca-'e, Ē Ca-'e-Rhi U-Ku-Hē-Rhe Ku-Wa.

Romanization: Saw ca'e, ē ca'eri uguhēre mi.

['sau̯ 'tʃa.ʔe 'e: tʃa'ʔe.ri u.ŋu'he:.re 'mi]

saw -∅ ca'e-∅ ē ca'e-ri ugu-hēre-∅ mi

summer-NOM come-NPFV CONJ come-INCH PL- rain-NOM EVID

When it's summer, it starts raining plenty.

The translation is very loose, obviously; however, there are a few noticeable bits of Xiri grammar happening here. The first clause is in the imperfective, and this, with context, carries a habitual meaning; the habitual meaning is carried over to the present tense *ca'eri* in the second clause. Secondly, the second clause is noticeably in VOS as it is contingent on the context provided in the first clause; had it been in VOS, it would have implied that the two ideas, “summer comes” and “many rains start to come”, are totally separate. Third, the “intense plural” is used to provide emphasis to the plural “rain”. Lastly, the evidential word, *mi*, implies that the information presented is common knowledge, which, on a tropical island, would be common knowledge.

Direct Transcription:

Hē-Rhe No-Ha Ca-'e Mu!

Xa Mu?

Xi-'o Ca Ū-Mu-Da Mu.

Romanization:

Person 1: Hēre noha ca'e mu!

Person 2: Xa mu?

Person 1: Xi'o (ca) fūmuda mu.

['he:re 'no.ha 'tʃa.ʔe mu]

['ʃa mu]

['ʃi.ʔo ('tʃa) fu:'mu.ɖa mu]

hēre no -ha ca'e mu

rain PST-PFV come EVID

xa mu

Q EVID

xi'o (ca) fūmuda mu

grass (COP) wet EVID

Person 1: (I saw that) it rained!

Person 2: How do you mean? / What did you see? / Can you explain further?

Person 1: (I see that) the grass is wet.

In this conversation excerpt, the evidential word, *mu*, is used by Person 1; however, Person 2 is clearly unconvinced, so, by repeating the evidential marker, Person 2 asks Person 1 to clarify exactly what they saw. To answer, Person 1 tells Person 2 what they saw and repeats the evidential marker in the answer to link their second sentence to their first one.

Xiri Dictionary

*Note: This dictionary is searchable by letter;
input the initial letter of the desired word
followed by a colon after inputting Ctrl + F.*

Vowels

- A:
 - **A'uda** [a'ʔu.ɖa]
n.
 1. Power, strength
 2. Ability, aptitude
 - **Azi** ['a.zi]
n.
 1. Rock
- Ā:
 - **Ā-** [a:]
prefix
 1. *Augmentative prefix*
 - **Āmugo** [a:'mu.ŋo]
n.
 1. Mountain
 - **Āñurōgi** [a:'ɲuro:ŋi]
n.
 1. A large cockroach
like insect that
scavenges for dead
meat
- O:
 - **O'u** ['o.ʔu]
n.
 1. Food
- Ō:
 - **Ōgi** ['o:ŋi]
n.
 1. Bug
- U:
 - **Uru** ['u.ru]
n.
 1. Hand
- Ū:
 - **Ūi** ['u:.(w)i]
adj.
 1. Big, large
 2. Grand
 - **Ūmu** ['u:.mu]
n.
 1. Water
 - **Ūba** ['u:.ba]
n.
 1. Sun
 2. Day
 - **Ūža** ['u:.ʒa]
adj.
 1. Entire, whole
 2. True
- I:
 - **Idi** ['i.ɖi]
n.
 1. Tree
 - **Igi** ['i.ŋi]
n.
 1. Milk
 - **Iji** ['i.dʒi]
n.
 1. Pig
 2. Messy eater
 3. *derogatory* Fat
person, slob
- Ī:
 - **Ī** [i:]
n.
 1. Hand, foot

- **Ība** ['i:.ba]
n.
 1. Sky
- **Ību** ['i:.bu]
n.
 1. Cat
- **Īji** ['i:.dʒi]
n.
 1. Black
- **E:**
 - **Eñiru** [e'ɲiru]
n.
 1. Man
 - **Egiru** [e'ɲiru]
n.
 1. Woman
 - **Eñiruwe'a** [e'ɲiruweʔa]
n.
 1. Father
 - **Egiruwe'a** [e'ɲiruweʔa]
n.
 1. Mother
 - **Eru** ['e.ru]
n.
 1. Person, human
 2. Soul
 - **Eruyēwe'a** [e'ru.je:.we.ʔa]
n.
 1. Friend
 - **Eruyēgom** [e'ru.je:.ŋō]
n.
 1. Friend
- **Ē:**
 - **Ēnē** ['e:.ɲe:]
n.
 1. Rice
 2. Grains in genera

Consonants

- **'**:

- **'a** [ʔa]
n.
 1. Sand
 2. Shore
- **'aramūm** [ʔa'ra.mũ:]
n.
 1. Beach
- **'uru** ['ʔu.ru]
adj.
 1. Sharp
 2. Witty
- **'iyo** ['ʔi.jo]
n.
 1. Command
 2. Desire
 3. Want
- **'ege** ['ʔe.ɲe]
n.
 1. Poop, shit
- **M:**
 - **Ma** ['ma]
adj.
 1. Good
 2. Healthy
 3. Tasty
 4. Moral, just
 5. Fair
 - **Moyu** ['mo.ju]
n.
 1. Sleep
 - **Mija** ['mi.dʒa]
phrase
 1. There is, there are...
 - **Mu'u** ['mu.ʔu]
adj.
 1. Big, large
 2. Grand
 3. Intimidating, scary
 - **Mugo** ['mu.ŋo]
n.

- 1. Hill
 - **Mū'o** ['mu:.ʔo]
 - adj.*
 - 1. Long (time)
 - 2. Past
 - n.*
 - 1. The Past
- N:
 - **Na'a** ['ɲa.ʔa]
 - v.*
 - 1. Mouth
 - 2. Entry point
 - 3. Door
 - 4. Voice
 - **Na'uda** [ɲa'ʔu.ɖa]
 - v.*
 - 1. Can
 - 2. To be able to
 - **No** ['ɲo]
 - v. aux.*
 - 1. *Past tense auxiliary verb*
 - Ñ:
 - **Ñaru** ['ɲa.ru]
 - n.*
 - 1. Flower
 - **Ñojo** ['ɲo.ɖʒo]
 - n.*
 - 1. Fat (on food)
 - 2. Fat (on a person)
 - 3. Anything particularly large
 - Ŋ:
 - **Ŋa'ay** ['ɲa.ʔaj]
 - n.*
 - 1. Tattoo, marking
 - 2. Stain
 - **Ŋara** ['ɲa.ra]
 - n.*
 - 1. Rotten flesh
 - 2. Detritus
 - 3. Trash
 - 4. Anything rotten
 - **Ŋu'u** ['ɲu.ʔu]
 - n.*
 - 1. Name
 - **Ŋuru** ['ɲu.ru]
 - n.*
 - 1. Flesh
 - **Ŋū** ['ɲu:]
 - n.*
 - 1. Love, passion
 - P:
 - **Pāra** ['pa.ra]
 - n.*
 - 1. Ice
 - **Pwa** [p^wa]
 - n.*
 - 1. Land
 - 2. Earth
 - T:
 - **-ta / da** [t̪a] [ɖa]
 - suffix*
 - 1. *Used to denote the adjectival form of a verb*
 - a. Seen in some nouns, but this nominalizing function is no longer productive
 - **Taro** ['t̪a.ro]
 - adj.*
 - 1. Old, ancient
 - **To** [t̪o]
 - n.*
 - 1. House
 - 2. Place, location
 - **Tu'o** ['t̪u.ʔo]

- n.*
 - 1. Egg
 - K:
 - **Ka'ayudo'u** [ka'ʔa.ju.ɖo.ʔu]
 - n.*
 - 1. Carnivore, Meat-Eater
 - **Kan** [kã]
 - n.*
 - 1. Feeling
 - 2. Emotions
 - **Kara'e** [ka'ra.ʔe]
 - n.*
 - 1. Anger
 - 2. Rage
 - 3. Passion
 - 4. Love
 - **Kare** ['ka.re]
 - n.*
 - 1. Demon, malignant spirit
 - **Kā** ['ka:]
 - n.*
 - 1. Wood
 - **Ko** [ko]
 - **Kokwazi** [ko'kʷa.zi]
 - n.*
 - 1. Knife
 - **Ku** [ku]
 - n.*
 - 1. Lava; fire
 - **Kwazi** ['kʷa.zi]
 - n.*
 - 1. Obsidian
 - **Kwi** [kʷi]
 - n.*
 - 1. Yam
 - 2. Food in general
 - 3. Tuber
 - F:
 - **Fa'awa** [fa'ʔa.wa]
- v. trans.*
 - 1. To stir
 - 2. To mix
 - 3. To jostle
 - **Fa'awatwegibāra** [fa'ʔa.wa.tʷe.ŋi.ba:.ra]
 - n.*
 - 1. Ice-cream
 - **Fa'o** ['fa.ʔo:]
 - v. trans.*
 - 1. To move
 - 2. To take
 - 3. To give
 - 4. To carry
 - **Fa'uru** [fa'ʔu.ru]
 - v. trans.*
 - 1. To sharpen
 - **Fa'iyō** [fa'ʔi.jo]
 - v. trans. / intrans.*
 - 1. To command
 - **Fana'a** [fa'ŋa.ʔa]
 - v. trans. / intrans.*
 - 1. To speak, utter
 - 2. To talk
 - 3. *with kyē* to say
 - **Fa'ña'ay** [fa'ŋa.ʔaɪ]
 - v. trans.*
 - 1. To stain
 - 2. To tattoo
 - 3. To mark
 - **Fa'ñū** ['fa.ŋu:]
 - v. trans.*
 - 1. To love
 - 2. To like
 - 3. To enjoy smth
 - **Favo** ['fa.vo]
 - v. trans. / intrans.*
 - 1. To know (intimately)
 - 2. To know (smth)
 - 3. To know (innately)

- 4. To understand
- **Fān** ['fā:]
n.
 - 1. Moon
 - 2. Night
- **Fago** ['fa.ŋo]
v. trans.
 - 1. To cut
 - 2. To make bleed
 - 3. To flay
- **Fagara'e** [fa'ŋa.ra.ʔe]
v. trans.
 - 1. To anger, make angry
 - 2. To make passionate
- **Fave'i** [fa've.ʔi]
v. trans.
 - 1. To drop
- **Fawē'e** [fa'we:.ʔe]
v. trans.
 - 1. To break
 - 2. To attack
- **Fawē'eyazožada**
[fa'we:.ʔe.ja.ʒo.ʒa.ɖa]
n.
 - 1. Garlic
- **Fawi'i** [fa'wi.ʔi]
v. trans.
 - 1. To see, watch, look (at)
 - 2. *of animals* To stalk (prey)
- **Fara'e** [fa'ra.ʔe]
v. trans.
 - 1. To burn
 - 2. To heat; to apply heat (to)
 - 3. To cook
- **Fo** [fo]
v. trans.
 - 1. To kill

- 2. To attack
- 3. *of animals* to bite
- **Fo'u** ['fo.ʔu]
v. trans.
 - 1. To eat
 - 2. To consume
- **Fōru** ['fo:.ru]
n.
 - 1. Cow
- **Fu** [fu]
n. / adj.
 - 1. That (medial)
- **Fu'o** ['fu.ʔo]
n.
 - 1. Island
- **Furu** ['fu.ru]
v. trans.
 - 1. To make
 - 2. To mold*v. intrans.*
 - 1. To do (with one's hands)
- n.*
 - 1. Work, labor
- **Fūmu** ['fu:.mu]
v. trans.
 - 1. To water
 - 2. To drench
 - 3. To soak
- **Fī** ['fi:]
v. trans.
 - 1. To have
- **Ferō** ['fe.ro]
v. trans.
 - 1. To hide, abscond
 - 2. To cloud
 - 3. To make smth unreadable, seeable, ununderstandable
 - 4. Cover

n.

1. Something that covers something else
2. Clothing

• S:

○ **Sa** [sa]

adj.

1. Small

adv.

1. *General negativizing adverb*

○ **Sa'o; Sa'o'o** ['sa.ʔo]
[sa'ʔo.ʔo]

n.

1. Sneeze

○ **Saga** ['sa.ŋa]

n.

1. Foreigner

○ **Saw; Sājū** [sau] ['sa:.dʒu:]

n.

1. Summer

○ **Saverō** [sa've.ro:]

v. trans

1. To uncover
2. To expose
3. To reveal

○ **Sayu'uñ** [sa'ju.ʔũ]

n.

1. Disagreement
2. Argument

○ **Sō** ['so:]

adj.

1. Blue

○ **Si** [si]

n. / adj.

1. This (proximal)

○ **Sēba** ['se:.ba]

n.

1. Festival, party
2. Gathering

• X:

○ **Xožada** [ʃo'ʒa.ɖa]

n.

1. Root
2. Root vegetable

○ **Xi** ['ʃi]

adj.

1. True
2. Just, right
3. Fair

○ **Xi'o** ['ʃi.ʔo]

n.

1. Grass

○ **Xiže** ['ʃi.ʒe]

n.

1. Underground

○ **Ximyu** ['ʃi.miʊ]

n.

1. Truth

○ **Xe** [ʃe]

n. / adj.

1. Yonder (distal)

○ **Xezaga** [ʃe'za.ŋa]

n.

1. Foreign country

• C:

○ **Ca** ['tʃa]

v. cop.

1. To be

verbal phrase

1. There is...

○ **Ca'o'o** [tʃa'ʔo.ʔo]

v. intrans.

1. To sneeze

○ **Ca'e** ['tʃa.ʔe]

v. intrans.

1. To come, arrive

2. To go

○ **Camoyu** [tʃa'mo.ju]

v. intrans.

- 1. To sleep
- **Canēs** [ˈtʃa.ɲeːs]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To go
- **Cañere** [tʃaˈɲe.re]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To cry
- **Cañara** [tʃaˈɲa.ra]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To rot, decay
 - 2. To fail
- **Cado** [ˈtʃa.ɔ]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To live, reside
 - 2. To stay for a long period of time
- **Cava** [ˈtʃa.va]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To fly
 - 2. To glide
- **Cave'i** [tʃaˈve.ʔi]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To drop
- **Cazava** [tʃaˈza.va]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To die, pass away
- **Cajere** [tʃaˈdʒe.re]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To bleed
 - 2. *by extension* To drain
- **Cahe'i** [tʃaˈhe.ʔi]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To blossom
 - 2. To bloom
- **Cahew** [ˈtʃa.heu]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To live, experience life
 - 2. To persist
 - 3. To continue

- **Cū** [ˈtʃu]
n.
 - 1. Time
- **Ci** [ˈtʃi]
v. aux.
 - 1. *Future tense auxiliary verb*
- **Cirijū** [tʃiˈri.ɖʒuː]
n.
 - 1. Night-time, night
- **Cerō** [ˈtʃe.ro]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To hide (oneself)
- **Cere** [ˈtʃe.re]
n.
 - 1. Blood
- **Cēga** [ˈtʃeː.ɲa]
v. intrans.
 - 1. To leave
 - 2. To go
- **H:**
 - **Haskāzi** [hasˈkaː.zi]
n.
 - 1. Arrow
 - **Hu** [ˈhu]
adj.
 - 1. Many
 - **He'i** [ˈhe.ʔi]
n.
 - 1. Anywhere where plants grow
 - 2. Meadow, field
 - **Hew** [heu]
n.
 - 1. Life
 - **Hēre** [ˈhe.re]
n.
 - 1. Rain
- **W:**
 - **Warañ** [ˈwa.rã]

n.

1. Alcohol
2. Yam wine

- **Wo'ajū** [wo'ʔa.d͡ʒu:]

n.

1. Day-time, day

- **Wi'i** ['wi.ʔi]

n.

1. Eye

● Rh:

- **Rha'a** ['ʔa.ʔa]

n.

1. Joy, happiness

- **Rha'aju** [ʔa'ʔa.d͡ʒu]

adj.

1. Happy
2. Joyful
3. Exuberant

- **Rha'e** ['ʔa.ʔe]

n.

1. Fire
2. Flame
3. Heat

- **Rhavo** ['ʔa.vo]

adj.

1. Other
2. Different
3. Foreign
4. Far

- **Rhi** [ʔi]

n.

1. Tongue
2. Language

- **Rhu** ['ʔu'u]

n.

1. Mud

- **Rhū'u** ['ʔu.ʔu]

n.

1. Sea

- **Rhōyaga** [ʔo:'ʔa.ŋa]

n.

1. Glassware
2. Ceramic

- **Rhōga'a** [ʔo'ŋa.ʔa]

n.

1. Rat, mouse
2. Mole
3. Any burrowing animal
4. Some burrowing snakes / spiders

● Y:

- **Ya'o** ['ja.ʔo]

n.

1. Beauty

- **Ya'oju** [ja'ʔo.d͡ʒu]

adj.

1. Beautiful

- **Yagi** ['ja.ŋi]

adj.

1. Bright
2. Smart
3. Witty

- **Yō; Yōjū** ['jo:] ['jo:.d͡ʒu:]

n.

1. Now

- **Yu'uñ** ['ju.ʔũ]

n.

1. Agreement

- **Yuda** ['ju.ɖa]

n.

1. Meat

- **Ye** ['je]

n.

1. Plant, fruit