Relaysper: ʔaʔa-ꜰaм

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Torch Text

ha ᴋɪʟᴇsᴀᴋɪsᴇ aaᴋɪɴᴇʔ usnak!

ᴊaꜱ ʟanaᴡ ʟiiᴡtu wan ᴋaᴊ lu ꜱᴋaʟ irʟiiᴅuc ᴍaɴᴛa ꜰaʟᴋurutu was wan ᴅanaǫ ʙiʙiyaᴛ:

ʀaᴊuᴛa ᴛiᴛiyaᴋuc ʔaᴇᴋaꜱᴇ ꜱaʀia lu ᴅaʀ ᴘiiʟ. pas kun aꜱᴅʀiɴu ᴊaʟa iꜱᴅʀuɴa fit ha ᴋɪʟᴇsᴀᴋɪsᴇ wan ꜱᴅʀanaɴ-la kun ʀaᴛ fidultu iᴅaaᴍtu-la, inbebir ᴋʀaɴ-la, ᴊaʟa ǫaʀꜱᴛi-la ǫuʀꜱᴛi baj ʔaᴇᴋaꜱᴇ ꜱaʀia ᴋʀiiɴᴇʔ irtuuq. pars wa ᴛaɴ fidul wiyaʙᴇʔ hwiiuc udan ꜱaʀia ꜰiiᴋuc-la kuns aaᴋʀiɴtu ᴊaʟaariuc irᴘiiʟ.

Lexicon

ʔaᴇᴋaꜱᴇ	*n.*	a place name
ʙiyaᴛ	*v.intr.*	to be known, to be recognized, to be common knowledge
baj	*postp.*	using, with, by means of
iᴅaaᴍ	*v.intr.*	to gather together, to assemble, to come together
ᴅanaǫ	*n.*	member of the community, neighbor, villager, citizen, in-group member
ᴅaʀ	*n.*	punishment, retribution, revenge
ꜰiiᴋ	*v.tr.*	to plunder, to pillage, to raze
ꜰaʟᴋ	*n.*	choice, decision, selection, plan
fidul	*postp.*	before, in front of
fit	*postp.*	in, on, at
hwii	*v.*	it is not the case that
ᴊaʟa	*adj.*	many, much, a lot of, a large amount of
ᴊaꜱ	*n.*	spirit, ghost, god
ᴋaᴊ	*n.*	text, writing
iᴋaaɴ	*v.intr.*	to identify oneself, to present oneself to the public, to be famous
ᴋʀaɴ	*n.*	money, wealth, riches, value, worth
ᴋʀiiɴ	*v.tr.*	to pay *sme.*
ᴋɪʟᴇsᴀᴋɪsᴇ	*n.*	a person's name
ʟiiᴅ	*v.tr.*	to accept, to receive
ʟanaᴡ	*n.*	chief, ruler, supreme one
ʟiiᴡ	*v.tr.*	to be hierarchically above, to rank higher then, to rule over, to outrank
-la	*postp.*	with, and, along with
lu	*postp.*	comprised of, consisting of
ᴍaɴᴛa	*adj.*	long, big, tall, large along the primary axis of measurement
ᴘiiʟ	*v.tr*	to result in, to cause *smth.* to result
ǫaʀꜱᴛi	*n.*	beer, malt-based beverage
ǫuʀꜱᴛi	*n.*	barley grain
ʀaᴊuᴛa	*n.*	calendar, schedule, planner, timetable
ʀaᴛ	*n.*	circle, cycle, lap, revolution, year, round, game, conclusion
ꜱaʀia	*n.*	country, large organized polity, land, kingdom
ꜱᴋaʟ	*n.*	knowledge, learning, study

aSDRiNu	*n.*	army, battalion, squad, organized military group	
iSDRuNa	*n.*	battlefield, battlegrounds, battle, conflight, encounter	
SDRanaN	*n.*	soldier, member of the military	
TiyaK	*v.intr.*	to be useful, to serve a purpose, to be of use	
TaN	*n.*	time, hour	

tuuq	*v.*	must, needs to, it has to be the case
udan	*postp.*	depending on, if
usnak	*v.*	hortative, 'let it be so'
wiyaB	*v.intr.*	to arrive, to show up, to appear, to return, to come back
wan	*postp.*	genitive, 's, belonging to

Gloss & Translation

(1) *ha KILESAKISE aaKiN -eʔ usnak*
ART.M Kilesakise be_famous\CAUS-CVB HORT

 'Let Kilesakise be praised!'

(2) *JaS LanaW LiiW -tu wan KaJ lu SKaL ir-LiiD -uc MaNTa*
God chief outrank-REL GEN text comprising knowledge HSY-accept-SUB great
 FaLK -uru -tu wa -s wan DanaQ Bi~BiyaT
 choice-COP-REL DEM.PROX-NMZ GEN community_member CAUS~be_known

 'His citizens make known the important decision which is to (they say) accept the knowledge of the word of God, who rules over rulers.'

(3) *RajuTa Ti~TiyaK -uc ʔAEKASE SaRia lu DaR PiiL*
calendar CAUS~be_of_use-SUB ʔaekase kingdom comprising punishment result_in

 'Making use of the calendar results in the punishment consisting of ʔaekase Kingdom.'

(4) *pas kun aSDRiNu JaLa iSDRuNa fit ha KILESAKISE wan SDRanaN=la kun RaT*
two REL army many battlefield LOC ART.M Kilsakise GEN soldier =with REL year
 fidul -tu iDaaM-tu =la , inbebir KRaN =la , JaLa QarSTi=la QurSTi baj
 before-REL gather-REL =with eight\-th money=with many beer =with barley INS
 ʔAEKASE SaRia KRiiN-eʔ ir-tuuq
 ʔaekase kingdom pay -CVB HSY-must

 'ʔaekase demands payment of 1/8th of their money, a large quantity of beer and grain, and two battalions, which will gather with Kilesakise's soldiers in many battles in future years.'

(5) *par -s wa TaN fidul WiyaB -eʔ hwii-uc udan SaRia*
DEM.MED-NMZ DEM.PROX time before show_up-CVB not -SUB if kingdom
 FiiK -uc =la kun-s aaKRiN -tu JaLa -ari -uc ir-PiiL
 pillage-SUB=with REL-NMZ pay\CAUS-REL many-TRANSL-SUB HSY-result_in

 'If those do not arrive by this time, pillaging of the kingdom and raising of the required payment will result.'

Morphology

ʔaʔa-FaM's primary morphology is organized around a system of roots and patterns. Each *root* is comprised of two *radicals*, each of which consists of a consonant or consonant cluster. A radical cannot be empty. These roots represent a common shared meaning, and can be formed into various lexical items using different *patterns* that represent further specification of a roots meaning. There are many patterns in ʔaʔa-FaM, some of which are very widely used throughout the languages and others with a more limited use case. Neither a root nor a pattern can occur on its own—they can only be realized in tandem.

	Pattern	*Meaning*	*Example*	
1.	ΘaΘ	Abstract noun	JaB	good fortune (*cf.* JaBa *'good'*)
2.	ΘiiΘ	Transitive verb	Fiis	to give birth to (*cf.* Fanas *'person'*)
3.	ΘiyaΘ	Unaccusative verb	KiyaL	to be poured out (*cf.* KaRLi *'water'*)
4.	iΘaaΘ	Unergative verb	iNaaM	to eat (*cf.* NiiM *'to eat (smth.)'*)
5.	Θ_1i$\Theta_1$iyaΘ_2	Causative of 3	SLiSLiyaS	to lock (*cf.* SLiyaS *'to be locked'*)
6.	aaΘiΘ	Causative of 2 or 4	aaNiM	to feed (*cf.* iNaaM *'to eat'*)
7.	ΘaΘa	Attributive	SaFRa	hot (*cf.* SaFR *'heat'*)
8.	uΘiΘi	Experiential	uNiMi	hungry (*cf.* NaMa *'satisfying'*)
9.	ΘanaΘ	Person of X	KanaJ	author (*cf.* KiiY *'to write (smth.)'*)
10.	ΘurΘi	Object	NuRMi	food (*cf.* iNaaM *'to eat'*)
11.	ΘarΘi	Liquid noun	QaRFi	coffee (*cf.* iQaaF *'to drink coffee'*)
12.	iΘuΘa	Place of X	iHuTa	night (*cf.* HaTa *'dark'*)
13.	mΘiΘ	Tool/instrument	mRiQ	weapon (*cf.* RaQ *'pain'*)
14.	inΘiΘ	Diminutive	inFiM	word (*cf.* FaM *'language'*)
15.	ΘuΘi	Color/Visual Impression	KuWi	green (*cf.,* KajuWa *'leaf'*)
16.	ΘuliΘ	Body part	BuliT	head (*cf.* iBaaT *'to understand'*)
17.	ΘuΘu	Animal	CuMPu	kangaroo (*cf.* iCaaMP *'to jump'*)
18.	ΘasiΘ	Long, slender object	NasiRK	icicle (*cf.* NuRKi *'snowball'*)
19.	ΘajuΘa	Flat object or surface	DajuLa	mirror (*cf.* DiiL *'to stare at'*)
20.	ΘidiΘ	Loose, granular mass	widiw	sugar (*cf.* waWa *'sweet'*)
21.	aΘiΘu	Closed/natural container	aBiRDu	bird's nest (*cf.* BuRDu *'bird'*)
22.	ΘimiΘu	Open/unnatural container	QimiFu	coffee mug (*cf.* aQiFu *'coffee pot'*)
23.	Θ_1a$\Theta_2$jalaΘ_2	Upper-body clothing	SaJejalaJ	pajamas (*cf.* isaaJ *'to go to bed'*)
24.	usΘaΘ	Lower-body clothing	usRaT	skirt (*cf.* RaTa *'whole, round'*)
25.	ΘuΘaw	Direction	MuNTaw	'towards the mountains' (*cf.* iMuNTa)
26.	ΘuuΘ	People group, land of X people	NuuRK	Nords, Norse, Norway (*cf.* NaRKa *'cold'*)
27.	ΘaΘia	Nationstate	FRaNCia	France (*cf.* FRuuNC *'Franks'*)

Table 1: Primary derivation patterns

To allow for easier reading of ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ text, the radical consonants in a given word are typeset in small capitals. This solely indicates morphology and does not affect the phonological realization of a word (e.g., *kaj* and *ᴋᴀᴊ* are pronounced the same).

Most of the root/pattern relationships seen in this text are fairly straightforward and have been defined for you. The only primary derivations that are not explicitly included in the lexicon given above are the causatives, which you are expected to derive from their non-causative counterparts (which are included in the lexicon).

In addition to this root/pattern system, ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ also contains more transparently concatenative morphology, both inflectional and derivational.

Inflectional Morphology

Pretty much the entirety of ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ's concatenative inflectional morphology is attached to verbs. Verbal inflection can be divided into three categories—terminals, medials, and evidentials.

Terminals

Terminals are verb-final suffixes that indicate the function a verb is serving in a sentence.

The unmarked 'declarative verb' terminal is only used for head verb of an entire sentence when that sentence is declarative. Likewise, the interrogative terminal *-li* and the imperative termianl *-ak* are used only for the head verb of a sentence if the sentence is intended to have the desired mood. All other verbs in a given sentence should be marked with one of the other terminals.

The subordinate terminal *-uc* is used to mark the head verb of a content clause—a clause that is intended to function like a noun. Clauses headed by a verb with the subordinate terminal can often be approximated in translation by using 'that' in English.

The relative terminal *-tu* is similarly used to mark the head verb in a relative clause. Since relative clauses in ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ are internally-headed (see the syntax section for more info), the verb marked with the relative terminal is always the final element of the relativized NP to occur in a given sentence.

The connective terminal is more widely used than any of the others. This terminal is used to mark a verb that is headed by another verb but is not serving a nominal function. In some scenarios, this appears to correspond to 'a verb scoped over by an auxiliary', but the connective terminal is used more broadly than that and can also serve as a basic converb marker. Many constructions that use more complex structures in English and other languages use simple chaining of connective verbs in ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ.

Medials

Medials are morphemes which are suffixed to the verb but occur prior to the terminal. These morphemes provide information about a verb's relationship to its arguments.

ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ is a direct-inverse language. A transitive verb's two arguments are both unmarked, and the presence or absence of the inverse medial *-ibi-* on the verb is used to indicate which of the arguments is the subject and which is the object. ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ's animacy hierarchy provides the first degree of distinction between different arguments—if the object is higher on the animacy hierarchy than the subject, the inverse medial is used.

(6) a. *ꜰanaꜱ ʙuʀᴋu ʀiiꞯ -∅*
person dog attack-ᴅɪʀ

'*The person attacked a dog.*'

b. *ꜰanaꜱ ʙuʀᴋu ʀiiꞯ -ibi*
person dog attack-ɪɴᴠ

'*The person was attacked by a dog.*'

c. *ʙuʀᴋu ꜰanaꜱ ʀiiꞯ -∅*
dog person attack-ᴅɪʀ

'*The dog was attacked by a person.*'

d. *ʙuʀᴋu ꜰanaꜱ ʀiiꞯ -ibi*
dog person attack-ɪɴᴠ

4

'The dog attacked a person.'

The ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ animacy hierarchy can be is shown in Table 2. Subordinate clauses are treated like abstract concepts, while relative clauses are treated like whatever the rank of the relative clause's head is.

Table 2: ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ Animacy Hierarchy

0	Forces of nature, the universe, God, anything that no person could reasonably affect in any way
1	Pronouns (1 > 2 > 3)
2	Speakers of ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ
3	Non-speakers of ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ
4	Higher animals (mammals, octopi, anything considered intelligent)
5	Tools, inanimate objects used to act upon things, body parts
6	Lower animals
7	Plants
8	Other inanimate objects
9	Abstract concepts

If both of a transitive verb's arguments are at the same level of the animacy hierarchy, the choice of direct vs. inverse pivots around the topic instead—if the more topical (marked through word order) argument is the subject, the (null) direct medial is used, while if the less topical argument is the subject, the inverse medial is used.

(7) a. ꜰanaS ᴋanaP aaNiM-∅
person spouse feed -ᴅɪʀ

'The person fed their spouse.'

b. ꜰanaS ᴋanaP aaNiM-ibi
person spouse feed -ɪɴᴠ

'The person was fed by their spouse.'

Evidentials

Each verb can be prefixed with one of several evidential markers. These markers indicate the way in which the speaker has come to know the information expressed by the sentence.

The direct evidential is unmarked, and indicates that the speaker has themselves directly witnessed the eventuality described. However, this implication only holds when the unmarked verb is not scoped over by another verb. If another verb scopes over a verb that is left unmarked for evidentiality, the head verb's evidentiality also scopes over that verb.

The inferential evidential *hwa-* is used when the speaker hasn't directly observed the described evenuality but can infer it from other evidence. For instance, if the speaker has not seen a fire but sees smoke on the horizon, they can infer that there is a fire and mark that statement with the inferential evidential.

The hearsay evidential *ir-* is used when the speaker is reporting on something that they have no direct evidence for but have been told by someone else.

The internal evidential *qaa-* is used when the speaker has no concrete evidence that necessarily allows them to infer that an eventuality occurs, but they assume that it occurs due to gut instinct, tendencies, routines, or assumptions about the world. This evidential has some overlap with traditional epistemic modality.

Derivational Morphology

ʔaʔa-ꜰᴀᴍ has rich concatenative derivational morphology, almost entirely applied through suffixing, but most is not seen in this torch. The main relevant morphemes seen here are *-ari*, a causative/translative morpheme, and *-s*, a nominalizer.

-ari is suffixed to a noun or adjective and means 'to become X' or 'to cause to become X'. It is underlyingly a transitive causative and is indeed the dominant method of forming causatives for copular constructions, but when the subject argument is omitted is also serves a translative function.

-s(e) is simply attached to an adjective or determiner and serves to nominalize it. For instance, the adjective for 'sick', *maꞮa,* becomes *maꞮas(e)* 'the sick one.'

Numbers

ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ has an interesting number system that is base-10 but with underlying base-5 tendencies. Simple cardinal numbers are as follows:

sar	one	**kekaj sar**	eleven
pas	two	**kekaj pas**	twelve
bar	three	**kekaj bar**	thirteen
qad	four	**kekaj qad**	fourteen
kaj	five	**barkaj**	fifteen
sesar	six	**barkaj sesar**	sixteen
pepas	seven	**barkaj pepas**	seventeen
bebar	eight	**barkaj bebar**	eightteen
qeqad	nine	**barkaj qeqad**	nineteen
kekaj	ten	**qadkaj**	twenty

ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ lacks ordinal numbers (or, from another point of view, does not morphologically distinguish them from cardinal numbers), so in contexts where ordinals would be used in other languages, ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ either uses cardinal numbers or other types of adjectives/adverbs to describe the relationship.

Fractions are formed by treating the entire number as though it's a root in the ϴaϴ pattern, with the final 'a' in the cardinal number treated as the 'a' in the pattern. This pseudo-root (which may well contain vowels in its pseudo-radicals) is then put into the diminutive inϴiϴ pattern. Some examples:

inpis	one-half	**inkij**	one-fifth
inbir	one-third	**insesir**	one-sixth
inqid	one-quarter	**inpepis**	one-seventh

Syntax

The basic structure of ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ syntax is verb-final, and there are nearly no exceptions to this fact. However, the order of constituents beneath the verb is actually very flexible outside of this. Arguments and adjuncts can be placed in virtually any order, with information structure tending to dictate the order that is actually realized for a given clause in a given context. Additionally, ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ tends to have a rough tendency to put heavier/more complex constituents further leftward (that is, to the beginning of a sentence). This is likely due to the fact that with the strict verb-final clause structure, putting complex subclauses to the leftmost edge makes it clear which simpler constituents belong to the subclause and which to the main clause. Nevertheless, this is only a tendency and not a hard-and-fast rule.

Attributive adjectives directly precede the nouns they modify, and postpositions, naturally, directly follow their object noun phrases. When a verb has two arguments and neither is a complex subclause, the more topical argument tends to be the one further fronted in the sentence.

A verb's subject can be omitted if permitted by context, but a transitive verb's object can never be omitted. The result of this is that if a transitive verb appears with only one overt argument, it is always the case that the overt argument is the object of the transitive verb, not its subject.

Relative clauses are internally headed. This means that the head noun of a relative clause is not always at one end of a relative clause but is rather realized within the clause itself. Much like in independent clauses,

its position can be highly variable, though the most topical noun in a relative clause is usually the head. Like all clauses in ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ, relative clauses are verb-final. If it is difficult to tell from context which constituent in a relative clause is the head, the head can be optionally preceded by the relative determiner *kun*.

Pronouns & Determiners

ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ uses pure pronouns for reference to the first and second persons. Its first and second person pronoun set is as seen in Table 3. The 'nonplural inclusive' is actually a dual inclusive 'you and me.'

	Nonplural	*Plural*
Speaker-only	nas	naswi
Addressee-only	mi	miwi
Inclusive	nemi	nemiwi

Table 3: Discourse participant pronouns

Third person pronouns, on the other hand, technically don't exist in ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ. There are three demonstrative determiners: *wa* (proximal), *par* (medial), and *bu* (distal). These are used in a variety of contexts, as demonstratives often are across languages. When an overt third-person pronoun is indeed necessary, it is expressed by nominalizing one of these determiners.

In addition to these, ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ also has two unique determiners, *ha* and *fu*, used only with people's names. When a person's proper name is used referentially in a text, it is preceded by one of these determiners to indicate that it is being used referentially. It is *not* preceded by one of these determiners when used descriptively (as in, 'Her name is X') or when used for direct address. Unlike virtually all other ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ grammar (and certainly other ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ determiners), these contain reference to the referant's gender identity (with *ha* being used for men and *fu* for women). It is theorized that these determiners actually originate as third-person pronouns from an older form of the language.

Phonology

By and large, ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ's phonology is not particularly relevant to the contents of this relay. However, here are a few basics regarding its phonological inventory and syllable structure which can allow you to transcribe any necessary borrowings from ʔaʔa-ꜰaᴍ in your text.

Table 4: Phonemic Consonant Inventory

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Fortis	$p^h \sim \widehat{p\phi}$ ⟨p⟩	$t^h \sim \widehat{ts}$ ⟨t⟩	$c^h \sim \widehat{c\varsigma}$ ⟨c⟩	$k^h \sim \widehat{kx}$ ⟨k⟩	$q \sim q^h \sim \widehat{q\chi}$ ⟨q⟩	ʔ ⟨ʔ⟩
Lenis	$p \sim b$ ⟨b⟩	$t \sim d$ ⟨d⟩				
Fricative	f ⟨f⟩	s ⟨s⟩		ç ~ x ~ χ ~ ħ ~ h ⟨h⟩		
Approximant		l ⟨l⟩	j ⟨j⟩ ⟨y⟩[1]	w ⟨w⟩		
Nasal	m ⟨m⟩	n ⟨n⟩				
Rhotic		ɾ ~ ɹ ~ ɻ ⟨r⟩				

[1] /j/ is written as ⟨y⟩ when adjacent to ⟨i⟩ and ⟨j⟩ elsewhere.

/i(ː)/ and /u(ː)/ are lowered to [e(ː)] and [o(ː)] when they precede /j/ and /w/ respectively.

	Front		Central	Back	
Close	i	iː		u	uː
	⟨i⟩	⟨ii⟩		⟨u⟩	⟨uu⟩
Mid			(ə)		
			⟨e⟩		
Open			a aː		
			⟨a⟩ ⟨aa⟩		

Table 5: Phonemic Vowel Inventory

The schwa included in the vowel inventory is only marginally phonemic. For the most part, schwas only appear epenthetically to break up disallowed clusters. However, there are a handful of function words that contain schwa outside of that context in some dialects. When it is inserted to break up disallowed consonant clusters, the epenthetic schwa occurs in the earliest non-initial position that allows for legal onsets and codae. Including it orthographically in these contexts is optional. It is never stressed.

Stress, in the form of elevated pitch and volume, is placed on the first non-schwa vowel of the word, on the nucleus directly after the first root radical, or on certain morphemes which carry stress inherently. This is largely irrelevant to this relay.