Relaysper torch in [C1] by Tonic

1 The Torch

"Gamna ínaso toukpí Kíilsagsi"

Gamkóorano sauui kpáttáte gmasekkóoui imegmi gananzelte. Ínippeegmo zogsi gamno Ágkagi. Gamna gmaa rolte rakkpó ínzóltago rakkpilte Kíilsagsi si ota ínpirro si naa, ínminnaago sausau geeli okkolte só gmoouanze táauónolke. Uagantalte ro kó okkolte gana. Í geeme íngeelminnaago okkolte sausau táauónolke.

2 Some Background and Phonology

[C1] is a conlang belonging to the Emaic family, and is a relative of my main conlang Atłaq. The name, [C1], is a placeholder coming from the fact that it's the first language in the C branch.

	Labial	Alveolar	Velar	Labiovelar	
Nasal	m	n		ŋ~ŋ͡m	⟨m n gm⟩
Stop	p	t	k	k͡p	⟨p t k kp⟩
Affricate		t͡s			⟨z⟩
Continuant		s	ɣ	w	⟨s/h g u⟩
Flap		ɾ			⟨r/l⟩

Table 1: The Consonants

	Front	Central	Back	
High	i		u	⟨i o⟩
Mid	e			⟨e⟩
Low		a		⟨a⟩

Table 2: The Vowels

- ⟨r⟩ and ⟨s⟩ are used for onset /ɾ/ and /s/ respectively (and in geminates). ⟨l⟩ and ⟨h⟩ are used in codas.

- Vowels come in long and short versions. Long vowels are written as two vowels of the same kind

- geminates of /ŋ~ŋ͡m/ and /k͡p/ are written ⟨ggm⟩ and ⟨kkp⟩ respectively.

- [C1] is tonal with three level tones. The high tone is marked in the orthography with an acute accent (only on the first vowel graph if it's long), but the mid and low tones are unmarked. Tonal interactions can be very complex in [C1], and in this torch they are not important to understanding the meaning, so it can basically be ignored.

3 Grammar

3.1 Morphophonology

- Root-initial ⟨g⟩ may sometimes disappear if a morpheme is attached to its beginning.

- /s/ undergoes total assimilation before a stop or affricate.

3.2 Nouns

3.2.1 Case

Nouns come in two cases, the nominative and the oblique. The nominative is the unmarked form and the one listed in the dictionary. The oblique is formed with a suffix *-i*. If the nominative ends in a short vowel, then it will be deleted in the oblique. If it ends in a long vowel, then an additional epenthetic consonant is inserted between it and the *-i*. This consonant is *-w-* if the vowel is *o*, and *-g-* otherwise.

The nominative case is used for subjects and the objects of prepositions. The oblique case is used for direct objects, indirect objects, and the object of postpositions.

3.2.2 Possessed Nouns

Nouns are also marked for whether they're they're possessed by something (note: *not* when they're the possessor). This is marked with a suffix *-g* is the possessor is singular and *-lte* if it's plural.

3.3 Adjectives

Adjectives are entirely uninflected.

3.4 Verbs

3.4.1 Subject-marking

Verbs take the following subject prefixes:

	SG	PL
1	gam-	gakkpu-
2	ís-	re-
3AN	∅-	ín-
3INAN	na-	sú-

Table 3: Subject Prefixes

3.4.2 Tense & Aspect

The tense system of [C1] is fairly simple (at least the subset of it needed for this torch). Three tenses are distinguished, and in the past there is also an perfective/imperfective distinction. For the past perfective a similar thing happens as with the oblique case: if the verb root ends in a short vowel it will be deleted and if it ends in a long vowel an epenthetic consonant will be inserted.

	Imperfective	Perfective
Past	-te	-o
Present	-ua	N/A
Future	-(a)só	

Table 4: Tense & Aspect

3.4.3 Noun Incorporation

Verbs can in some cases incorporate their direct objects. Verbs and their incorporated objects often form a lexicalized unit whose meaning can't necessarily be derived from the meaning of the verb and the meaning of the noun. In any case, incorporated nouns are non-specific and indefinite. Only the roots of nouns are incorporated, and they are placed just before the verb root, after the subject prefix.

3.4.4 Causative

The causative is formed by a prefix *is-*, placed directly before the verb root.

3.5 Adpositions

Adpositions inflect for the number of their objects. Singular objects are unmarked, and plural objects are marked with a suffix *-lte* on the adposition.

3.6 Syntax

Subject pronouns can be, and frequently are, dropped. [C1] uses a zero copula with predicative noun phrases, adjectives, and adpositional phrases.

3.6.1 Word Order

The basic word order is typically SVO. Indirect objects and adpositional phrases come after the verb and direct object. Most adverbs come directly before the verb, but they may come after it if they are morphologically "heavy". Noun phrases are for the most part head-initial, with head nouns preceeding adjectives, genitives, and relative clauses. Determiners like numerals, quantifiers, and demonstratives preceed nouns, however.

   Most adpositions are prepositions, but some can be postpositions as well. In that case they take oblique case marking as mentioned before.

3.6.2 Relative Clauses

Relative clauses use resumptive pronouns where the relativized noun would be in the relative clause. One exception occurs when the relativized noun would be the subject in the relative clause, as it may then be dropped. There is no complementizer joining the clauses, so relative clauses may sometimes be hard to spot.

3.6.3 Valency-changing Operations

Noun incorporation and the causative both alter the argument structure of verbs. For noun incorporation, the verb simply becomes intransitive. For causatives, the causer becomes the subject, the former subject becomes an indirect object, and the direct object stays direct object.

4 Dictionary

Ágkagi	prop. n.	proper noun, pronounced [áɣgājī]
ah	ditr. v.	give
-anze	suff.	"plus ...". Suffixed to numerals to form larger numbers
gamno	adj.	good, pleasant
gamna	conj.	when, during
gana	n.	friend
gananze	adp.	together with
geel	n.	a kind of mildly alcoholic drink
geeme	adv.	maybe, perhaps
gekkóo	n.	word, message, letter (the kind you mail)
gmah	n.	smth. beautiful, awe-inspiring
gmooua	num.	three
í	adv.	thus, because of that
imegme	n.	elder, wise man.
Kíilsagsi	prop. n.	proper noun, pronounced [kí:lzāɣzī]
kpáttá	tr. v.	trust, have faith in
kó	adv.	not
kóoran	tr. v.	hear from, meet (esp. after a long time), reunite with
minnaa	tr. v.	buy
naa	pron.	3rd person singular inanimate pronoun
okko	prep.	using, by means of
ónolke	n.	slice, cross-section, coin
ota	n.	place, location
pirre	intr. v.	fight, battle
peegma	tr. v.	carry, be burdened with, haul around
rakkpó	n.	soldier
ro	n.	group (typically of people)
sausau	det.	a lot of, much
sauue	n.	god, supernatural being
si	prep.	in, at
só	num.	five
táau	n.	silver
toukpó	n.	name
uaganta	n.	entertainment, enjoyment
zóltaga	tr.v	assemble, put together
zogsa	n.	24-hour period, one day and one night