

# Relay Torch

Eváristos

## 1 Relay Text

† Zannak suf inna, Unak Çinzaşe nana ça, ta-laççor ajjavane o canda-ralvano. † Çin taahu, ta-ya-nef sfiçurzadak la, ca-Hiçhauzani, † canatta-hafun feşhe şıraş laççor karçe, o cand-ammuhça, canda-vajuhta, canda-rajemmar; † ta-şfanjo inna Hiçhauzane da kogadde, † ca-vadafta laççor o cant-vacugmagan, ta-laljate.

## 2 Introduction to Muvannek

Muvannek is an *a posteriori* conlang set nowhere in particular, but spoken by humans. Beware metathesis and irregular forms, the language is replete with them; other than this, it is not overly complicated. It is not derived from any natural language extant, extinct or reconstructed.

The daggers in the text † demarcate the sentences in the torch I received, which have been collapsed into two sentences in Muvannek. In addition, the torch contains two personal names, which are pronounced as follows:

[u.'nə ʈʃ:ĩn.zʃ.,ɛ]    [ç.ʈʃxəu.zənʃ]

Good luck!

Apologies in advance for my poor LaTeX abilities, and knowledge of how to document syntax.

## 3 Phonology and Orthography

### 3.1 Phonemes

#### 3.1.1 Consonants

Figure 1: Muvanek consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n			
Stop		t d		k g	
Affricate		ʈʂ	ʈʃ		
Fricative	f v	s z	ʃ ʒ	x ~ h	
Approximant		l	j		
Rhotic		r			

/h/ has several allophones, depending on its environment. It is usually pronounced [h] or [ɦ], as [x] before or after an occlusive, and as [ç] next to /i/.

#### 3.1.2 Vowels

Figure 2: Muvanek vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Mid	ɛ	o
Open		ɐ

### 3.2 Stress

Stress in Muvanek is extremely important to the pronunciation. It is a very strongly stress-timed language. In unstressed syllables, /i/ and /u/ get reduced to [ɨ] and, whereas /ɐ/ /ɛ/ and /o/ are all lost. This results in a plethora of syllabic consonants:

Figure 3: Syllabic consonants in Muvanek

**ta-haanezo**  
 /tɐ.'hɐ.ɐ.nɛ.zo/  
 [tɕ.'ɐ.ɲ.ɛ.ʒ]

Stress developed in the proto-language on the first syllable of the word which had a long vowel. Absent these, the initial syllable gained stress. Since the length-distinction is gone, stress is largely unpredictable, but changes very little beyond

the pronunciation, which is irrelevant in a relay and will not be discussed further here.

### 3.3 Phonological processes

A few notable phonological processes are present and productive in Muvannek - palatalisation, assimilation, metathesis and epenthesis.

#### 3.3.1 Palatalisation

Palatalisation is perhaps the simplest of the processes present in Muvannek; it is used in part to form the irrealis stems of verbs, as well as 1st person singular realis forms. The table overleaf lists the various palatalisations and depalatalisations:

Figure 4: Palatalisation

<b>t, c, k</b>	→	<b>ç</b>
<b>d, g, z</b>	→	<b>j</b>
<b>s, h</b>	→	<b>ş</b>
<b>l</b>	→	<b>y</b>
<b>m</b>	→	<b>n</b>
<b>f, v, n, r,</b> <b>ş, ç, j, y</b>	no change	

#### 3.3.2 Metathesis

Due to a stage of vowel-deletion in Muvannek, after which some consonant clusters were shifted, on occasion consonants may change place. Often this happens when nasals collide with obstruents, in which case the cluster will surface as NC, instead of as CN, e.g. \***tebnĩ** > **temve**. Note, however, that this change does not take place if C is velar.

Metathesis can also be triggered in some circumstances where geminates may be produced; for instance, **sfejraç** 'straw' plus the plural suffix **-nar** does not lead to \***sfejrajnar**, as one might expect, but **sfejjarran** (**-nar** has the standard allomorph **-ran** after **r-**), which is another example of this.

Note that this second type of metathesis may 'override' the first; the result of **temve** + **-nar** is **tevinnar**, not \***temvenar**.

Metathesis otherwise is often quite unpredictable. The ablative marker **-gde** when combined with the plural **-nar** usually becomes **-nagarde**, but this is not always the case; very rarely, **-nargade** is also found, for instance in the definite article. It is best approached cautiously.

### 3.3.3 Assimilation

The most common type of assimilation in Muvannek is voicing assimilation. This takes place when a voiced or previously-voiced consonant interacted with another voiced consonant. For instance, the word for 'grass' is **sfo**. When pluralised, it becomes **sumvar**, where the **-n-** has assimilated to the **-f-** by labialising, and the **-f-** has assimilated to the **-n-** by voicing, and consonant order has changed due to metathesis.

Voicing assimilation may occur across syllables, provided that the vowel in those syllables is **a**; if the voice-inducing segment is word-final, it may be completely transparent. For instance, the verb root **√tak** 'fall', when combined with **-t**, becomes **dagat**.

### 3.3.4 Epenthesis

Epenthetic **-a-** is a very common sight in Muvannek. Usually it will be placed between two consonants, and it is recognisable by its transparency to voicing harmony and occasional disappearance in inflectional forms. However, it may also occur between two vowels, or a vowel and a consonant; this is because the phoneme **\*ʔ** used to trigger epenthesis in some clusters, leading to odd situations: **√mu** means 'say, speak', but when coupled with **-n** '3SG', it becomes **muan**, not **mun**.

## 3.4 Orthography

Muvannek is written with a Turkish-inspired orthography. Most phonemes are written with their IPA symbol, with a few exceptions; stress is not marked.

Figure 5: Orthographical correspondences

Muvannek		IPA
ṭṣ	-	c
ṭṣ̣	-	ç
ṣ	-	ʃ
ʒ	-	j
x ~ h	-	h
j	-	y
r	-	r
ɐ	-	a
ɛ	-	e

## 4 Morphology and Grammar

The grammar of Muvannek is not especially convoluted, but the writing style most preferred is replete with subclauses, reminiscent of the Latin of mediæval chroniclers. Sentences should contain as much of the relevant information as possible; ending early is a sign of weakness. However, rest assured that sentences with no obvious pivot are left separate. *khua* !!

Three parts of speech are distinguished by native writers: nouns, verbs and "particles", which is usually used to refer to adpositions, adverbs and a large caste of combinable conjunctions.

### 4.1 Nouns

Nouns inflect for five cases - nominative, accusative, allative, locative, and ablative - as well as singular and plural. An example paradigm is provided below, with the word **temve**, meaning 'child':

Figure 6: Declension of **temve**

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<b>temve</b>	<b>tevinnar</b>
Accusative	<b>tamve</b>	<b>temvanar</b>
Allative		<b>temvanare</b>
Locative	<b>tevezane</b>	<b>tevinnazar</b>
Ablative	<b>tevingade</b>	<b>tevinngarde</b>

The description 'example paradigm' is a bit of a misnomer, as the complex phonological history of Muvannek has destroyed most semblances of regularity,

at least in the nominal declension system.

Some rules are specified below as to the formation and use of the cases:

#### 4.1.1 Nominative case and plural number

The nominative singular is the citation form of the noun, and is as such totally unpredictable.

The nominative plural is marked by an ending **-nar**, originally from *\*-mar*. It may surface as **-ran** if the root ends in **-r**, or as **-mar** if the root ends in a labial, but neither of these is assured.

If the nominative singular ends in **-e** or **-o**, (two particularly common occurrences), an **-i-** or **-u-** may appear in the root, replacing the **-e** or **-o**. However, again, this may not happen.

The plural ending may also cause some voiceless elements in the root to voice; likewise, in some cases, an epenthetic **-a-** will insert itself.

Figure 7: Nominative plural forms

examples:	<b>hese</b>	'bread'	->	<b>hesenar</b>
	<b>ganur</b>	'tree'	->	<b>ganurran</b>
	<b>daham</b>	'clod'	->	<b>dahammar</b>
	<b>çaso</b>	'leg'	->	<b>çunzar</b>
	<b>otak</b>	'big'	->	<b>otagnar</b>
	<b>sfo</b>	'grass'	->	<b>sumvar</b>
	<b>narno</b>	'night'	->	<b>narannar</b>
	<b>temve</b>	'child'	->	<b>tevinnar</b>
	<b>sufka</b>	'green'	->	<b>suvagnar</b>

As can be seen from the above figure, Muvannek displays some elements of trilateral roots. One could analyse, say, **temve** and **tevinnar** as coming from a hypothetical root **t-v-N**. However this does not hold up as an analysis of the language in full, and, though later stages of the language may develop it, it is irrelevant to the language today.

The nominative case is used to mark the subject of the sentence, and is also used with a few postpositions, such as **sa** 'within, inside of'

#### 4.1.2 Accusative case

The accusative singular can be marked one of many different ways. Firstly, it is sometimes left unmarked. This happens almost exclusively to words ending in a vowel.

Secondly, the accusative is sometimes marked with vowel gradation, towards /ɐ/: /u/ > /o/, /i/ > /ɛ/, /ɛ/ and /o/ > /ɐ/. This occurs most commonly in words with a nominative singular in **-e** or **-o**.

Thirdly, the presence of **-h-** may indicate the accusative case. This occurs in environments consisting entirely of voiceless sounds, or where the voiced sounds are too far from the root to influence the marking, or occasionally where /\*h/ or /\*χ/ was present.

Finally, and most rarely, the accusative is sometimes marked by depalatalisation (or indeed palatalisation) of the root's final segment. Note that **-j-** depalatalises to **-d-**, not **-z-**.

Figure 8: Accusative singular forms

examples:	<b>hese</b>	'bread'	→	<b>hese</b>
	<b>ganur</b>	'tree'	→	<b>ganor</b>
	<b>temve</b>	'child'	→	<b>tamve</b>
	<b>sufka</b>	'green'	→	<b>sufhak</b>
	<b>varje</b>	'old man'	→	<b>varde</b>
	<b>verlo</b>	'tough'	→	<b>varaye</b>

The accusative plural is somewhat simpler. The plural suffix **-nar** is usually present in its standard form, although the forms **-ran** and **-mar** may still appear. On occasion, the accusative and nominative plurals will be identical in form, although this is hard to predict; usually this happens when the root consonants are all voiceless and the only vowels relevant to affixation are **a**.

The accusative plural often devoices some consonants in the root, and sometimes vowels from the nominative plural disappear, or change position; the vowel-quality changes present in the singular may also take place.

Figure 9: Accusative plural forms

examples:	<b>otak</b>	'big'	→	<b>otagnar</b>
	<b>ganur</b>	'tree'	→	<b>ganorran</b>
	<b>temve</b>	'child'	→	<b>temvanar</b>
	<b>hese</b>	'bread'	→	<b>hesanar</b>
	<b>sfo</b>	'grass'	→	<b>sfanar</b>

The accusative is used for the object of volitive active sentences, and the subject of involitive ones. It is not governed by any prepositions.

#### 4.1.3 Allative case

The allative case is fairly simple in its formation. It is formed from the accusative cause with the addition of **-e**. If the accusative ends in a vowel, that vowel may be replaced by **-e**, or an **-h-** may be inserted between the vowels. This applies both for the singular and plural forms. Note that an epenthetic **-a-** which has appeared in the accusative may be lost.

Figure 10: Formation of the allative

examples:	<b>otak</b>	'big'	→	<b>otahke</b>	pl.	<b>otagnare</b>
	<b>ganur</b>	'tree'	→	<b>ganore</b>	pl.	<b>ganorrane</b>
	<b>temve</b>	'child'	→	<b>tavne</b>	pl.	<b>tevnanare</b>
	<b>hese</b>	'bread'	→	<b>hesehe</b>	pl.	<b>hesanare</b>
	<b>sfo</b>	'grass'	→	<b>sfahe</b>	pl.	<b>sfanare</b>

The allative is used for motion towards, motion to, the indirect objects of some verbs, and also as an instrumental in the case of things that are wielded by the user.

Figure 11: Use of the instrumental allative  
'The old man drinks water **with a straw**'

<b>zagan</b>		<b>varje</b>	<b>i</b>		<b>sa</b>		<b>sfejraçe</b>
sak	-n	varje	i	-Ø	sa	-Ø	sfejraç -he
drink	-3SG	old_man	ART	-NOM	water	-ACC	straw -ALL

#### 4.1.4 Locative

Although the locative case in Muvannek does have the usual functions of location at, it is far more commonly seen in possessive constructions:



Figure 12: Formation of the locative

examples:	<b>otak</b>	'bread'	→	<b>otaksa</b>	pl.	<b>otagnazar</b>
	<b>çaso</b>	'leg'	→	<b>çasso</b>	pl.	<b>çuzzanar</b>
	<b>narno</b>	'night'	→	<b>narzano</b>	pl.	<b>narannazar</b>
	<b>varje</b>	'old'	→	<b>varajje</b>	pl.	<b>varrajjan</b>
	<b>temve</b>	'child'	→	<b>tevezane</b>	pl.	<b>tevnazar</b>

The locative is usually formed by the presence of one of the sibilants **-s-**, **-z-**, **-j-** or **-ç-**, but can move about in several parts of the word. The latter two variants are extremely rare. In the plural, it usually takes the form **-nazar**, with the **-z-** splicing the **-nar** in the middle. However, this is not always the case.

Figure 13: Genitival-locative construction  
'The **old men's** goats'

<b>haanao</b>	<b>ta-</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>varjaze</b>			<b>inar</b>	
haanao	ta=	i	varj	-az	-e	i	-nar
goat	REL=	ART	old_man	-LOC	-STEM	ART	-PL

Another common use of the locative is in non-volitive sentences, in which case it usurps the accusative, which becomes the subject. An example is shown below:

Figure 14: Locative objects in non-volitive sentences:  
'I didn't mean to say **that**.'

<b>muun</b>			<b>am</b>		<b>is-to</b>		
mu	-u	-n	a-	m	i	-s	=to
say	-PAST	-3SG	ACC-	1SG	DEF	-LOC	=DIST

#### 4.1.5 Ablative

The forms of the ablative case are perhaps the most easily predictable, taking the form of two separate affixes: **-g-** and **-de**. The first is a fossilised genitive form, and the second is an agglutinated preposition.

Usually, this will be immediately recognisable; in the singular the two suffixes may be concatenated, or may be separated by an epenthetic **-a-**. In the case of the plural, the **-g-** usually appears within the plural affix **-nar**. This can be seen in the following sentence, which also provides an example of the partitive ablative. Note that this can cause cases of quirky subject, as follows:

Figure 15: Use of the partitive ablative  
'Some of the children ate the bread'

muar			tevinagarde					hese		ya		
em	-u	-r	temve	-na	-g	-r	-de	hese	-Ø	i	-a	
eat	-PAST	-3PL	child	-PL	-ABL	-PL	-ABL	bread	-NOM.SG	ART	-ACC	

## 4.2 Adjectives

The class of adjectives in Muvannek is made up of two broad categories: noun-like and verb-like. Noun-like adjectives tend to denote permanent categories, like 'green', 'chronically ill' or 'old', and verb-like adjectives tend to denote less permanent categories, like 'ill on a more temporary basis', 'old', or 'happy'. However, some adjective contravene this boundary, such as how 'red' is verb-like, unlike most other colours.

### 4.2.1 Noun-like adjectives

These are completely unremarkable in their declension - they behave similarly to other nouns. Many have a **-k-** somewhere towards the end of the root, which is from a proto-suffix *\*-ka* which had a meaning similar to 'like' in English: witness *\*sup* 'grass' and *\*supka* 'green', now > **sfo** 'grass, vegetables, greens, flora in general' and **sufka** 'green'.

Noun-like adjectives are usually positioned after the noun, in which case they take inflection instead of the noun (if an article follows, all inflection is taken by the article) - but it may be placed before the noun for emphasis:

Figure 16: Noun-adjective placement  
'short children' versus 'short children'

karac			tevinnar			temve			karanzar		
karac	temve	-nar	karac	temve	-nar	temve	karac	-nar	temve	karac	-nar
short	child	-PL	short	child	-PL	child	short	-PL	child	short	-PL

### 4.2.2 Verb-like adjectives

Verb-like adjectives tend to express transient states. They are frequently found with one of two suffixes: **-kan** (for things that the noun governed is able to some extent to control, such as emotions), as well as **-s** (for non-volitive actions).

However, there are many many exceptions to this, and several adjectives simply do not conform whatsoever, such as **saça-** 'dead'.

Their conjugation is essentially the same as that of the verbs; therefore it is discussed there and not here.

### 4.3 Verbs

The verb in Muvannek is fairly complex; at least, compared to the nouns, it is somewhat more predictable. The main irregularities appear in the present tense.

#### 4.3.1 Present tense

The irregularities in the present tense can be witnessed in the present-tense forms of the verbs **√sak** and **√ne**:

Figure 17: **√sak** and **√ne**: present tense

	s.	p.		s.	p.
I	<b>saçe</b>	<b>sagne zalga</b>	I	<b>ni</b>	<b>anne nale</b>
II	<b>sakat</b>	<b>sagarro</b>	II	<b>naja</b>	<b>annaro</b>
III	<b>zagan</b>	<b>zagar</b>	III	<b>nan</b>	<b>nar</b>

A basic set of guidelines for the present realis active is laid out below:

First-person-singular forms tend to involve final -i or -e. If the stem itself ends in -e, -i will be present. This may also cause palatalisation; however sometimes it is absent for no apparent reason - this may be due to a medial \*-ʔ- in the proto-form. In that case, only -e may appear.

Second-person-singular forms almost always take the form -t. However, on occasion, it will inexplicably turn into -ta, and some stems in -e or -i may cause § (but never §a) to appear. Some consonants in the root may also be voiced.

The third-person-singular is usually formed by the addition of -n. Sometimes an epenthetic -a will appear - this is not entirely predictable, viz. **mun** 'They (sg.) say' but **muan** 'They (sg.) ate'. As can be seen in the case of **zagan**, some consonants may be voiced.

First-person-plural forms are fairly simple. The inclusive forms always consist of **-ne**, but root-final consonants may voice. The exclusive forms are more recent in form, and will include an infix **-l-** and perhaps a vowel, usually **-a** but **-e** and **-o** are found. All root consonants may voice, but note that if a consonant voices, all the consonants to its right will be voiced too.

The second person plural has two allomorphs: the standard affix is **-(a)rro**, with only the final root consonant being voiced. On occasion, one finds a form with the final root consonant geminated, and the affix-consonant degeminated. The second-person-plural is also used as an imperative for both the singular and plural, although this is only used this way vulgarly; for instance, "**enannaro!**" is used only to mean "Get out!", not "Please leave".

The third-person-plural forms are almost always identical to their singular counterparts, with the exception with **-n** being replaced by **-r**. If the stem ends in **-n** or **-r**, either form may show up geminate and followed by epenthetic **-a**.

#### 4.3.2 Other tense morphology

Muvannek has three grammaticalised tenses: present (non-past), past and past-anterior.

The simple past tense is extremely predictable. It is marked with a suffix **-u-**, and takes regular person endings. The past tense stem is usually simply the root; however, final vowels may disappear, viz.  $\sqrt{\text{ne}}$  > **nu**, **nut**, **nun** etc.

Figure 18: Past-tense endings

	s.	p.
I	<b>-u</b>	<b>-une -ur</b>
II	<b>-ut</b>	<b>-urro</b>
III	<b>-un</b>	<b>-ur</b>

On some very rare occasions, the conjugation may differ from the above; an example ( $\sqrt{\text{mu}}$  'say', past stem **um-**) is provided below. Note that some verbs undergo suppletion:

Figure 19: Irregular past-stem verbs

	s.	p.
1	<b>umu</b>	<b>umune</b> <b>umur</b>
11	<b>umut</b>	<b>umurro</b>
111	<b>umun</b>	<b>umur</b>

The past-anterior tense is used for describing events that occurred in the distant past, objectively or subjectively. For instance, one might say **umuganna ca** 'They (sg.) said [it] a long time ago'; however, if one knows that 'it' was said fairly recently, it could mean something along the lines of 'it seems like years since they (sg.) said [it]' or 'they (sg.) said [it] fairly recently, but it's quite a long time for this sort of thing', *inter alia*. The conjugation is displayed overleaf - the standard past stem is used:

Figure 20: Past-anterior verb forms

	s.	p.
1	<b>-urzak</b>	<b>-unerzak</b> <b>-urrazak</b>
11	<b>-urzadak</b>	<b>-orrazgo</b>
111	<b>-uranzak</b>	<b>-urrazak</b>

#### 4.3.3 Realis and irrealis moods

Muvannek distinguishes realis and irrealis mood. The realis mood is not marked, but the irrealis mood is marked. Usually it can be distinguished with palatalisation - although the stem-formation is quite irregular, and metathesis is common. Examples are given:

Figure 21: Formation of the irrealis stem

examples:	<b>√sak</b>	'drink'	→	<b>√çasa</b>
	<b>√em</b>	'eat'	→	<b>√ni</b>
	<b>√samv</b>	'grow'	→	<b>√azvan</b>
	<b>√ni</b>	'go on foot'	→	<b>√daç</b>
	<b>√koç</b>	'sleep'	→	<b>√koç</b>

As can be seen from the above various processes can happen to make a verb's stem irrealis. On occasion, metathesis may take place, or one of the root-internal vowels may reduce to **e**, **a** or **o**, or simply disappear. Usually, some form of palatalisation is present, and sometimes an **-i-** will survive, although this is rare.

Alternatively, no change may take place, or there may be suppletion. Obviously, this is totally unpredictable. Irrealis stems are given in the vocabulary for convenience.

Figure 22: Irrealis stem conjugation

$\sqrt{\text{sak}} > \sqrt{\text{çasa}}$

	sg.	pl.		sg.	pl.
I	<b>çasahe</b>	<b>çasane çasare</b>		<b>çasahu</b>	<b>çasahune çasahur</b>
II	<b>çasate</b>	<b>çasarro</b>		<b>çasahut</b>	<b>çasahurro</b>
III	<b>çasane</b>	<b>çasare</b>		<b>çasahun</b>	<b>çasahur</b>

  

	sg.	pl.
I	<b>çasahurzage</b>	<b>çasahunerzak çasahurrazak</b>
II	<b>çasahutarzak</b>	<b>çasahurrarzago</b>
III	<b>çasahurnazak</b>	<b>çasahurrazak</b>

#### 4.3.4 Use of the realis and irrealis moods

The tense-system and the mood-dichotomy interact to produce six teempori-modal combinations. Note that the future expresses no actual irrealis-meaning.

Figure 23: Tense-mood interaction

	PRESENT	PAST	ANTERIOR
REALIS	present	past	past-anterior
IRREALIS	future	present irrealis	past irrealis

The realis mood (along with the future tense) is used for concrete, real-world actions: the irrealis is used if there is any doubt about the situation. The future covers both realis and irrealis meanings, but is always [+IRREALIS] grammatically.

In purpose clauses, as well as in conditionals, the irrealis is always used; the irrealis can always be used in main clauses to signify doubt or disbelief on the narrator's part. Note that an irrealis is mandatory in reported speech.

#### 4.3.5 Passive voice

The passive voice is not used particularly commonly in Muvannek - it is usually seen as more elegant to make the phrase active, and shift the word order slightly to retain correct focus. However, it is extremely productive as a derivational tool, and is as such necessary for a relay:

Figure 24: Derivation of 'Muvannek'

<b>muvannek</b>				
muvan				-nek
mu	-va	-n	-ne	-k
speak	-PASS	-3SG	-1PL	-GEN
'it is spoken by us' → 'our language'				

The passive voice is usually fairly transparently recognisable by the morpheme **-v(a)-**, which will appear after the verb stem but before any tense-marking. The **-a-** will be present before many past-tense stems.

#### 4.3.6 Lexical aspect

Muvannek verbs make very little use of grammaticalised aspect. Verbs will use one of three localised aspects - a distinction between punctual and durative verbs is made, as well as stative verbs. An example is given below; note that words may not always be derived from a common root, and often a form may be missing.

Figure 25: Verbs derived from **şuk** 'blood'

Non-stative		Stative
Punctual	Durative	
<b>√şukkan</b>	<b>√şurga</b>	<b>√şukşe</b>
'be injured'	'bleed'	'be red'

Figure 26: Verbs related to hitting

Non-stative		Stative
Punctual	Durative	
<b>√kac</b>	<b>√kakca</b>	—
'knock'	'beat'	

Figure 28: Forms of the definite article

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<b>i</b>	<b>inar</b>
Accusative	<b>ya</b>	<b>yanar</b>
Allative	<b>yahe</b>	<b>yanare</b>
Locative	<b>is</b>	<b>inzar</b>
Ablative	<b>igade</b>	<b>inargade</b>

Figure 27: Verbs of possession

Non-stative		Stative
Punctual	Durative	
<b>√viak</b>	<b>√sk</b>	<b>√çi</b>
'get'	'have'	

## 4.4 Particles

The "particles" are natively, the third part of speech. In reality, they are a confused mix of articles, prepositions, conjunctions and pronouns. The most salient feature they all share is a low semantic load.

### 4.4.1 The definite article

The definite article is used as default with most nouns, unless vagueness is called for, in which case it is dropped. Here are its forms:

It is also used as a demonstrative, although nowadays it is the norm to combined it with proximal, medial or distal demonstratives; **i-to** 'that there', **i-nef** 'that', **i-sa** 'this'. Unusually, these demonstrative affixes do not inflect, instead, inflection is placed on the definite article.

### 4.4.2 The relative clitic

Muvannek's relative particle **ta-** is extremely productive in the language. It is fixed before the first item in the relative clause (almost always the verb). In this circumstance, it has a meaning of "(that) which". It has three other allomorphs: **da-**, used often before voiced consonants, **at-**, when the word attached begins with **t-**, and **ad-**, when the word attached begins with **d-**. If the word to which it is attached begins with a vowel, the particle will become *t-* or *d-*, although this is not always the case. It can also appear combined with the copula as **ca-** "that



which is”, **cau-** ”that which was”, **carzuk-** ”that which was a long time ago”, **ce-** ”that which will be”, **cue-** ”that which might be, or **curzek-** ”that which might have been”.

Muvannek also uses **ta-** to form many other particles, most notably the word for ’and’, **canat-** (originally from \*ta-sʔa de ta-sʔa ’that which is with that which is . . .’).

If **canta-** and **-ta** concatenate, they will combine to form **canatt-**, with expected variants.

#### 4.4.3 both . . . and

In this type of construction, Muvannek uses words which roughly translate to ”not only . . . but and”. These can be found in the lexicon, but note that the second half will show the expected variants.

## 5 Syntax

Muvannek is a head-initial language. As such, it uses a primary VSO word order, and gives focus to the first mentioned segments of phrases. Here are some examples:

Figure 29: ’Old men ate goat meat’

<b>emur</b>			<b>varranje</b>			<b>haanak</b>
em	-u	-r	var	-ran	-je	haanak
eat	-PAST	-3PL	old_man	-PL	-STEM	goat_meat:ACC

If an adjective is added to the sentence, it will appear after its head noun:

Figure 30: ’Old men ate tough goat meat’

<b>emur</b>			<b>varranje</b>			<b>haanok</b>	<b>varaye</b>
em	-u	-r	var	-ran	-je	hannok	varaye
eat	-PAST	-3PL	old_man	-PL	-STEM	goat_meat	tough:ACC

However, to place emphasis on the adjective, it may overtake its head noun; thus, it also assumes the case- and number-marking:

Figure 31: 'Old men ate tough (not tender) goat meat'

<b>emur</b>			<b>varranje</b>			<b>verlo</b>	<b>haanak</b>
em	-u	-r	var	-ran	-je	verlo	haanak
eat	-PAST	-3PL	old_man	-PL	-STEM	tough	goat_meat:ACC

Articles, therefore, also follow their nouns unless their articlacy is being emphasised:

Figure 32: 'The old men ate the tough goat meat'

<b>emur</b>			<b>varje</b>	<b>inar</b>		<b>haanok</b>	<b>verlo</b>	<b>ya</b>
em	-u	-r	varje	i	-nar	haanok	verlo	i
eat	-PAST	-3PL	old_man	ART	-PL	goat_meat	tough	ART
								-a
								-ACC

Muvannek also has a volitive-non-volitive distinction. While the volitive is unmarked, the non-volitive promotes S to O and makes O the indirect object, marked with the locative case. The verb takes a standard 3SG marking:

Figure 33: 'The old men ate tough goat meat (but they didn't mean to)'

<b>emun</b>			<b>varje</b>	<b>yanar</b>		<b>haanok</b>	<b>verlazo</b>		
em	-u	-n	varje	i	-a	-nar	haanok	verl	-z
eat	-PAST	-3SG	old_man	ART	-ACC	-PL	goat_meat	tough	-LOC
									-STEM

Figure 34: 'The old men ate tough goat meat (but they meant to eat the tender meat)'

<b>emun</b>			<b>varje</b>	<b>yanar</b>		<b>verlo</b>	<b>haanosak</b>		
em	-u	-n	varje	i	-a	-nar	verlo	haano	-s
eat	-PAST	-3SG	old_man	ART	-ACC	-PL	tough	goat_meat	-LOC
									-STEM
									-k

Muvannek marks relative-clauses with the clitic **ta=** before the main verb of the clause. Due to the way adjectives work, many adjectival phrases end up indistinguishable from relative clauses:

Figure 35: 'The old men ate fresh goat meat'

<b>emun</b>			<b>varje</b>	<b>inar</b>		<b>haanak</b>		<b>at-taşan</b>
em	-u	-n	varje	i	-nar	haano	-a	-k
eat	-PAST	-3SG	old_man	ART	-PL	goat_meat	-ACC	-STEM
								REL=
								taşan
								fresh

Likewise, the joining of two clauses is also performed by a modified form of **ta-**, as is described in §4.5.2:

Figure 36: 'The old men ate goat meat and rice'

<b>emun</b>			<b>varje</b>	<b>yanar</b>			<b>haanak</b>				<b>canca-</b>		<b>şcinna</b>	
em	-u	-n	varje	i	-a	-nar	haano	-a	-k		canat-	sa=	şcinna	-Ø
eat	-PAST	-3SG	old_man	ART	-ACC	-PL	goat_meat	-ACC	-STEM		and-	COP=	rice	-ACC

In Muvannek, it is not usual ask a question without specifying further the aspect of the question. The focus of the question is placed before the verb, along with whatever other particles and modifiers accompany it. If one must ask about the veracity of the sentence in general, a phrase equivalent to "it is true that" is inserted, and the rules are applied.

Figure 37: 'Did the old men eat goat meat?'

<b>şila</b>	<b>saun</b>			<b>t-</b>	<b>emur</b>		<b>varje</b>	<b>inar</b>		<b>haanak?</b>				
şila	sa	-u	-n	ta=	em	-u	-PL	varje	i	-nar	haano	-a	-k	
truth	COP	-PAST	-3SG	REL=	eat	-PAST	-3PL	old_man	ART	-PL	goat_meat	-ACC	-STEM	

## 6 Lexicon

### 6.1 Nominals

#### *mu*

(acc.sg *am*; nom.pl *ne*; acc.pl *anna*)

1. I, we, (INCL)

#### *ammuç*

(acc.sg *ammuhça*; nom.pl *n/a*; acc.pl *n/a*)

1. alcohol, especially spirits

#### *çaso*

(acc.sg *çasho*; nom.pl *çunzar*; acc.pl *çuzzanar*)

1. leg
2. (with diminutive) tree-branch, tree-root

#### *ço*

(acc.sg *ça*; nom.pl *unjar*; acc.pl *ujjanar*)

1. great
2. old
3. (with *mother*) grandmother, matriarch

#### *daham*

(acc.sg *dahham*; nom.pl *dahhammar*; acc.pl *dahhammar*)

1. clod of earth

#### *feş*

(acc.sg *feşha*; nom.pl *fenjar*; acc.pl *fejjanar*)

1. festival, celebration
2. gathering

#### *ganur*

(acc.sg *ganor*; nom.pl *ganurran*; acc.pl *ganorran*)

1. tree

#### *haanao*

(acc.sg *haana*; nom.pl *haanar*; acc.pl *haanar*)

1. goat

#### *hese*

(acc.sg *hese*; nom.pl *hesenar*; acc.pl *hesanar*)

1. bread
2. foodstuff

#### *karac*

(acc.sg *karrac*; nom.pl *karanzar*; acc.pl *karanzar*)

1. short

#### *karçi*

(acc.sg *karçe*; nom.pl *karjinar*; acc.pl *karjenar*)

1. eight

#### *kota*

(acc.sg *kotha*; nom.pl *kondar*; acc.pl *kondar*)

1. servant
2. slave

#### *nana*

(acc.sg *nanna*; nom.pl *nannar*; acc.pl *nannanar*)

1. mother
2. a term of respect for any older woman

#### *narno*

(acc.sg *narno*; nom.pl *narannar*; acc.pl *narannar*)

1. night

#### *otak*

(acc.sg *otahak*; nom.pl *otagnar*; acc.pl *otagnar*)

1. big, large in size (often derogatory)

### **rajin**

(acc.sg *rajin*; nom.pl *rajimmar*; acc.pl *rajemmar*)

1. pottery in general (plural only)
2. actual ceramic pots

### **sfejraç**

(acc.sg *sfejraç*; nom.pl *sfejjaran*; acc.pl *sfejjaran*)

1. straw
2. any long tube
3. a drinking straw

### **sfo**

(acc.sg *sfaho*; nom.pl *sumvar*; acc.pl *sfanar*)

1. grass
2. vegetation

### **suf**

(acc.sg *sufa*; nom.pl *sumvar*; acc.pl *somvar*)

1. fat (object)

### **sufka**

(acc.sg *sufhak*; nom.pl *suvagnar*; acc.pl *suvagnar*)

1. green

### **şıraş**

(acc.sg *şıraş*; nom.pl *şirrajan*; acc.pl *şirrajan*)

1. gold
2. golden
3. gold-coloured

### **şuk**

(acc.sg *şuhak*; nom.pl *n/a*; acc.pl *n/a*)

1. blood

### **taahu**

(acc.sg *taaşi*; nom.pl *taahunar*; acc.pl *taaşinar*)

1. discord, strife, conflict

### **temve**

(acc.sg *tamve*; nom.pl *tevinnar*; acc.pl *temvanar*)

1. child

### **un**

(acc.sg *inna*; nom.pl *hor*; acc.pl *horra*)

1. you (formal)

### **vadafta**

(acc.sg *vadafhat*; nom.pl *vadavandar*; acc.pl *vadavdannar*)

1. bald, lacking in hair

### **vajut**

(acc.sg *vajohta*; nom.pl *vajundar*; acc.pl *vajonnadar*)

1. corn,
2. corn kernels

### **varje**

(acc.sg *varje*; nom.pl *varrajan*; acc.pl *varrajan*)

1. old
2. old man

### **verlo**

(acc.sg *varaye*; nom.pl *velorran*; acc.pl *varrayen*)

1. tough (of meat)

## **6.2 Verbs**

### **√ajje**

(1sg-present *ajje*; past stem *√diçu*; irrealis stem *√ajjahe*;) )

1. to see (stative)

### **√çi**

(1sg-present *çi*; past stem *√ciu*; irrealis stem *√çih*;) )

1. to have (stative)
2. there is (only third person)

### √em

(1sg-present *ne*; past stem √mua; irrealis stem √n;)

1. to eat

### √haf

(1sg-present *haşe*; past stem √hafu; irrealis stem √şah;)

1. to bring by means other than one's body
2. to transport, convey

### √lak

(1sg-present *laçe*; past stem √laku; irrealis stem √lalja;)

1. to kill
2. to cause to die

### √koç

(1sg-present √koçe; past stem √koçu; irrealis stem √koç;)

1. to sleep (stative)
2. (figuratively) to die.

### √mu

(1sg-present *mue*; past stem √muu; irrealis stem √mua;)

1. to speak
2. to say

### √ne

(1sg-present *ni*; past stem √nu; irrealis stem √daç;)

1. to go on foot
2. to walk

### √ralo

(1sg-present *rayo*; past stem √raulu; irrealis stem √ray;)

1. to know (of a person)
2. to understand
3. to respect

### √sak

(1sg-present *saçe*; past stem √saku; irrealis stem √çasa;)

1. to drink

### √samv

(1sg-present *samve*; past stem √samvu; irrealis stem √azvan;)

1. to grow

### √sfaço

(1sg-present *sfaçe*; past stem √sfaçu; irrealis stem √sfaça;)

1. to oblige (used in non-volitive constructions to mean "ought to")

### √sfiçu

(1sg-present *sfiçue*; past stem √sfiçuu; irrealis stem √sfiçua;)

1. to provoke
2. to poke (repeatedly)
3. to burn (durative)

### √zugn

(1sg-present *zugne*; past stem √zugnu; irrealis stem √zunnak;)

1. to cover
2. to wrap
3. to shelter
4. to clothe
5. (of clothes and some body parts) to be had

### √vacugmak

(1sg-present *vacugmaçe*; past stem √vacugmaku; irrealis stem √vacugjam;)

1. to be exposed (of a location)
2. to be naked
3. to be revealed

### 6.3 "Particles"

#### *canta-*

1. and (does not imply similarity)

#### *da*

1. as ( + *abl.*)
2. down from ( + *abl.*)

#### *i*

1. definite article

#### *i-to*

1. that over there

#### *i-nef*

that

#### *i-sa*

this

#### *la*

1. not, no (usually postpositive)

#### *laççor . . . o canta-*

1. not only . . . but also (used to emphasise 'and', the first part being postpositive)

#### *o*

1. but (implies a strong contrast)

#### *ta-*

1. that which
2. who