THE SAJEM TAN TRIBE

A REFERENCE GRAMMAR OF SAJEM TAN

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Introduction

This book provides a detailed grammatical description of Sajem Tan (most commonly translated as "Common Honey" in English), an invented language that was started by nine members of the Conlang Listserv in November of 2015.[1] From the nine original tribemembers, the language has continued to grow, picking up new members and gaining new unique features the longer people worked on it.

[1] Sajem Tan would be described in the invented language (conlang) community as an collablang, a shortening from collaborative language, in this case the community being the whole Common Honey tribe. To be more precise, it is a non-naturalistic artistic collablang.

History

On November 29, 2015 at 11:34 PM UTC, Shanoxilt Cizypij sent a message to the Conlang Listserv asking if anyone would be interested in actually implementing an idea that had been suggested there roughly 6 and a half years earlier.[2] The idea was to create a collaborative conlang with each contributor being given a particular role which would be responsible for a particular section of the language. The roles he suggested were Thunder, Rain, Spider, Flower, River, Stone, Bee, Bear, and Bird and he called the language Common Honey.

[2] The initial email can be found here.

Within 2 days of that initial message all the roles had been filled except Bear. Within a few months, the tribe had its 9 roles filled and the phonology and phonotactics decided upon. At this point most of the tribe began gathering weekly on Skype to discuss, use, and expand the language. Its progress was documented on FrathWiki. Later, after the Great Porn Fire[3], the tribe switched to Discord and decided that Sajem Tan discussion should take place whenever there was time available instead of only on Saturdays. This led to greater tribe activity – Sajem Tan discussion takes place nearly every day.

[3] The less said, the better.

Throughout the entire process there was turnover in the tribe's membership as new members joined (such as Dust, Star, and Wind) and old ones departed for various reasons. Of the original 9 members, only Bird, Stone, and Thunder are still active in the tribe, but even with these losses, the tribe still have nearly a dozen active members engaging in a variety activities aimed at expanding the language.

This Book

The making of the book was triggered by a growing dissatisfaction among some of the members of the community, most notably Mazem, with the lack of a detailed and centralized description for Sajem Tan. Most of the original tribemembers didn't see this as an issue, since they had seen the language grow and develop, and therefore knew how to express things. Newer tribemebers such as Mazem, however, did not have this benefit. The source of anything related to Sajem Tan was the FrathWiki page and the Discord server. The main problem with the FrathWiki page wasn't that it was not extensive – it wasn't meant to be – but that it was incomplete and left a multitude of things unanswered. The problem with Discord was It seemed like no one knew the exact way to express things. This is thus meant to be a more complete and full description of the language, ultimately meant for future reference and studying purposes for anyone wanting to learn Sajem Tan or to join the tribe.

The Culture and its Speakers

Culture

Sajem Tannic culture is quite complex. Each contributor chooses a name, which is typically a natural thing or concept. Speakers use different pronouns based on whether their associated object or concept is animate, vegetal, inanimate, or neutral. Additionally, animate tribe members must refer to themselves in the third person, vegetal members must refer to themselves in the second person, and inanimate roles can refer to themselves in the first person, as is normal for non-Sajem Tan speakers. As a result, there are many more inanimate and neutral speakers than animate or vegetal ones.

The Mythology

Sajem Tan's culture can be told through myths. These myths describe the beliefs of the Sajem Tan people.

The Creation Myth

The tribe's creation myth as taught to us by Bird in the early days of the tribe runs thus:

snymmêt kê lnûm znökâ sno let kemfê düc Divöm. kem žasikžê metfê düc Divömvmê dönâ kê roâkâm Tërnön. znim Tërnönvâ gülimumsun Jidök kê jëkžutumsun šëšën. rovmê zaţëndin navnyc, Jidök kê Ţefam šömak, Tërnön znöcfê Zaţën. valnümfê Tërnön kê

simemžutfêsun Divöm züt, Jidökvmê žetam znöcfê Kižüt. žûžûmfê Kižüt rovmê kižütdin sën dêâvmê Sajem Tan fmyvûkfêjâk. kižütdin daţnycfê Thefnöm. dêâvmê Sajem Tan žejünmunfê Ţefnöm tyk zo vesnenêt ro šašöcfê fnit xyt duâkâm. "kasynšo sin duâ Sajem Tan šašöcum xyt dêâvmê möm taznön" tanrücfê xyt duâ düdötfê Ţefam navnyc Viţit.

Which is in English traditionally rendered:

So very long ago, during gray and overcast days past, Thunder rumbled. From the shaken sky tumbled Thunder's noises and with them, Rain. By the fallen Rain, Flower was nourished and River was filled. Upon its web, between Flower and Stone, Spider gathered Rain. When Rain ceased and Thunder silenced, Bee gathered Flower's pollen. Bee then flew away to its hive to make our Common Honey. Upon the hive came Bear who so loved our Common Honey that it shared with all who would sample. Witnessing all this, from atop Stone, Bird declared, "May this recur until all our tribe partakes of Common Honey."

The Coming of Wind (Ţeţatvmê safícthnu)

This myth describes how Tribemember Wind was brought into the tribe, according to Sajem Tannic belief.

Dûtšo düc Sajem Tan jo möm šyn [Sajem Tanvmê fmyvûkţnužê jiküfinšo] jam mošnem sacetum düc duâ jo Viţitkâm tanfê düc duâ. Mömvmê xexen xifemfê düc Viţit smâ femekfê mût. Žûžûmfê düc Viţit žo zyšenumjâk. Rovmê röfitâ navnycukmun Ţeţat Viţit sežüfendâ. [Sajem Tanvmê madam düdötšo] düm fûdet zanfê düc. Ţeţatvmê xidat navnyc [Madamvmê cesikâ zanfê düc] Divömvmê dönâ Viţit vöjamfê düc. Femekšo düc Ţeţat jo möm javem Theţat zenfê düc Viţit. Vûxümfê süt Ţeţat. Jiküfinšo düc zo Sajem Tanvmê fmyvûkţnužê. Madamfê süt Sajem Tan.

In English, this is translated as:

As Common Honey was becoming bigger, the tribe decided they needed a new tribemember to keep track of it all; therefore, they called upon Bird. Bird contemplated this for a while but thought of no solutions. He decided that flying would help him. As he was flying, Bird noticed Wind, an ancient force who had watched our Common Honey's creation, beneath his wings. Upon Wind's flowing trail, Thunder's echoes, the words of the past, were heard. Bird invited him to the tribe because he new much. Wind set to work immediately, keeping a record of how Common Honey was created. Our Common Honey finally had a history!

Fictional creatures

The most significant of the Sajem Tannic are the Tetanâ, small snail-like creatures with mohawks, laser vision, and the ability to fly. They travel the universe repairing rips in the spacetime continuum by singing songs in Sajem Tan.

The Tyţemekâ were once a part of the Tetanâ tribe, but due to a series of unfortunate events, they were expelled and became centipedes with a hand on each leg. Their name is now synonymous with "bad idea" and they are widely hated and feared as terrible monsters. They live now in šitukmunfemek Xataxym (The Pit of Bad Ideas).

There are also the Cömekâ, bonsai trees that receive wisdom from Zëvet and pass it on to other terestrial beings by means of telepathy and their root systems (a concept they may have invented to simplify communication).

Roles

At the founding of the tribe, there were 9 roles. The holder of each role had final say in all matters in their domain. Divöm (Thunder) had charge of Phonology, Tërnön (Rain) was given the domain of Morphology, Zaţën (Spider) had Syntax, Jidök (Flower) was semantics, Ţefam (Stone) did Orthography, šëšën (River) had Pragmatics, Kižüt (Bee) kept track of the Corpus, Ţefnöm (Bear) did Pedagogy, and Viţit (Bird) supervised the whole process.

As time progressed, more roles were added, beginning with the Cüjimâ (Ants) which is currently the only group role and consists of those who find Sajem Tan interesting but do not have the time or inclination to participate extensively. Theţat (Wind) deals with Etymology and trying to explain various oddities in our lexicon. Zëvet (Star) is the creator and explainer of idioms. Tezet (Lightning) is the tribe's musician. Milek (Fern) is the resident mathematician. Tözen (Fog) oversees translation.

The original tribe members each took one of the 9 roles and the role's name became their name. When new roles were created, they were named after the tribemembers who held them. But over time some tribemembers departed with the task of their role incomplete. The solution the tribe adopted was to allow members to take on multiple roles. Thus Ţefam is now also Ţefnöm and Zëvet is also Zaţën.

Goals

The goal of the Sajem Tan project is to produce an interesting and semantically nuanced language, along with a community of people

who speak it and enjoy using it. As a result, our efforts are often more focussed on producing something learnable or amusing, rather than what one might find in a "good" conlang. We also often make efforts to give words meanings that don't seem like they should go together, such as "vmëfëc", which means both "wisdom" and "silliness". The primary intended usage of such semantics is to make interesting and flowery poetry. In addition, there have been a number of occasions when we have decided that a particular English word will never have a direct translation, most notably "person".

Contact

The tribe's dicord server can be found at `https://discord.gg/KNMWNYh`. Any comments, questions, observations, suggestions, or other feedback can also be directed to awesomeevildudes+ST@gmail.com.

Phonology

Sajem Tan phonology consists of eighteen consonants and twelve vowels, including several fairly rare ones. The phonology was selected by Samantha Tarnowski, whose tribal name is Divöm (Thunder) and who is one of the original members of the tribe.

The phonology that is described here is actually not the phonology Thunder selected in the beginning. The one she chose was deemed extremely difficult to pronounce and was revised somewhat in the Age of Great Reforms. The previous iteration can be found in Original Phonology. The phonology displayed here is a revised version of the original phonology called the "Reformed Phonology". It was created in January 2017 by Ştefan Alecu (Mazem/Kummaline), Reuben Staley (Ţeţat/Wind), Malimacx (Milek/Fern), and Dave Hayes (Zëvet/Star).

Some of the distinguishing features of the phonology are its inclusion of the voiced and voiceless alveolar lateral fricatives /ɬ ɮ/, the lack of the alveolar lateral approximant /l/, the lack of any rhotics, its unusually large vowel system which includes three front rounded vowels, /y ø œ/.

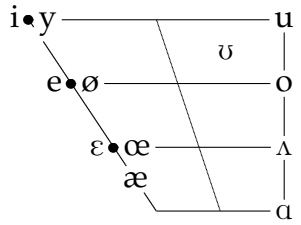
Consonants

The following is a chart of all eighteen of the consonant sounds in the Sajem Tan language:

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		n		
Plosive			t d		k g
Affricate			c		
Fricative	f v	θ	s z	ʃ ʒ	x
Lat. Fricative			ɬ ɮ		
Approximant				j	

Vowels

There are 12 vowels, listed in this chart:



Romanization

There are two different orthographies for Sajem Tan – the Original Orthography, created at the very beginning of the project, and the reformed orthography, created during the Age of Great Reforms. While both orthographies are acceptable in normal use, a substantial portion of the tribe strongly prefers the reformed version, which has been used consistently throughout this document.

The Reformed Orthography

The Reformed Orthography is the one most commonly used. It was created in January of 2017 along with the other reforms of that period. Kummaline and Fern were the first to object to the original orthography and they proposed this a replacement.

On September 4th, 2017, an alternative to <th> was being discussed, and Fog suggested <ţ>, which eventually won in a vote between that and two other suggestions (namely <ç> and <þ>).

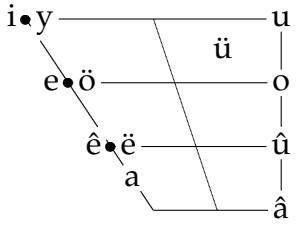
TRANSCRIPTION TABLE In Sajem Tan alphabetical order, the orthography is described as such:

d	g	x	j	f	v	ţ	s	z	š
/d/	/g/	/x/	/j/	/f/	/v/	/θ/	/s/	/z/	/ʃ/
ž	l	r	m	n	a	ë	e	ö	i
/ʒ/	/ɬ/	/ʁ/	/m/	/n/	/æ/	/œ/	/e/	/ø/	/i/
y	û	ü	c	t	k	â	ê	o	u
/y/	/ʌ/	/ʊ/	/ʦ/	/t/	/k/	/ɑ/	/ɛ/	/o/	/u/

CONSONANTS Each of the Reformed Orthography consonants are listed below in an IPA table layout.

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		n		
Plosive			t d		k g
Affricate			c		
Fricative	f v	ţ	s z	š ž	x
Lateral Fricative			l r		
Approximant				j	

Vowels Every vowel is displayed in an IPA-style chart below:



The Original Orthography

The Original Orthography was created in November 2015 by Stone and remains widely used by several members of the tribe. It was created specifically be very digraph-heavy because American trimemembers wanted to avoid typing diacritics, or any kind of special character not found on the US English keyboard. The reason <h> and <l> were used as diacritics is because they were not used elsewhere on their own as single characters. This removed any and all ambiguity while typing.

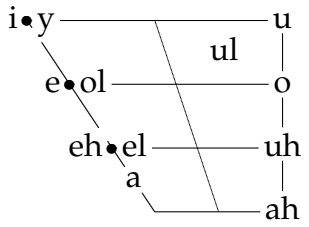
Transcription table The entire set of consonants in the the correct Sajem Tan alphabetical order is:

d	g	x	j	f	v	th	s	z	sh
/d/	/g/	/x/	/j/	/f/	/v/	/θ/	/s/	/z/	/ʃ/
zh	sl	zl	m	n	a	el	e	ol	i
/ʒ/	/ɬ/	/ɮ/	/m/	/n/	/æ/	/œ/	/e/	/ø/	/i/
y	uh	ul	c	t	k	ah	eh	o	u
/y/	/ʌ/	/ʊ/	/ʦ/	/t/	/k/	/ɑ/	/ɛ/	/o/	/u/

Consonants The consonants, written in Original Orthography in an IPA chart are:

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		n		
Plosive			t d		k g
Affricate			c		
Fricative	f v	th	s z	sh zh	x
Lateral Fricative			sl zl		
Approximant				j	

Vowels Every vowel is displayed in an IPA-style chart below:



Phonotactics

Sajem Tan's phonotactics distinguish 2 types of morphemes: roots and particles.

Roots are composed of any number of open syllables containing the vowels ö, e, ë, i, a, ü, û, and y. The onset of these syllables may be any consonant or any fricative followed by m or n. The final syllable of the root must of the same form but with a coda of t, k, c, m, or n.

Particles, on the other hand, use the vowels o, â, ê, and u. They are always monosyllabic. The onset and coda are both optional, but they follow the same rules as those of roots if they are present.

Noun Phrases

A noun phrase consists of a noun, preceded by any number of posessors, relative clauses, postpositional phrases, and describers, typically in that order. Nouns are only required to conjugate for case.

Case

Cases are marked using suffixes, which always appear as the final morpheme of the noun. The nominative, accusative, and the complement of a postposition are all unmarked.

Certain verbs require their objects to be marked for a certain case. This in indicated in their entries in the Lexicon.

Core Cases

Causative case is marked with -tê and indicates that a noun is the cause of the action.

(1) tërnönfê möt žujotvmê tünâ.

tërnön	*-fê*	*möt*	*žu*	*-jot*	*-vmê*	*tün*	*-â*
rain	DUR	not	2S=ANIM	FUT	GEN	eye	PL

"You're never gonna cry."

(2) sêtê tërnönfê möt žujotvmê tünâ.

sê	*-tê*	*tërnönfê*	*möt*	*žujotvmê*	*tünâ*
1S=ANIM	CAUS	rain	DUR	not	2S=ANIM

"I'm never gonna make you cry."

The only difference between these is the addition of "sêtê"

Comitative case is marked by -kâm, and can generally be translated to English as "with". It is used to express a person with whom the action is being done.

(3) cejynmunžutkâm tanfê dac dê.

cejyn	*-mun*	*-žut*	*-kâm*	*tan*	*-fê*	*dac*
sound	very	cause-to-be	COM	speak	DUR	IND=midPST

dê
1S=NEUT

"I spoke with the megaphone." (I had a conversation with an anthropomorphic megaphone.)

Which should not be confused with

(4) cejynmunžutgu tanfê dac dê.

cejyn	*-mun*	*-žut*	*-gu*	*tan*	*-fê*	*dac*
sound	very	cause-to-be	INSTR	speak	DUR	IND=midPST

dê
1S=NEUT

"I spoke using the megaphone." (I was addressing a crowd and used a megaphone to be heard.)

DATIVE CASE is marked with -ţot and indicates the recipient of verbs like give, sell, and send. The most common translation is the preposition "to".

(5) dasnanţot decek snamfê thê.

dasnan	*-ţot*	*decek*	*snam*	*-fê*	*thê*
universe	DAT	chicken	give	DUR	1S=INAN

"I gave a chicken to the Universe."

It can also be used to vaguely indicate destination in the absense of an appropriate postposition.

(6) dinţot xinemfê dê.

din	*-ţot*	*xinem*	*-fê*	*dê*
home	DAT	teleport	DUR	1S=NEUT

"I teleported home."

GENITIVE CASE means much the same thing it does in English. It is marked with the suffix -vmê and expresses general possession. "my chicken" is "dêvmê decek", "my birth" is "dêvmê teţnym", and "my flipper"[4] is "dêvmê gigim".

[4] This applies both to the flipper you were born with if you are a sea creature, or the flipper you forcibly amputated from some other sea creature and now keep in your sock drawer.

INSTRUMENTAL CASES are -gu and -vâ. Both express that the noun they are attached to is the tool used to accomplish the action. The difference is that -gu applies to physical tools small enough to held in one's hands while -vâ covers everything else. So, for example to knock someone out with a club (dacök), the involvement of the club would be expressed with "dacökgu". If instead you wanted to say you knocked someone out with your mind (femek), this would be "femekvâ".[5]

[5] The example assumes that the knocking out is done using some form of telepathy. If you wish to bash someone over the head with a brain, that would likely be "femekgu".

VOCATIVE CASE is marked with -o and indicates the addressee of a sentence.

(7) Viţito decek zanum möt žu.

Viţit -o decek zan -um möt žu
Bird VOC chicken be GNO not 2S=ANIM

"Bird, you are not a chicken."

Comparison

The comparative case, marked by -vê, mark the object in comparative statements that in English are often rendered "is more ___ than".

The suffix -tu is the comparative, attaching it to a describer creates a verb meaning "to be more ___ than", such as "dûttu", "to be larger than". Typically the subject would be considered an experiencer, but on occasion it is treated like an agent, hence "The dinosaur is bigger than the chicken." would frequently be rendered "decekvê dûttuum tivût." rather than the arguably more accurate "decekvê tivût dûttuum.".[6]

[6] Unless you are talking about mad scientist activities, such as a dinosaur transforming itself into something larger, in which case "decekvê dûttufê tivût." is a quite accurate phrasing.

Applying the suffix twice forms the superlative, which can be used either intransitively, as in "tivût dûttutuum." ("The dinosaur is the largest.") or transitively, with a group as the object, as in "tivûtâvê du dûttutuum." ("That is the largest of the dinosaurs.").

Topic or Focus

The case -žê is typically translated with the prepositions "about" and "from". It marks the topic being spoken or thought about.

(8) decekâžê tanfê dêâ.

decek -â -žê tan -fê dê -â
chicken PL FOC speak DUR 1S=NEUT PL

"We spoke about chickens."

It can also mark the source of a verb like "to give".

(9) kecyčžê decek dê snamfêsun.

kecyc	*-žê*	*decek*	*dê*	*snam*	*-fê*	*-sun*
internet	FOC	chicken	1S=NEUT	give	DUR	PASS

"I was given a chicken by the Internet."

Other Inflections

All other noun inflections are officially derivational suffixes, and can be found at the beginning of the Lexicon. However, a few are used extremely frequently and are worth mentioning here.

-JOT indicates the future state of something, and is the easiest way to mark the future tense. The word "ţefamjot" could be translated as "the future state of the rock" or "the rock in the future". A statement involving -jot could be translated using one of those phrases, or it could rendered in the future tense. Thus "decek kygykšo ţêjot." could be rendered as either "My future self is eating a chicken." or "I will be eating a chicken.".

-SO is generally glossed "having one", as in "žimanso" – "one who has feathers". Apart from the genitive case, this is the most common method of expressing possession. It is sometimes distinguished from the other possessives as indicating some degree of inalienability, such as of body parts or items significant to one's identity.

-Â is probably the most commonly used suffix on nouns, and serves as the default plural marker, as in "decekâ" – "chickens". However, there are several other plural markers, and further detail can be found in Derivational Suffixes.

Describers

The part of speech called describers covers both of what in English would be adjectives and adverbs. When used to modify nouns they are generally the last thing before the noun. They do not conjugate.

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses take the form of ordinary verb phrases delimited by "mu" and "om"[7], which may be written as "mu" and "om", but

[7] In pre-reform Sajem Tan these were pronounced as alveolar clicks (/!/).

is more commonly written with square brackets, thus both of the following are equally correct.

(10) mu decek kygykfê ro om tivût

mu	*decek*	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*ro*	*om*	*tivût*
REL	chicken	eat	DUR	3S=ANIM	CONJ	dinosaur

"the dinosaur that ate the chicken"

(11) [decek kygykfê ro] tivût

[	*decek*	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*ro*	*]*	*tivût*
REL	chicken	eat	DUR	3S=ANIM	CONJ	dinosaur

"the dinosaur that ate the chicken"

Pronouns are never dropped, unlike in English.

(12) [tanrücdu ţekfê zo] ţefam

[	*tanrüc*	*-du*	*ţek*	*-fê*	*zo*	*]*	*ţefam*
REL	sentence	-this	write	DUR	3S=INAN	CONJ	rock

"the stone who wrote this sentence"

Never

(13) *[tanrücdu ţekfê] ţefam

[	*tanrüc*	*-du*	*ţek*	*-fê*	*]*	*ţefam*
REL	sentence	-this	write	DUR	CONJ	rock

"the stone who wrote this sentence"

In written Sajem Tan, relative clauses are typically placed before the head noun. In speech, on the other hand, it is common to find them after their heads.

Postpositional Phrases

A postpositional phrases simply consists of a noun phrase in the unmarked case followed by a postposition. For example, "upon the rock" is "ţefam navnyc". When modifying a noun, the postpositional phrase always precedes it. So, "ţefam navnyc viţit" ("the bird upon the rock"), never *"viţit ţefam navnyc".

These phrases typically mark relations that English would mark with prepostions, but sometimes they cover things typically done

with verbs. For example, the word "tan", when used as a postposition indicates the speaker of something. So far, such phrases have typically modified whole sentences.

(14) zê tan decek kygykfê tivût.

zê	*tan*	*decek*	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*tivût*
3S=VEG	say	chicken	eat	DUR	dinosaur

"He said that the dinosaur ate the chicken."

Although they can also sometimes be applied to individual noun phrases.

(15) *ţê* *tan* *tanrüc*
1S=INAN say sentence

"the sentence that I said"

Normally verbal uses include most common ways of expressing speech, knowledge, and possession of qualities. The general form of all of them is that what would in English be the subject of the main verb becomes instead the object of the postposition and the verb in the dependent clause becomes the main verb instead.

Pronouns

Sajem Tan has pronouns for first, second, and third person. Pronouns are also separated by animacy into animate, vegetal, and inanimate. The animate pronouns are used for anything that would generally be considered a living animal (including humans). Vegetal covers all other living things, including plants, fungi, and bacteria. Inanimate is used for everything else. There is also a set of neutral pronouns which can be used to refer to groups of mixed animacy or to entities whose animacy is unknown or irrelevant[8].

[8] If this book was written in Sajem Tan, we'd be using neutral pronouns because assuming animacy is a serious crime.

Tribal tradition dictates that entities who are inanimate talk in the first person, entities who are vegetal talk in the second person, and entities who are animate talk in the third person. See the culture section for more on this.

Pronouns are conjugated in the same manner as nouns.

Personal Pronouns

	First Person	Second Person	Third Person
Animate	sê	žu	ro
Vegetal	ţu	vo	zê
Inanimate	ţê	vu	zo
Neutral	dê	do	du

The Reflexive Pronoun

The pronoun žo refers to the subject the sentence.

(16) žo zê sežüfenfê dac.

žo	*zê*	*sežüfen*	*-fê*	*dac*
REF	3S=VEG	find	DUR	IND-midPST

"He found himself." (used, for instance, of a fern who had a life-altering experience.)

When used inside a relative clause, it refers to the subject of the sentence, rather than the head noun or the subject of the clause it's in.

Demonstratives

Demonstrative forms of nouns are constructed by placing a pronoun of corresponding animacy directly after the noun in question. There are three demonstrative forms, one for each pronoun person. First person pronouns mean "this", second person pronouns mean "that", and third person pronouns mean something like "yonder". For example

(17) gamykzêţot zhanvu fmamegyndâ dac deceksê

gamyk	*-zê*	*-ţot*	*zhan*	*-vu*	*fmamegyn*	*-dâ*	*dac*
tree	DEM3	DAT	knife	DEM2	throw	PFV	IND-midPST

decek	*-sê*
chicken	DEM1

"This chicken threw that knife at yonder tree."

Verb Phrases

Mood

Mood is marked by auxilliary verbs, which are placed immediately after the verb. In the case of coordinated verbs, such as in "He began to hear and speak.", the auxilliary occurs once after both of them ("vöjamfê kê tanfê sat ro." rather than "vöjamfê sat kê tanfê sat ro.").

Tense

Tense is primarily marked on auxiliary verbs. The final vowel of the basic form of an auxiliary verb is always either i or ö. Throughout this section, these will be referred to as i-auxilliaries and ö-auxiliaries, respectively. These vowels are changed to mark tense.

Regularily Marked Tenses

Nonpast Nonpast is the default tense and is marked by not changing the vowel in the auxilliary. The time period is marks is just what is sounds like, not the past. Anything from the moment the sentence is utterred to the end of time[9] would fall under nonpast.

[9] Assuming, of course, that the sentence is being utterred somewhen between the beginning and end of time.

Distant past The distant past is marked with ü for i-auxiliaries, and û for ö-auxiliaries. It expresses things that happened long ago. Like the other past tenses, this is relative and could conceivably be used to refer to the events of yesterday (for example, if many things have happened or if they seemed to take forever), but it is generally reserved for myths and legends.

Mid/Intermediate past The intermediate past is marked with a for i-auxiliaries, and y for ö-auxiliaries. Midpast is used for things that happened a while ago, but not so far as to be distant past, and not so recent as to be immediate past. It can also be used as a non-specific past tense.

IMMEDIATE PAST The immediate past is marked with e for i-auxiliaries, and ë for ö-auxiliaries. It marks things that just happened, such as the event immediately preceding the present moment.

Irregularily Marked Tenses

FUTURE There is no way to mark specifically future tense on auxiliaries distinct from present tense. However, there is a noun suffix, -jot, which indicates the future state of something. "decekjot" is "the future state of the chicken", and "tanfê decekjot."[10] could reasonably be translated "The chicken will speak.". While technically this is indeed part of noun morphology rather than verb morphology, it seemed natural to place a section on it here since this is the section the average oblivious reader will most likely look for future tense conjugations in[11].

[10] Literally: "The future state of the chicken speaks."

[11] We won't judge you if you did come here first. It is a pretty odd language feature.

Aspect

Aspect is marked with a mandatory suffix directly after the verb. That is to say, it occurs as the final morpheme of the verb or the penultimate[12] if there is a valency suffix.

[12] Which is objectively the best way to say "second-to-last".

PERFECTIVE ASPECT The perfect aspect is used of actions that are viewed as either instantaneous or that have no perceived interior composition. It is marked with -dâ. Technically any aspect can go onto any verb, but keep in mind that this one might not work in all cases. Examples of verbs that follow this pattern in English would be things like pressing a key down on a keyboard, since it only requires one action, so it's hard for it to have any process or composition to it. Greeting someone may also be done in the perfective aspect.

DURATIVE ASPECT The durative aspect is marked with -fê, and expresses things that happen over a definite period of time, no matter how long.

(18) tanfê dac dê.

tan	*-fê*	*dac*	*dê*
speak	DUR	IND=midPST	1S=NEUT

"I spoke."

(19) decek kygykfê dac dê.

decek *kygyk* *-fê* *dac* *dê*
chicken eat DUR IND=midPST 1S=NEUT

"I ate the chicken."

GNOMIC ASPECT The gnomic aspect is marked with -um, and can express anything. It is commonly used to express things that are unchangingly true.

(20) decek zanum dê.

decek *zan* *-um* *dê*
chicken be GNO 1S=NEUT

"I am a chicken."

But it can also be used if you just don't want to mark aspect.

HABITUAL ASPECT The habitual aspect is marked with -êt and expresses actions that are frequently repeated.

(21) decek kygykêt dê.

decek *kygyk* *-êt* *dê*
chicken eat HAB 1S=NEUT

"I eat chicken."

CONTINUOUS ASPECT The continuous aspect is marked with -šo and is frequently equivalent to the English "is doing". It is used to express actions that are ongoing.

(22) decek kygykšo dê.

decek *kygyk* *-šo* *dê*
chicken eat CONT 1S=NEUT

"I am eating chicken."

(23) tanšo dac zê.

tan *-šo* *dac* *zê*
speak CONT IND=midPST 3S=VEG

"He was speaking."

Valency Suffixes

Valency suffixes are a class of suffixes which may be placed after a verb's aspect marker. At present there are two: -sun and -jâk.

The suffix -sun puts the clause in the passive voice.

(24) decek kygykfê dec dê.

decek	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*dec*	*dê*
chicken	eat	DUR	IND=nearPST	1S=NEUT

"I ate the chicken."

becomes

(25) kygykfêsun dec decek.

kygyk	*-fê*	*-sun*	*dec*	*decek*
eat	DUR	PASS	IND=nearPST	chicken

"The chicken was eaten."

There have been examples of the omitted subject being added back in the object position.

(26) dê kygykfêsun dec decek.

dê	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*-sun*	*dec*	*decek*
1S=NEUT	eat	DUR	PASS	IND=nearPST	chicken

"The chicken was eaten by me."

But there is usually no reason for this outside rhyming poetry and it is discouraged in normal speech. In the case of verbs that take an indirect object, such as "snam" ("to give"), the indirect object is moved to the subject position

(27) decek dê snamfêsun.

decek	*dê*	*snam*	*-fê*	*-sun*
eat	DUR	PASS	IND=nearPST	chicken

"I was given a chicken."

The other suffix, -jâk, is generally glossed "in order to". The clause it is used in may be placed after another clause as its goal.

(28) decek kygykfê dê dasnan dûdenfêjâk.

decek	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*dê*	*dasnan*	*dûden*	*-fê*
chicken	eat	DUR	1S=NEUT	universe	distract	DUR

-jâk
in-order-to

"I eat the chicken in order to distract the universe."

Adverbs

Adverbs are not a distinct class in Sajem Tan. They are instead merged with Adjectives to form a single class called Describers (Södyccesikâ). When functioning as adverbs, they come immediately before the verb.

(29) decek zežöt kygykfê dê.

decek	*zežöt*	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*dê*
chicken	done-with-good-intentions	eat	DUR	1S=NEUT

"I ate the chicken with good intentions."

Evidentiality

Evidentials can be summed up very quickly. All evidentials (there are eight roots at present) are marked as optional adverbs which come before the main verb (like all other adverbs.) For example, "kic" means "known as a result of deep and protracted study." An example would be "Thnamök kic zanfê ro" or "It is known through study that he really is a pizza."

List of Evidentials

Since there are only nine evidential adverbs in total, not counting agglutinated evidentials, explaining all of them here couldn't hurt.

Vön means "understood through the reversal of a previously held belief." For example, the realization that planets orbit around the sun instead of around the Earth (zëvet smet dûganmêt vön žûžûmšo cadëkâ) or that Linux is actually better than Windows (Con Windows om con Linux om šittuum.).

Ţmak means "deduced from context." A situation in which this would be applicable is if you were digging up an Ancient Greek

stone tablet, but you could not get the final corner, so you have to deduce what the document was trying to say with its last two lines[13]. This is especially needed in Sajem Tan because many words have a wide variety of definitions, so often the original intent of the words must be assumed in some cases.

[13] If you ever do find yourself in this situation, then you have a lot cooler of a job than I do.

Ţec means "deduced from sensory evidence." You might use thec if you were feeling your way around a dark room, and you feel something on the wall that feels like it might be made out of wood. In this case, you might describe your experience with (kanöt ţec sežüfendâ dac sê.) "I found a door (at least, that's what I assumed it to be, based on the sensory evidence.)" Of course, it does not have to be touch; it can be any sense. Sight, smell, taste, hearing, touch, thermoception, proprioception, et cetera and et cetera, although this can be clarified by agglutination of words to the front of the adverb (See Evidential Agglutination)

Ţök compliments ţec. While thec means "deduced from sensory evidence", ţök means something closer to "known based on direct sensory evidence." An example would be that you see a door with your own eyes and state to another person "I found a door" (kanöt ţök sežüfendâ sê.) The only difference between ţec and ţök is that ţök is more concrete.

Snat describes a situation where the information being stated has been learned from secondary/tertiary sources. For example, if you expressing that you know that Sajem Tan has nouns because you read it in its reference grammar, you would say "snat fnecömâum Sajem Tan."

Šan means "known though hearsay via a living person" or "rumored." If you heard from a friend that Hannah pilots helicopters in her spare time, you may state "kixikömâ šan katöcêt con Hannah om."

Let means "traditional knowledge or lore." This is usually used in reference to Sajem Tan mythology, but it applies to any mythology or lore. For example, if, in reference to "The Coming of Wind", you state that you know that Bird invited Wind to the tribe, you might express that as "Theţat let zenfê düc Viţit."

Kic means "carefully discerned through practiced study".

Evidential Agglutination

Evidential adverbs compound much like just about everything else, with the canonical example being "femekţök", which is typically glossed "discovered via telepathy".[14] This is obviously from the fact that telepethy is done using the mind. Theoretically, putting any body part in front of ţök or ţec would be the sense involving that body part. For example, vöjamţec might mean "deduced from something I heard."

[14] Literally "mind-seen" or "mind-sensed".

Syntax

Sajem Tan is generally head-final, with modifiers nearly always preceding what the attach to.

Word order

The default word order is Object-Verb-Subject for transitive sentences and Verb-Subject for intransitive ones. Indirect objects are covered in Oblique Arguments.

(30) decek kygykfê ro.

decek	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*ro*
chicken	eat	DUR	3S=ANIM

"He ate the chicken."

However, if the subject of the verb is an experiencer or patient, it goes in front of the verb.

(31) decek ro nëmfê.

decek	*ro*	*nëm*	*-fê*
chicken	3S=ANIM	see	DUR

"He saw the chicken."

In (30) the subject is actively consuming the chicken, whereas in (31) he is just passively noticing the chicken. If you changed the order and said "decek nëmfê ro." this would indicate that the subject is taking some sort of action and would probably be translated "He looked at the chicken.".

Verbs whose subjects are normally experiencers or patients are labeled as "experiencer" verbs in the Lexicon, however this designation is not absolute. An example of an "experiencer" verb being having a non-experiencer subject was given above. As an example of a verb that isn't an "experiencer" verb being used with an experiencer subject, one could conceivably say "decek ro kygykfê." which would

mean something like "He experienced eating the chicken." or could indicate that the person you're talking about was completely numb at the time and was simply eating on autopilot.

The object of a transitive verb with an experiencer subject should generally appear in the focus case, so "decekžê ro nëmfê." rather than "decek ro nëmfê.", but this rule is frequently broken in casual speech.[15]

[15] The rule was broken in the examples in the preceding paragraphs to avoid the potential confusion of the addition of an unexplained case marking.

The Copula

The copula "zan" is an exception to the rules of experiencer subjects and invariably places the subject after the verb, even though it would typically resemble an experiencer much more than an agent.

(32) gamyk zanum dasnan.

gamyk	*zan*	*-um*	*dasnan*
tree	be	GNO	universe

"The universe is a tree."

Rather than *"gamykžê dasnan zanum.".[16]

[16] The tribe does not necessarily support the idea of a world tree. This is purely for illustrative purposes.

Interactions with Valency Suffixes

One would expect that the subject of a verb that been passivized with -sun would nearly always be an experiencer and thus appear before the verb. However, there has been little usage of this suffix so far, and in what little there has been the former object has always followed the verb. It is possible that -sun causes the object to go where the subject would have gone – that is, its position depends on the role of the omitted subject rather than its own role – but this has not yet been determined with certainty.

At present, the only time a verb may be used without a subject is when it has the valency suffix -jâk, which is the only thing Sajem Tan has which resembles the use of the infinitive in other languages.

Oblique Arguments

Oblique arguments include indirect objects ("decekţot" – "to the chicken"), instrumentals ("cicgu" – "using cheese"), topics ("sülemžê" – "about nectar"), locations ("gamykâ vmat" – "among the trees"), various other postpositional phrases ("ţefam tan" – "the rock said that"), and purpose clauses ("dûdenţûfam xafömfêjâk" – "in order to attack the gold"). All of these typically appear before the main sentence body, except purpose clauses, which appear at the very end. Thus

"I sang Let It Go among the trees in order to attack the Universe." would normally be "gamykâ vmat sesûtfê ţê dasnan xafömfêjâk.".

Obliques are emphasized by moving them from before the main sentence body to directly after it, though still before any purpose clauses.

(33) sesûtfê ţê gamykâ vmat dasnan xafömfêjâk.

sesût	*-fê*	*ţê*	*gamyk*	*-â*	*vmat*	*dasnan*
sing-Let-It-Go	DUR	1P=INAN	tree	PL	among	universe

xaföm	*-fê*	*-jâk*
attack	DUR	in-order-to

"It was among the trees that I sang Let It Go in order to attack the Universe."

Questions

Polar questions are formed by adding the auxilliary verb "kök". They are typically answered with "lik" or "xen", "thumbs up, correct" and "thumbs down, incorrect" respectively.

More complex questions are formed with the interogative suffix "-ku", which is generally translated "which".

(34) ţefam kygykfê decekku?

ţefam	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*decek*	*-ku*
rock	eat	DUR	chicken	which

"Which chicken ate the rock?"

These questions may be answered either by repeating the question with the appropriate noun substituted for the one with the question marker.

(35) ţefam kygykfê con Bob om.

ţefam	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*con*	*Bob*	*om*
rock	eat	DUR	chicken	quote	Bob

"Bob ate the rock."

Or you can just state the changed noun phrase alone.

(36) *con Jerald om.*
quote Jerald unquote

"Jerald."

This latter strategy is not available when more than one word is questioned.

(37) ţefamâku kygykfê decekâku?

ţefam	*-â*	*-ku*	*kygyk*	*-fê*	*decek*	*-â*	*-ku*
rock	PL	which	eat	DUR	chicken	PL	which

"Which chickens ate which rocks?"

Note that this example is ambiguous as to whether the questioner wants to know which individual chicken ate which indiviual rock or whether the intention is to find out which group of chickens did the eating and which group of rocks was eaten. If one were to use the collective suffix "-mon" rather than "-â", it would unambiguously be the latter, but there is currently no equally simple way to specify the former.

For longer questions, möt may be added as a redundant question marker. Word order does not change when asking a question.

Particles

Particles in Sajem Tan are basically anything that isn't a root or a suffix. They describe things that are hard to express in English without making a long and confusing sentence about them. They can also act as containers for words and phoneme sequences. Particles function in four main ways: they describe the sound/nature of an object or action, they declare what part of speech an object is, they provide a way to express concepts from other languages in Sajem Tan, and they mark the usage of intentionally archaic or incorrect words.

Word Creation

The most common and probably most important particle is cêk, which is used to define new words. The standard form for word creation is "cêk word ţom 'definition in English'.", for example "cêk dasnan ţom 'natural; cosmic'." would declare the coining of the word "dasnan".[17]

The partices lâ and nuk are used with the same format as cêk, but lâ adds definitions to a word that already exists, and nuk removes them. So, for example, if you say "lâ ţefam ţom 'potato'.", the word "ţefam" will then mean "potato" as well as "rock". To avoid anyone getting annoyed at you for such unhelpfulness, you can then say "nuk ţefam ţom 'potato'." to put things back the way they were.

[17] This particular sentence is useless because "dasnan" already exists and declaring already extant words is pointless and confusing.

Sound and Nature Descriptions

The particles šên and tân occur immediately before a noun and refer to the feeling and sound of that noun, respectively. Thus, "simem" ("peace") becomes "šên simem" ("the feeling of peace") and "divöm" ("thunder") becomes "tân divöm" ("the sound of thunder"). Naturally, these can attach to each other to produce things like "tân šên tân tetanâ" ("the sound of the feeling of the sound of the Tetanâ.").[18]

[18] Because sometimes feelings make noises.

Part of Speech Declarations

The Parts of Speech particles can be placed before any word in a sentence to specify what part of speech they should be interpreted as. There are four in total: **nê** declares the following word as an intransitive verb, **êm** declares the following word as a transitive verb, **kun** declares the following word as an adjective or an adverb, and **oc** declares it a noun. For example, "I distracted the pasta-related conversational tangent" is "dûden dûden dûdenfê dê.", but if you wanted to be very clear about the structure of this dûden-filled sentence, you could also say "kun dûden oc dûden êm dûdenfê dê." which means exactly the same thing, but now can't be mistaken for some other repeated string of the word dûden.

Transliterations

The particle don is used to mark onomatopoeia. For example, the phrase "don zëzën" could be used to refer to the sound a bee makes. The particle kut is essentially the same, expect it refers to feeling rather than actual sounds. So "kut xigëdifigëdit"[19] could mean "all over the place" or "disorganized".

The most commonly used transliteration particle is con, which indicates that whatever follows it is text from a foreign language. So to refer to someone named Daniel, you would just say "con Daniel" (or, more commonly, "con Daniel om" - see next section) and use it like a normal noun[20]. In speech what follows con can be anything from "potato" to a record scratch. In writng it can be Hangul, Hieroglyphics, or a map of Greenland.

[19] A transliteration of the English "higgledy piggledy".

[20] The transliteration can, in theory, be used as any part of speech, but in practice the result is nearly always a noun.

Conjugation Carrier

The conjugation particle, om, is used in conjunction with both the Descriptions and the Transliterations. Any conjugations that are not affected by the inital particle are placed on om. Thus "tân viţitâ" is "the sound of birds", while "tân viţit omâ" is "the sounds of a bird". With transliterations, it is usually included even when there is no conjugation to mark where the transliteration ends.

Usage of Archaic and Incorrect Words

The particle xo is placed in front of words that have been invalidated due to clarifications of the phonotactics, such as "viţ" (now "viţit"), "ţef" (now "ţec"), and "tâ" (now "tan"). So "sesûtšo xo viţ." ("The bird is singing.") is essentially identical to "sesûtšo viţit.". This particle can

similarly be used with any other word that is in some sense incorrect, such as slang usage or words where nuk has been applied.

Discourse and Pragmatics

Quotation

Quotations made using postpositions are generally taken as indirect speech. "ro tan gamyk zanum sê." would generally be taken as "He said that I'm a tree." or "He called me a tree." as opposed to the person in question calling themself a tree, which would likely be "ro tan gamyk zanum ro." or possibly "ro tan gamyk zanum žo.".

Direct speech, on the other hand, would be indicated with verbs. "'gamyk zanum sê.' tanfê ro." would unambiguously communicate the idea of the person in question calling themself a tree.

Tense

In normal usage, tense is not marked, and must be inferred. When telling a story, the tense is assumed to be indefinite or distant past. In conversation it is typically inferred as either immediate past or present. Explicit marking of tense is only used when extreme clarity is desired (which is quite rare), when mood is being indicated, for emphasis, or to fulfil Rain's taboo of always marking everything for tense.

Derivation and the Lexicon

The morphemes of Sajem Tan are divided into 2 phonotactic classes: roots and particles. Phonotactic particles either serve as particles, affixes, or sometimes postpositions. Phonotactic roots can serve as nouns, verb, postpositions, auxilliary verbs, or describers.

While each morpheme has a standard part of speech, they can also be used as other parts of speech, and often are. For instance, sit ("begin") is typically listed as an auxilliary verb, but it also occasionally serves as a noun ("sit" or "oc sit", "beginning") or a verb ("kê tidyn du sitfê du"[21], "And so it begins.").

[21] Literally "And like this it begins."

In addition, nearly any set of morphemes can be compounded together to form more complex words, with the last root contributing the primary meaning. For example, "danec" is "borrowed", "thek" is "to scribble", and "noc" indicates the end product of an action. Compounding these 3 gives "danecţeknoc" - "the borrowed scribbling result", which is the name of the romanization system.[22] However, since the resulting words can get rather unwieldy, coining new roots is generally preferred over words of more than 2 or 3 morphemes if the word is expected to be used more than a couple of times.

[22] If a distiction between the 2 romanization systems was desired, the original might be "dümdanecţeknoc" or "gödendanecţeknoc", while the reformed could be "jamdanecţeknoc" or "dözecdanecţeknoc".

While concatenation is the most common and systematic form of derivation, there are 2 other forms: triconsonantal roots and merge-compounding. Sometimes a word is desired and there is a somewhat similar term already in existence. In such cases, if the word is 2 syllables long, it is common to coin the new word with the same consonants but different vowels, though the process is in no way systematic or consistent. Merge-compounding, meanwhile, only applies in a few specific domains, such as colors and geometric shapes. In these cases the end the first root and the beginning of the second are dropped to create a new word that still resembles the originals but is phonotactically a single root. The details of the process vary from one domain to another and so will be discussed there.

Derivational Suffixes

Plurals

The most common plural suffix is -â, which simply means "more than one thing". However, there are several other, more specific plurals available.

-MON indicates a collection of something. A flock of chickens could be called a "decekmon".

-NÂ is the partive plural, indicating some, but not all. So if you had 8 pizzas (ţnamökâ) and 3 of them were pepperoni, then those would be "ţnamöknâ".

-NO is very similar to -nâ, except that it is singular. Whereas thnamöknâ would refer to a few pizzas on a table of several pizzas, ţnamökno would indicate some quantity of pizza, as in "ţnamökno kygykšo dê." - "I am eating some pizza.".

-ÂÂ indicates an infinite quantity of something. "daţnycfêsun šik semetââ.", "An infinite number of numbers can be encountered."

Quantity

-XÊT means "lacking" and sometimes serves as a negative, along with -uk. The word "ţnamökxêt", if used as a noun might be translated "the lack of pizzas", and as a describer would be "without pizzas" or "pizzaless".

-MÊT is the inverse of -xêt and is traditionally defined as "having a surfeit or plentitude of something". So "ţnamökmêt" is "the plentitude of pizza", "having plenty of pizza", or "pizzaful". It is also sometimes used as a general describer-forming suffix, akin to the English -y, hence the most common translation of "stony" is "ţefammêt" rather than simply "ţefam".

-MUN denotes the most intense form of something; oftentimes it is transcribed as "maximum". Originally a term like "dûtmun" would have meant something like "unfathomably large", and some other term would have to be found for simply "very large". But, as is normal for such things, the meaning has weakened over time and "dûtmun" can now be used in either case.

-UK is the counterpart of -xêt, denoting otherness rather than lack. While "ţnamökxêt" denotes a lack of pizza, "ţnamökuk" refers to something that is not pizza.

-UKMUN is a compound of -uk and -mun and thus means "maximally other than". It is the most common negative and is usually the best translation of the English "anti-". While "jëkuk" and "jëkukmun" both mean "not full", the former could refer to something that is half-full, while the latter only refers to things that are empty.

Other

-fun small, cute; Example: ţefamfun – a pebble
-ţnu the act of; Example: xögakţnu – the act of being courageous
I thought that we decided that thnu is basically gerund, didn't we? – Thethat
-tuc part of, Example: jëkëmtuc - a part of a book (page, cover, binding)
-so having-one; an entity having the thing referred to by the stem, Example: söm žimanso – the swift feathered one[23]
-žum pet; Example: ţefamžum – a pet rock
-žut cause to be; Example: ţefamžut – to turn to stone[24]
-mâk improver; Example: ţnamökmâk – marinara sauce[25]
-noc the end state or product of an action, Example: teţnymnoc – a child
-nun marker of affection[26]; Example: teţnymnocnun – your child
-kâ energetic; coffee; Example: teţnymnocnunkâ – your toddler
-ok horrendous; excedingly awful, Example: teţnymnocnunkâok – your toddler who has just done something very frustrating

[23] Due to Bee's taboo, this is how he typically refers to Bird.

[24] This is probably a good term for the activities of Medusa and the White Witch.

[25] Pizza with red sauce being, of course, objectively better than pizza with white sauce. Usually used as an opinion statement, for obvious reasons.

[26] Similar to the Esperanto "-ĉj".

Auxilliary Verbs

dic indicative
dit reaffirm[27]
göm be obligated to; must
gön try to; attempt
göt stop; (noun) limit; boundary; termination point; end
ximic continue
jöm should
jit must; vital; necessary
fmök irrealis mood; counter-factual
fnit to be willing to
sin imperative
sit begin; start

[27] Often rendered "indeed".

šnön it is possible that; may; maybe
šik be able to
möt no; not; negative verb[28]
kök polar interrogative; yes-no question

[28] Similar to the Finnish "ei".

Body Parts

gigim flipper; fin
gyznyt nose
xidat tail, especially one that is prehensile; (intransitive) to multi-task
fmat seed
vmyn mouth
vöjam ear; (experiencer transitive) to hear
ţnak root
ţisyn leaf
šnûk lips
žiman feather; long lustrous hair
röfit wing
nic done in a giving way; hand
cëzan tongue
cûc foot
tün eye; camera; telescope
kidek face
kyfik arm

Buildings, Architecture, and Furniture

din home; hive
dycüm movie theater
gajindin church; place of worship
gafût brick
xananzmet house
jaxin plastic or wooden chair, especially one that has been mass-produced; schoolroom desk
femekukmunkanöt a door that you keep wanting to push but it's actually a pull door
fiţnëm lighthouse; beacon
vmak a piece of furniture meant for sitting upon; a chair; (intransitive) to sit
viţitdin nest; twig-woven home of the swift feathered one
ţnëk a room
ţûfin theater for live performances
ţûnenögem fort; fortress

zmet buliding; to build
zaditkanöt window
zizüm library
žnazym table
röžitţnëk bathroom
mömëc roof; shelter
cüjimdin anthill
kanöt door
kižütdin beehive

Clothing

gacafmet shirt; something worn on the body above the waist, but not on the neck or head
gireţnyt shoes
jûkük pants; trousers; something worn on the body below the waist but not on the feet
šafnem jacket; coat; a sleeved upper body garment typically worn over a shirt or blouse
nëkit scarf; fabric worn around the neck
tatük glasses; spectacles; contact lenses; monocle; eyewear
tüvmyzam cloth; fabric

Colors (söjemâ)

Sajem Tan's color system is based on its 3 primary colors: snitin – orange, gažyn – green, and nyfün – purple. Secondary colors are formed by merge compounding which takes the first syllable of one color and the second of the other and combines them. Which color contributes which syllable does not matter.

orange	+	green	=	snižyn	*or*	gatin	"yellow"
orange	+	purple	=	snifün	*or*	nytin	"red"
green	+	purple	=	gafün	*or*	nyžyn	"blue"

Tertiary colors are formed by doubling the first syllable of a secondary color. So if you want a word for a purple-red, you take the word for red that is "purple-orange", which is "nytin" and double the purple to make "nynytin". A more orange-red, on the other hand would be "snisnifün".

Further color terms can be formed adding "cëk" and "kak" to make them lighter or darker, respectively. Thus "cëknytin" is light red and "kaknytin" is dark red.

If this is still not enough colors, there is also the word "söjem", which means "color" and is frequently compounded to form further color terms, such as "deceksöjem" – "chicken-colored".

gevmüksöjem black
fnadycsöjem clear; transparant
ţnamökmâksöjem dark red
snymsöjem white
lnam grayscale; black-and-white
lnûm gray; grey; dull; indeterminate; incomplete; boring; plain; numinous

Conjunctions

xok one of; xor; exclusive or; exactly one of these, but no more (contrast "smâ")
xoksmâ not this, but this; the first of these if false, and instead the second is true
jo if; implies; therefore
smâ but
mân when; while (see also the postposition "sno")
nu inclusive or; at least one of these, but possibly more (contrast "xok")
tidyn like; similarly to; occurring in comparable manner to
tyk so; as a result
kê and
ân one of; a term roughly equivalent to both xok and smâ

Flora and Fauna

dëgemžum Pokemon
decek chicken
gamyk tree; producer
xydût monkey
xyzak bat
jidök flower
fenat animal, particularly land-dwelling mammals and reptiles
fûn dwarf
vmadanso pig[29]
vazöt cat; (transitive verb) regard with disdain
vöt plant
viţit bird; overseer
ţnûdûk elephant
ţefnöm bear
zaţën spider; silkworm; syntax
šikök sugar glider
žnicön dog
žirik fish

[29] Literally "one who has bacon", for obvious reasons.

lëcën lemon
lysyc snake
rnaţnyn chimera; any mythical or fictional animal with parts taken from various animals
rnanic chameleon
mazûn insect
müsünkemen reindeer[30]
nesit fruit
nyran snail
cajikžum tea pet, small sheep-like creatures whose fur is tea leaves
cyzëţnit any plant not native to Earth
cüjim ant
tetan flying snail with a mohawk and laser vision
tivût dinosaur
tyţemek centipede with human hands and the teeth and dangling thing of a deep sea anglerfish
tytyt clover
kemen cow
kizik grass
kižüt bee; harvester; storyteller

[30] Literally "cold cow", in reference to the fact that cows turn into reindeer if you get them cold enough.

Food and Eating (gygik kê kygykthnu)

Included in this section is one of the most important words in Sajem Tan culture: dûden. It is included here because the original root meaning is "pasta", but it has gained the additional meanings of "things that are off-topic", "to be unproductive"[31], and "to distract". It is important because all of Sajem Tan and its culture are constantly being filled with ever mounting piles of pasta.

A far rarer word is tamat, which is the opposite of dûden. It also means "pastry".

[31] Which is an experiencer verb if you are merely a participant, but not if you introduced the off-topic material.

gygik food
gyvnam to cook
gülim to nourish; to feed; to sustain
vmadan bacon
ţnamök pizza
ţnamöksöjemmâk olive oil
ţnamökmâk marinara sauce
süfekalifažilitikesixalödöšyc cookie
sülem nectar
zamin juice
zicûm a container for consumable liquids, especially a bottle, cup, or thermos

žyšyn bread
mësün ice cream; gelato; cold
milën orange (fruit)
cajik tea
cösek apple
cic cheese
tücelitvöt vegetable oil
kagan hula-hoop; donut; doughnut
kemenzamin milk
kygyk to eat; to drink; to consume
kygûk chopstick

Fun and Games (xükat kê takâ)

gak fun derived from a game or other entertainment
xükat fun; grammar; climbing; the enjoyment of challenges
xükatsazyc adventure
rantak domino
nenyk playing card
nenyktak card game
tak game; amusement; recreation; to play (a game)
takgödûn die; dice, especially those used in roleplaying games

Geography (jafitâ kê tižön)

dûdem dam; swamp
xataxym hole; pit; ditch
xëtën cliff
jafit land; territory; the general term for anything that isn't ocean or sky, like grass, dirt, rocks, snow, etc.
snijat mountain
sekët valley
zek sandstone; packed sand; the natural sand found in deserts and canyons
šëšën river; pragmatics
tömöm slope
tižön oceanic; marine; ocean

The Heavens (žasikâ)

žasikâ being the different versions of the sky - day time, night time, as seen from orbit. Probably the most interesting word in this category is dasnan, which expressed both the English "Nature", as well as

"Outer Space", despite those often being seen as somewhat opposite each other.

vnisyt moon
zëvet sun; star; that which gives the (false) impression of constancy or permanence
žasik sky; canopy of a forest; ceiling of a cave (but not of a house)
cadëgyn astronaut; cosmonaut
cadëk planet

Idioms

There are, at present, 3 recorded idioms. They are the domain of Zëvet (Star)

FMANFÊ TIDYN GAMYK means to stand petrified and in awe. "fmanfê tidyn gamyk mân datfê Dasnan Decek.", "He stood in awe as the Cosmic Chicken took flight.". Literally "to stand still like a tree".

LET ___ DÜC is roughly equivalent to the English "once upon a time" or "it was said of old that". "let datfê düc Dasnan Decek.", "It was said of old that the Cosmic Chicken took flight.". Literally "according to lore, ___ happened in the distant past".

TËRNÖNFÊ TÜNÂ means "cry" or "weep". "tërnönfê rovmê tünâ.", "He cried". Literally "eyes rain".

Kinship and Community

The tribe is very interested in kinship and naming practices, particularly since most of us do not have any biological relation to each other, and often go by names that we gave ourselves.

We acknowledge several different sources of names. For example, Ţefam has the parental name "Daniel", the family name "Swanson", the tribal name "Ţefam" or "Stone", internet name "PopcornDude", and likely several others that he hasn't mentioned.

darëfim child; kid
jüvet to state a name; to identify or denominate oneself
fyzün sibling
vaküt parent; parental figure; teacher; older relative
snedëm a secret
sajem common; communal; public
žetamvaküt biological father (see also "tat")

lnaxan small talk; when someone tries to end a silence but all they do is make it worse; to idly chat despite not wanting to
mam mom; female[32] (see also "tat")
möšnem tribemember
möm tribe
mömvakü̈t legal parent; adoptive parent
mûc that which cities, forests, and hives have in common, a community
nün friend
cifnövnin leader
tat dad; male[33] (see also "mam")
tyzyšyk custom; praxis; way

[32] The usage of "mam" and "tat" to denote gender is somewhat disputed, but no alternative has been proposed, so these remain for occasional use in compounds.

[33] See note on "mam".

Language and Linguistics

Sajem Tan has a fairly complete set of terms for phonetics, as well as names for most of its own parts of speech.

manner		**place**	
plosive	döjejöt	bilabial	zmasatik
nasal	namycim	labiodental	jylöţin
trill	gûtesnët	dental	ţöxûm
affricate	canömoc	alveolar	sëţim
fricative	lnüžûm	postalveolar	müžnyc
lateral fricative	snylim	retroflex	ţnivmesnëk
approximant	fnöfmit	palatal	dörûšic
lateral approximant	znevmüc	velar	vnajüm
part of speech		uvular	šnëjac
noun	fnecöm	pharyngeal	žnëvmec
transitive verb	zûfûn	epiglottal	znësyc
intransitive verb	tûzün	glottal	redyzit
describer	södyccesik		
particle	cesyt		
suffix	këšik		

danecţeknoc the romanization system of Sajem Tan
xalan sign language
jëšnec signature, particularly an autograph
jëkëm book; physical book; paper book
jëkëmtuc page; book cover; binding
jegenţeknoc the official writing system of Sajem Tan
ţat auxlang; auxiliary langauge
ţefam stone; writing; orthography
ţek to write; to scribble; to scrawl
ţeknoc writing system
ţycam to read

sesüt to yell
***söd*yc** to describe
znenan tale; story
zevüc mistranslation
zesnernat a hard-to-pronounce word; shibboleth
züzüm word dump
lijak artlang; artistic language
mazem engilang; engineered language
mynam conlang; constructed language
cëkcejyn vowel
cesik word
cifmezen to transfer; to metaphorize
tan honey; vomit; language; (postposition) said that; to speak; to vomit
tanrüc utterance; short speech; sentence; dollop of honey
kaganţeknoc the cursive form of the writing system
kakcejyn consonant
kûc letter, as in character, not message
kûcţeknoc alphabet

Life, Death, and the Divine (xanan kê fnadyc kê fûdet tütâ)

gajin pure awe; to hail; to salute
xanan life
fmöxem destiny; fate
fnadyc death
fik (experiencer intransitive) to die
fûdet god; personified force of nature
ţnadyc (interjection) death; (noun) inspiration; Death
teţnym (noun) birth; pregnancy; (intransitive verb) become pregnant; be pregnant; (transitive verb) bear; birth; give birth to; conceive; gestate

Materials and Chemistry

Translation work on the Periodic Table is rather incomplete, but what has been accomplished is shown below. The root word for most metals is "thûfam", which in compounds generally means "metal", but on its own refers specifically to Copper.

Hydrogen	törnënžutdûtuk	"small water-maker"
Helium	zëvetzyrök	"star gas"
Oxygen	törnënžutdût	"large water-maker"
Silicon	kecycţûfam	"internet metal"
Calcium	kemenzaminţûfam	"cow juice *milk* metal"
Iron	xatatţûfam	"magnetic metal"
Copper	ţûfam	
Silver	snymsöjemţûfam	"white metal"
Tin	tamatţûfam	"on-topic/useful metal"
Gold	dûdenţûfam	"distracting metal"

dejizön (noun) wood
zic (noun) liquid
zyrök (noun) gas
nüvmic (noun) charcoal
törnën (noun) water
töröt (noun) ice

Measurement and Time

The tribe has its own system of measurement, of which all that has been documented is 2 units of distance based on the length of a Tetan along with a rather complex calendar with no particular relation to any other known timekeeping system.

dyfnyn to measure
düküt a pair; unit of measurement = 5.7 inches (14.5 cm)
düm old; beautiful (especially of a female)
gëšök calendar, especially the Sajem Tan calendar
gešik clock; sundial; timekeeper
göden rusted; old (of an object); tarnished
jam new
fmüžik year
fic here; now
fûdetteţnymznök Christmas as a religious holiday
vynit long (time); slow; delayed
vykic afternoon
ţazan dusk
snamnocznök Christmas as a secular holiday
znök day
lnagen night
madam history
canöc month
tetan flying snail with a mowhawk; unit of measurement = 2.9 inches (7.2 cm)

kasyn (experiencer intransitive) to recur; (transitive) to repeat; to rerun a TV episode
kacfic past

The Mind and Emotions (femek kê kexekâ)

danec borrowed; copied; imitated; to borrow; to copy; to duplicate
dëgem to select; to curate; to anthologize; to choose; to decide
dözec to conceptually return to a source; to renew creativity by reviewing old inspirations
dömik compassion
xaxat to laugh
xamatin the frustration of realizing that one has inadvertently invalidated or undone an accomplisment
xecüt a lie; an untruth
xifem (transitive) to overthink; to ruminate
jafin melodrama
jafinmêt melodramatic
jan to care about; to take interest in
jin light; pathos; display of irrationality/passion; dramatic situation
jiküfin to take notes on; to study
jünim pleasant dream; (experiencer intransitive verb) have a pleasant dream
femek (adj) noetic; (noun) mind; thought; Sherlock Holmes; (intransitive verb) exclaim "Elementary my dear Watson!"; (transitive verb) deduce; realize
vmëfëc (adj) crazy; (noun) wisdom; silliness
söjesöm (adj) multimodal; multipurpose; proceding in many manners; manifold; (noun) chromesthesia; (transitive verb) color-code; organize by color
simem silent; quiet; calm; sleepy (see also "ţnedût")
zamen to hope
zežöt done with good intentions
žejün (experiencer transitive) to enjoy
rek sad; depressed
risön fear; panic; paralysis
rilym creepy; skeleton
našët love
cagyn lazy; lackadasical; underachiever; couch potato
can bored
cejym OCD; to obsessively organize minute details
töţim majestic; to want; to desire
tišnim sleepy
tücelit that which affects you in a good way

kexek emotion
köţic the joy and exhaustion that comes after final exams are over

Motion and Transportation

dafmûm arrow (on a page or a sign); direction; to point at (see also "vmandûk")
daţnyc to encounter; to stumble upon
dasnankixiköm space-helicopter
dat to rise; to get up; to move upwards; to take off
gisnömköxakok skis from the perspective of someone who hates them
xalem to glide; to move forward on a thin cusion of fluid (air, ketchup, slime, etc.); to transition smoothly to something
xinem to teleport; to travel instantly
jët to fly or swim along a meandering route (see also "žûžûm")
ţën fast; quick (of processes/actions other than motion verbs); quickly (see also "söm")
smit overused; cliche; to be widespread; to spread
safic come; arrive at the spot of the speaker; return
saznötjët to run around
sazyc to go; to travel
söm fast; swift; quick (of moving objects) (see also "thën")
znöc to gather; to collect, particularly firewood
znim falling; (experiencer intransitive) to fall (unconstrained motion under influence of gravity) (see also "met")
znimköxak unicycle
zak to release; to let go of
zežötkatöcukmunmâk self-driving car
žasikžûžûmzanso spaceship
žûžûm to fly like a bird; fly or swim along a fairly straight line or smooth curve (see also "jët")
met falling; collapsing; tumbling (chaotic falling, like an stone bouncing many times as it falls down a hill, or a vase breaking when it hits after a simple ballistic fall) (see also "znim")
mizirat wheelbarrow; cart; trolley; pram
nacömköxak skis from the perspective of someone who doesn't hate them
tezüfnen to search for; to seek; to quest
törnënköxak pedal-boat
katöc to pilot; to drive
kem (experiencer intransitive verb) shake; vibrate; (transitive verb) shake; cause to vibrate
köxak rider-powered vehicle

kixiköm helicopter; hovercraft; small, highly-maneuverable vehicle
kišnüm to turn; to rotate
kygykköxak pedalpub

Music and Sound

Music is the domain of Tezet (Lightning).

dön (intransitive) to make a loud, deep sound; to grumble; to rumble
dyjüt a stringed musical instrument, especially a guitar
jivyt music box
zac tuba
ceţnyt musical instrument; wind instrument
tanik saxophone
tevök drum
tylit trumpet
kicat french horn
cejyn sound

Numbers and Mathematics (semetâ kê milek)

There are 2 sets of numbers: decimal (base 10) and senary (base 6). The former is typically used for everyday communication, while use of the latter indicates that something is formal, solemn, of important. Senary is also used for things naturally occuring in groups of 6 and for units of time smaller than an hour.

	decimal	senary
0	tim	tyt
1	dec	dök
2	fam	fët
3	vüc	vyt
4	lût	löc
5	rik	rëc
6	šen	**xek**
7	žat	
8	kük	
9	gûn	
10	**znek**	
36		**föt**
100	**ţnöt**	
216		**žët**
1000	**vmët**	

Numbers typically begin with the most significant digit compounded to the appropriate multiplier (in **bold** above). 360, for instance is vücţnöt šenznek ("3-100 6-10") in base 10, or žët lûtföt ("216

4-36") in base 6. As shown, zeros need not be stated and multipliers can be used as numbers in their own right.

Digits past the decimal point are written without multipliers from most to least significant, followed by the word "nök" ("decimal point"). The constant π, for instance, in base 10 begins "vüc nök dec lût dec rik..." ("3.1415...") and in base 6 "vyt nök tyt rëc tyt vyt..." ("3.0503...").

Ordinal numbers are expressed with the suffix -sut. In base 10, for example: "decsut" - "first", "famsut" - "second", "vücsut" - "third", etc.

Fractions are expressed with the verb "sazem" ("to divide"). Used as a postposition, this would give the form "*denominator* sazem *numerator*". 2/3 would be "vüc sazem fam" ("3 dividing 2").

Other arithmetical terminology includes "kyn" ("to multiply"), "kek" ("to add"[34]) and "nûk" ("to subtract"). Some examples: "rikvâ lût kynfê dê." ("I multiply 4 by 5."[35]), "gûn zanum rik kek lût." ("4 plus 5 is 9."). The word for "number" is "semet", which specifically refers to a number as an abstract concept, not a numeral.

[34] As an describer it is generally glossed "supplemental".

[35] Or "I multiply 4 using the intangible tool that is 5."

Geometric shapes primarily derive from "dûfnet" and "gödûn" - "polygon" and "polyhedron" respectively. Terms for specific polygons or polyhedra are formed by prefixing the number of sides or faces. For example "kükdûfnet" is "octogon" and "znekfamgödûn" is "dodecahedron". However, merge-compounding is applied whenever the final vowel of the number is the same as the initial vowel of the dimensionality root and the two are merged on that vowel. Thus a zoccihedron[36] is not a "*thnötgödûn", but a "ţnödûn" and a quadrilateral is not a "lûtdûfnet" but a "lûfnet".

[36] An object with 100 sides, such as a d100.

There is also the word "dûgan" which means "circle". Derived from this is "dûganmêt" which means either "circular" or "circuitous". And finally there is "zim", an intransitive verb meaning "to form a spiral-based fractal". The subject of zim is typically an experiencer, and the best available example of this verb in use is "sêvmê xanantuc zimšo mësünmêt sê smet.", meaning, roughly, "My soul is spiraling in frozen fractals all around.".[37]

[37] Literally: "Part of my life is coldly forming a spiraling fractal around me."

Mathematics is the domain of Milek (Fern).

Perception (šëgin)

düdöt (experiencer transitive verb) witness; observe; notice
xöt real
vnëvöm (experiencer transitive verb) forget
van odd; strange; weird; absurd; unusual; pertaining to Sajem Tan
thigyk (noun) fashion
sežüfen (experiencer transitive verb) find; discover
sûžnöm pleasant

zëtyt seemingly
šëgin to perceive
šizût (experiencer transitive verb) remember; recall
menec a false sense of safety
mik (interjection) whoa; woah
mûšim (experiencer intransitive verb) be cool; be awesome
nëm (experiencer transitive verb) see; have in view
nënök to hide an object

Postpositions

daket near
javem into; entering
fën knowing persons or places
vmat in the middle of; in the midst of; amidst
smet around; through; about; surrounding
sno in the time of; during; in; on (time period or event)
sajön deep in a set of internet links
sën to; towards
zet knowing wisdom/silliness
züt after; once; soon after
šömak between
šyn knowing abstract things
navnyc upon; atop; on top of
taznön until
töţimnoc request that
tûn having a quality/property
kafmym in; inside; (experiencer transitive verb) be inside
kac before; earlier than

Quantity and Size

dût big; large; grand; major; important
dûtmun huge; gigantic; giant
gesët chest; box; large container
göcic (experiencer intransitive verb) diminish
xyt all; each; every; whole
xüm much; many
jëk full
fat thin (of a person)
ţin large (of a person)
šyxêt arbitrary
šûžik (noun) tear; drop

rüc lump; dollop (of a substance); instance (of something more abstract)
men normal; average
mên some; any
nacen also
cimût equal; same (in value or in certain properties, not necessarily totally equivalent)
tût (experiencer transitive verb) be of similar size to
tüt object; thing
tütxêt nothing

Technology

Despite our habit of referring to ourselves as if we are an obscure hunter-gatherer tribe, we actually do have fairly sophisticated technology.

dökat picture
dökatmâk Photoshop
gölim photograph
jiret Quizlet
jikin wiki; notebook; bulletin board
vexit to enter; to join; to log on; to sign in
vin to exit; to leave; to log out; to sign off
ţemüt information
zadit glass
cejanym telephone
tekezisët computer, especially one capable of connecting to the Internet
kexekdökat emoji
kexekdökatdûden (noun) when Thunder starts distracting the tribe by inserting random emojis; (intransitive verb) throw off a conversation by inserting random emojis
kecyc Internet; cyberspace; virtual reality; dream; Holodeck; multiplayer game mode; Second Life; Tron; something which is illusionary or simulated
kecycjin meme
kecyctatük Google Glass

Values and Morals

Sajem Tan's moral vocabulary is, at present, fairly limited, but it has been determined that we do not directly have a concept of "rights", and that such things are best expressed as duties not to do particular

things.

janyc that which is considered morally unacceptable to be eaten
fmöthyt duty; responsibility; thing one ought to do; domain; specialization
šit high-quality
magöt valuable; (noun) value; worth
cëtün that which is considered morally acceptable to be eaten
celit good person; morally upright individual
tyc bad (see also "-ok")

Weapons and their Uses

Despite the generally fairly peaceful disposition of the tribe, there is nonetheless a quite extensive military vocabulary.

Associated Activities

xaföm (transitive verb) wield (with an instrumental object); attack (with a non-case-marked direct object)
xecütnacöm (transitive verb) poke with lies; get attention through lies; hurt someone with dishonesty
fmamegyn (transitive verb) throw
vyt (transitive verb) catch; capture
žösat (transitive verb) defend; protect
lin (noun) fight; (transitive verb) fight
rafmëk (transitive verb) miss a target, especially when aiming a projectile weapon like a gun, a bow, or a laser
ralön (transitive verb) shoot
misnem (transitive verb) be injured by another's carelessness
nanym (transitive verb) dispatch, especially for military purposes; send a letter
nacöm (transitive verb) poke; get someone's attention; stab
nacön (transitive verb) poke; get someone's attention
ninûn (transitive verb) cut; chop; slice; hack
nicim (transitive verb) shank
cicüm (transitive verb) cause to explode; blow up

Courage and Cowardice

xögak courage; bravery; valor; to be courageous
janemvin (intransitive verb) hide; (transitive verb) desert; leave (a person)
jëten to cower; to hide
valnüm to cease; to flee

viten weak
ţikit strength
rûznyk dignity; honor

Particular Weapons

dacök (noun) cudgel; club
dyznek (noun) two-handed sword (see also "žan")
dûk (noun) spear
dûkim (noun) staff or walking stick; cane
vman (noun) bow
vmandûk (noun) arrow (from a bow) (see also "dafmûm")
vmedyt (noun) projectile
sesût (intransitive verb) sing Let It Go; (transitive verb) sing boisterously, especially music that is disliked by others
sesûtnënök (transitive verb) rickroll
žan (noun) one-handed sword; dagger; knife (see also "dyznek")
löm (noun) axe
ralök (noun) laser; phaser; ray gun; energy beam; (transitive verb) point at; indicate
mödûm (noun) mace
cifnövninxecütnacöm (noun) political slander

Other

gisnöm pain from an accident or injury
xykûk (noun) shield
fman (intransitive verb) stand guard; stand firm; watch one's surroundings
zatenym troop; group; platoon
lingyn warrior; Klingon
mesök victory
töcûkek forcefield
kyvydyc (noun) crack; tear; hole

Weather

Two particularly common triconsonantal roots in this section are T_-Z_T, which is things relating to storms, and T_RN_N, which is things relating to water.

divöm (noun) thunder; phonology
fijyc (noun) rainbow
ţeţat (noun) wind; breeze
ţezat (noun) storm; hurricane

snym (noun) cloud
snymmêt (adj) cloudy; overcast
saznöt (noun) mud
mësüntërnön (noun) snow
tërnön (noun) rain; (intransitive verb) rain
tezet (noun) lightning
tözen (noun) mist; fog
tözöt (noun) blizzard
törnënzazit (noun) mud
törnön (noun) flood; deluge; (intransitive verb) rain heavily; (transitive verb) inundate
tirnin (noun) hail

Other

Welcome to the category of things that didn't really fit anywhere else.

gafnüm to steal
gasnön effort; attempt; pain
gevmük underground; subterranean; chthonic; to bury, especially treasure or waste; to inter; to inhume
gežëfün one's personal potential
gyn worker
xanön to greet
xatat magnetic; a magnet
xexen problem
ximüc to bid farewell
xümöm to fumble; to bungle; to mishandle
janan (adv) it's funny that/how
janem forcefully
janim to disappoint; to let down
jegen hook
jeran to be excellent; to excell at something
jöfnim (interjection) huzzah
jûcen fire; to set on fire; to enflame
fmam to test; to explore; to push (a boundary); to probe
fmyvûk to make; to create
famat a farm
vnejyn reflective; mirror-like; a mirror
vnevnec an echo
vafak to join
vavmyn anarchy
vesnen to share
vesnennoc communism

vûxüm (noun) toil; hard work
ţnedût silence; ominous stillness; void
ţnön free
ţefammêt stony; rocky
ţikitmâk steroids
ţüvmythat a flag
snam to give; to transfer
snözem knot
snysûn fluffy
sasön applause; an ovation; the rumbling praise of the crowd; (transitive verb) applaud; chear; give a standing ovation
sacet to need
znöžen weary
zazit dirt
zen to invite
zyšen cute; adorable; beautiful; pretty; nice; kind; to help; to aid; to assist
zûzûmët ladle; dipper
zük burned
šašöc to partake
šisek orchard
žnëm bright; (experiencer intransitive verb) glow; give off light
žažûn chaotic; chaos
žetam pollen; semen
žögam shapeshifter, especially were-creatures
žûžim dust; a floating particle; something that settles down or doesn't
röžit poop (thanks, Thunder's sister)[38]
man to thank
mesnan magic
möten solid; rigid; stiff; firm
našam a wave
nem class; identifies a word as a class of words (often used like a suffix); in the class of ___
nymem clumsy
nüdic miner, usually a coal miner; one who mines
cëtën servant
cenetünylin (adj) inconsistent; spontaneous; (adv) inconsistantly; at random; spontaniously; (intransitive verb) to be inconsistent
cötan remote-controlled item; telekinetically-controlled item; subservient zombie
cigym rubber duckie
cüt axiom; truth univerally acknowledged
tezetfun electricity

[38] This word was one of the first words coined as was given to us be Tezet before she joined the tribe and we have always kept this note as part of the definition.

kamexamexat energy (in the physics sense)
kevin (intransitive verb) word dump; post a large amount of text, usually a list

Appendix

Sample Texts

The North Wind and the Sun

Mësün Ţeţat Kê Zëvet

mësün Ţeţat kê Zëvet janemtan ţikittutuum zo mân du daket sazycfê šafnemso. zoâ liktan ţikittutuum zo [rovmê šafnem za-kžutfê šafnemso]. tyk janem ţeţatfê Ţeţat smâ šafnem xyt daketžutfê šafnemso. fmanukmunfê Theţat. mësünukmun žnëmfê Zëvet kê šafnem ţën zakfê šafnemso. tyk Ţeţat tan ţikittutuum Zëvet.

Mësün	*Ţeţat*	*Kê*	*Zëvet*
cold	wind	and	sun

"The Cold Wind and the Sun"

mësün	*Ţeţat*	*kê*	*Zëvet*	*janem-*	*tan*	*ţikit*	*-tutu*	*-um*	*zo*
cold	wind	and	sun	forcefully	speak	strong	most	GNO	3S=INAN

mân	*du*	*daket*	*sazyc*	*-fê*	*šafnem*	*-so*
while	there	near	travel	DUR	coat	having-one

"While the cold Wind and the Sun were arguing about who was the strongest, someone with a coat came near."

zo	*-â*	*lik-*	*tan*	*ţikit*	*-tutu*	*-um*	*zo*	*[(mu)*
3S=INAN	PL	correct	say	strong	most	GNO	3S=INAN	REL

ro	*-vmê*	*šafnem*	*zak*	*-žut*	*-fê*	*šafnem*	*-so*	*](om)*
3S=ANIM	GEN	coat	release	cause	DUR	coat	having-one	REL

"They agreed that the one who caused the coat-wearer to remove his coat would be the strongest."

tyk janem ţeţat -fê Ţeţat smâ šafnem xyt daket -žut -fê
so forcefully blow DUR wind but coat all near -cause DUR
šafnem -so
coat having-one

"So Wind blew forcefully but all this did was cause the coat-wearer to pull the coat nearer."

fman -ukmun -fê Ţeţat
stand-firm anti DUR Wind

"Wind gave up."

mësün -ukmun žnëm -fê Zëvet kê šafnem ţën zak -fê
cold anti glow DUR sun and coat quickly release DUR
šafnem -so
coat having-one

"Sun glowed warmly and the coat-wearer quickly released his coat."

tyk Ţeţat tan ţikit -tutu -um Zëvet
so Wind said-that strong most GNO Sun

"So Wind said that Sun was the strongest."

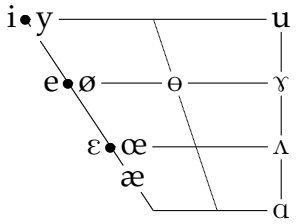
Original Phonology

The phonology as originally described by Divöm is as follows:

CONSONANTS

	LABIAL	DENTAL	ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR
NASAL	m		n		
PLOSIVE			t d		k g
AFFRICATE			c		
FRICATIVE	f v	θ	s z	ʃ ʒ	x
LAT. FRICATIVE			ɬ ɮ		
LAT. APPROXIMANT				ʎ	

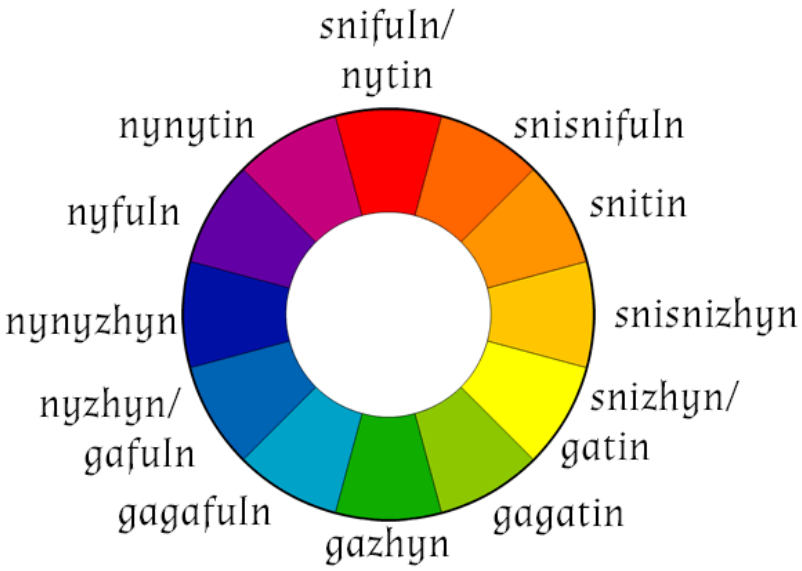
VOWELS



DIFFERENCES

Original		Revised
ʎ	→	j
ɤ	→	ʊ
ɵ	→	o

Color Wheel



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