Sumerian cuneiforms
Grammar and commented text

Chapter 1: Ur-Nammu 9

1. 𒀭𒌦𒈗

2. 𒂍𒀭𒈾𒅗

3. 𒂷𒀭𒊩

4. 𒂍𒌦𒈗𒅗𒈗𒃻𒈾

5. 𒈾𒅗𒈾

6. 𒅗𒇯𒈾𒀉

7. 𒈗𒌦𒈗𒅗𒈗𒃻

8. 𒅗𒇯𒈾𒀉

There are few grammar books for Sumerian. Unfortunately, Marie-Louise Thomsen's "***The Sumerian Language***" does not use cuneiform, so I cannot recommend it. The same can be said about "***An Introduction to the Grammar of Sumerian***," by Gábor Zólyomi. This leaves us with John Hayes's manual. Therefore, I advise you to buy "A Manual of Sumerian: Grammar and Texts" to learn this ancient language in depth.

Sentence structure

1- [NANNA
2- LUGAL.ANI].{(R) #benefactive} -- For his king Nanna,
3- [UR.NAMMU
4- LUGAL.URIM5.{AK #genitive}].{E #ergative} -- the king of UR
5- [E2.ANI].{#object} -- his temple
6- MU.NA.DU3 #verb -- he built
7- [[BAD3.URIM5].{A(K) #genitive}].{#object} -- the city wall of Ur
8- MU.NA.DU3 #verb -- he built

> ➢ 1,2- The benefactive has an unwritten R, which is represented by {(R)}

> ➢ 3,4- The genitive ends in {AK} after consonant; the ergative ends in {E}

> ➢ 5- The object of the action has no ending, which is represented by {}

> ➢ 7- The genitive has an unwritten K, which is represented by {A(K)}

Braces represent endings. In the representation of an ending, I may add a hash-prefixed comment on the grammatical function. For instance, the ergative ending {E} may be written as {E #ergative}. The empty ending of the object is commented as {#object}. Unwritten endings are placed between parentheses, such as {(R)}.

First Line

The Ur-Nammu 9 document is divided into eight lines. On the first line the text ✳ ⛰⊰⟨≣ is written, which is the Sumerogram for the name of Nanna, the god of the Moon. The ✳ symbol is read as DIĜIR and is determinative for deity. We will learn in the next paragraph that this word is in the dative case; therefore, the translation of the line is "***For Nanna.***"

Second Line

The second line contains three Sumerogram22s: ≣⊪⯈ (LUGAL), ⫴ (syllable A), and ⯈ (syllable NI). LUGAL (≣⊪⯈) means "King" or "Lord." ANI (⫴⯈) can be translated as "his." Then LUGAL ANI (≣⊪⯈ ⫴⯈) means "his Lord." The Sumerogram ≣⊪⯈ (LUGAL) is formed from ⊪⯈ (lu$_2$, "person") and ≣⊢ (gal, "big").

In Sumerian, like in Latin and German, a nominal phrase has a case marker that indicates various grammatical functions. On the first and second lines, the case marker is the dative, which suggests the beneficiary of the action (***cui bono***). The dative marker is an "R," rarely expressed in writing. Therefore, the whole nominal phrase can be transliterated as [NANNA LUGAL.ANI]-(R), where the (R) is not expressed.

Third Line

The third line contains the name of Ur-Nammu (𒌨𒈝𒈫), the king who rebuilt the temple of Nanna and is the document's author. The king's name is formed by 𒌨 (UR), which means man or dog, and 𒈝𒈫 (NAMMA), the Mother Earth of the Sumerians. Therefore, the king's name, 𒌨𒈝𒈫, means "The Man of Namma." Note that the determinative of deity (𒀭) precedes the goddess's name.

Fourth Line

On the fourth line, 𒋀𒀕𒆠 (URIM2) is written, representing the city that was the cult center of Nanna. It is formed by the Sumerograms ŠEŠ (𒋀) and UNUG (𒀕). The Sumerogram 𒆠 is determinative for geographic names.

The genitive case denotes possession. Unlike the dative, English has a genitive case, formed by an apostrophe followed by "s." In English, one would say, "Urim's King." In Sumerian, the genitive follows the possessor and is marked with "AK" after consonants and "K" after vowels. In this case, the "A" of "AK" was assimilated with the previous consonant, becoming 𒈠 (MA). The Sumerogram 𒆤 (KE4) represents the "K" of the genitive and the "E4" of the ergative.

Sumerian is an ergative language, meaning the agent of transitive actions is marked. In Sumerian, the marker is "E." However, the subject of an intransitive verb, like "to go" or "to sleep," does not receive the "E" that marks the agent.

Fifth Line

The fifth line introduces the temple (E2 - 𒂍) that Ur-Nammu built. The expression 𒂍𒀀𒉌 (E2 ANI) means "his temple."

Sixth Line

The verb 𒈬𒈾𒁺 (MUNADU3) can be translated as "built." The verb has three components:

1. 𒈬𒈾 — conjugation prefix

2. 𒈾 — Dimensional Prefix (DP) cross-referencing the dative

3. 𒁺 — verbal root

Seventh Line

The noun phrase 𒁆𒌀𒈠 (BAD2.URIM2.MA) means "wall of URIM2." The sumerogram 𒁆 (BAD2) means "city wall." The /K/ of the genitive is omissible, meaning it is not expressed because it is not pronounced at the end of a nominal phrase.

Eigth Line

The last rectangle repeats the 𒈬𒈾𒁺 (MUNADU3) verb.

The Method

Each chapter of this document will contain precise grammar, vocabulary, syllables, and Sumerograms essential for reading a document. This methodology ensures you will be able to handle a manageable amount of information initially.

Symbol List

𒀭	Sky, gods	(cn an)
𒈹	Inanna, a goddess	(cn inanna)
𒀀	Syllabic A	(cn a)
𒉌	Syllabic NI	(cn ni)
𒌨𒀭𒇉	Ur-Nammu	(cn ur-nammu)
𒀭𒉌	Nanna, a god	(cn nanna)
𒈬	Syllabic MU	(cn mu)
𒈾	Syllabic NA	(cn na)
𒆕	To build	(cn du3)
𒈗	King	(cn lugal)
𒋀𒀊𒆠	Ur, a city	(cn urim)
𒈠	Syllabic MA	(cn ma)
𒆤	Ergative marker	(cn ke4)
𒂍	House/temple	(cn e2)
𒂄	City wall	(cn bad3)

Chapter 2: 𒈗𒌁𒋛

1. 𒀭𒈹

2. 𒎏𒀀𒉌

3. 𒌨𒀭𒇉

4. 𒊩𒆗𒂵

5. 𒈗𒋀𒀊𒆠𒈠

6. 𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌵

7. 𒂍𒀀𒉌

8. 𒈬𒈾𒆕

9. 𒈬𒈾𒆕

Sentence structure

1- [INANNA – For Inanna,
2- NIN.ANI].{(R) #benefactive} – his Lady,
3- [UR.NAMMU – Ur-Nammu,
4- [NITA.KALAG].{A #adjective from verb} -- the mighty man,
5- [LUGAL.URIM^ki].{MA(K) #genitive} – the king of Ur,
6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K}].{E} – the king of Sumer and Akkad,
7- [E2.ANI].{} -- her temple (of Innana}
8- MU.NA.DU3 #verb – (the king) built

Let us interpret the above structure.

- ➤ 1-2 (cn an inanna nin a ni) ;; As in text one, this noun phrase ends in an unwritten R, the dative marker.
- ➤ 3-4 (cn ur-nammu nita kalag ga) ;; One may form adjectives by adding a nominalizing A-particle to a verbal root, **kalag** in the present expression. The nominalizing particle was contaminated by the final G consonant of the preceding word, giving extra information about its correct reading. Different from English, Sumerian adjectives follow the noun they modify.
- ➤ 5 (cn lugal urim ma) ;; As we learned from text 1, the genitive is formed by K after vowels and AK after consonants. The scribe often omitted the K of AK. The M of MA is contamination from the final consonant of the previous word.
- ➤ 6 (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4) ;; In ke4 (▦), the K is the genitive marker, and the e4 is the ergative marker.
- ➤ 7 (cn e2 a ni)
- ➤ 8 (cn mu na du3)

Translation

For Inanna, his lady, Ur-Nammu, the mighty man, King of Urim, King of Sumer and Akad, built her temple.

Symbol List

𒀭 (cn inanna)

𒎏 (cn nin)

𒌨𒇉𒌑𒈨 (cn ur-nammu)

𒊩𒌉𒍑 (cn nita)

𒂸 (cn kalag)

𒂵 (cn ga)

𒆠𒂗𒄀 (cn ki-en-gi)

𒆠𒌵 (cn ki uri)

𒆤 (cn ke4)

𒂍𒀀𒉌 (cn e2 a ni)

𒈬𒈾𒁺 (cn mu na du3)

𒀭 (cn an)

𒈗 (cn lugal)

𒌑𒈨 (cn nammu)

𒂍 (cn e2)

𒈬 (cn mu)

𒈾 (cn na)

𒁺 (cn du3)

Chapter 3: UR-NAMMU 31

1. 𒀭𒎏𒃲
2. 𒎏𒀀𒉌
3. 𒌨𒀭𒇉
4. �𒂟𒆗𒂵
5. 𒈗𒌶𒈠𒆤
6. 𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌵𒆤
   𒂗𒉆𒋾𒆷𒉌𒂠
7. 𒀀𒈬𒈾𒊒

Sentence structure

1- [NINGAL -- For Ningal
2- NIN.ANI].{(R)} -- his Lady,
3- [UR-NAMMU -- Ur-Nammu,
4- [NITAH.KALAG].{A #adjective from verb} -- the mighty man,
5- [LUGAL.URIM5].{MA(K) #genitive} -- the king of Ur,
6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K #gen.}].{E #ergative} -- the king of Sumer and Akkad,
7- [{NAM #abstract noun}.TIL3.ANI].{ŠE3 #goal} -- for the sake of his life,
8- A.MU.NA.RU -- dedicated (this vessel).

Annotations and Scholia

𒀭𒎏𒃲

Eval: (cn nin gal)

;; *For Ningal*

𒎏𒀀𒉌

Eval: (cn nin a ni)

9

;; *his Lady,*

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn ur-nammu)

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn nita kalag ga)

;; *the mighty man*

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn lugal urim ma)

;; *The King of Ur,*

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)

;; *King of Sumer and Akkad,*

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn nam til3 la ni she3)

;; *for the sake of his life,*

The novelty in this inscription is the terminative marked with 𒂠 (she3). According to Wikipedia, *Sumerians used the terminative case -še to indicate end-points in space or time and the targets or the goals of the action.*

（cuneiform）

Eval: (cn a mu na ru)

;; *dedicated it (this object)*

Symbol List

𒀭𒊩𒃲   (cn an ningal)

𒊩   (cn nim)

𒃲   (cn gal)

𒌨𒀭𒄠𒈬   (cn ur-nammu)

�羙𒉺𒂵   (cn nita kalag ga)

𒈗   (cn lugal)

𒋀𒀊𒆠   (cn urim

𒆠𒂗𒄀   (cn ki-en-gi)

𒆠𒌑   (cn ki uri)

𒆤   (cn ke4)

𒉆   (cn nam)

𒉌   (cn til3)

𒇲   (cn la)
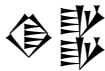
𒐼   (cn she3)

𒊒   (cn ru)

Chapter 4: UR-NAMMU 23

𒀭𒂗𒆤

𒈗𒆳𒆳𒊏

𒈗𒌝𒈣

𒅗𒈪𒁹𒌋

𒈗𒋀𒆠𒈠

𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌵𒈨𒊭

𒈗𒃲𒁕𒀭𒊏

𒂍𒀀𒉌

𒆠𒊬𒁺𒀭

𒆠𒊬𒈗𒁕𒉌

𒂍𒀀𒉌𒁀𒊭

Annotations and Scholia

𒀭𒂗𒆤
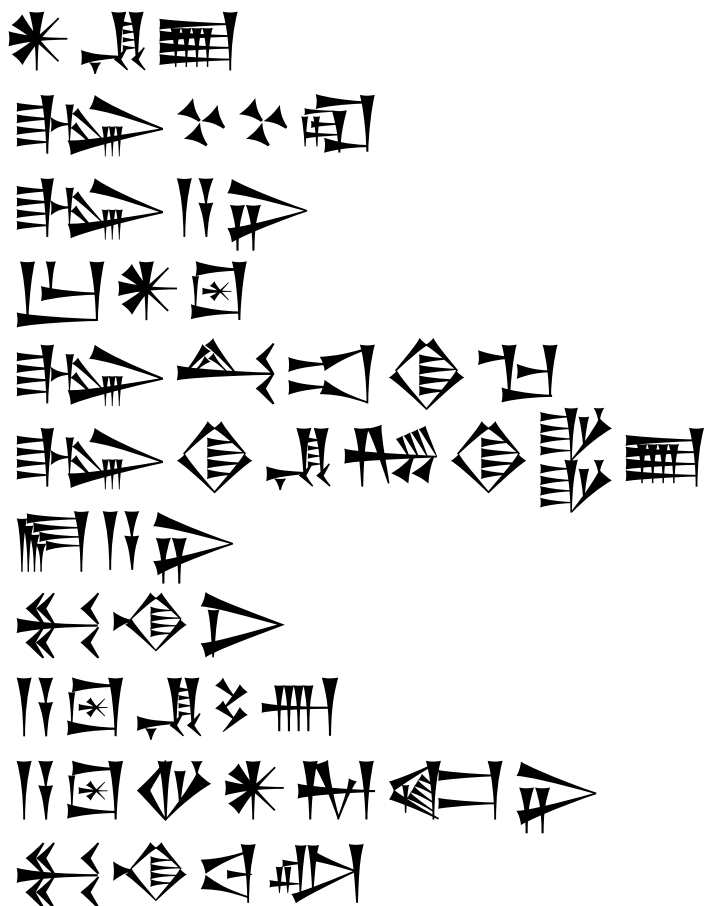
Eval: (cn an en lil2)

;; *For Enlil,*

𒈗𒆳𒆳𒊏

Eval: (cn lugal kur kur ra)

;; *King of all the lands,*

𒈗𒉽𒀀𒉌

Eval: (cn lugal a ni)

;; *His Lord,*

𒌨𒀭𒇉𒈬

Eval: (cn ur-nammu)

𒈗𒋀𒆠𒈠

(cn lugal urim ma)

;; *the king of Ur,*

𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌷𒆤

Eval: (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)

;; *the king of Sumer and Akkad,*

𒂍𒀀𒉌

Eval: (cn e2 a ni)

;; *his temple*

𒈬𒈾𒆕

Eval: (cn mu na du3)

;; *built.*

𒀀𒂗𒂞𒉣

Eval: (cn id2 en erin2 nun)

;; *The Enerinnum canal,*

𒀀𒉌𒊩𒌆𒅗𒉌

Eval: (cn id2 nidba ka ni)

;; *his canal of food offerings,*

𒈬𒈾𒁀𒀠

Eval: (cn mu na ba al)

;; he, the king, dredged.

Sentence structure

The text starts with the benefactive, that ends in R, not expressed.

𒂗𒇸𒆳

𒈗𒆳𒆳𒊏

𒈗𒀀𒉌

The plural of nouns that refer to human beings is formed by a suffixed ENE. The plural of things, plants and animals is usually unmarked. Reduplication -- such as KUR.KUR (𒆳 𒆳) -- conveys the idea of totality: "**all the lands**."

Then comes the agent, with the E prefix combined with the genitive ending into KE4 (𒆤).

The next in the line is the object that was built, to wit, his temple 𒂍𒀀𒉌 (cn e2 a ni).

1- [ENLIL -- For Enlil,
2- [LUGAL.KUR.KUR].{RA(K) #genitive} -- the king of all lands,
3- [LUGAR.ANI].{(R)}] -- his king,
4- [UR.NAMMU
5- [LUGAL.URIM].{MA(K)} -- the king of Ur,
6- [LUGAL.KIENGI.KIURI].{K}].{E} -- the king of Sumer and Akkad,
7- [E2.ANI].{} -- his temple
8- MU.NA.DU3 -- build
9- [ID2.EN.ERIN2.NUN -- The Enerinnun canal,
10- [ID2.NIDBA].{K}.ANI].{} -- his canal of food offering,
11- MU.NA.BA.AL -- (the king) dredged for him.

Symbol List
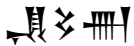
Symbol	Reading
𒂗𒉌	enlil
𒉌	lil2
𒂗	erin2
𒉣	nun
𒂗𒂗𒉣	enerinnun
𒀀𒇉	id2
𒆳	kur
𒅆	pad
𒅆𒀜𒁀	nidba
𒁀	ba
𒀠	al
𒁀𒀠	ba-al
𒅗	ka
𒊏	ra
𒀸	ash

𒀭𒈗𒀭𒁁𒉈

𒈗𒀀𒉌

𒌨𒀭𒈬

𒂍𒀭𒈾𒀭𒆠𒄊𒈤

𒈬𒈾𒁺𒀀

𒌷𒆠𒁺

𒆠𒂷𒁁𒈤

𒌷𒆠𒁺𒀀

Annotations and Scholia

𒀭𒈗𒀭𒁁𒉈
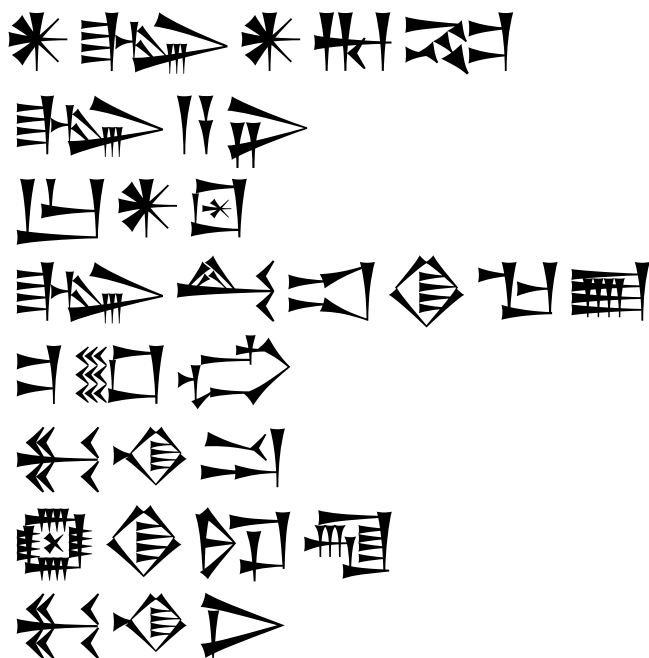
(cn an lugal digir re ne)

;; *For An, the king of the gods, ,*

In the above expression, the suffix ENE (𒂊𒉈) forms the plural of words that denote human beings and gods. The 'RE' (𒁁𒉈) is a reduplication of the final consonant of the previous word, *digir* (𒀭).

𒈗𒀀𒉌

(cn lugal a ni)

;; *His King,*

𒌨𒀭𒈬

(cn ur-nammu)

(cn lugal urim ma ke4)

;; *the king of Ur,*

(cn gish kiri6 mah)

;; *a magnificent garden*

(cn mu na gub)

;; *(the king) planted.*

(cn barag ki sikil la)

;; *A dais in purity*

The marker LA (◈) of the locative denotes places. The locative is generally marked with an A, but here, the suffix is contaminated by the final consonant of sikil (◈).

(cn mu na du3)

;; *(the king) built (for An).*

Sentence structure

1- [AN LUGAL.[DIĜIR.{RE.NE #plural}] –– For An, the king of the gods,
2- LUGAL.ANI].{(R)} –– his king,
3- [UR.NAMMU
4- [LUGAL.URIM5.M].{AK}].{E} –– the king of UR,
5- [GISH.KIRI6.MAH].{} –– an outstandig garden
6- MU.NA.GUB –– planted.
7- [BARAG.[KI.SIKIL].{LA #locative}].{} –– a dais in a pure place
8- MU.NA.DU3 –– (the king) build (for An).

Symbol List

	gish
	bara2, barag
	kiri6
	gub
	mah
	sikil
	ne
	re

Chapter 6: AMA GI

𒀭𒆲𒀀𒈾𒆤𒁹

𒉺𒁲𒈾𒌅

𒌷𒁲𒊕

𒀀𒈾𒁕𒉺𒌋

𒁲𒌋𒁉

𒀭𒉌𒋫

𒌷𒁲𒊕𒈫𒀭𒁁𒀀𒉺

𒉿𒈤𒀭𒀭𒌋𒉌𒊕

𒌷𒁲𒊕

𒀀𒈾𒁕𒉺𒌋𒀀𒈫𒉺

𒀭𒁁𒀀𒉺𒉺𒁹

𒁕𒈫𒁕𒁉

𒀭𒀀𒌋𒀀

𒉺𒁲𒈨𒀀𒈾𒁕𒉺𒌋

𒌈𒁉

𒉺𒁲𒁲𒀭𒈫𒁲𒈨

𒉿𒁲𒀭𒈫𒁲𒈨

𒉺𒁲𒈨𒈫𒌋𒀭𒁁

𒌈𒁉

Annotations

(cn an lugal e2 mush3 ra)

𒀭𒈗𒂍𒍏𒂷

;; *For Lugalemush (Innana's husband),*

(cn en-te-me-na)
(cn ensi2)
(cn lagash ki)

𒂗𒋼𒈨𒈾

𒑐𒑐𒉺𒉌𒉀𒆠

;; *Entemena,*
;; *governor of Lagash,*

(cn sha3 pad3)
(cn nanshe)

𒊮𒌓𒁳

𒀭𒀫

;; *the chosen of Nanshe's heart,*

(cn ensi2 gal an ningirsu)

𒑐𒑐𒃲𒀭𒎏𒄈𒋢

;; *the general governor of Ningirsu,*

(cn dumu en-an-na-tum2)

𒌉𒂗𒀭𒈾𒁺

;; *the son of Enannatum,*

(cn ensi2)
(cn lagash ki ka ke4)

𒑐𒑐

𒉀𒉌𒆠𒅗𒆤

;; *the governor of Lagash (mark of ergative),*

(cn an ningirsu ra)
(cn esh3 dug-ru)
(cn mu na du3)

𒀭𒎏𒄈𒋢�𒊏

𒂠𒊮𒊒

𒈬𒈾𒆕

;; *he built the shrine of Dugru for Ningirsu.*

(cn ama gi4 lagash ki)
(cn e gar)

𒂼𒄄𒉢𒁓𒆠

𒂊𒃻

;; *A remission of the obligations {ama-gi4} of Lagash he instituted.*

Ama-gi4 means freedom, liberty, the right to return to one's mother, and remission. The verb e-gar (𒂊𒃻) means "to place" but conveys the idea of "to institute."

(cn ama dumu mu ni gi4)

𒂼𒌉𒈬�𒄄

;; He returned the mother to her child,

(cn dumu ama mu ni gi4)

𒌉𒂼𒈬𒉌𒄄

;; he returned the children to their mother,

(cn ama gi4 she ur5 zuh)
(cn e gar)

𒂼𒄄𒊺𒄯𒍝

𒂊𒃻

;; *and the liberation of the barley handmill owner*
;; *from being stolen,*
;; he instituted.

Chapter 7: Border between Ningirsu and Shara

𒀭 𒇸 𒂗
𒈗 𒆳 𒆳 𒊏
𒂈 𒁰 𒀭 𒀭 𒌓 𒈗 𒂍
𒁕 𒄑 𒆤 𒅗 𒁕 𒅗
𒀭 𒁲 𒀭 𒌓 𒀭 𒁲 𒉿 𒁲 𒍝
𒂍 𒌓 𒁕
𒆤 𒍝
𒈗 𒀀 𒉘 𒍝 𒂍
𒁕 𒀭 𒁕 𒅗 𒁲 𒈠
𒂍 𒂍 𒉿 𒄑 𒍝 𒁲 𒅗
𒌓 𒁕
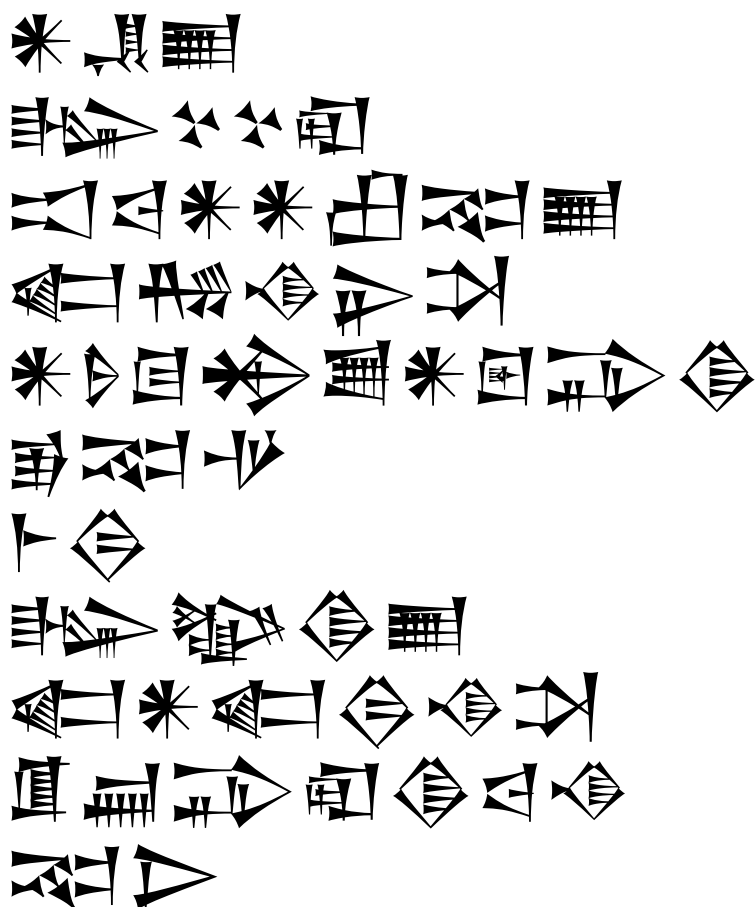
Typesetting

(cn an en-lil2)

𒀭 𒇸 𒂗

;; Enlil,

(cn lugal kur-kur ra)

𒈗 𒆳 𒆳 𒊏

;; the king of all the lands,

The genitive after a consonant is marked by A(K), where K is omissible. Therefore, the genitive is expressed by RA, where the R is contamination from the previous consonant.

(cn ab-ba digirrene ke4)

𒀊𒁀𒀭𒀭𒂗𒊩𒆠

;; the father of the gods,

The ENE marks the plural. The R in RENE is contamination from the previous consonant.

(cn inim gi-na ni-ta)

𒅗𒄀𒈾𒉌𒋫

;; by his firm command

INIM (𒅗) means command. 𒄀 (GIN6) = to be firm.

The N-contaminated A in NA transforms the verb to be firm into an adjective. NI (𒉌) probably is abreviation of ANI, which mensa "his". The A of ANI is inherited from NA (stone). TA (𒉌𒋫) indicates instrument and can be translated by with or by.

(cn nin-gir-su sha-ra2 ki)

𒀭𒎏𒈗𒋢𒊮𒁺𒆠

(cn e-ne-sur)

𒂊𒉈𒋩

;; fixed the border between Ningirsu and Shara.

𒋩 (SUR) means fixed.

(cn me-silin)

𒈨𒁉

;; Mesilim,

(cn lugal kishi ki ke4)

𒈗𒆧𒆠𒆤

;; the king of Kish,

(cn inim ishtaran na ta)

𒅗𒌋𒅗𒆷𒋫𒉌

;; *commanded by Ištaran,*

(cn esh gana2 be2 ra ki-ba na)

𒂷𒃷𒁀𒆷𒆠𒁀

;; 𒂷 (ESH) – regarding

;; KI-BA -- there
;; NA -- stone, border landmark
;; GANA2 -- field
;; GANA2 BE2 RA -- this field

(cn bi2-ru2)

𒅤𒆕

;; *regarding this field,*
;; *he set a border landmark there.*

Translation

Enlil, the king of all lands and the father of the gods, fixed the border between Ningirsu and Shara with his firm command. Mesilim, the king of Kish, commanded by Ištaran, regarding this field, set a border landmark there.

Chapter 8: Relative Clause

𒌨𒀭𒇉

𒈗𒋀𒀊𒆠𒈠

𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌷

𒇽𒂍𒀭𒇸𒆷

𒅺𒂦𒀀

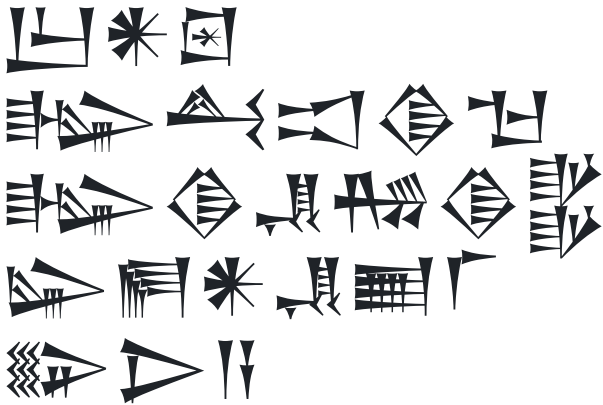## Typesetting

(cn ur an nammu)

𒌨𒀭𒇉

(cn lugal urim ma)

𒈗𒋀𒀊𒆠𒈠

(cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri)

𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌷

(cn lu2 e2 en-lil2 la2)

𒇽𒂍𒀭𒇸𒆷

(cn in du3 a)

𒅺𒂦𒀀

Relative Clause

In a Sumerian relative clause, there are two elements. The first element is the head noun, LU2 (𒇽), the person who built the temple. The second element is a verbal phrase, which is transformed into an adjective by the suffix A. There is no need for a relative pronoun, such as **who** or **that**. The verbal phrase follows the noun directly. Pay attention to an important point: the relative clause ends in the adjective-forming A-morpheme. After all, relative clauses are adjectives.

Translation

Ur-Nammu, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad, the man who built the temple of Enlis.

Chapter 9: Beloved Temple
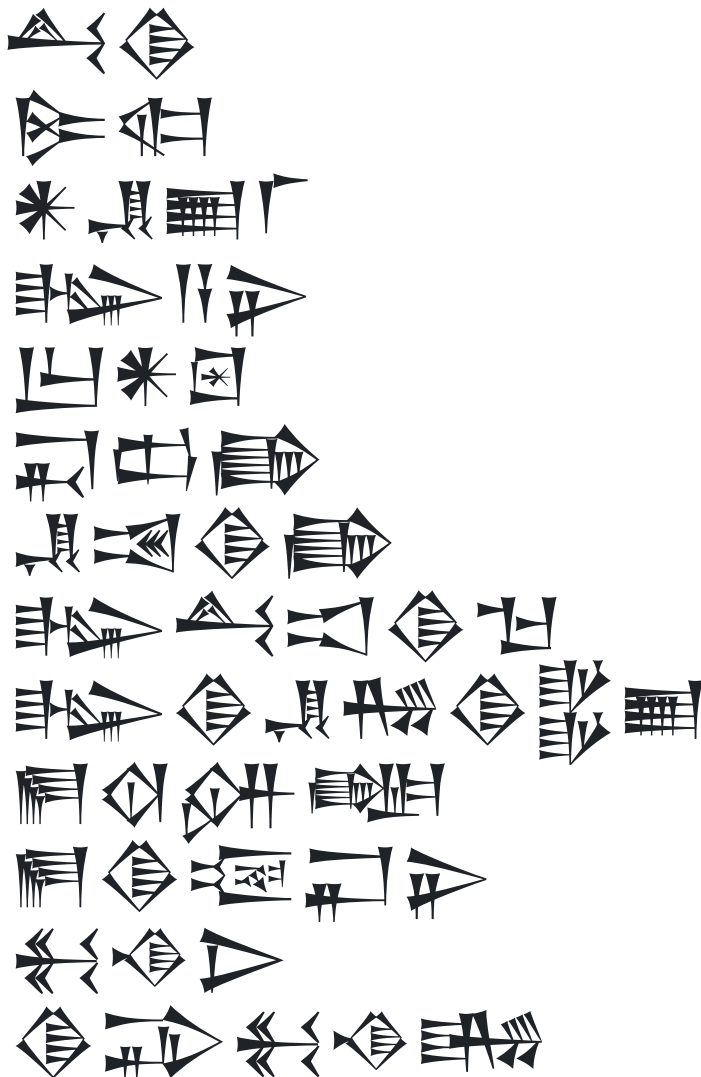
𒀭𒋀𒆠

𒌉𒊕

𒂗𒆤𒆷

𒂍𒆠𒌦𒈾

𒆷𒀭𒆠𒊕

𒉺𒋳𒈨

𒅗𒇻𒐏𒆠𒈨

𒂍𒆠𒀀𒂗𒆠𒋫

𒂍𒆠𒀀𒉌𒂠𒀀𒂗𒆠𒄑

𒄑𒁀𒈾𒉌𒌋𒉡

𒄑𒁲𒈪𒇷𒁕

𒀠𒅗𒂗𒀀

𒂗𒆠𒁕𒀠𒆠𒉡

Typesetting

(cn nanna)

𒀭𒋀𒆠

(cn dumu sag)

𒌉𒊕

(cn en-lil2 la2)

𒂗𒆤𒆷

(cn lugal a ni)

𒈗𒀀𒉌

(cn ur-nammu)

𒌨𒌆𒈬

(cn nita kalag ga)

�𒆗𒂵

(cn en unug ki ga)

𒂗𒀔𒆠𒂵

(cn lugal urim ma)

𒈗𒋀𒀊𒆠𒈠

(cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4)

𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌵𒆤

(cn etemenniguru)

𒂍𒋼𒈨𒉌𒄞𒊒

(cn e2 ki aga2 ga2 ni)

𒂍𒆠𒀂𒂷𒉌
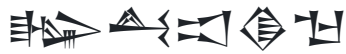
KI AGA2 (𒆠𒀂) means "to love". Therefore, the A-formed adjective beloved is [KI.AGA2].{A}, or, [KI.AGA2].{GA2} (𒆠𒀂𒂷). NI (𒉌) is abbreviation of ANI, and means his.

(cn mu na du3)

𒈬𒈾𒆕

(cn ki be2 mu na gi4)

𒂗 𒆠 𒁉 𒈬 𒈾 𒄄

The expression 𒂗 𒆠 𒁉 𒄄 means to restore something so that it regains its former significance. In German: ***etwas restaurieren, wieder herrichten, so dass es seine alte Funktion/Bedeutung wieder erlangt***.

Translation

For his lord Nanna, the eldest son of Enlil, Ur-Nammu -- the mighty man, the lord of Uruk, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad -- built Etemenniguru, his beloved temple. He restored it to its former glory.

Chapter 10: Gilgamesh's Curse

𒀭𒅗𒌋𒊏𒉽𒐖

𒌋𒅆𒐐𒁺

𒉿𒄿𒁹𒀀𒈾

𒈨𒐖𒌋𒐊𒐈

𒀳𒉿𒈨𒌁𒈨

𒈨𒅗𒀀𒈾𒂖𒐊𒉿

𒈨𒀀𒐊𒁹𒀀𒐊𒉽𒈨

𒁹𒈨𒀳𒀀𒐊𒁺

𒀳𒀀𒐊

𒉽𒉿𒐊𒈪𒀀𒉿

𒐊𒀳𒐊𒈪𒊍

𒀀𒉽𒈨𒋛𒁹𒁹

𒈜𒀭𒐊𒁹𒈨𒐖

𒀭𒅗𒌋𒊏𒉽𒐖𒊺

𒈨𒐖𒁺𒁹𒊺

Annotations

;; (cn bil3-ga-mesh3) 𒀯𒄑𒉈𒂵𒎌𒌋

;; (cn en-dim2-gig) 𒂗𒁶𒅅𒈫

;; *For Gilgamesh of Endimgig*

;; (cn lugal a ni) 𒈗𒀀𒉌𒉈

;; *his king*

;; (cn ur-nammu) 𒌨𒀭𒈨

;; *Ur-Nammu*

;; (cn nita kalag ga) �𒂊𒉈

;; *the mighty man,*

;; (cn lugal urim ma) 𒈗𒋀𒀊𒆠𒈠

;; *the king of Ur,*

;; (cn lugal ki-en-gi ki uri ke4) 𒈗𒆠𒂗𒄀𒆠𒌢𒆤

;; *the king of Sumer and Akkad,*

;; (cn ud e2 an nanna) 𒌓𒂍𒀭𒉀𒈾

;; *when he built the temple of Nanna,*

;; (cn mu du3 a) 𒈬𒆕𒀀

We have here an adjective form of built. Temporal clauses are consists of the head noun UD (𒌓, day) followed by a verbal phrase adjectivized in A (𒀀).

;; (cn nam til3 la ni she3) 𒅤𒌓𒆷𒉌𒂠

;; for the sake of his life,

;; (cn a mu na ru) 𒀀𒈬𒈾𒊒

;; he dedicated.

;; (cn lu2 mu-sar-ra ba) 𒇽𒈬𒊬𒊏𒁀

;; whoever erases this inscription,

Here, we have another example of the relative clause. In the next line, we have an adjectivized verbal phrase.

𒁀 Contraction of 𒁉 (be₂, "this") + 𒀀 (A, locative case marker).

𒁀 • (ba /bâ/) locative of 𒁉 (be₂, "this")

;; (cn shu bi2 ib2 ur3 a) 𒋗𒁉𒅁𒌤𒀀

SHU…UR3 (𒋗…𒌤) means to erase.

;; (cn bil3-ga-mesh3 e) 𒄲�\𒈩𒂊

;; May Gilgamesh curse him.

The E-suffix (𒂊) is the ergative marker.

;; (cn nam ha ba da ku5 e) 𒅤𒄩𒁀𒁕𒆪𒂊

The first element in the Sumerian verbal chain is the Modal Prefix (MP), which is unmarked for the indicative. Here, HA (𒄩) expresses the desiderative MP, which expresses wishes for the third person to fulfill.

There are two kinds of verbal roots in Sumerian. The Akkadians called them hamtu and marû. The marû is equivalent of our imperfect. In the relative phrase of the inscription, you can see an example of the marû root. It has the following components:

1. SHU -- part of the compound verb SHU...UR3 (𒋗...�辰)

2. BI2 (𒉈) -- Conjugation Prefix (CP)

3. IB2 (𒅁) -- Personal affix cross-referencing the inscription

4. UR3 (𒌦) -- second part of the verb SHU...UR3 (𒋗...𒌦)

5. A (𒀀) -- formative element of adjective from verb

The last verb of the inscription (line 5) has the following components:

1. NAM (𒉆) -- cross-reference to a historic patient

2. HA (𒄩) -- Modal Prefix (MP)

3. BA (𒁀) -- Conjugation Prefix (CP)

4. DA (𒁕) -- Dimensional Prefix (DP) for the comitative

5. KU5 (𒆭) -- verbal element of NAM...KU5 (𒉆...𒆭)

6. E (𒂊) -- marû suffix

Note that the verb of the relative clause does not show the marû suffix, because it is omissible, like many other Sumerian markers.

Translation

For his Lord Gilgamesh of Endimgig, the mighty man Ur-Nammu, the king of Ur, the king of Sumer and Akkad, when he built the temple of Nanna, dedicated this vase for the sake of his life. May Gilgamesh curse the man who erases this inscription.