

No gender in Greenlandic

Gender is non-existing in Greenlandic so remember to translate 'he' to 'he/ she/ it' in your head whenever you see the word in the text book or hear it in the lectures

Transitive endings only on transitive stems

Two pieces of information: (i) who does the verbal action and (ii) who is the target of the action

/iqqaama+vaanna/ (*eqqaamavaanna*):
THEY remember ME
/iqqaama-SSA+vassi/ (*eqqaamassavassi*):
I will remember YOU
/iqqaama-SSA+viuk/ (*eqqaamassaviuk*):
Will YOU remember HIM?

The ugly word transitivity

In *I read* the word 'read' is intransitive whereas it is transitive in *I read a novel*.

Transitivity does not play a horribly important part in English but in Greenlandic transitivity simply defines two different systems with their own endings and separate kinds of syntax

Have control of who the subjects are whenever more than one verbal action is involved

You thought that I worked yesterday (... sulisunga) and *She understood that I was studying (... ilinniartunga)*
'You' and 'she' think and understand but 'I' do in the subordinate clauses.

The thinker \neq the worker and the understanding one \neq the student.
Therefore the participle has to be used in the subordinate clauses

Intransitive endings only on intransitive stems

Only one piece of information: who is/ does the verbal action

/suli+vuṇa/ (*sulivunga*), /atiq-QAR+vuṇa/ (*ateqarpunga*): I work/ am called
/suli+vuq/ (*sulivoq*), /atiq-QAR+vuq/ (*ateqarpoq*): HE works/ is called
/suli-SSA+Tuṇa/ (*sulissasunga*), /atiq-QAR+Tuṇa/ (*ateqartunga*): ..., that I work/ am called

Non co-reference demands and co-reference excludes the participle

I intended to work yesterday: The same person 'intends' and 'works' ergo no participle here

I understood that I had to study harder: 'I' understand and 'I' study. Ergo no participle here
BUT

I understood that my students would fail.
They fail in the participle!

T-rule is in play in almost all words

T ⇒ s after a vowel

T ⇒ t after a consonant

suli+Tuᖅ = /sulisuᖅ/ (*sulisunga*)

ilinniar+Tuᖅ = /ilinniartuᖅ/ (*ilinniartunga*)

iqqaama+TAR+viuk ⇒ /iqqaamasarpiuk/
(*eqqaamasarpiuk*)

ilinniartip+TAR+viuk ⇒ /ilinniartittarpiuk/

a-rule

All vowels become /a/ when preceded by
an /a/

arnaq-U+vuᖅ ⇒ arnauvuᖅ ⇒ *arnaavunga*

An example with N-INNAQ 'only N':

arnaq-INNAQ-U+vuᖅ ⇒ arnainnauvuᖅ ⇒
arnaannaavunga (I am only a woman)
