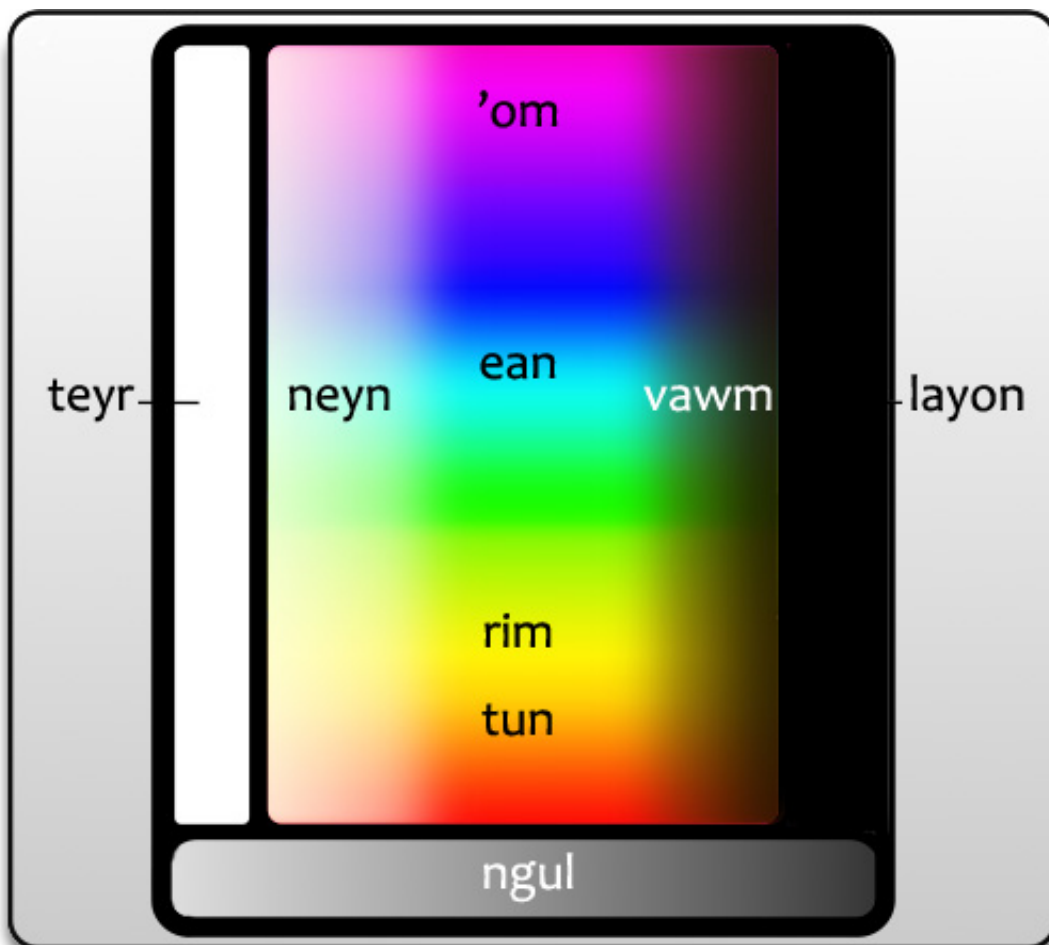


Lesson Fourteen: Colours

Fri, 19 Sep 2014 03:27:08 +0100

Kaltxi As the title says, this time I'm gonna talk about how colours work. It's a bit late, but it was requested. This post is basically a summary of the one Pawl made on his blog.

So, I think the best way to learn colours is to look at actual colours labeled by the Na'vi words. Check out these (from Karyu Pawl's Blog):



These Na'vi colour words are broad. Most of them include a whole range of colours. This isn't too crazy, because there are many shades of blue, red, purple, etc. in English.

So the 9 basic colour words from above are:

- tun:** covers the red-to-orange part
- rim:** yellow
- ean:** covers green to blue
- 'om:** covers violet to purple to magenta
- layon:** black
- teyr:** white
- vawm:** covers deep dark colours including browns
- neyn:** light colours "shades of white"
- ngul:** gray or drab

All of these colour words are adjectives, not nouns. So you use them like this:

Fisyulang lu rim. (*This flower is yellow.*)

Fisyulang arim lu hi'i frato. (*This yellow flower is the smallest of all.*)

If you want to use the noun, add **-pin** onto the end of the colour word, like this:

Ke sunu oeru rimpin. (*I don't like the colour yellow.*)

If you want to be more specific, you compare the colour with something. We do this in English: *leaf green, sky blue, brick red, etc.* in Na'vi, use **na** (*like, as*):

Fisyulang lu ean na ta'leng. (*This flower is blue like skin.*)

-OR-

Fisyulang lu ta'lengna ean. (*This flower is blue like skin.*)

To say *This skin-blue flower is very beautiful*, you have 4 choices:

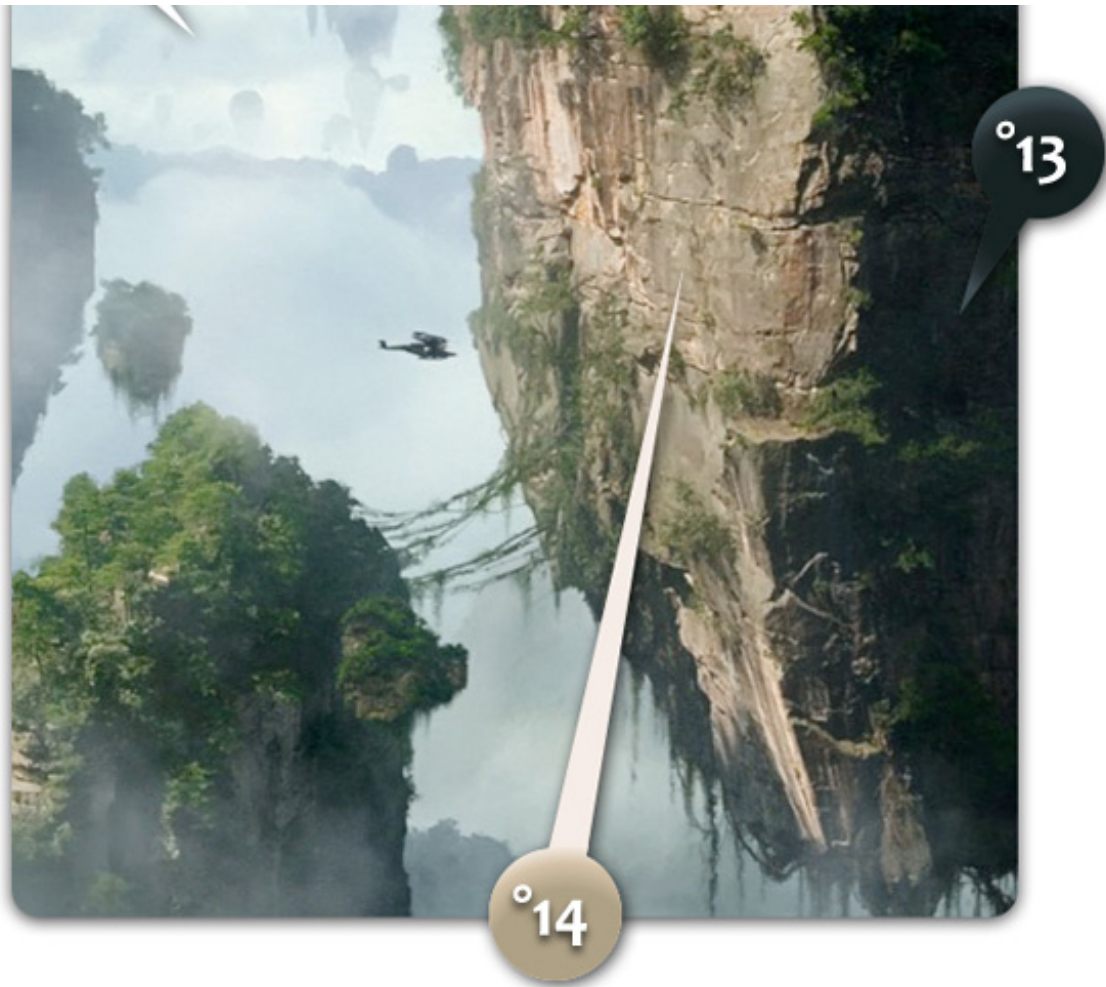
1. **Fisyulang aean-na-ta'leng lor lu nitxan.**
2. **Fisyulang ata'lengna-ean lor lu nitxan.**
3. **Ean-na-ta'lenga fisyulang lor lu nitxan.**
4. **Ta'lengna-eana fisyulang lor lu nitxan.**

(There are actually more choices, if you move the **lor lu nitxan** part around.)

You are free to come up with these comparisons with **na** on your own, as long as there's good reason to expect that you'll be understood.

Here are some more examples:





- °1: **vawm na**
nikre (the dark colour of Na'vi hair)
- °2: **'om na**
mikyun (the purplish colour on the inside of a Na'vi ear)
- °3: **layon** (layon and teyr are not really changeable except in poetry.)

Layon is solid black, the total absence of colour; teyr is pure white.

- °4: **rim na** (Although there are lots of different kinds of eyes on Pandora, in
nari the absence of further specification it's understood here that
nari means nari leNa'vi.)
- °5: **ean na**
ta'leng (skin-blue)
- °6: **ean na**
pil (facial-stripe blue)
neyn
na
- °7: (the light colour of bone)

txärem

°10: **tun na** *(leader red, the reddish colour that distinguishes the dress of*
eyktan *Na'vi leaders)*

ean na *(green, as on earth, not all leaves are green, but most are. Ean*
°11: **rik-** *na rik and ean na ta'leng are the most common ways to*
leaf *distinguish green from blue.)*

neyn

°12: **na** *(the light, nondescript colour of mist or fog)*

yapay

vawm
°13: **na uk** *(dark-shadow colour)*

ngul

°14: **na** *(the drab colour of stone)*

tskxe

Some of these na- colour things are so common, they are shortened:

ta'lengna ean > **ta'lengean**

rikna ean > **rikean**

klina vawm > **klivawm** *(brown)*

But those you can't come up with on your own; they're all listed in the dictionary.

So if you thought that the numbering was weird in that list up there, that I somehow forgot eight and nine and skipped to ten, that's not what happened. And there's a reason for a degree sign around the numbers. So next post, I'll talk about Na'vi numbers and how to count and stuff.