

50 Noun Phrases

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1 Pronouns

Pronouns have **number** (singular, dual, plural), **person** (1st, 2nd inclusive, 2nd exclusive, 3rd), and **case** (nominative, accusative, and adpositive (used in adpositional phrases)). Meeple (mer-people) do not have gender or sex, as is reflected in the language, so third person singular pronouns are applied the same to all individuals and also things. The pronouns are shown in Table 1.

Number	Person	Nominative	Accusative	Adpositive
SG	1	wlat ^h	wlanɑɪ	wlanɑ
	2	zɛm	zɛmɑɪ	zɛmɑ
	3	ʒɑ	ʒɑɑɪ	ʒɑɑ
DU	1 inc	slɑp ^h	slɑmɪɪ	slɑmɪ
	1 exc	slɑn!	slɑnɪɪ!	slɑnɪ!
	2	zɛɑ	zɛɑɪɪ	zɛɑɪ
	3	ʒɛnt ^h	ʒɛnɪɪɪ	ʒɛnɪ
PL	1 inc	nɛʃ	nɛʃɪ	nɛʃə
	1 exc	nɛʃ!	nɛʃɪ!	nɛʃə!
	2	sɛɪ	sɛɪɪ	sɛɪə
	3	ʒɛɪnt ^h	ʒɛɪnɪɪ	ʒɛɪnə

Table 1: Table of Pronouns

2 Nominal Cases

Nouns have **number** (singular, dual, plural) and **case** (nominative, accusative, possessive, and adpositive (used in adpositional phrases)). The number and case are indicated with suffixed morphemes, where each combination of number and case has a different morpheme. The nominative singular form is marked with a null morpheme.

Number	Nominative	Accusative	Possessive	Adpositive
SG	-∅	-ɑɪ	-ɪt ^h	-ɑ
DU	-m	-ɪɪ	-wɛ	-ɪ
PL	-fiɛ	-ɪ	-sfɛ	-ə

Table 2: Case endings

2.1 Accusative Case

The accusative case is most often used without an adposition to indicate a noun is the object of a transitive verb.

e.g.

- saɪɑɪ ʃlɪmsɑɪ
saɪ -ɑɪ ʃlɪms -ɑɪ
tail-fin -ACC.SG red -ACC.SG
tail-fin red
'red tail-fin'

2.2 Nominal Possession (Possessive Case)

Possession is shown by marking the possessive case on the possessed, with no marking on the possessor. Possessed nouns can be **alienable** or **inalienable**, which affects the word order within the noun phrase. Alienable nouns appear before the possessor, and inalienable nouns appear after the possessor.

e.g.

1. $\text{saip}^h \text{ } \eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h\text{t}^h$
 saip^h $-\emptyset$ $\eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h$ $-\text{it}^h$
tail-fin -SG.NOM color -SG.POSS
tail-fin its-color
'tail-fin's color'
2. $\text{f:ef:it}^h \text{ } \text{wlat}^h$
 f:ef: $-\text{it}^h$ wlat^h
fish -SG.POSS 1.SG.PRO
its-fish it
'its fish'
3. $\text{wlat}^h \text{ } \text{fiemur}^h$
 wlat^h fiemur $-\text{it}^h$
1.SG.PRO head -SG.POSS
it its-head
'its head'
4. $\text{saip}^h \text{ } \eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h\text{t}^h$
 saip^h $-\emptyset$ $\eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h$ $-\text{it}^h$
tail-fin -SG.NOM color -SG.POSS
tail-fin its-color
'tail-fin's color'

In the examples above, a fish is not inalienable to a merson (mer-person), but color is inalienable to a tail-fin and a merson's head is inalienable to a merson. Comparison between examples 2 and 3 demonstrates the word order difference between alienable and inalienable possessives.

Nominal possession can be applied recursively, where the possession is applied first to the head, then to each possessor. A brief example:

1. $\text{f:ef:it}^h \text{ } \eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h\text{t}^h \text{ } \text{wlat}^h$
 f:ef: $-\text{it}^h$ $\eta\epsilon\text{wfi}^h$ $-\text{it}^h$ wlat^h
fish -SG.POSS color -textscsg.poss 1.SG.PRO
its-fish its-color me
'my fish's color'

For more examples of recursion, see Section 5.

2.3 Adpositive Case

This case is taken by nouns in adpositional phrases. The adposition is in most cases suffixed (postposition) to the last word in the adpositional phrase. These can be used to indicate a location, position, indirect object, or more.

e.g. indirect object

1. f:ef:amat^h
 f:ef: $-\text{a}$ $-\text{mat}^h$
fish -SG.ADP -IO.POST
fish to
'to a fish'
2. f:ef:imat^h
 f:ef: $-\text{i}$ $-\text{mat}^h$
fish -DU.ADP -IO.POST
fish two to
'to two fish'

e.g. instrument

1. anɪlzi:asi
anɪlzi -a -si
whale-bone -SG.ADP -INSTR.POST
whale-bone using
'using a whale-bone'
2. anɪlzi:si
anɪlzi -i -si
whale-bone -DU.ADP -INSTR.POST
whale-bone two using
'using two whale-bones'

e.g. in

1. fɪ:ɛf:asæ
fɪ:ɛf: -a -sæ
fish -SG.ADP -INE.POST
fish in
'in a fish'
2. fɪ:ɛf:ə slɪxəsæ
fɪ:ɛf: -ə slɪx -ə -sæ
fish -PL.ADP some -PL.ADP -INE.POST
fish some in
'in some fish'

e.g. into

1. fɪ:ɛf:asei
fɪ:ɛf: -a -sei
fish -SG.ADP -ILL.POST
fish in
'into a fish'
2. fɪ:ɛf:ə slɪxəsei
fɪ:ɛf: -ə slɪx -ə -sei
fish -PL.ADP some -PL.ADP -ILL.POST
fish some in
'into some fish'

3 Adjectives

Adjectives modifying nouns appear after the nouns they modify and agree in number and case.

e.g.

1. fɪ:ɛf: flɪms
fɪ:ɛf: -∅ flɪms -∅
fish -NOM.SG red -NOM.SG
fish red
'red fish'
2. fɪ:ɛf:m flɪmsm
fɪ:ɛf: -m flɪms -m
fish -NOM.DU red -NOM.DU
fish red
'two red fish'

4 Numbers and Plurals

4.1 Plurals

Adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in number and case, and they take the same case endings as nouns. For singular and dual nouns, if no number is included then it is an implicit one or two respectively. For plural nouns, either a number must be specified or the word *slɪx*, meaning *some unspecified amount*, must be used.

e.g. *red tail-fin(s)*

1. *saɪp^h ʃlɪms*
saɪp^h -∅ ʃlɪms -∅
tail-fin -NOM.SG red -NOM.SG
tail-fin red
‘red tail-fin’
2. *saim: ʃlɪmsm*
saim -m ʃlɪms -m
tail-fin -NOM.DU red -NOM.DU
tail-fin -s red
‘(two) red tail-fins’
3. *samfiɐ ʃlɪmsfiɐ safiɐ*
saim -fiɐ ʃlɪms -fiɐ sa -fiɐ
tail-fin -NOM.PL red -NOM.PL three -NOM.PL
tail-fin -s red three
‘three red tail-fins’
4. *samfiɐ ʃlɪmsfiɐ slɪxfiɐ*
saim -fiɐ ʃlɪms -fiɐ slɪx -fiɐ
tail-fin -NOM.PL red -NOM.PL some -NOM.PL
tail-fin -s red some
‘some red tail-fins’

4.2 Numbers

The number system of this language (name undetermined) is in base 12, because each hand has 6 fingers. Numbers 0-12 have their own words, numbers 13-15 are compounds with some irregularity, and all numbers beyond are also compounds formed the same way but regularly. Compounds take the form *number + fiɐ* (**and used for adding numbers**) + **number**. 24 is its own word, and other multiples of 12 are compounds of the form *k twelve*.

	Language (IPA)	English (literal)
1	fiʊ	one
2	ak ^h	two
3	sa	three
4	ɲeʒ	four
5	mʊt ^h	five
6	æmp ^h	six
7	eiə	seven
8	esl	eight
9	fi	nine
10	ir ^h	ten
11	fʊf	eleven
12	at ^h	twelve
13	anfiɐʊ	twelve and one
14	anfiɐa	twelve and two
15	anfiɐsa	twelve and three
16	anfiɐɲeʒ	twelve and four
17	anfiɐmʊt ^h	twelve and five

Table 3: Some number examples

Numbers modifying nouns agree with the nouns they modify in number and case and appear after all adjectives modifying that noun.

e.g. four hours

1. xɛnfi ɲɛʒfi

xɛn	-fi	ɲɛʒ	-fi
hour	-NOM.PL	four	-NOM.PL
hours		four	

‘four hours(NOMINATIVE)’
2. xɛni ɲɛʒi

xɛn	-i	ɲɛʒ	-i
hour	-ACC.PL	four	-ACC.PL
hours		four	

‘four hours(ACCUSATIVE)’
3. xɛnsfɛ ɲɛʒsfɛ

xɛn	-sfɛ	ɲɛʒ	-sfɛ
hour	-POSS.PL	four	-POSS.PL
its-hours		its-four	

‘four hours(POSSESSIVE)’
4. xɛnə ɲɛʒə

xɛn	-ə	ɲɛʒ	-ə
hour	-ADPOS.PL	four	-ADP.PL
hours		four	

‘four hours(ADPOSITIVE)’

4.2.1 Ordinals

Ordinals do not agree with the nouns they modify in case and number. Rather, they are formed by attaching to the beginning of nouns they modify as a clitic.

e.g.

1. rising tide : ziʒim
second rising tide : ak^h + ziʒim → aɲziʒim
2. fish: ʃ:ɛʃ:
second fish: ak^h + ʃ:ɛʃ: → aɲʃ:ɛʃ:
third fish: sa + ʃ:ɛʃ:e → saʃ:ɛʃ:
eighth fish: esl + ʃ:ɛʃ: → eslʃ:ɛʃ:
25th fish: fiʊtɲiɛfiʊ + ʃ:ɛʃ: → fiʊtɲiɛfiʊʃ:ɛʃ:

5 Recursion

Nominal possession can be applied recursively, where the possession is applied first to the head, then to each possessor, applying the ordering rules for alienable/inalienable nouns.

e.g.

1. saip^h ɲɛwfi^h

saip ^h	-∅	ɲɛwfi	-it ^h
tail-fin		color	-1.SG.POSS
tail-fin		its-color	

‘tail-fin’s color’
2. samit^h ɲɛwfi^h S:ɛS:

saim	-it ^h	ɲɛwfi	-it ^h	ʃ:ɛʃ:
tail-fin	-1.SG.POSS	color	-1.SG.POSS	fish
its-tail-fin		its-color		fish

‘fish’s tail-fin’s color’

3. samit^h ɲɛwfi^h S:eS:It^h AmA
 saim -it^h ɲɛwfi -it^h f:ef: -it^h ama
 tail-fin -1.SG.POSS color -1.SG.POSS fish 1.SG.POSS parent
 its-tail-fin its-color its-fish parent
 ‘parent’s fish’s tail-fin’s color’

We know in example 2 that the translation cannot be *fish’s color’s tail-fin* because color is inalienable, so its possessor comes before it. We can apply this same logic to example 3, also knowing that fish is alienable to parent, so it must be *paren’ts fish’s...* rather than *fish’s parent....*

6 Quantifiers and Definiteness

Quantifiers and definite articles modify nouns and thus agree with the nouns they modify in number and case. For the quantifier nɛm, even if all of the noun in question is just one, they take the plural. Quantifiers and definite articles are listed after adjectives in use.

e.g. all

1. f:ef: flims nɛm
 f:ef: -∅ flims -∅ nɛm -∅
 fish red all
 fish red all
 ‘all red fish’

e.g. definiteness

1. f:ef: flims sim
 f:ef: -∅ flims -∅ sim -∅
 fish red specific
 fish red specific
 ‘specific red fish’
2. f:ef:a flimsa simamat^h
 f:ef: -a flims -a sim -a -mat^h
 fish -SG.ADP red -SG.ADP specific -SG.ADP -textipao.post
 fish red specific to
 ‘to the specific red fish’

7 Putting Things Together

Here are some examples of how all of these rules work together.

pronouns + possessives

1. f:ef:it^h wlat^h
 f:ef: -it^h wlat^h
 fish -SG.POSS me
 its-fish me
 ‘my fish’
2. f:ef:it^h ʒa
 f:ef: -it^h ʒa
 fish -SG.POSS it
 its-fish it
 ‘its fish’
3. f:ef:it^h slap^h
 f:ef: -it^h slap^h
 fish -SG.POSS 1.DU.INCL
 its-fish you-and-me
 ‘our fish’

4. ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h slan!
 ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h slan!
 fish -SG.POSS 1.DU.EXCL
 its-fish two-of-us-but-not-you
 ‘our fish’

possessive + recursion + pronoun + adjective

1. ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h samʃ:ɛ ʃlɪms:ʃ:ɛ slɪxʃ:ɛ wlat^h
 ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h sam -ʃ:ɛ ʃlɪms -ʃ:ɛ slɪx -ʃ:ɛ wlat^h
 fish -SG.POSS tail-fin -PL.POSS red -PL.POSS some -PL.POSS 1.SG.NOM
 its-fish its-tail-fin -s red some me
 ‘my fish’s unspecified number of red tail-fins’

recursion + case ending

1. samit^h ɲɛwʃit^h ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h ama:ɪ
 sam -it^h ɲɛwʃi -it^h ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h ama -aɪ
 tail-fin -SG.POSS color -SG.POSS fish SG.POSS parent -SG.ACC
 its-tail-fin its-color its-fish parent
 ‘parent’s fish’s tail-fin’s color’

recursion + adjectives/plurals/numerals

1. samit^h ɲɛwʃit^h ʃ:ɛʃ: ʃlɪms
 sam -it^h ɲɛwʃi -it^h ʃ:ɛʃ: -∅ ʃlɪms -∅
 tail-fin -SG.POSS color -SG.POSS fish -SG.NOM red -SG.NOM
 its-tail-fin its-color fish red
 ‘red fish’s tail-fin’s color’
2. samit^h ɲɛwʃit^h ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h ʃlɪmsit^h ama
 sam -it^h ɲɛwʃi -it^h ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h ʃlɪms -it^h ama -∅
 tail-fin -SG.POSS color -SG.POSS fish -textscsg.poss red -textscsg.poss parent
 its-tail-fin its-color its-fish its-red parent
 ‘parent’s red fish’s tail-fin’s color’
3. samwɛ ɲɛwʃwɛ ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h ama:ɪ
 sam -wɛ ɲɛwʃi -wɛ ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h ama -aɪ
 tail-fin -DU.POSS color -DU.POSS fish SG.POSS parent -SG.ACC
 its-tail-fin two its-color -s its-fish parent
 ‘parent’s fish’s two tail-fins’ colors’

ordinal + adjective

1. aɲʃ:ɛʃ: ʃlɪms
 aɲ- ʃ:ɛʃ: -∅ ʃlɪms
 second fish -NOM.SG red
 second fish red
 ‘second red fish’

possessive + definiteness

1. ʃ:ɛʃ:it^h smit^h wlat^h
 ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h sim -it^h wlat^h
 fish -SG.POSS specific -SG.POSS me
 its-fish its-specific me
 ‘my specific fish’

possessive + definiteness + ordinal + adjective

1. aɲʃ:ɛʃ:it^h ʃlɪmsit^h smit^h wlat^h
 aɲ- ʃ:ɛʃ: -it^h ʃlɪms -it^h sim -it^h wlat^h
 second fish -SG.POSS red -SG.POSS specific -SG.POSS me
 second its-fish its-red its-specific me
 ‘my specific second red fish’

possessive + quantifier

1. $\text{f:ef:} \text{ samsf}\epsilon \text{ n}\epsilon\text{msf}\epsilon$
 $\text{f:ef:} \quad -\emptyset \quad \text{sam} \quad -\text{s}\epsilon \quad \text{n}\epsilon\text{m} \quad -\text{s}\epsilon$
 fish -NOM.SG tail-fin -PL.POSS all -PL.POSS
 fish its-tail-fin -s its-all
 ‘all of the fish’s tail-fins’

possessive + quantifier + definiteness + ordinals + adjectives + numbers + recursion

1. $\text{f:ef:it}^h \text{ n}\epsilon\text{mit}^h \text{ a}\eta\text{samw}\epsilon \text{ flmsw}\epsilon \text{ a}\eta\text{w}\epsilon \text{ simw}\epsilon \text{ amam sim:}$
 $\text{f:ef:} \quad -\text{it}^h \quad \text{n}\epsilon\text{m} \quad -\text{it}^h \quad \text{a}\eta- \quad \text{sam} \quad -\text{w}\epsilon \quad \text{flms} \quad -\text{w}\epsilon \quad \text{a}\eta$
 fish -SG.POSS all -SG.POSS second- tail-fin -DU.POSS red -DU.POSS two
 its-fish its-all second- its-tail-fin its-red its-two
 $-\text{w}\epsilon \quad \text{sim} \quad -\text{w}\epsilon \quad \text{ama} \quad -\text{m} \quad \text{sim} \quad -\text{m}$
 -DU.POSS specific -DU.POSS parent -DU.NOM specific -DU.NOM
 its-specific parent -s specific
 ‘two specific red second tail-fins possessed by all the fishes belonging to two specific parents’

8 Phonological Rules

Stops are only allowed at the ends of words in this language, so if through any suffixation a stop finds its way into the middle or beginning of a word, it changes to a voiced nasal (while place of articulation remains the same).

e.g.

hour (NOM.SG) : $\text{x}\epsilon\text{t}^h$

some hours (NOM.PL): $\text{x}\epsilon\text{t}^h + \text{fie} \text{ slixfie} \rightarrow \text{x}\epsilon\text{n}\text{fie} \text{ slixfie}$

hour (ACC.SG): $\text{x}\epsilon\text{t}^h + \text{ɿ} \rightarrow \text{x}\epsilon\text{n}\text{ɿ}$