

ʔaʔaFaM

A Prescriptive Grammar

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Foreword

ʔaʔaFaM is a constructed language.

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Part I

Grammar

Chapter 1

Phonology

1.1 Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p ~ b	t ~ d				
Affricate	p ^h ~ p ^h	t ^h ~ t ^h	c ~ c̣	k ~ ḳ	q ~ q̣	ʔ
Fricative	ɸ	s	ç ~ x ~ χ	ħ ~ h		
Approximant		l	j	w		
Nasal	m	n				
Rhotic		r ~ r̄	ɹ ~ ɹ̄	ɻ ~ ɻ̄		

Table 1.1: Phonemic Consonant Inventory

1.2 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i (i:)		u (u:)
Mid		ə	
Open		a (a:)	

Table 1.2: Phonemic Vowel Inventory

1.2.1 Epenthetic schwa

1.3 Morphophonemics

Chapter 2

Morphology

2.1 Underlying roots

2.2 Derivational morphology

The root system

<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>	
ΘaΘ	Abstract noun	SaJ	sleep (cf. <i>iSaaJ</i> ‘to sleep’)
		KaL	rainfall (cf. <i>KuLi</i> ‘raindrop’)
ΘanaΘ	Person of X, Agentive noun	KanaJ	author (cf. <i>KiiJ</i> ‘to write X’)
ΘarΘi	Liquid noun	QarFi	coffee (cf. <i>iQaaF</i> ‘to drink coffee’)
ΘurΘi	Object noun	NurMi	food (cf. <i>NiiM</i> ‘to eat X’)
ΘidiΘ	Loose granular mass	WidiW	sugar (cf. <i>WaWa</i> ‘sweet’)
ΘasiΘ	Long slender object	BasiT	hair (cf. <i>BuliT</i> ‘head’)
ΘuliΘ	Associated body part	BuliT	head (cf. <i>iBaaT</i> ‘to understand’)
mΘiΘ	Instrument, tool	mRiQ	weapon (cf. <i>RaQ</i> ‘pain’)
iΘuΘa	Place of X/with X attribute	iHuTa	night (cf. <i>HaTa</i> ‘dark’)
ΘiiΘ	Transitive verb	FiiS	to give birth to (cf. <i>FanaS</i> ‘person’)
iΘaaΘ	Intransitive verb	i?aa?	to act stupidly (cf. <i>e?a?a</i> ‘dumb’)
ΘaΘa	Primary attribute	SaFRa	hot (cf. <i>SaFeR</i> ‘heat’)
ΘuΘu	Animal	BuRKu	dog (cf. <i>BaRK</i> ‘bark’)
ΘuuΘ	Country	FuUNs	France (cf. <i>FuNSu</i> ‘frog’)

Table 2.1: Primary derivation patterns

2.3 Inflectional morphology

2.4 Pronouns and determiners

	<i>Nonplural</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>Speaker-only</i>	nas	naswi
<i>Speaker and Addressee</i>	nemi	nemiwi
<i>Addressee-only</i>	mi	miwi

Table 2.2: Discourse participant pronouns

	<i>Determiner</i>	<i>Pronoun</i>
<i>Proximal</i>	wa	wase
<i>Medial</i>	par	parse
<i>Distal</i>	bu	buse
<i>Interrogative</i>	li	lise

Table 2.3: Determiners and demonstrative pronouns

Chapter 3

Syntax

3.1 Comparative constructions

from-comparative, marks standard (to which is compared)

- (1) a. *pumu fanas fun manta -uru*
rabbit person from big COP
‘The rabbit was bigger than a person.’
- b. *TaN nemi buse fun JaL -ila*
FOC QUAL STD MRK
time DU.IN DIST:PN from many_things have
‘We have more time than them.’

3.2 Animacy hierarchy

- 0 Natural Forces
- 1 Pronouns (1 > 2 > 3)
- 2 Speakers of ?a?FaM
- 3 Non-speakers of ?a?FaM
- 4 Higher-order animals (mammals, octopus, intelligent creatures)
- 5 Body parts, tools, any inanimate object used for acting upon something
- 6 Lower-order animals
- 7 Plants
- 8 Inanimate objects
- 9 Abstract concepts

Table 3.1: Animacy hierarchy in nominals

Chapter 4

Semantics and pragmatics

4.1 Phatic expressions

4.2 Idiomatic expressions

cumpu cumpuuru = no shit

Part II

Dictionary

