

# ʔaʔa-FaM

A Reference Grammar of the Narish Language

Bethany E. Toma, Knut F. K. Ulstrup

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# Foreword

ʔaʔa-FAM is a constructed language spoken on the fictitious Nareland island.

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**Part I**

**Grammar**





# Chapter 1

## Phonology

### 1.1 Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Fortis	$p^h \sim \widehat{p\phi}$	$t^h \sim \widehat{ts}$	$c \sim \widehat{c\zeta}$	$k \sim \widehat{kx}$	$q \sim \widehat{q\chi}$	$ʔ$
Lenis	$p \sim b$	$t \sim d$				
Fricative	$f$	$s$	$\zeta \sim x \sim \chi \sim \text{h} \sim h$			
Approximant		$l$	$j$	$w$		
Nasal	$m$	$n$				
Rhotic		$r \sim \text{ɹ} \sim \text{ɻ}$				

Table 1.1: Phonemic Consonant Inventory

### 1.2 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	$i \text{ (i:)}$		$u \text{ (u:)}$
Mid		$\text{ə}$	
Open		$a \text{ (a:)}$	

Table 1.2: Phonemic Vowel Inventory

#### 1.2.1 Epenthetic schwa

### 1.3 Prosody

Stress, in the form of elevated pitch and volume, is placed on the first non-schwa vowel of the word, after the first root radical, on a long vowel immediately preceding the first radical, or on certain morphemes that carry stress.

nemiwi	$[\text{nə}^{\text{'}}\text{miwi}]$	first non-schwa vowel of word
parse	$[\text{'parsə}]$	first non-schwa vowel of word
iFaam	$[\text{i}^{\text{'}}\text{fa:m}]$	vowel after first radical
FanaS	$[\text{'fanas}]$	vowel after first radical
aaNiW	$[\text{'a:niw}]$	long vowel preceding radical
iLaasak	$[\text{i,la:}^{\text{'}}\text{sak}]$	presence of stress-carrying morpheme (imperative affix -ak)

## 1.4 Morphophonemics

## 1.5 Orthography

ʔaʔa-FaM has two recognized orthographic conventions, both based on the Latin alphabet. Both conventions use marked letterforms to indicate which part of a word are part of the underlying root and which are grammatical markers. The precise manner in which they're marked is the major point of difference between the two orthographic styles.

By and large, both orthographic conventions attempt to use the most intuitive representation of a given phoneme. There are very few differences between the conventions. Fortis and lenis stops are written using the typical voiceless and voiced symbols, respectively, in both systems. The labial fricative is written as ⟨f⟩ and the dorsal fricative as ⟨h⟩. The rhotic is, of course, written as ⟨r⟩. The palatal approximant is written as ⟨j⟩, except when adjacent to an ⟨i⟩ within the same word, in which case it is written as ⟨y⟩. The other phonemes are written with their usual IPA characters in both conventions, except for /ʔ/, which is dealt with differently depending on which convention one is using.

### 1.5.1 Formal writing style

The formal writing conventions make use of small-caps letterforms to highlight roots. In addition, it uses the glottal stop character to indicate the glottal stop phoneme, using the capital glottal stop character ⟨ʔ⟩ when the glottal stop is part of a root radical (for instance, in the word ʔaʔa) and the lowercase glottal stop character ⟨ʔ⟩ otherwise (such as in the suffix -(e)ʔ).

### 1.5.2 Informal writing style

The informal writing conventions, also known as “texting script”, is the orthography used in the majority of day-to-day communication. Rather than using small-caps letterforms, it uses true capital letters for roots. It also uses ⟨7⟩ for the glottal stop, with no difference between capital and lowercase. While these differences could be considered less aesthetically pleasing, they result in an ASCII-compatible script, which makes this writing style far easier to use in most messaging apps and computer interfaces. Texting-style ʔaʔa-FaM also allows for several shorthand abbreviations that tend not to be used in more formal style.

## Chapter 2

# Morphology

### 2.1 Underlying roots

The majority of lexical items are produced by

### 2.2 Derivational morphology

ʔaʔa-FaM allows for words to be altered syntactically and semantically using a rich set of morphological operations, divided into two categories based on their concatenation.

#### 2.2.1 Primary derivation

Primary derivation refers to the non-concatenative morphology of stems. These operations are for the most part not productive, and not all roots have a corresponding stem with each of these patterns. They may not stack, i.e. a stem may only be inflected by one pattern at a time.

#### 2.2.2 Secondary derivation

Secondary derivation refers to the exclusively suffixing operations that may be applied to stems in addition to primary derivation. Unlike primary derivation, these suffixes may be stacked freely.

##### 2.2.2.1 -uru - ‘to be’

Nominal and adjectival phrases are derived into verbs with the meaning ”to be X” or ”to have characteristic X” with the -uru affix.

##### 2.2.2.2 -ila - ‘to have’

##### 2.2.2.3 -ara - wishes and greetings

##### 2.2.2.4 -iri - ‘to make’

##### 2.2.2.5 -ana - person

##### 2.2.2.6 -ini - diminutive

##### 2.2.2.7 -ari - ‘to become’, ‘to cause to be’

##### 2.2.2.8 -lat - ‘measured in’, ‘comprising’

For quantities expressed in explicit units, this affix is used to mark the classifier.

bar akilulat karli - three bottles of water

##### 2.2.2.9 -s(e) - ‘the ... one’

Used to nominalize adjectives in contexts where the head is known or obvious.

- (1) ɕaKLas nas kaj!  
‘I want the chocolate one!’

	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>	
1.	ΘaΘ	Abstract noun	KaL	humidity (cf. iKaAL ‘to rain’)
2.	iΘaaΘ	Intransitive verb	i?aa?	to act stupidly (cf. e?a?a ‘dumb’)
3.	ΘiiΘ	Transitive verb	Fiis	to give birth to (cf. Fanas ‘person’)
4.	aaΘiΘ	Causative verb	aaNiM	to feed (cf. iNaam ‘to eat’)
5.	ΘaΘa	Primary attribute	saFRa	hot (cf. saFeR ‘heat’)
6.	ΘanaΘ	Person of X, Agentive noun	KanaJ	author (cf. Kiij ‘to write X’)
7.	ΘurΘi	Object noun	NurMi	food (cf. Niim ‘to eat X’)
8.	ΘarΘi	Liquid noun	QarFi	coffee (cf. iQaaF ‘to drink coffee’)
9.	iΘuΘa	Place of X/with X attribute	iHuJa	night (cf. HaTa ‘dark’)
10.	mΘiΘ	Instrument, tool	mRiW	weapon (cf. RaQ ‘pain’)
11.	inΘiΘ	Diminutive	inFiM	word (cf. FaM ‘language’)
12.	ΘuliΘ	Associated body part	BuliT	head (cf. iBaAT ‘to understand’)
13.	ΘuΘu	Animal	BURKu	dog (cf. iBaARK ‘to bark’)
14.	ΘasiΘ	Long slender object	BasiT	hair (cf. BuliT ‘head’)
15.	ΘajuΘa	Flat plane, surface, or object	DajuLa	mirror (cf. Diil ‘to stare at’)
16.	ΘidiΘ	Loose granular mass	WidiW	sugar (cf. WaWa ‘sweet’)
17.	ΘuuΘ	Country	FuUNs	France (cf. FuNSu ‘frog’)
18.	ΘuΘi	Color	BuNi	yellow (cf., BasIN ‘banana’)
19.	aΘiΘu	Closed container	aKiLu	bottle (cf. KarLi ‘water’)
20.	ΘimiΘu	Open container	QimiFu	coffee mug (cf. aQiFu ‘coffee pot’)
21.	uΘiΘi	Emotion, experiential	uNiMi	hungry (cf. NaMa, ‘filling’)

Table 2.1: Primary derivation patterns

### 2.2.3 Compounding

### 2.2.4 Gender

Certain lexical items may be inflected to convey the gender of its referent. On certain words, namely *-ara* greetings, gender marking is obligatory.

- un Feminine gender
- aj Masculine gender
- uj Explicitly non-binary
- an Gender-neutral, agender

## 2.3 Inflectional morphology

### 2.3.1 Verb finals

Verbs that are either not declarative, or not the head of the matrix clause, must be marked based on their purpose in the sentence. These verbs may appear in subordinate clauses, as converbs, serial verbs, or finite non-declarative head verbs.

**Declarative verbs** are unmarked, finite, and modally neutral.

**Connective verbs** may be either finite or non-finite. They work in conjunction with the head verb to describe concurrent or subsequent actions, or to modify the meaning of the verb clause with auxiliary verbs.

- Ø Declarative verb
- ʔ Connective
- li Interrogative
- ak Imperative
- tu Relative
- uc Subordinate

- (2) a. *naswi KajuLa tui FiLami -ʔ dak*  
 1EX water\_surface on\_surface\_of notice\_oneself CON can  
 ‘we could see ourselves in the water surface.’
- b. *nas bu NuWu RiIQ -eʔ LaW daw iCaan*  
 1S that possum hit CON up towards climb  
 ‘I’m climbing up to hit that possum.’

### 2.3.2 Evidential modality

ʔaʔa-FAM has a four-way distinction within its evidentials that distinguishes direct witness with reportative, inferential, and internal/assumed speech. These affixes typically appear on the head verb, but may also be used on even non-finite verbs.

	Function	Example	Translation
Ø-	Direct Witness	iNaam	‘they’re eating’
<i>ir-</i>	Reportative	irinaam	‘they’re eating, they said’
<i>hwa-</i>	Inferential	hwainaam	‘they’re eating, judging by the smell’
<i>qaa-</i>	Internal/Assumed	qaainaam	‘they’re probably eating, it’s around dinner time’

Table 2.2: Evidential modality affixes

- (3) *FanaSaj irMaLaurutu iNaameʔ jaa.*  
*FanaSaj ir- MaLaurutu iNaameʔ jaa*  
 man REP-ill:COP:REL eat:CON indeed  
 ‘The man, who I was told was sick, was eating after all.’

In the above example, the evidential attaches to and scopes over only the relative clause ‘*FanaSaj MaLaurutu*’, leaving the matrix clause unmodified.

#### 2.3.2.1 *ir-* Reportative speech

Information that has been obtained through the retelling by a secondary party is marked with *ir-*. The speaker may not have been present to witness the event themselves, and are relying completely on hearsay.

- (4) *bu YaT was barariʔ ir- RiIT*  
 DEM.DIST shot DEM.PROX:NMZ three:become:CVB HSY-end  
 ‘He’s done that trip three times.’ (speaker heard from someone else)

#### 2.3.2.2 *hwa-* Inferential speech

If the speaker hasn’t observed an event themselves and is interpolating from current circumstances, they may use *hwa-* to mark this.

- (5) *MuHu wa PLaS fit hwa- NiiW*  
 cow DEM.PROX place at INFER-died  
 ‘The cow was seemingly killed here.’ (speaker noticed signs of struggle)

### 2.3.2.3 *qaa*- Internal/Assumed speech

Verbs can also be marked for whether the speaker has no concrete evidence or report of the event, but may still assume that said event happened because of a gut instinct, tendencies, routines, or assumptions about the world.

- (6) *inFis*     *qaa-* *iSaaJ*  
children INTER-sleep

‘The children are probably asleep by now.’ (*uttered late at night*)

## 2.4 Pronouns and determiners

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

Table 2.3: 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
<i>Relative</i>	kun	kunse

Table 2.4: Determiners and demonstrative pronouns





## Chapter 3

# Syntax

### 3.1 Verb stacking

### 3.2 Auxiliary verbs

#### 3.2.1 *usnak* - hortative

from WeSiiN → usin + -ak → usnak

encodes a sort of imperative function so doesn't really take -ak suffix

##### 3.2.1.1 Exhortative

let's do X, c'mon

##### 3.2.1.2 Subjunctive?

in subordinate clauses, smth like "would do X"?

##### 3.2.1.3

### 3.3 Subordinate clauses

Full verb phrases may be nominalized and act as an argument of another predicate.

#### 3.3.1 Relative clauses

Relative clauses are a type of subordinate clauses that describes a referent's states or actions. They are internally headed, always verb-final, and the relative determiner *kun* is used to mark the head of the clause, i.e. the thing that is being described.

- (7) *FanaS iLaas-tu saJauru*  
person walk-REL sleepy:COP

'The person who walked home was sleepy.'

Clauses with a single argument do not require that the head is marked, as the argument is assumed to be the head by default. Still, the verb itself can be marked to describe the realization or performance of the action.

- (8) *inFiM kun iMaaw-tu naswi Diil*  
children REL play -REL 1P.EX look

'We watched the playtime that the children were having'

In high-valency clauses, *kun* becomes more pertinent. The most agentive argument (subject) is considered to be the head of the phrase, but may still be marked for emphasis.

- (9) a. *(kun) FanaS iFuSa daw fit iLaastu nas Fiil*  
REL person house to in walk:REL 1S see

'I saw the person who walked into the house.'

- b. *FanaS kun iFuSa daw fit iLaastu nas Fiil*  
person REL house to in walk:REL 1S see

‘I saw the house that the person walked into.’

- c. *Fanas iFuSa daw fit kun iLaastu nas Fiil*  
 person house to in REL walk:REL 1S see  
 ‘I saw how the person walked into the house.’

An alternative to using a determiner is simply to topicalize a given constituent. Only noun phrases may be relativized through topicalization; the relative verb may not be periphrastically topicalized (i.e. left-dislocated), as this introduces major syntactical ambiguities.

### 3.4 Comparative constructions

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

- (10) 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*  
 TOP QUAL STD MRK  
 time DU.IN DIST:PN from many\_things-have  
 ‘We have more time than them.’

### 3.5 Animacy hierarchy

- 0 Natural Forces
- 1 Pronouns (1 > 2 > 3)
- 2 Speakers of ?a?a-FaM
- 3 Non-speakers of ?a?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

### 3.6 Causative constructions

?a?a-FaM has several different strategies when it comes to causative constructions, depending on the nature of the predicate in question. Some of these are morphological in nature, while others more periphrastic.

#### 3.6.1 -ari for nominal and adjectival predicates

Simple nominal and adjectival predicates are turned into causatives using the translative suffix *-ari*. If the predicate in question would be expressed with *-uru* in its non-causative form, *-ari* is likely appropriate for the causative.

- (11) a. *QarFi SaFRA-uru*  
 coffee hot -COP  
 ‘The coffee is hot.’
- b. *QarFi nas SaFRA-ari*  
 coffee 1SG hot -TRANSL

‘I heated up the coffee.’

When used with only one argument, verbs ending in *-ari* are assumed to have a null subject and the argument serving as the unaccusative object. This results in *-ari* also serving as ‘to become’ (the reason for its being glossed as ‘translative’) as well as ‘to cause to be’.

- (12) *QarFi SaFRa-ari*  
 coffee hot TRANSL  
 ‘The coffee got hot.’

### 3.6.2 Valency-increasing verb patterns

Which pattern is used to form the causative of a predicate depends largely on the nature of the intransitive form of that root. There are two different potentially valency-increasing patterns that can be used for verbs: the  $\Theta_{ii}\Theta$  and the  $aa\Theta_i\Theta$ . The exact effect of each of these valency-increasing operations depends on the individual root; their behavior can differ.

For verbs that would be agentive ambitransitives in English, such as ‘to eat’, generally the behavior is rather straightforward: the  $\Theta_{ii}\Theta$  form turns the verb into a straightforward transitive, and the  $aa\Theta_i\Theta$  form serves as a causative of the intransitive.

- (13) a. *nas iNaam*  
 1SG eat\INTR  
 ‘I was eating.’  
 b. *nas kurKi NiiM*  
 1SG cookie eat\TR  
 ‘I ate a cookie.’  
 c. *nas inMiM aaNiM*  
 1SG parent\_child\DIM eat\CAUS  
 ‘I fed my daughter.’

It’s worth noting that object of the transitive verb cannot be included as the object of the causative verb; the causative verb can still only have two arguments.

- (14) \**nas inMiM kurKi aaNiM*  
 1SG parent\_child\DIM cookie eat\CAUS

To express this notion, a periphrastic causative would be required.

Other types of verbal paradigms make this causative relationship less obvious and use these roots in other ways. For instance, for some roots the intransitive form is unaccusative or passive in nature. In these cases, the transitive form behaves as a causative:

- (15) a. *nas wan ManaM iNaaw*  
 1SG POSS parent\_child death\INTR  
 ‘My mother died.’  
 b. *nas ManaM NiiW*  
 1SG parent\_child death\TR  
 ‘I killed my mother.’

For these roots, the  $aa\Theta_i\Theta$  form means the same thing as the  $\Theta_{ii}\Theta$  form, but while the  $\Theta_{ii}\Theta$  form implies a successfully completed action, the same implication is not present for the causative form.

- (16) *nas ManaM aaNiW*  
 1SG parent\_child death\CAUS  
 ‘I tried to kill my mother’ (and she may or may not have died).

For many of these roots, the intransitive is identical in meaning to a ‘passive’ use of the transitive with an omitted subject; whether there is any noticeable difference between these depends on the verb.

- (17) *nas wan ManaM NiiW*  
 1SG POSS parent\_child death\TR  
 ‘My mother was killed.’

Unergative verbs

### 3.6.3 Periphrastic causatives

In addition to the morphological causatives above and their aforementioned limitations, ʔaʔa-FAM has a periphrastic causative that can scope over a wider variety of predicates. This periphrasis is expressed through a serial construction using the verb *wesiin* ‘to effect, to cause’ followed by the description of the caused predicate.

- (18) *nas wesiin , qarfi mi kiil*  
 1SG bring\_about coffee 2SG drink

‘I caused you to drink coffee.’ (lit., ‘I brought it about, you drank coffee.’)

Insert stuff about causatives and directness here.

## Chapter 4

# Semantics and pragmatics

### 4.1 Phatic expressions

Phatic expressions in ʔaʔa-FaM are all in some way related to the nouns they are derived from, suggesting an emphasis on acknowledging the addressee's current or upcoming actions. The addressee may respond with the same expression back, even if it does not apply to the original speaker in any way, or respond in kind with a more suitable expression.

The obligatory gender marking is a means of expressing your gender identity in an unintrusive manner.<sup>1</sup>

**FaSanara** (from *FaS* 'life') is a catch-all greeting, suitable for any time of day.

**saJanara** (from *saJ* 'sleep') is similar in use to "good night", but is only used if the person is going to bed, not just leaving for the night.

**YaTanara** (from *yaT* 'travel not of one's own power or volition') is used to wish someone a pleasant trip where the person is not directly in control of their means of transportation, e.g. on public transport, a plane, or as a passenger in a car. To contrast, if the person has direct control over their travel, e.g. by walking or driving a car, one would rather use **PLaSanara** (from *PLaS* 'movement').

### 4.2 Name determiners

In ʔaʔa-FaM, when a name is used referentially (that is, pointing out a particular entity named that), the name must be preceded by a naming particle—*ha* for male names and *fu* for female names (derived from former personal pronouns that have now been replaced by demonstratives in other contexts). More recently, *na* has been innovated as a gender-neutral alternative (this new *na* being unrelated to the former first-person determiner).

These determiners are only required when the name in question is serving a referential function, so they are not necessary when referring to the name itself as a concept (such as in 'My name is ...' constructions) or in direct address.

- (19) a. *ha KARL-la fu JANNE iLaaF*  
'Karl & Janne are in love.'  
b. *pars KARL baj iMaaH*  
'His name is Karl.'  
c. *KARL, iWaaBak!*  
'Karl, come back!'

### 4.3 Idiomatic expressions

CuMPu CuMPuuru = no shit, preaching to the choir

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<sup>1</sup>The real reason is that as Beth once ended a conversation with "sayonara", Knut noticed some coincidental similarities with the word *saJ* 'sleep' and the affix -un to indicate feminine gender, with the -ara reanalyzed as a phatic/optative marker of sorts.



**Part II**

**Dictionary**





# Roots and Derived Words

**ʔ**

**ʔ—ʔ**

**ʔaʔ • n.**

stupidity

**iʔaaʔ • v.intr.**

to act stupidly, foolishly

**ʔiiʔ • v.tr.**

to fail to achieve *smth.* through lack of intelligence or competence

**aaʔiʔ • v.tr.**

to turn *sme.* stupid, cause *sme.* to fail through lack of intelligence or competence

**ʔaʔa • adj.**

stupid

**ʔanaʔ • n.**

1. stupid person, fool
2. native Narelander, ʔaʔa-FaM speaker

**iʔuʔa • n.**

1. Nareland, the home of the Narelanders
2. the CDN

**B**

**B—J**

**BaJ • n.**

badness, evil, bad luck, bad fortune, bad vibes

**iBaaJ • v.intr.**

1. to have bad luck, to experience poor fortune, to be cursed
2. to do evil, to do bad deeds

**BiiJ • v.tr.**

to make *smth.* worse, to ruin, to exacerbate

**aaBiJ • v.tr.**

to curse *sme.*, to bestow bad luck upon *sme.*, to give *sme.* a curse

**BaJa • adj.**

bad, unpleasant, unlucky, unfortunate

**BanaJ • n.**

1. evildoer, bad person, villain
2. enemy, nemesis

**uBiJi • adj.**

unhappy, upset

**B—N**

**BaN • n.**

habit, routine

**iBaaN • v.intr.**

to be usual, to be typical practice, to be accepted as normal routine

**BiiN • v.tr.**

to keep *smth.* as a habit, to do *smth.* usually, to have *smth.* as a routine

**aaFiM • v.tr.**

to mandate *smth.*, to put *smth.* into practice, to make *smth.* part of the day-to-day routine, to establish *smth.*

**BaNa • adj.**

usual, common, ordinary, typical, banal, everyday, day-to-day

**Basin • n.**

banana

**BuNi • adj., n.**

yellow, the color yellow

**uBiNi • adj.**

bored, dissatisfied, exhausted, sick of the humdrum day-to-day grind

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****BaNiri** • *v.intr.*

1. to do routine tasks, to do one's routine
2. (*euphemistic*) to use the restroom, to take a piss

**uBiNiisa** • *n.*

boredom, dissatisfaction, ennui

**B—T****iBaaT** • *v.intr.*

1. to know, to understand, to be in a state of knowing or understanding what is going on
2. (*when used reciprocally*) to love each other, to have a close platonic bond, to be the best of friends

nemi iBaaTami

*'The two of us are thick as thieves.'***Biit** • *v.tr.*

1. to know *smth.*, to understand *smth.*  
mi iBaaRBe? kajuc nas Biit  
*'I know that you want to leave.'*
2. to love *sme.* like a brother, to have a close platonic bond with *sme.*, to be best friends with *sme.*  
nas JanaB Biitibi  
*'I love my friends.'*

*NB: the subject is reversed from its use as 'to understand': mi nas Biitibi means 'you understand me' but 'I love you'.*

**C****C—F****CaF** • *n.*

1. number
2. amount

**C—NK****CaNK** • *n.*

roundness

**iCaANK** • *v.*

to roll, tumble

**CiINK** • *v.*

1. to round *smth.*
2. to smoothen *smth.*

**aaCiNK** • *v.*to roll *smth.* along**CaNka** • *adj.*

1. round
2. fat

**D****D—L****DaL** • *n.*

sight

**DR—P****DRAp** • *n.*

1. bad accent
2. funny voice, impression  
buse wan DRAp BaJauru? lit.  
*'their impression was really bad.'*

**iDRaaP** • *v.*

to talk with an accent, talk in a funny voice

**DRiip** • *v.*to mimic *sme.*, make fun of *sme.***F****F—M****FaM** • *n.*

language, speech, way of speaking

**iFaam** • *v.intr.*

to talk, to speak, to chatter

**FiiM** • *v.tr.*to say *smth.*, to speak *smth.*, to tell *smth.***aaFiM** • *v.tr.*to quote *sme.***iFuMa** • *n.*

1. conversation
2. (*internet*) server, board, forum

**inFiM** • *n.*

word

**FuliM** • *n.*

1. mouth
2. tongue

**FuMu** • *n.*human, *Homo sapiens sapiens***FasiM** • *n.*

thread (of a conversation, of a forum)

**aFiMu • n.**

1. book

**FimiMu • n.**

1. (of a radio or television network) channel, station, frequency
2. (internet) channel, chatroom

## Compounds & Secondary Derivations

**inFiMini • n.**

letter, character, symbol

**?a?a-FaM • n.**

this language, ?a?a-FaM

## F—S

**FaS • n.**

life, life force

**iFaAS • v.intr.**

to live, to be alive

**Fiis • v.tr.**

1. (of a human) to give birth to *sme*.
2. (of an animal that bears live young) to give birth to its offspring
3. (of an animal that lays eggs) to hatch its offspring

**aaFis • v.tr.**

1. to resuscitate *sme*.
2. to animate *smth.*, bring life to *smth*

**FaSa • adj.**

live

**FanaS • n.**

person, predominantly human or humanoid

**FurSi • n.**

egg

**FarSi • n.**

blood

**iFuSa • n.**

1. house
2. home, domicile

**inFis • n.**

human offspring, especially newborn-through-toddler age

**Fulis • n.**

heart

**FuSu • n.**

animal, any species of the kingdom Animalia except humans

## H

## H—J

**HaJ • n.**

light, brightness, illumination, luminosity

**iHaaJ • v.intr.**

1. to shine, to glow, to give out light
2. (impersonal) to be bright out, to be sunny, to sunshine, to be daylight, to be light out  
iHaaJ, nemi iLaasak!  
*The sun's shining, let's take a walk!*
3. (of a dwelling) to have the lights on, to be currently filled with people going about their business  
bu aFisU iHaaJ, FanaS irfituru.  
*That house has the lights on, someone must be inside.*

4. (of a place of business) to be open, to be in operation, to be accepting customers  
MAMA-INUMA se FS 1 TN fun SJ 3 TN daw iHaaJ  
*Mama-Inuma is open from 7AM to 9PM.*
5. (of a device) to be on, to be working

**HiiY • v.tr.**

1. to illuminate, to brighten, to fill with light
2. (of a dwelling) to move in *smwh.*, to set up residence
3. (of a place of business) to open, to begin business

**aaHiY • v.tr.**

1. to cause to shed light, to light (a torch), to turn on (a lamp)  
wa PLas fit HaTauru, mHiY aaHiYak.  
*It's dark in here, turn on the light.*
2. (of a device) to turn *smth.* on, to power *smth.* up  
nas mFiM aaHiYe? tuuq.  
*I need to turn on my phone.*

**HaJa • adj.**

1. bright, light, glowing, alight
2. (of a place of business) open, in operation, accepting customers
3. (of a device) powered on, in operation, working

**HanaJ • n.**

the Sun

**HuYi • n.**

orb of light, as from around a torch, lantern, or other non-diffuse light source

**HarYi • n.**

1. Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights
2. (*physics*) plasma, the state of matter consisting of partially ionized gas

**iHuJa • n.**

day, daytime

**mHiY • n.**

1. lamp, light (*apparatus*)
2. projector

**inHiY • n.**

twinkle, sparkle

**HuliY • n.**

retina

**HuJu • n.**

firefly, lightning bug, glowworms, bioluminescent

**HasiY • n.**

1. beam of light, sunbeam, ray of light
2. laser

**HajuJa • n.**

1. a field of light projected onto any unlit surface  
CuSu HajuJa fit iYaaN  
*The cat is basking in the light.*
2. an image or moving images projected onto a screen, as in a cinema or office presentation  
inFiM par HajuJa tui BaCauru? lit.  
*The words in that slide are very small.*
3. any backlit screen, as in a television or monitor  
mFiM wan HajuJa daw fit nas iLaas,  
wadan wase iHaaJe? kaje? hwii.  
*I stepped on my phone's screen, and now it won't turn on.*

**HidiY • n.**

photon

**aHiYu • n.**

lantern, lightbulb

**HimiYu • n.**

candle, torch

**uHiYi • adj.**

dazzled, impressed, overwhelmed

## Compounds & Secondary Derivations

**dajHuJa • n.**

tomorrow

**fajHuJa • n.**

yesterday

**wajHuJa • n.**

today

**H—T**

**HaT • n.**

darkness

**iHaat • v.intr.**

1. (*impersonal*) to be dark out, to be murky  
NaKa-JaMJ fit (RaTa iHuJa) iHaat.  
*'During the winter it's dark (all day).'*
2. (*of a dwelling*) to be abandoned, to have nobody home
3. (*of a place of business*) to be closed, to be shut down, to not be accepting customers
4. (*of a device*) to be turned off, to not be running, to not be in operation

**Hiit • v.tr.**

1. to darken, to shut out the light from, to shade
2. (*of a dwelling*) to move out of *smwh.*, to abandon
3. (*of a place of business*) to close, to shut up

**aaHiT • v.tr.**

1. to darken, to prevent from casting light, to put out (*a torch or candle*), to turn off (*a lamp*)
2. (*of a device*) to turn off, to shut down

**HaTa • adj.**

1. dark, without light
2. (*of a dwelling*) abandoned, empty
3. (*of a place of business*) closed, shut down
4. (*of a device*) off, powered down, dead

**HanaT • n.**

the moon

**iHuTa • n.**

night, nighttime

**HajuTa • n.**

curtains, shades, blinds

**HuTi • adj., n.**

black, the color black

**J****J—B****JaB • n.**

goodness, prosperity, good vibes, good luck

**iJaAB • v.intr.**

1. to have good fortune, to be lucky
2. to be good, to behave oneself, to do good deeds

**JiIB • v.tr.**

to improve, to make better, to renovate, to overhaul, to spruce up

**aaJiB • v.tr.**

to bless *sme.*, to bestow good fortune upon *sme.*

**JaBa • adj.**

good, fortunate, lucky, blessed

**JanaB • n.**

friend, buddy, pal, companion

**uJiBi • adj.**

happy, blessed, enthusiastic, amused

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****JaBaila • v.tr.**

to love *smth.* (*used of inanimate objects*), to appreciate, to enjoy

CurKLi buse hwaJaBaila, iNaAMuc BiIN.  
'He must love chocolate, he tends to eat it.'

**K****K—L****KaL • n.**

humidity, wetness, dampness

iFuSa JaBauru, da Lajusa KaLila  
'The house is lovely, but the floors are damp.'

**iKaaL • v.intr.**

1. (*impersonal*) to be a rainy day  
wajHuJa iKaaL  
'Today's a rainy day.'
2. (*impersonal*) to be raining  
iMuNTa daw nas iJaate? kaj da buse fit iKaaL  
'I wanted to go to the mountains, but it's raining there.'

**KaLa • adj.**

1. covered in water, saturated with water, wet, soaked

KaLa mLiS SaFRaariak  
'Warm up your wet shoes.'

2. fluid, liquid, melted

KaSiL KaLa CurKLiila  
'The river was made of melted chocolate'

**KurLi • n.**

the Earth, the globe

**KarLi • n.**

liquid water, fresh water, water not part of a body of water or stream, water served as a beverage

mi NaKa KarLiilali?  
'Do you have any cold water?'

**KaSiL • n.**

1. river, stream
2. stream or sprinkle of water, as from a faucet or tap

iSuNa BaBa KaSiLila  
'The shower is low-flow'  
(lit., 'The shower has a mild stream')

**KajuLa • n.**

1. the surface of a body of water  
naswi KajuLa tui Fiilami? dak  
'We could see ourselves on the water's surface.'
2. puddle  
nas KajuLa daw tui iLaas  
'I stepped in a puddle.'
3. map  
par KajuLa SWuUTilali?  
'Is Switzerland on that map?'

**KidiL • n.**

salt, sea salt

**KuLu • n.**

fish, fish-adjacent aquatic animal

**KuLi • adj., n.**

blue, the color blue

**aKiLu • n.**

bottle  
MARK se kaj aKiLulat MarHiila  
'Mark owned five bottles of milk.'

**kimiLu • n.**

drinking glass

**uKiLi • adj.**

1. cold from being wet, soaked, shivering
2. (*fig.*) anxious, uncomfortable, shaky

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****kasiLiri** • *v.intr.*

(euphemistic) to pee

**L****L—T****LaT** • *n.*

trash, refuse, waste

**iLaat** • *v.intr.*

to excrete, poop

**Liit** • *v.tr.*to excrete *smth.***aaLiT** • *v.tr.*to give *sme.* the shits, cause stomach upset**LurTi** • *n.*

feces, poo, a piece of poop

**LarTi** • *n.*

diarrhea, liquid shit

**iLuTa** • *n.*

1. bathroom, outhouse
2. midden

**LuliT** • *n.*

colon, lower intestines

**LasiT** • *n.*

a long, skinny turd

**aLiTu** • *n.*

1. diaper
2. septic tank

**Limitu** • *n.*

toilet, toilet bowl

**uLiTi** • *adj.*

1. constipated
2. (*fig.*) irritable, easily annoyed

**M****M—H****MaH** • *n.*

1. name, moniker, title  
wa aFiMu wan MaH BaJauru
2. brand, a mark on an item or piece of livestock to show ownership
3. (*figurative*) brand, symbolic identity, the name or logo of a product or organization  
NIKE MaH wan Lulis-CLurDi nas kaj.  
I want Nike-brand shoes.

**iMaaH** • *v.intr.*

1. to be named  
lis baj mi iMaaHli?  
What's your name?
2. (*of livestock*) to be branded
3. to lactate

**MiiH** • *v.tr.*to milk, to extract milk or other liquid from *smth.***aaMiH** • *v.tr.*

1. to name *sme.*, to call *sme* (by *smth.*)  
inFiSaj KARL baj naswi aaMiH.  
We named the boy Karl.

**MaHa** • *adj.*

1. said, aforementioned, named  
MaHa FanAS ?ana?uru.  
The aforementioned person is a fool.
2. dairy, made from cow's milk  
MaHa TaP nas NiiMe? dake?hwii.  
'I can't eat any dairy.'

**ManaH** • *n.*

1. milkmaid, dairy farmer
2. wet nurse

**MurHi** • *n.*

butter

**MarHi** • *n.*

1. cow's milk
2. any milk or milk-like drink

**iMuHa** • *n.*

1. dairy farm
2. (*fig., slang*) titty bar

**mMiH** • *n.*

**inMiH • n.**

1. calf, baby cow
2. (*fig., slang*) small breasts

**MuliH • n.**

1. breast, tit, udder, teat

**MuHu • n.**

1. cow, head of cattle
2. (*fig., slang*) stripper, busty woman <sup>2</sup>

**MasiH • n.**

stick of ice cream, ice pop

**MajuHa • n.**

sign, nameplate

**MidiH • n.**

1. powdered milk, milk powder
2. baby formula

**MuHi • adj., n.**

1. cream-colored, the color cream, off-white

**aMiHu • n.**

1. milk carton

**MimiHu • n.**

- 1.

**uMiHi • adj.**

1. warm and cozy, completely safe and secure (as if being nursed by one's mother as a baby)

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****MarHibin • n**

cream, milk fat

**N****N—M****NaM • n.**

1. food, meal, sustenance
2. (*fig.*) fuel

**iNaAM • v.intr.**

to eat (*intr.*)

**NiiM • v.tr.**

to eat *smth.*

**aaNiM • v.tr.**

1. to feed *sme.*

nas inBi?ini PurLi fun aaNiM  
'I fed my littlest sibling an apple.'

2. (*lit. or fig.*) to satisfy *sme.*, to sate *sme./smth.*

**NaMa • adj.**

satisfying, filling, tasty

**NanaM • n.**

1. chef, cook

NanaM daw, NaM JaBauru? lituc FiiMak  
'Compliments to the chef.' (*lit., 'Tell the chef the meal was very good.'*)

2. feeder, one who feeds (and potentially otherwise cares for) someone or something, -sitter.

nemi CuSu wan NanaM aaTiLW tuuq  
'We have to hire someone to feed the cat.'

3. fulfiller, provider, satisfier

FanaSaj aMiMu wan NanaMuru? tuuquc  
nas wan ManaM FiiM  
'My mother says that a man must be his family's provider.'

**NurMi • n.**

food

**NarMi • n.**

soup

**iNuMa • n.**

kitchen, dining room

ManaM RaTa iHuJa fit iNuMa fituru.  
'Mother has been in the kitchen all day.'

**mNiM • n.**

eating or cooking utensil

**inNiM • n.**

snack, morsel

**NuliM • n.**

1. mouth

KurKi NuliM daw fit nas aaPLis  
'I put the cookie in my mouth.'

2. teeth

NuliM mi isaaJuc fidul siinak!  
'Brush your teeth before bed!'

**NuMu • n.**

locust

**NasiM • n.**

chopsticks

<sup>2</sup>Disclaimer: this was sparky's idea

**Najuma** • *n.*

plate, platter, surface for eating

**Nidim** • *n.*

ground spice or seasoning

**aNiMu** • *n.*

jar

**NimiMu** • *n.*

bowl

**uNiMi** • *adj.*

hungry

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****inFisNanaM** • *n.*

babysitter, nanny

**mNiMaj** • *n.*

spoon

**mNiMun** • *n.*

fork

**NaManara** • *int.*

bon appetit, have a nice meal

**NarMibin** • *n.*

stew

**FaSa-NaM** • *n.*

breakfast, morning meal

**HaJa-NaM** • *n.*

lunch, midday meal

**HaTa-NaM** • *n.*

midnight snack

**SaJa-NaM** • *n.*

dinner, supper, evening meal

**P****P—L****PaL** • *n.*

fertility, fruitfulness, plenty

**iPaal** • *v.intr.*

to bear fruit, to achieve results

**Piil** • *v.tr.*to result in *smth.*, to produce *smth.*, to bear**aaPiL** • *v.tr.*to get results from *smth./sme.*, to motivate *sme.***PaLa** • *adj.*

fruitful, fertile, plentiful

**PanaL** • *n.*

a hard worker, an overachiever, someone who gets results

**PurLi** • *n.*

1. fruit, vegetable, nut, the edible product of a plant
2. apple, the fruit of *Malus domestica* specifically
3. (*fig.*) end result, effect, consequence

**ParLi** • *n.*

juice, fruit juice

**iPuLa** • *n.*

1. orchard, plantation, fruit farm

**inPiL** • *n.*

berry, nut, small fruit

**PuliL** • *n.*

1. womb, female reproductive system
2. (*botany*) the fruit-producing part of a flower, pistil, ovaries (*of a plant*)

**PuLu** • *n.*

squirrel

**PasiL** • *n.*

long, slender fruit or vegetable (e.g., cucumber, eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash); cucumiform

**PidiL** • *n.*

solute, the component that is dissolved into some solvent to form a solution

**PuLi** • *adj., n.*

red, reddish-pink, the color red/reddish-pink

**aPiLu** • *n.*

jar, can

**PimiLu** • *n.*

basket



**PL—S****PLaS • n.**

self-propelled motion, movement

**iPLaas • v.intr.**

to be located, to be in a place

**PLiis • v.tr.**to move oneself to *smwh.***aaPLiS • v.tr.**to move *smth.* to a place**PLanaS • n.**

1. driver
2. mover, hauler

**PLarSi • n.**

1. gasoline  
(*slang*) coffee

**iPLuSa • n.**

1. place, location
2. stop, station, terminal

**mPLiS • n.**

mode of transportation

**PLuSu • n.**

1. car, motor vehicle, automobile
2. (*dated*) mount, ridden animal

**PLasiS • n.**

line, row

**PLajusa • n.**

conveyor belt

**PLidis • n.**(*slang*) cocaine**aPLisu • n.**

engine

**PLimisu • n.**

generic container, bin, box

**Q****Q—H****QuHu • n.**

lizard, reptile

**QasiH • n.**

snake

**R****S****S—J****saJ • n.**

sleep, slumber, the state of being asleep

**isaaJ • v.**

to sleep, to be sleeping, to be asleep

**saJa • adj.**

sleepy, tired, exhausted

**suliJ • n.**

back, dorsum, the human back

**Compounds & Secondary Derivations****sajanara • int.**

good night, sleep well, sweet dreams, goodbye  
*NB: The gender affix -an- can be substituted with a more apt gendered affix.*

**SL—S****iSLaas • v.intr.**

to be closed, to be locked

**SLiis • v.tr.**

to close, to shut, to lock

**aasLiS • v.tr.**to shut *smth.* inside a container or behind a door**msLiS • n.**

lock

**sLasiS • n.**

zipper

**T****T—LW****TaLW • n.**

1. the land, like, as an idea
2. job, labor, employment

**iTaaLW • v.intr.**

1. to till, plow a field
2. to dig
3. to work, especially manual labor
4. to come to an agreement

**TiiLW • v.tr.**

to bury *smth.*

**aaTiLW • v.tr.**

1. to drive or stick *smth.* into the ground
2. to hire, to employ *sme.*

**TaLWa • adj.**

1. earthly, not of heavenly or extraterrestrial quality
2. regular, ordinary, every-day, humdrum

**TanaLW • n.**

1. farmer
2. employee, worker
3. groundskeeper, gardener

**TurLWi • n.**

potato

**TarLWi • n.**

mud

**iTuLWa • n.**

section of land

**mTiLW • n.**

spade, shovel

**inTiLW • n.**

island

**TuLWu • n.**

mole

**TasiLW • n.**

1. hill, mound
2. worm

**TajuLWa • n.**

1. the ground, soil
2. topsoil
3. field, cultivated land
4. forest floor

**TidiLW • n.**

actual dirt

**TuLWi • n., adj.**

brown, the color brown

**aTiLWu • n.**

grave, burial pit

**TimiLWu • n.**

valley

**W**

# Rootless Words

## Auxiliary Verbs

**dak** • *aux.*

can, to be able to, to be allowed to

**hwii** • *aux.*

not, no, don't, never

**jaa** • *aux.*

already, previously, by now

**kaj** • *aux.*

to want to, to be going to

**lit** • *aux.*

to very, to do emphatically or to an extreme extent

**naw** • *aux.*

to stop

**tuuq** • *aux.*

to must, to have to

**usnak** • *aux.*

let it be so, (*hortative*)

## Postpositions

baj - using, by means of

daw - to, towards,

dis - because (takes subordinate VP)

fit - on, at, in,

fun - from, out of

udan - if (takes subordinate VP)

tui - on the surface of

## Pronouns

## Numbers

## Attitudinals



### **Part III**

## **Example Texts & Translations**

