

ʔaʔa-FaM

A Reference Grammar of the Narish Language

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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		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.

	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>	
1.	ΘaΘ	Abstract noun	KaL	humidity (cf. iKaAL ‘to rain’)
2.	iΘaaΘ	Intransitive verb	iʔaaʔ	to act stupidly (cf. eʔaʔa ‘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. SaFR ‘heat’)
6.	ΘanaΘ	Person of X, Agentive noun	KanaJ	author (cf. KiY ‘to write X’)
7.	ΘurΘi	Object noun	NurMi	food (cf. NiM ‘to eat X’)
8.	ΘarΘi	Liquid noun	QarFi	coffee (cf. iQaaF ‘to drink coffee’)
9.	iΘuΘa	Place of X/with X attribute	iHuTa	night (cf. HaTa ‘dark’)
10.	mΘiΘ	Instrument, tool	mRiQ	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. DiL ‘to stare at’)
16.	ΘidiΘ	Loose granular mass	widiW	sugar (cf. wawa ‘sweet’)
17.	ΘuuΘ	Country/people group	NuURK	Norway (cf. NaRKA ‘cold’)
18.	ΘuΘi	Color	KuWi	yellow (cf., KaJuWa ‘leaf’)
19.	aΘiΘu	Closed container	aKiLu	bottle (cf. KaLi ‘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

2.2.2 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’

Rather than using a verbal copula, nominal and adjectival phrases are derived into verbs with the meaning ‘to be X’ or ‘to have characteristic X’ with the *-uru* affix.

- (1) *ha* KNUT *inFi*suru.
Knut is a baby.

Adjectives and determiners may still modify a noun that has been turned modified into part of the verb, resulting in these words serving a semi-adverbial function in these cases.

- (2) *ha* KNUT *li* *BaCa* *inFi*suruli?
ha KNUT *li* *BaCa* *inFi*s-*uru* -*li*
REF.M Knut which small baby-COP-INT
‘Which little baby is Knut?’

2.2.2.2 *-ila* - ‘there is’, ‘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’

When describing a quantity of something, often one may desire to use a particular noun as a measure of another. While many languages (English included) turn the measured substance into an adpositional phrase modifying the measure word as the head, in *ʔaʔa*-FAM one turns the measure word into an adjective modifying the substance being measured using the suffix *-lat*. For instance, *KimiLu* ‘glass’ becomes *KimiLulat* ‘a glass of’ in *KimiLulat MarHi* ‘glass of milk’

This suffix is not used with numbers themselves, however, which can be prepended onto noun phrases like determiners without being adjectivalized.

- (3) *pars* *bar* *aKiLu*lat *KarLi* *KiiL*.
pars *bar* *aKiLu*-*lat* *KarLi* *KiiL*
3.MED three bottle-MEAS water drink
‘He drank three bottles of water.’

2.2.2.9 *-aki* - ‘made/comprised of’

When one thing is constructed from/comprised of a particular material, one can indicate this by taking the noun of the material in question and turning it into an adjective using the suffix *-aki*—for instance, *RuRKDi* ‘wood’ becomes *RuRKDiaki* ‘wooden’.

- (4) *nas* *MajuWa*aki *iFu*sairi
nas *MajuWa* -*aki* *iFu*sa -*iri*
1SG playing_card-made_of house-make
‘I’m building a house of cards.’

2.2.2.10 *-s(e)* - ‘the ... one’

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

- (5) A: mi li MasiH Niimeʔ kajli? (*‘Which ice cream bar do you want to eat?’*)
 B: CaKLas nas kaj!
 CaKLa -s nas kaj
 chocolate-NMZ 1SG want
‘I want the chocolate one!’

Unlike equivalent periphrastic constructions from other languages (such as English’s ‘the chocolate one’), this derivation can only be applied to bare adjectives, and thus cannot be applied to relative clauses or strings of adjectives.

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.

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

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.

- (6) a. naswi KajuLa tui Fiil -ami -ʔ dak
 1EX water_surface on_surface_of notice-REFL-CVB 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	<i>‘they’re eating’</i>
ir-	Reportative	iriNaam	<i>‘they’re eating, they said’</i>
hwa-	Inferential	hwaiNaam	<i>‘they’re eating, judging by the smell’</i>
qaa-	Internal/Assumed	qaaiNaam	<i>‘they’re probably eating, it’s around dinner time’</i>

Table 2.2: Evidential modality affixes

- (7) 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.

- (8) 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.

- (9) 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.

- (10) 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.

- (11) *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.

- (12) *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.

- (13) 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)

- (14) 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.

- (15) 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'.

- (16) *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 $aa\Theta_{ii}\Theta$. 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 $aa\Theta_{ii}\Theta$ form serves as a causative of the intransitive.

- (17) 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.

- (18) **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:

- (19) 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 $aa\Theta_{ii}\Theta$ 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.

- (20) *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.

- (21) *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.

- (22) *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.¹

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.

- (23) 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

¹The 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**BaT** • *n.*

knowledge, understanding

wa aFiSu fit JaLa BaTiLa.

*'There's much knowledge in these books.'***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.*
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'.

aaBiT • *v.tr.*to tell *sme.*, to let *sme.* know

TaT mi BiiTuc udan (bus fun) nas

aaBiTibiak.

*'If you know the news, tell me (it).'***BaTa** • *adj.*

knowledgeable, understanding, wise

BuliT • *n.*

head

uBiTi • *adj.*

smug, arrogant, full of oneself, feeling like one knows everything

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

knowledgeableness, wisdom

uBiTiisa • *n.*

smugness, arrogance

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 BaJaauru? 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

uFisi • *adj.*

lively, spry

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 sun-shine, 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

HiY • 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

HurYi • 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
NaRka-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 KaLiilali?
'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 KaSiLiila
'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 MaHiila
'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

K—W

kaW • n.

growth

ikaaw • v.intr.

1. to grow, to increase in size
2. to mature, to grow up, to reach maturity, to come of age

kiiW • v.tr.

1. to plant *smth.*, to sow *smth.*
2. to conceive *sme.*
3. (fig.) to come up with *smth.*, to conceive of *smth.*, to think up *smth.*

aaKiW • v.tr.

1. to grow *smth.*, to tend *smth.*, to raise *smth.*
2. to raise *sme.*, to care for *sme.*, to read *sme.*, to bring *sme.* up

kaWa • adj.

1. fully grown, mature, adult
2. grown-up, mature, serious

kanaw • n.

adult, grown up

kurwi • n.

seed, bulb

karwi • n.

tea

ikuWa • n.

forest

mKiW • n.

1. stake, trellis, etc. used to support a growing plant
2. cane, walker, walking stick

inKiW • n.

seedling, sapling, baby plant

kuliW • n.

shoulder

KuWu • n.

1. frog, toad
2. (*fig., slang*) smoker

KasiW • n.

1. plant
2. tree
3. (*fig.*) joint

KajuWa • n.

1. leaf
2. (*slang*) tobacco

KidiW • n.

1. dried and/or powdered plant matter used for any purpose
2. ground tobacco or cannabis for smoking

KuWi • adj., n.

green, the color green

aKiWu • n.

garden, greenhouse, arbor

KimiWu • n.

pot, plot, planter

uKiwi • adj.

feeling enriched, like one is growing as a person, self-fulfilled

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

adolescent, teenager, older child

uKiwiisa • n.

self-fulfillment, enrichment, personal growth

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

LimiT • 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.
This book's title is bad.
2. brand, a mark on an item or piece of livestock to show ownership
wa MuHuaJ ha JENSEN carde wan MaH CLiID
This bull bears Sir Jensen's brand.
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.

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.

breast, tit, udder, teat

MuHu • n.

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

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.

cream-colored, the color cream, off-white

aMiHu • n.

milk carton

MimiHu • n.

baby bottle

uMiHi • adj.

1. warm and cozy, completely safe and secure (as if being nursed by one's mother as a baby)
2. milk drunk, in a food coma

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.'

²Disclaimer: this was sparky's idea

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

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

PaRi • *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.intr.*

to sleep, to be sleeping, to be asleep

siiJ • *v.tr.*to say good-bye to *sme.*, to bid adieu**aasiJ** • *v.tr.*

1. to put to sleep, to knock out
2. (*fig.*) to bore

saja • *adj.*

1. tiring, sleep-inducing
2. evening's, in the evening (*from saJa-TaN*)
3. (*fig.*) boring

surJi • *n.*

pillow

sarJi • *n.*

a warm drink drunk before bed, nightcap

isuJa • *n.*

1. bed
2. bedroom

msiJ • *n.*

sedative, sleeping pill, sleep aid

insiJ • *n.*

nap, catnap

sulij • *n.*

back, dorsum, the human back

suJu • *n.*

bat

sajuJa • *n.*

1. quilt, comforter, blanket, duvet
2. sleeping bag

sidij • *n.*

rheum, sleep sand, eye booger, the crust or mucus that accumulates at the corner of one's eye during sleep

suuJ • *n.*

Dreamland, the world where people's souls go when they sleep

suJi • *adj., n.*

the colors you see when you close your eyes

simiJu • *n.*

crib, cradle, bassonet

usiJi • *adj.*

sleepy, tired, exhausted

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**sLas** • *n.*

security, safety

isLaas • *v.intr.*

to be closed, to be locked

sLiis • *v.tr.*to shut *smth.* inside a container or behind a door**aasLis** • *v.tr.*

to close, to shut, to lock

sLasa • *adj.*

secured, contained, safe

sLanas • *n.*

1. security guard
2. bank teller

sLursi • *n.*

lock

isLuSa • *n.*

1. fortress
2. saferoom

msLiS • *n.*

key

sLasis • *n.*

zipper

sLajusa • *n.*

1. door, trap door, gate
2. tarp or other similar object used to close something off

asLiSu • n.

safe, lockbox, vault

sLimisu • n.

a fenced-in area, an area contained by a fence

usLisi • adj.

1. (of a person) closed-off, repressed, reserved
2. confined, depressed, feeling trapped

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**W—W****wawa • adj.**

1. sweet, sugary, saccharine
2. sweet, docile, lovely, adorable

warWi • n.

sweet drink, soft drink, sugary beverage

widiw • n.

sugar, powdered sweetener

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

honey

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 • *postp.*

using, by means of

daw • *postp.*

to, towards

dis • *postp.*

because, because of, due to

fit • *postp.*

in, at, on

fun • *postp.*

from, out of

udan • *postp.*

if, depending on

tui • *postp.*

on/covering the surface of

Pronouns

Numbers

Attitudinals

Others

carde •

sir, milord, sire, boss, ma'am, milady

Number of Words Currently in Dictionary: 309

Part III

Example Texts & Translations

