ʕaʕaꟻaM

A Reference Grammar

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Foreword

ʔaʔaꜰaᴍ is a constructed language.

Contents

Part I

Grammar

Chapter 1

Phonology

1.1 Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p ~ b	t ~ d	c ~ $\widehat{c\varsigma}$	k ~ $\widehat{kx}$	q ~ $\widehat{q\chi}$	ʔ
Affricate	pʰ ~ $\widehat{p\phi}$	tʰ ~ $\widehat{ts}$				
Fricative	ɸ	s	ç ~ x ~ χ ~ ħ ~ h			
Approximant		l	j	w		
Nasal	m	n				
Rhotic		ɾ ~ r ~ ɹ ~ ɽ ~ ɻ ~ ʀ ~ ʁ				

Table 1.1: Phonemic Consonant Inventory

1.2 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i (iː)		u (uː)
Mid		ə	
Open		a (aː)	

Table 1.2: Phonemic Vowel Inventory

1.2.1 Epenthetic schwa

1.3 Morphophonemics

1.4 Orthography

ʔaʔaʀaʍ has two recognized scripts based on the Latin alphabet. They share the characteristic of marking the root radicals of content words in some fashion, as this has been observed to greatly improve word recognition and readability.

1.4.1 Formal script

The formal script makes use of small-caps letters to highlight roots.

1.4.2   Informal script

The informal script, also known as "texting script", is the orthography used in the majority of day-to-day communication. It makes use of capital letters for roots, uses ⟨7⟩ for glottal stops, and allows for several shorthand abbreviations.

Chapter 2

Morphology

2.1 Underlying roots

2.2 Derivational morphology

The root system

Pattern	Meaning	Example	
ӨаӨ	Abstract noun	saɈ	sleep *(cf. ɪsaaɈ 'to sleep')*
		ĸaʟ	rainfall *(cf. ĸurʟi 'raindrop')*
ӨanaӨ	Person of X, Agentive noun	ĸanaɈ	author *(cf. ĸiiɈ 'to write X')*
ӨarӨi	Liquid noun	ɋarꜰi	coffee *(cf. ɪɋaaꜰ 'to drink coffee')*
ӨurӨi	Object noun	ɴurᴍi	food *(cf. ɴiiᴍ 'to eat X')*
ӨidiӨ	Loose granular mass	widiw	sugar *(cf. wawa 'sweet')*
ӨasiӨ	Long slender object	ʙasiᴛ	hair *(cf. ʙuliᴛ 'head')*
ӨuliӨ	Associated body part	ʙuliᴛ	head *(cf. ɪʙaaᴛ 'to understand')*
mӨiӨ	Instrument, tool	mʀiɋ	weapon *(cf. ʀaɋ 'pain')*
iӨuӨa	Place of X/with X attribute	iʜuᴛa	night *(cf. ʜaᴛa 'dark')*
ӨiiӨ	Transitive verb	ꜰiis	to give birth to *(cf. ꜰanas 'person')*
iӨaaӨ	Intransitive verb	iʔaaʔ	to act stupidly *(cf. eʔaʔa 'dumb')*
ӨaӨa	Primary attribute	saꜰʀa	hot *(cf. saꜰeʀ 'heat')*
ӨuӨu	Animal	ʙuʀĸu	dog *(cf. ʙaʀĸ 'bark')*
ӨuuӨ	Country	ꜰuuɴs	France *(cf. ꜰuɴsu 'frog')*

Table 2.1: Primary derivation patterns

2.2.1 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

2.3.2   Evidential modality

2.4   Pronouns and determiners

	Nonplural	*Plural*
Speaker-only	nas	naswi
Addressee-only	mi	miwi
Inclusive	nemi	nemiwi

Table 2.2: Discourse participant pronouns

	Determiner	*Pronoun*
Proximal	wa	wase
Medial	par	parse
Distal	bu	buse
Interrogative	li	lise

Table 2.3: Determiners and demonstrative pronouns

Chapter 3

Syntax

3.1 Verb stacking

3.2 Comparative constructions

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

(1) a. *ᴘuᴍu ꜰanaꜱ fun ᴍaɴᴛa -uru*
         rabbit person from big   COP
         'The rabbit was bigger than a person.'

     b. *ᴛaɴ nemi buse   fun ᴊaʟ   -ila*
         TOP QUAL STD   MRK
         time DU.IN DIST:PN from many_things have
         'We have more time than them.'

3.3 Animacy hierarchy

0	Natural Forces
1	Pronouns (1>2>3)
2	Speakers of ʔaʔaꜰaᴍ
3	Non-speakers of ʔaʔaꜰaᴍ
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

Rootless Words

B—T

test This is an entry

Rootless Words

B—T

test This is an entry

Part III

Example Texts & Translations