

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				ʔ
Affricate	p ^h ~ p̥ɸ	t ^h ~ t̥s	c ~ c̟	k ~ k̟x	q ~ q̟χ	
Fricative	ɸ	s		x ~	χ ~	h ~
Approximant		l	j	w		
Nasal	m	n				
Rhotic				r		

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. isaaj ‘to sleep’)
		kal	rainfall (cf. kurli ‘raindrop’)
ΘanaΘ	Person of X, Agentive noun	kanaj	author (cf. kiiij ‘to write X’)
ΘarΘi	Liquid noun	qarfi	coffee (cf. iqaaf ‘to make coffee’)
CurCi	Object noun	nurmi	food (cf. niim ‘to cook X’)
CidiC	Loose granular mass	widiw	sugar (cf. wawa ‘sweet’)
CasiC	Long slender object	basit	hair (cf. bulit ‘head’)
CuliC	Associated body part	bulit	head (cf. ibaat ‘to understand’)
mCiC	Instrument, tool	mriq	weapon (cf. raq ‘pain’)
iCuCa	Place of X/with X attribute	ihuta	night (cf. hata ‘dark’)
CiiC	Transitive verb	fiis	to give birth to (cf. fanas ‘person’)
iCaaC	Intransitive verb	i?aa?	to act stupidly (cf. e?aa? ‘dumb’)
CaCa	Primary attribute	safrā	hot (cf. safer ‘heat’)
CuCu	Animal	burku	dog (cf. bark ‘bark’)
CuuC	Country	fuuns	France (cf. funsu ‘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 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

Part II

Dictionary

