
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

aaaaaaaaaaaa, the language of ???

uruwi

een⁸s.-meibpelbe-kona

A complete grammar

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0.1 | Introduction

1 | Phonology and orthography

1.1 | Phoneme inventory and romanisation

aaaaaaaaaaaa uses the following phonemes:

Table 1.1: The consonants of aaaaaaaaaaaaaa.

	Linguolabial	Alveolar	Palatal
Plosive	p b /t̪ d̪/	t d /t̪ d̪/	k g /c ɟ/
Fricative	f /θ̪/	ɸ /θ̪/	
(sibilant)		s /s̪/	
(lateral)	ɸ̪ /ɸ̪/	ʃ ʒ /ʃ̪ ʒ̪/	
(nareal)		h /h̪/	
Approximant		r /ɹ̪/	j /j̪/
Nasal	m /m̪/		n /n̪/

Table 1.2: The vowels of aaaaaaaaaaaaaa.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i î /i i:/		u û /u u:/
Mid			o ô /ɔ ɔ:/
Low		a â /a a:/	

In addition, short vowels other than /i/ can be diphthongised with /j̪/ = /j/ to form, for instance, <aj> /aj̪/ or <ja> /j̪a/. However, at the start of a syllable, /j̪/ is treated as a consonant.

1.2 | Phonotactics

Syllables are composed of:

- An onset – either:
 - any consonant other than <m> /m̪/
 - one of <sp̪ t̪p̪ tr̪ pr̪ sr̪ hr̪ ɸ̪t̪ ht̪ rt̪ ɸ̪d̪ rs̪ rf̪ ɸ̪tr̪ htr̪> /s̪θ̪ t̪θ̪ t̪ɸ̪ θ̪ɸ̪ s̪ɸ̪ ɸ̪t̪ θ̪t̪ ɸ̪t̪ t̪t̪/

- at the beginning of the word, nothing at all, but any medial syllables with an empty onset will receive an epenthetic [j] at that position.
- A rime – one of:
 - A long vowel or diphthong, and nothing else (diphthongs with onglides are not allowed if the onset is <j> /j/)
 - A short vowel followed by one of <p m r> /θ ɲ ʃ/

Double instances of a consonant between syllables are resolved as such:

- /θ.θ/ → [θ.t]
- /θ.θt/ → [θ.tʰ]
- /ʃ.ʃ/ → [ʃ.l]

These are not respelt.

1.3 | Allophony

The following rules are applied:

$\{u, u:\} \rightarrow \{y, \mathfrak{u}:\}$	$(C_1\{+ll\}\blacklozenge)$
$\{o, o:\} \rightarrow \{\mathfrak{o}, \mathfrak{u}\}$	$(C_1\{+ll\}\blacklozenge)$
$\mathfrak{z} \rightarrow \mathfrak{z}^h$	$(\blacklozenge C_1[+ll])$
$\{t, d\} \rightarrow \{\mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{d}\}$	$(\mathfrak{n}\blacklozenge)$
$\mathfrak{n} \rightarrow n$	$(\blacklozenge C_1[+av])$
$\theta \rightarrow \theta\mathfrak{s}$	$(\blacklozenge C_1[+ll])$
$\theta \rightarrow \theta^j$	$(\blacklozenge\{a, a:, \mathfrak{o}, o:\}) \left[\frac{\sqrt{\#\sigma + \#C}}{\#} < 0.5 \right]$
$\theta \rightarrow \mathfrak{d}$	$(\blacklozenge C_1[+v])$
$C_1[-v] \rightarrow C_1[+a]$	$(\blacklozenge V_1[+s])$

1.4 | Stress

Much like Ðraħýl Rase, aaaaaaa has the concept of natural stress. That is, if syllables with short vowels are considered short and those with long vowels or diphthongs are long, then:

- if the penultimate syllable is long, then it is stressed
- if the antepenultimate syllable is long, then it is stressed
- if the ultimate syllable is long, then it is stressed
- otherwise, the penultimate syllable is stressed

However, aaaaaaa is less free with deviations from this pattern. Notably, if the last three syllables are short, then the antepenultimate syllable can receive the stress instead. In the romanisation, this is marked with an acute accent.

2 | Syntax

The basic word order of aaaaaaaaaa is one of $\{N_1 VN_2, N_1 N_2 V, VN_1 N_2, N_1 V, VN_2\}$. N_1 and N_2 are the “subject” and “object” of a verb, in either order. In the absence of pivot constraints, N_1 is usually S , unless S is semantically an experiencer, in which case N_1 is O .

Adjectives are placed farther from the verb than their antecedents. If an adjective (or noun) A modifies an N , then the onsets of A and N are switched. Adverbs occur at either the beginning or the end of the clause.

2.1 | Pivots

When two clauses α and β are joined by a clausal conjunction, some arguments may be omitted in the second clause.

- If $\beta.N_1$ is omitted, then it defaults to $\alpha.N_2$ (inner pivot).
- If $\beta.N_2$ is omitted, then it defaults to $\alpha.N_1$ (outer pivot).
- If $\beta.V$ is omitted, then it defaults to $\alpha.V$ (verb pivot).

Noun phrases joined by nominal conjunctions work differently. The rules for those that occur after the verb are listed:

$$N_1^i A_1^i + N_2^j A_2^j \rightarrow N_1 A_1 + N_2 A_2 \quad (2.1)$$

$$N_1^i A_1^j + N_2^j A_2^i \rightarrow (N_1 + N_2)(A_1 + A_2) \quad (2.2)$$

$$N_1^i A^i + N_2 \rightarrow N_1 A + N_2 A \quad (2.3)$$

$$N_1 A^i + N_2^i \rightarrow (N_1 + N_2) A \quad (2.4)$$

$$N^i A_1^i +^j A_2^j \rightarrow N A_1 + N A_2 \quad (2.5)$$

$$N^i A_1^j +^j A_2^i \rightarrow N(A_1 + A_2) \quad (2.6)$$

$$N_1 + N_2^i A^i \rightarrow N_1 A + N_2 \emptyset \quad (2.7)$$

The sequences are reversed before the verb.

For instance, using $\langle ki \rangle$ *and*¹, $\langle napu \rangle$ *fish*, $\langle pjiko \rangle$ *cat*, $\langle karaha \rangle$ *fast* and $\langle dombu \rangle$ *heavy*, we have the following (assuming that these NPs follow the verb):

¹There are two meanings that correspond to English’s *and*. The first is a bundle of both arguments present; the second is an object that has the properties of both arguments. Consider *The dog and bird are a mammal and₁ bipedal* versus *The human is a mammal and₂ bipedal*. $\langle ki \rangle$ uses the former interpretation for nouns and the latter for adjectives. $\langle a\beta \rangle$ uses the latter interpretation for both nouns and adjectives.

- <kapu naraha ki djiko pombu> *the fast fish and the heavy cat*
- <dapu paraha ki njiko kombu> *the (fast and heavy) (fish and cat)*
- <kapu naraha ki pjiko> *the fast fish and the fast cat*
- <napu paraha ki kjiko> *the fast (fish and cat)*
- <kapu naraha di kombu> *the fast fish and the heavy fish*
- <kapu daraha ni kombu> *the (fast and heavy) fish*
- <napu ki kjiko paraha> *the (fast fish) and the cat*

3 | Nouns

3.1 | Conceptualisation

Nouns are declined for the following categories:

- number-emergence
- similitude
- specificity

3.1.1 | Number-emergence

Number and emergence (cf. *The Avonian Language* 8.13.1 40) describes not only the quantity of an object but also any additional properties borne by the group.

- *Unmarked* (UNM) is the default form of the noun.
- *Reduced* (RED) is closest to English's plural form and confers no additional properties to a group of objects. Compared with the unmarked N-E, the reduced N-E is used the most often with human nouns, less often with other animates and rarely with inanimate nouns. With uncountable nouns, the unmarked form is always used.
- *Emergent* (EMG) describes a group of objects with properties extending beyond its components but also individual qualities.
- *Coherent* (COH) describes an entity that cannot be meaningfully divided into its individual parts.

3.1.2 | Similitude

Similitude (cf. *The Avonian Language* 8.13.2 41) describes the differences among different objects of a group. This category is not marked in unmarked-NE nouns.

- *Identical* (ID) means that a similar group with n elements as the one mentioned fall into $O(\log \log n)$ identities (to a margin of error) – e. g. a pile of candies or an orchard of apple trees.
- *Similative* (SIM) means that the members of the group in question are similar in name only – e. g. a forest with different species of plants.

- *Related* (REL) means that at least one entity is the item in question and the others are related to it – e. g. spoons and other utensils.

3.1.3 | Specificity

This refers to whether a noun phrase is unique in a given context and has two values: *specific* (SPC) and *nonspecific* (NSP).

3.2 | Application

In aaaaaaaaaa, the default form of the noun is the *unmarked similative specific* form.

3.2.1 | The stem and the ending

The ending of a noun is the rime of the last syllable, and the stem everything before that. For instance, the ending of <napu> *fish* is <-u> and its stem <nap->.

3.2.2 | Stem alternation

If the noun is not stressed on the last syllable, then the consonant cluster after the stressed vowel is lenited as shown in table 3.1 in the weak form of the stem.

Table 3.1: Lenitions of consonant clusters.

Onset \ Coda	Ø	ɸ	m	r	Onset \ Coda	Ø	ɸ	m	r
p	b	f	mb	rb	n	h	ɸn	n	n
b	b	ɸ	f	f	sɸ	s	ɸɸ	f	rɸ
f	f	f	mb	rf	tɸ	ɸ	ɸɸ	mɸ	rɸ
f̣	f̣	f̣	ṃf̣	ṛf̣	tr	g	ɸr	ṃɸr	rr
t	d	ɸ	md	rd	ɸr	r	ɸr	ṃɸ	rɸ
d	r	ɸ	md	r	sr	r	ɸr	md	rr
ɸ	ɸ	ɸ	f	rd	hr	r	ɸr	mr	rr
s	š	ɸ	f	r	ɸt	ɸ	ɸt	ṃɸ	rɸ
š	ž	š	mž	rž	ht	t	ɸt	mt	rt
ž	r	ž	mž	r	rt	rd	ɸr	md	rd
h	n	ɸn	n	r	ɸd	ɸ	ɸɸ	ṃɸ	rɸ
r	r	dr	r	r	rš	rž	ɸž	mž	rž
k	g	ɸg	n	rg	ṛf̣	ṛf̣	ɸ̣f̣	ṃf̣	rb
g	g	ɸg	n	r	ɸtr	ɸr	ɸtr	ṃɸr	ṛɸr
j	j				htr	tr	ɸtr	mtr	rtr

For instance, the weak form of the stem for <napu> is <nab->. Similarly, the weak form of the stem for <dombu> is <dof->.

3.2.3 | Vowel mutation

An additional vowel mutation might be performed on the nucleus of the syllable before the stressed syllable – see table 3.2. Long vowels mutate similarly, as do diphthongs (which use the core vowel).

Table 3.2: Vowel mutation.

Pre-stressed \ Stressed	a	i	o	u
a	i	u	i	o
i	o	a	a	u
o	u	i	a	a
u	a	o	i	i

3.2.4 | Declension tables

In tables 3.3 to 3.14, S and W represent the strong and weak stems, respectively, and an asterisk denotes the presence of vowel mutation.

Table 3.3: Nouns that end with <-a>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -a			S -ata	
Reduced	S -a*	S -ar	S -aja	S -ata*	S -ara	S -ani
Emergent	W -i	W -iþ	W -ija	W -ita	W -iþta	W -iji
Coherent	W -i*	W -ir*	W -irja*	W -iþra*	W -iþta*	W -irji*

Table 3.4: Nouns that end with any other vowel <-V>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -V			S -Vhta	
Reduced	S -V*	S -Vr	S -Vja	S -Vta*	S -Vr	S -Vni
Emergent	W -a	W -aj	W -aju	W -ata	W -aþa	W -aji
Coherent	W -a*	W -ar*	W -aju*	W -aþra*	W -aþta*	W -arja*

Table 3.5: Nouns that end with <-aþ>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -aþ			W -aþa	
Reduced	S -aþ*	S -ar*	S -aþja*	W -ata*	W -aþra	W -ahi
Emergent	S -a	S -aj	S -aja	W -ita	W -iþa	W -iji
Coherent	S -iþ*	S -ar	S -ajaþ	W -iþraþ	W -iþta	W -irjaþ

Table 3.6: Nouns that end with <-iþ>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -iþ			W -iþa	
Reduced	S -iþ*	S -ir*	S -iþja*	W -ita*	W -iþra	W -ihu
Emergent	S -i	S -ij	S -ija	W -ata	W -iþa	W -iji
Coherent	S -oþ*	S -ir	S -ijaþ	W -aþraþ	W -aþta	W -arjaþ

Table 3.7: Nouns that end with <-oþ>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -oþ			W -oþa	
Reduced	S -oþ*	S -or*	S -oja*	W -uta*	W -oþra	W -ohu
Emergent	S -o	S -oj	S -oja	W -ata	W -uþa	W -uju
Coherent	S -iþ*	S -or	S -ojaþ	W -aþraþ	W -uþta	W -ujþ

Table 3.8: Nouns that end with <-uþ>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -uþ			W -uþa	
Reduced	S -uþ*	S -ur*	S -uja*	W -uta*	W -uþra	W -uha
Emergent	S -i	S -ij	S -uja	W -ata	W -aþa	W -aju
Coherent	S -iþ*	S -ar	S -ajaþ	W -aþraþ	W -aþta	W -ajþ

Table 3.9: Nouns that end with <-Vm>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -Vm			W -Vm	
Reduced	S -Vha	W -Vha*	W -Vþ	S -ar	S -ihV*	W -ihV
Emergent	S -Vþ	W -Vþ*	S -Vha*	W -ihV*	S -ar*	W -ar
Coherent	S -Vja	W -Vha	S -Vþ*	W -ar*	S -ihV	W -ajþ

Table 3.10: Nouns that end with <-Vr>.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -Vr			W -Vr	
Reduced	S -Vra	W -Vra*	W -Vþ	S -an	S -inV*	W -imV
Emergent	S -Vþ	W -Vþ*	S -Vra*	W -inV*	S -an*	W -am
Coherent	S -Vja	W -Vra	S -Vþ*	W -an*	S -inV	W -ariþ

Table 3.11: Nouns that end with <-â>

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -â			S -âta	
Reduced	S -âri	S -âri	S -ara	S -âra	S -âra	S -ara
Emergent	S -âri	S -aj	S -ara	S -âna	S -âna	S -ajra
Coherent	S -aja	S -aþ	S -ara	S -âna	S -âna	S -aþ

Table 3.12: Nouns that end with <-î>

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -î			S -îta	
Reduced	S -îri	S -îri	S -ari	S -îra	S -îra	S -ari
Emergent	S -îþri	S -îþ	S -ira	S -îna	S -îna	S -îra
Coherent	S -ija	S -iþ	S -ira	S -îna	S -îna	S -iþ

Table 3.13: Nouns that end with <-ô>

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -ô			S -ôpa	
Reduced	S -ôri	S -ôri	S -om	S -ôra	S -ôra	S -ora
Emergent	S -ôri	S -oj	S -om	S -ôna	S -ôna	S -or
Coherent	S -oj	S -oþ	S -om	S -ôna	S -ôna	S -aþ

Table 3.14: Nouns that end with <-û>

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		S -û			S -ûpa	
Reduced	S -ûri	S -ûri	S -um	S -ûfa	S -ûfa	S -ura
Emergent	S -ûrfi	S -uj	S -um	S -ûna	S -ûna	S -ur
Coherent	S -uþ	S -uþ	S -um	S -umba	S -umba	S -aþ

3.2.5 | Examples

Table 3.15: Declensions for <napu> *fish*.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		napu			napuhta	
Reduced	napa	napur	napuja	noputa	napur	napuni
Emergent	naba	nabaj	nabaju	nabata	nabaþa	nabaji
Coherent	nabi	nabir	nibaju	nibaþra	nibaþta	nibarja

Table 3.16: Declensions for <hrisaþ> *rock*.

Specificity N-E \ Sim.	Specific			Nonspecific		
	Identical	Similar	Related	Identical	Similar	Related
Unmarked		hrisaþ			hriþaþa	
Reduced	hrisuþ	hrisur	hrosaðja	hroþata	hriþaþra	hriþahi
Emergent	hrisa	hrisaj	hrisaja	hriþita	hriþiþa	hriþiji
Coherent	hrisaþ	hrisar	hrisajað	hriþiþraþ	hriþiþta	hriþirjaþ

4 | Verbs

4.1 | Conceptualisation

Verbs are conjugated for the following categories:

- assignment of N_1 and N_2 to S and O : whether $N_1 = S$ (direct) or $N_1 = O$ (inverse)
- aspect: either *simple* or *prospective*
- voice: either *active* or *antiapplicative* (demotes S or O to X)

(Tense per se is expressed through periphrasis.)

4.2 | Application

The base form of a verb is the *direct simple active* form. Sometimes, there will be a noun and a verb whose base forms are the same as each other, possibly creating ambiguity. Other conjugations of a verb are assigned to noun declensions as such:

Table 4.1: Conjugations of a verb.

Voice \ Aspect	Simple	Prospective
Direct assignment		
Active	UNM.SPC	EMG.SIM.NSP
Antiapplicative	RED.SIM.NSP	COH.ID.NSP
Inverse assignment		
Active	UNM.NSP	EMG.SIM.SPC
Antiapplicative	RED.SIM.SPC	COH.REL.SPC

4.2.1 | Examples

Napuhta nigî firuhta.
fish-UNM.NSP eat-D.S.ACT flower-UNM.NSP
Fish eat flowers.

4.3 | Auxiliary verb constructions

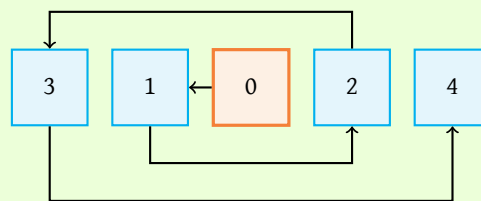
Auxiliary verbs are ordered in a spiralling manner, with the head verb at the centre and the dependent verbs at the periphery. As shown in figure 4.1, the head verb oc-

Table 4.2: Common auxiliary verbs.

Verb	Definition
imop	(void)
kadasu	past
amriki	atelic
imrip	potential
fajpa	necessitative

cupies position 0 and its dependent occupies position 1. If the dependent has another dependent, then the latter occupies position 2, and so on.

Figure 4.1: Ordering of auxiliary verbs.



All verbs that are in a position other than 0 are in the infinitive form, which involves suffixing <-pa>.

4.3.1 | A note about <imop>

The dummy verb <imop> can disambiguate the verb of a sentence when it is not already clear.

4.3.2 | The copula

The copula <op> is conjugated irregularly:

Table 4.3: Conjugations of <op>.

Voice \ Aspect	Simple	Prospective
Direct assignment		
Active	op	opum
Antiapplicative	onup	ompum

Note that inverse-assignment forms do not exist for this verb.

5 | Adpositions

The most dominant type of adposition is the *inposition*, which occurs inside the head noun of a noun phrase.

5.1 | Class I inpositions

Class I inpositions occur:

- after the first syllable without a coda (other than the last syllable)
- or if none, after the second-to-last syllable

With <pdu> around:

- *napu* fish → *na-pdu-pu* around the fish
- *saginu* grove → *sa-pdu-ginu* around the grove
- *torpibam* crane (bird) → *torpi-pdu-bam* around the crane
- *ptarhaspa* willow → *ptarhas-pdu-pa* around the willow

Class I inpositions usually have complex onsets.

5.2 | Class II inpositions

Class II inpositions occur:

- after the first syllable on a noun that occurs before the verb of the same clause
- after the second-to-last syllable on a noun that occurs after the verb of the same clause

With <dira> to the right of:

- *napu* fish → *na-dira-pu* to the right of to the fish
- *saginu* grove → *sa-dira-ginu* or *sagi-dira-nu* to the right of the grove
- *torpibam* crane (bird) → *tor-dira-pibam* or *torpi-dira-bam* to the right of the crane
- *ptarhaspa* willow → *ptar-dira-haspa* or *ptarhas-dira-pa* around the willow

A Dictionary

An entry looks like this:

nɪdə *n* fish

From left to right:

1. The entry – the aaaaaaaaaaaaaa term listed.
2. The part of speech of the corresponding entry:
 - *n* – a noun
 - *vt* – a transitive verb
 - *vi* – an intransitive verb
 - *adj* – an adjective
 - *adv* – an adverb
 - *ip1* – a class I inposition
 - *ip2* – a class II inposition
 - *cp* – a circumposition
3. The definition – the gloss for the corresponding entry.
 - (S) – subject
 - (O) – direct object
4. If applicable, any special grammatical or semantic notes for this term.
5. Optionally, examples of usage.

| t

l p

torpibam *n* crane (bird)

pjiko n cat

1 d

b

bidira *n* right side, right hand

bimka *n* left side, left hand

dira ip_2 to the right of

dombu *adj* heavy

| k

karaha *adj* fast
 ki *conj* and

| p

ptarhaspa *n* willow
 pdu *ip1* around
 pibam *n* bird

| s

saginu *n* grove, forest
 siġi *ip2* created, written, made by;
 according to

| ħ

ħiru *n* flower

| h

hrisap *n* rock

| r

rto *ip1* in, on, inside (locational)

| n

napu *n* fish
 nâprša *n, adj* an unorthodox person, unorthodox
 nika *ip2* to the left of
 nigġ *n, v* food, eat