

The QuCheanya Language

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Part I

Dear Priestess Yesora

Greetings, Yesora. We hope that this opening section of the book will make everything clear to you. The priestesses who have brought this book to you do technically speak your language, but a version of it from 234 years in the future, and while they do have knowledge of your dialect, there are likely to be some miscommunications. Indeed, the purpose of this book is to eliminate all such miscommunications among the priesthood for all eternity.

We know that you have been tasked to create an auxiliary language for the priesthood's use, to be used in all times and across all timelines, so that we may be able to communicate with any priestess from any time period and any timeline, no matter when and where we were born. This is a truly daunting task. Fortunately, the work of creating this language has already been done for you. This book is a complete grammar of that language. You see, if you had been allowed to create it yourself, it would have taken a long time, and you would have had many decisions to make, about what features to include, the meanings and forms of individual words, so many decisions! And every time you made a decision, the timeline would have forked, and in every resulting timeline there would be a slightly different version of the language, and the people from those different timelines would not be able to effectively communicate with each other, defeating the purpose of having an auxiliary language in the first place. So the language had to be created all at once, in a single instant, in order to be identical in all subsequent timelines. Actually, we do not know who created the language, or how. We inherited this book when you received it, kept it and reprinted it numerous times, and on the second day of the fourth week of the fifth month of the year 198 after the Goddess Sapfita's Gift of the Mirror to us, we reprinted it one last time and took it back to you, so that we may inherit it from you in the future. If this seems odd to talk about, do not worry! Part of the intent of the language is to make it easier to talk about events like this. As for where this language, and the contents of this book, and the machine the priestesses have brought you actually originate from, we prefer to say that they come from Sapfita Herself. There is no other readily available answer.

The machine is ingenious, it is called a printing press. The syllabary of this language, which you will see by continuing to read, is organized featurially in such a way that a limited set of individual components can be combined to create all the characters needed to write it. These components can be made into metal pieces, arranged into a plate, inked, and pressed into paper to create many pages of

perfectly written words very quickly. The machine will be invaluable to the priesthood, and it can also be used to print other languages as well, for example, as in this book. But our role in the future is to be the stewards of knowledge and research and experimentation into the mechanics of time travel and the nature of time and Sapfita herself (as well as a great many other unrelated fields of study), and for this we need to be able to print many copies of books and documents, such that information may be preserved and disseminated among the temples. The priesthood persists in this capacity until the year 2307, at which point the world as we know it apparently ceases to exist for reasons which are not clear to us.

You may well wonder about the war the Cheanya people face in your time in the year 36 before the Gift of the Mirror, but we assure you that all will be well (or at least it will in all the timelines that we are aware of). When the remainder of the Cheanya people escaped from a battle against the Tuari in what we now call the year 0, to 200 years into the past, using the Mirror that was Gifted to the priestesses by the wise Sapfita, we gained an additional 200 years to prepare for that war, which the generals and soldiers had already been through once. For almost 170 years you have been preparing for that, raising and training soldiers, crafting weapons, and advancing military technology, what should have been done in the first place had the King actually heeded his advisers. But you will succeed the second time; with your 200-year head start you will defeat them entirely. The matter of importance that remains is to secure the position of the priesthood in the post-war Cheanya society. The King (Emperor, as he calls himself now in 198) and his cronies cannot be trusted. We will not share knowledge of how to use the Mirror with them, or with any other person who is not a full member of the priesthood. We will also not share our research into time travel, unless it is vital that others know of it. The few male priests who have up until your time been part of the priesthood also cannot be trusted, men are ever in the service of the King/Emperor and always tempted to wield the power he grants them over women. They must be cast out, and men shall never again be part of the priesthood. Some will object to this; let them. They will not be among those who know the use and construction of the Mirror in your time, so it does not matter what they do. Forever, until the end of the world, this shall be a women's secret, and women's power, to counter the power men place in the Emperor. Let them never forget who is truly responsible for the continued existence of our people.

And now, the language, as promised.

Part II

The Name of the Language and its Philosophy

The language is called QuCheanya, which means “the Cheanya language”. Of course there has never been a single Cheanya language, even in your time there are various recognized dialects, and in the future these evolve into three principal branches of Cheanya languages that are not mutually intelligible. Translators must be hired for most people on the eastern and northern coasts to understand the Emperor’s proclamations, although increasingly in future times many of those people do speak the Capital Dialect as a second language. Even if one wanted to consider the Capital Dialect to be the “true” Cheanya language, the Capital Dialect in the year 500 is not mutually intelligible with the Capital Dialect in the year 1500, they are essentially different languages as well; and the Capital Dialect in 1500 in one timeline may also be completely unintelligible to speakers of the Capital Dialect in 1500 in another timeline. QuCheanya is designed to transcend all of those changes and variations, to be an unchanging constant across time and space; to enable a priestess in the Capital in the year 2000 to communicate with another priestess in Vrel in the year 300. In practice, we rarely cross both time and space at the same time, but should the need arise we would still like to all speak the same language. As the only language spoken in all times (after the year 0) and places on our large island, we declare this to be the only language that can truly be called the Cheanya language.

In practice, most of the lay people do not know this language. We offer classes, but few choose to study it. So, if one travels to another time or place where one does not know the local language, only other priestesses can be counted on to know QuCheanya. Since most of our concerns lie with other priestesses, however, this is sufficient for our needs.

Part III

Phonology

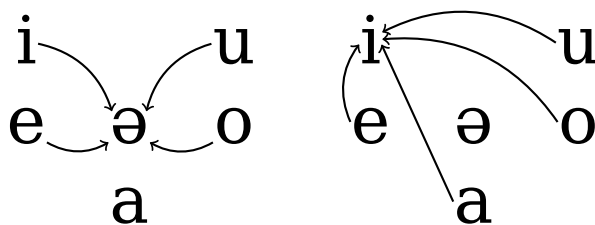
0.1 Phonemes

QuCheanya has five series' of obstruents in the four places of articulation common to most Cheanya languages (bilabial, alveolar, velar, and uvular), bilabial, alveolar and palatal nasals, alveolar and palatal lateral approximants, an alveolar trill, and a palatal glide. The chart below displays the phoneme in regular type on the left and the romanization used in this document in bold on the right.

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular
Stop	p p	t t		k c	q q
Fricative	ɸ f	s s		x ch	χ qh
Affricate	pʰ pf	ts ts		kʰ cch	qχ qqh
Palatalized Stop	pʲ py	tʲ ty		kʲ cy	
Palatalized Fricative	ɸʲ fy	sʲ sy		xʲ chy	
Nasal	m m	n n	ɲ ny		
Lateral Approximant		l l	ɭ ly		
Trill		r r			
Glide			j y		

For vowels, QuCheanya has six basic monophthongs, four centering diphthongs ending in a schwa, and four rising diphthongs ending in /i/.

	Front	Mid	Back
High	i i		u u
Mid	e e	ə a	o o
Low		a ä	



The diphthongs are all romanized here as sequences of the romanized monophthongs, with the centering diphthongs ending in **-a** and the rising diphthongs ending in **-i** except for /ai/, which is romanized as **äi** rather than **äi**.

0.2 Phonotactics

QuCheanya has the simplest possible phonotactics, to help reduce the difficulty in pronunciation for speakers of other languages with restrictive phonotactics. Each syllable may only be one consonant from the chart above, followed by one monophthong or diphthong. The wide variety of consonants, and the phonemic schwa, which can be inserted into otherwise illegal consonant sequences, should still make it possible to represent names from many different Cheanya languages in QuCheanya without too many drastic changes.

0.2.1 The Rendering of Local Names

All people and places have names, which they are given at their births (of both the people and the places) in local languages. The local languages change over time, and thus the names are also constantly changing, so there can be no canonical representation of a name in QuCheanya that does not favor a particular point in time. For places, there is a clear point in time that should be favored: the birth or founding of the place, and the original form of the name that it was given. Convert your current place names as they appear now in their local languages, and these conversions shall become their canonical names in QuCheanya. Future places will be given QuCheanya names in the same manner when they are first given a name in the local language. We should prefer to translate the sounds as best we can rather than match the meaning, because not all names have an easily identifiable meaning, and sometimes the origin of a name is simply another name, which also may not have a clear meaning, and we would like to avoid delving deep into etymologies in this way. Since places may be named differently in different timelines, this may mean in turn that we have different QuCheanya names for those places in different timelines. This is acceptable, however; across timelines, it may not actually be correct to say that one place that is in the same physical location as another place in a different timeline is actually the “same” place, and it would therefore be beneficial to refer to them by different names anyway.

For names of people, and in particular names of priestesses, each person should craft for themselves a QuCheanya name that can match their actual given name as much or as little as they personally desire, although again we should avoid giving names to people that are actual words in QuCheanya.

0.3 Allophony

As QuCheanya is an auxiliary language meant to be usable by a variety of people across time and space, it would favor some speakers

over others to specify a canonical allophony for the language. Speakers should try to pronounce the sounds of the language as closely to the specified sounds as possible; this will naturally mean that everyone speaks the language with an accent, but this is fine. The simple syllable structure should mean that there are fewer interactions between sounds that cause allophonic variation among speakers.

0.4 Stress

QuCheanya words are preferentially stressed on the antepenult, with reducing secondary stresses appearing to the left every other syllable, although personal names and place names may be stressed differently if that would cause better conformation to the original pronunciation. Two-syllable words are stressed on the first syllable, and one-syllable words and particles are unstressed and a bit de-emphasized in intonation. Stress placement is not based on any kind of syllable length metric (whether a syllable contains a diphthong or a monophthong, for example) and any type of syllable may be stressed. Stressed syllables are pronounced more loudly and with a higher pitch than syllables with less stress, but the vowel is not lengthened.

Part IV

Grammar

1 Morphology

1.1 Nominal Morphology

QuCheanya nouns are marked for case, number, and tense. There is no gender or noun class in the language, and only singular and plural numbers. There are eight cases, including the case used to mark the topic, and six tenses.

1.1.1 Tense

If the noun is topicalized, it appears at the beginning of the sentence marked with the “topic” case ending, which obligatorily includes a tense. This ending is formed from a consonant indicating tense and either **-ei** (indicating singular topic) or **-eya** (indicating plural topic). If the noun is not topicalized, tense is marked with a tense syllable, which is the tense consonant followed by **-a**. The tense syllable is then followed by any case marking.

Tense	Consonant, with Topic	Syllable, with Non-Topic Case
Present	-c-	-ca-
Past	-q-	-qa-
Future	-p-	-pa-
Past Displaced	-qqh-	-qqha-
Future Displaced	-pf-	-pfa-
Sideways	-ts-	-tsa-

The past displaced and future displaced tenses are used in cases of time travel. Each object or person has its own personal timeline, which indicates the order in which it experiences the world. The world also has a global timeline, in which things earlier in the global timeline are regarded to have happened before things that come later in the timeline. Ordinarily all of the different personal and global timelines are in sync, and things experienced by each object or person at an earlier point in their personal timeline also happened at an earlier point in the global timeline, and at an earlier point in the personal timelines of every other object and person. With time travel involved, this is not necessarily the case, something that happens to a person earlier along their personal timeline may happen in the global future of something they experienced later. Since tenses affix to nouns, this indicates where along that noun’s personal

timeline it is/was/will be in the sentence, relative to the speaker, who usually has a subjective idea about what point in the noun's timeline is the "present" relative to their own personal "present". When referring to something that happened to a noun in its personal past/present/future, which is also in the global past/present/future respectively, it is proper to use the regular past/present/future tenses. When referring to something that happened to the noun in its personal past or future which is *not* in the global past or future respectively, then the past displaced (for actions in the noun's personal past) or future displaced (for actions in the noun's personal future) tenses would be used. It is also acceptable to use past displaced and future displaced tenses if the noun in the context of the sentence is considered to be in the "wrong" global time due to time travel, even if the action of the sentence happened in past of both the noun's personal timeline and the global timeline, for example. This is somewhat subjective. A person who permanently moved to another time frame would not be considered displaced, for example. The position of the event of the sentence in the global timeline is typically indicated using nouns for "places" in time (yesterday, last week, 1629, etc.) in the locative case. The "sideways" tense is a special tense used when talking about nouns in different timelines than the one the speaker is currently occupying. If the noun could also be considered to be in the past or the future relative to the speaker in addition to being a different timeline, the speaker must choose whether its past/future position or its sideways position is more relevant when choosing which tense to use.

Explicit tenses are not required for non-topicalized nouns. If a noun lacks a tense marking, it is assumed to be in the same tense as the topic noun. The exception is in sentences in the imperative mood, which do not have topics, and in which nouns that are not marked for tense are assumed to be in the present tense.

Pronouns do not use this morphology for tense; instead, they are preceded by the tense syllable ending in **-a** as a separate word regardless of case. As with common nouns, pronouns do not need to be tensed unless they are the topic of the sentence or they differ in tense from the topic.

In many sentences, tense is not used much differently than it is in other languages:

- (1) a. *Tyoreiqei_i noi rinu_i mea qäronu fä cä.*

tyorei_i-q -ei noi rinu_i mea qäro -nu fä cä
 store_i -PST-TOP 1S.NOM RFL.LOC_i to yesterday-LOC go PRF
 "I went to the store yesterday."

b. *Tyoreice_i noi rinu_i mea tira fã.*

tyorei_i-c -ei noi rinu_i mea ti- ra fã
 store_i -PRS-TOP 1S.NOM RFL.LOC_i to near-time go

“I am going to the store now.”

c. *Tyoreipei_i noi rinu_i mea tsoanu fã cã.*

tyorei_i-p -ei noi rinu_i mea tsoa -nu fã
 store_i -FUT-TOP 1S.NOM RFL.LOC_i to tomorrow-LOC go
cã
 PRF

“I will go to the store tomorrow.”

However, the extra tenses allow us to say other types of things as well:

(2) *Länyepfei_i noi risu_i NeaSapfitame Yesoraqare qqheanu pfaire cã.*

länye_i-pf -ei noi risu_i nea- sapfita-me
 book_i -FUTD-TOP 1S.NOM RFL.ACC_i person-Sapfita-title
yesora-qa-re qqhea-nu pfaire cã
 Yesora -PST-DAT past -LOC give PRF

“I will give the book to Priestess Yesora in the [global] past [but in the personal future of myself and the book].”

It is not only sentences about time travel events that benefit from being able to mark different nouns in different tenses. Consider the following sentence, which in many languages would have the two verbs marked for different tenses, but in QuCheanya we instead mark the nouns differently:

(3) *Ca nonei neaSapfitapa ceyai qqhoasui fyoanyo.*

ca nonei nea- sapfita-pa -Ø ceyai qqhoa-sui
 PRS 1S.TOP person-Sapfita -FUT-NOM become CMP -ACC
fyoanyo
 hope

“I hope I will become a priestess.”

And finally consider these examples, in which most languages would have to do with a single tense and an awkward clause to express a second tense:

- (4) a. *Ca pfei nosu syelo rä.*
ca pfei nosu syelo rä
 PRS 2S.TOP 1S.ACC please NEG
 “I don’t like you.” [You don’t please me.]
- b. *Qa pfei ca nosu syelo rä.*
qa pfei ca nosu syelo rä
 PST 2S.TOP PRS 1S.ACC please NEG
 “I don’t like the way you used to be.”
- c. *Pa pfei ca nosu syelo rä.*
pa pfei ca nosu syelo rä
 FUT 2S.TOP PRS 1S.ACC please NEG
 “I don’t like what you will become.”
- d. *Ca pfei qa nosu syelo rä.*
ca pfei qa nosu syelo rä
 PRS 2S.TOP PST 1S.ACC please NEG
 “Back then I wouldn’t have liked the way you are now.”
- e. *Tsa pfei ca nosu syelo rä.*
tsa pfei ca nosu syelo rä
 SDW 2S.TOP PRS 1S.ACC please NEG
 “I don’t like how you are in the other timeline.”

1.1.2 Case and Number

One of the following case and number markings comes after the tense marking on the noun, or simply after the root if tense is unmarked:

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	<i>unmarked</i>	-a
Accusative	-sui	-sua
Dative	-re	-rea
Alienable Genitive	-lye	-lya
Inalienable Genitive	-tye	-tya
Oblique	-cyä	-cya
Locative	-nu	-nua
Topic	-ei	-eya

The nominative plural ending **-a** is applied to words ending in different vowels in the nominative singular in the following way:

Nominative Singular Ending	Nominative Plural Ending
-ä	-a
-e	-ea
-i	-ia
-o	-oa
-u	-ua
-a (or any diphthong ending in -a)	<i>no change</i>
-ai	-äya
-ei	-eya
-oi	-oya
-ui	-uya

Marking a noun with the topic marker indicates that it is the old, or established information in the sentence, and that other nouns contribute new information. Topics from previous sentences in a larger narrative may carry over to later sentences without having to be explicitly restated, but every sentence that is not in the imperative mood must have a topic, either explicitly stated or implied. Any noun in the sentence may be topicalized, regardless of role. Any case marking the noun would otherwise have had is then replaced with the topic marking and its noun phrase is moved to the front of the sentence, but see section 2.3 for how this changes rules about word order and the use of the topic-reflexive pronoun.

Nominative case is used to mark subjects of verbs, and an explicitly stated nominative subject is also necessary for every sentence, although in some cases the nominative subject may also be the topic, and will thus be marked with the topic “case”. Accusative marks direct objects of transitive verbs, and dative marks indirect objects of verbs. The dative may also be used to mean “for the benefit of” or “for the sake of” or “on behalf of” the noun, with verbs where a dative indirect object is not normally required. The genitives are used to mark possession; the genitive case marking would be applied to the possessor noun, which precedes the possessed noun, which itself may be marked for some other case depending on its role in the sentence. The alienable genitive case is used for things which are considered to be possessed alienably, such as belongings, and intangible but ephemeral things such as thoughts, feelings, knowledge or ideas, while the inalienable genitive is used for things possessed inalienably, such as body parts, physical components of an object, family members, or intangible things which are not ephemeral, such as a person’s voice or a person’s beauty. The locative case is used generally on its own to mean “in/at/on”, or sometimes “during”, and also with objects of postpositions of time or place. The oblique case is

used with the objects of all other postpositions (see section 3.2 for a full list of postpositions, how they are used, and which cases they take).

The dative may also be used to indicate possession with the copula **yai**, in lieu of a specific verb meaning “have”:

(5) *Yeqqhicei nore yai.*

yeqqhi-c -ei nore yai
cat -PRS-TOP 1S.DAT be

“I have a cat.” [Lit. “For me there is a cat”]

1.1.3 Pronouns

Pronouns have somewhat idiosyncratic forms for the case and number combinations, displayed in the chart below.

Type	Nominative		Accusative		Dative	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	noi	mua	nosu	mosua	nore	morea
2nd	pfe	fea	pfesu	fesua	pfare	farea
3rd	che	cea	chesu	cesua	chare	carea
Topic-Reflexive	ri	ria	risu	risua	re	rea
Relative	tsi	sia	tsisu	sisua	tse	sea

Type	Alienable Genitive		Inalienable Genitive		Oblique	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	nolye	molua	notye	motya	nocyä	mocyä
2nd	pfalye	felya	pfatyë	fetya	pfecyä	fecyä
3rd	chalye	celya	chatye	cetya	checyä	cecyä
Topic-Reflexive	relye	relyä	retye	retyä	ricyä	ricyä
Relative	tselye	selyä	tsetye	setyä	tsicyä	sicyä

Type	Locative		Topic	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1st	nuinu	monua	nonei	munea
2nd	pfenu	fenua	pfei	feyä
3rd	chenu	cenua	chetsei	cetsä
Topic-Reflexive	rinu	rinua	–	–
Relative	tsinu	sinua	–	–

The topic-reflexive pronoun is a special pronoun used to refer back to the topic of the sentence in other positions. The relative pronoun is used in relative clauses to refer to the modified noun.

If a pronoun needs to mark a tense (for example, if it is topicalized, or if it is a different tense than the topic), then the tense syllable ending in **-a** precedes the pronoun, e.g. **qa pfei**, **ca mua**, etc.

1.1.4 Compounds

There are a small number of mostly one-syllable nouns that can be the heads of nominal compounds, but as a general rule the language forms noun phrases from two nouns by deriving one into an adjective using the derivational affix **-fye**, rather than by creating a compound. Words surrounding language, culture, and nationality can generally be formed with compounds using e.g. **qu** (meaning “language”), **nora** (meaning “country”) and **soye** (meaning “food”), so **NoraCheanya** is the common name for the Empire (or the Kingdom, or the Republic, depending on what time period you are in, but the name does not change in QuCheanya), and **soyeCheanya** referred generally to Cheanya cuisine. Names for professions can generally be formed as compounds headed by **nea**, “person”, as in **neaSapfita** (literally “Sapfita-person”) for “priestess”, and nationalities can also be formed with **nea**, e.g. **neaTārasa** for someone from T’arse. In general, **nea** does not appear on its own outside of compounds and if one wants to speak of “people” in general, the word **cheanya** is used, even for people who are not ethnically Cheanya nor citizens of NoraCheanya. In later eras, as chemical elements are discovered and named, the QuCheanya names for them are created using compounds headed with **tsai**, or “stuff”. All compounds are head-first and consist of only two morphemes each, and here we represent them in the romanization by capitalizing the first letter of the second morpheme.

1.2 Verbal Morphology

Verbs in QuCheanya frequently form compounds by attaching to a postposition as a prefix, creating a related but different verb. For example, **paityapa**, literally “up-jump” means “jump up”, **cyoquyu**, literally “out-say” meant “shout”, etc. This is very productive, and new forms continue to pop up and percolate back into the past via communications between the priestesses in different time frames. Although the standard for the language is supposed to be unchanging, we are not opposed to adding new words to the dictionary in this way, as long as they are words that all speakers could be expected to understand without an explanation. See section 3.2 for a complete list of postpositions and the general rules for how they can be used to modify verbs.

Aside from this compounding, there is no other verbal morphology of note in the language.

1.3 Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives do not carry any agreement in QuCheanya, and thus they must always appear before the noun or verb that they modify. Although there is a distinction between adjectives and adverbs, it is not the same distinction made by many non-Cheanya languages that the adjectives modify nouns, and adverbs modify adjectives and verbs - instead, the distinction here is that adjectives modify nouns and verbs, and adverbs modify adjectives. Some adjectives more commonly modify verbs and other more commonly modify nouns (for example, it is more common for adjectives indicating time and place to modify verbs), but it is grammatical for all of them to modify either. In some sentences, adjectives can modify either the verb or a noun for the same or very similar meaning, particularly if there is only one noun phrase; in this case it is preferred to evenly spread adjectives between the noun and the verb, e.g. if the noun already has another adjective modifying it and the verb has none, a second adjective would more commonly be moved to the verb. However, there are often slight differences in meaning based on where the adjective is placed.

1.3.1 Partial Reduplication

Adjectives may be partially reduplicated to create forms that mean “very <adjective>”, as in **susuyu** “very often/frequent” from the adjective **suyu**, “frequent/often”. The formation of the reduplicated form follows these rules: first, if the consonant of the first syllable is palatal or palatalized, the reduplicated syllable is formed from the non-palatal/ized consonant followed by **i**. So for example, the adjective **cyaisa**, “early”, is reduplicated to **cicyaisa**, “very early”. Next, if the consonant is neither palatal nor palatalized, if the vowel is a diphthong, the reduplicated syllable contains only the first vowel of the diphthong. So, the adjective **foase**, “slow”, can be reduplicated to **fofoase**, “very slow”. Otherwise, the first syllable of the adjective is simply duplicated at the beginning of the word.

1.3.2 Adverbs

Adverbs are words that only modify adjectives, and are generally a closed class. Adjectives cannot generally be formed into adverbs, or be used to modify other adjectives, although similar effects can be achieved by having both adjectives modify the same noun or verb.

Comparative adjectives are formed with the adverb **tsomo**, and superlatives are formed with its partial reduplication **tsotsomo**, e.g. **tsomo foase**, “slower”, and **tsotsomo foase**, “slowest”.

“Enough” or “sufficiently” is expressed as **syee**, e.g. **syee foase** “slow enough”, “not enough” is **syearä** with the negator **rä** attached, e.g. **syearä foase** “not slow enough”, and “too much” is reduplicated **sisyee**, e.g. **sisyee foase** “too slow”.

1.4 Other Morphology

1.4.1 Other Partial Reduplication

Some other closed-class words in QuCheanya also display some partial reduplication, for example, the diminutive prefix **nyu-** and the augmentative prefix **choa-** can be reduplicated to **ninyu-**, “extra small” and **chochoa-**, “extra large”.

1.4.2 Derivational Affixes

The affix **-fye** is used for converting nouns into adjectives, and **-yu**, itself a verb meaning “do” or “happen” can turn nouns into verbs. **-ccho** is a nominalizer that turns adjectives into nouns. The action nominalizer for verbs is **-ro**, however, this nominalization cannot include any arguments that would normally appear on the verb, such as the accusative object or postpositional phrases. Agent nominalizations are generally formed by applying **-ro** and then compounding with **nea** or **tsai** depending on if the agent is animate. There is also a nominalizer for fully formed finite clauses including all verbal arguments, **qghoa**, which is actually not an affix, but the complementizer used for subordinate clauses. However, it is essentially a nominalizer for a clause, can be marked for case, and takes the **-fye** suffix when being used for relative clauses.

2 Syntax

QuCheanya has mostly-fixed SOV word order, although OSV can be used for poetic purposes in most cases.

2.1 Noun Phrase

Noun phrases are head-last, consisting of an optional number or quantifier, followed optionally by one or more postpositional phrases or locative noun phrases, relative clauses headed with **qghoafye**, genitive noun phrases, adjectives, or nouns with the **-fye** derivational

suffix, in that order, followed by a single noun. There can be at most one relative clause, at most one genitive noun phrase, and at most one noun with the **-fye** suffix, but relative clauses can modify the same noun as a postpositional phrase, locative, genitive, adjective, or noun ending with **-fye**. Adjectives relating to time or place appear first, and adjectives describing physical properties such as appearance, tactile quality, or weight appear last, but aside from those rules the adjectives may appear in any order.

2.2 Postpositional Phrase

Postpositional phrases consist of a noun phrase in either the locative or oblique case followed by a postposition. See section 3.2 for which postpositions take which cases. Postpositional phrases can modify either verbs or nouns.

2.3 Verb Phrase/Clause

Verb phrases are also head-last, consisting of at least one noun phrase, followed optionally by one or more postpositional phrases, simple locative noun phrases, or adjectives, followed by a single verb, followed optionally by one or more post-verbal particles (see section 2.3.1). Nominative, accusative and dative noun phrases always precede postpositional phrases, which precede locative noun phrases, which precede adjectives of time or place, which precede other adjectives. Postpositional phrases may occur in any order, although in some cases it may be ambiguous whether a preceding postpositional phrase modifies the noun in a followed postpositional phrase or the verb. Usually the nominative noun phrase precedes the accusative, which precedes the dative, but the order of these can be changed for poetic purposes.

Some verbs can take complement clauses headed by **qqhoa** in place of a nominative noun phrase, or complement clauses headed by **qqhoasui** in place of an accusative noun phrase, but these clauses appear in the same place in the sentence as the nominative or accusative noun phrase would normally occur. Copulas, which include **yai** and all other verbs that end in **-yai** take either one nominative noun phrase and one complement adjective, postpositional phrase or locative noun phrase, or two nominative noun phrases. In the case of two noun phrases, the second one is always the complement.

Any noun phrase (but at most one per sentence) can be topicalized, in which case it moves to the front of the sentence as a whole (not just its own verb phrase), and is usually replaced in its original verb phrase with the topic-reflexive pronoun in the appropriate case, number, and location in the sentence. The only case when the

topic-reflexive pronoun is not necessary is when the pronoun is in the nominative case and directly follows the topic in the sentence. For example, it can be omitted in this case:

- (6) *Qa nonei_i [ri_i] fuqhenu mufoi.*

qa nonei_i ri_i fuqhe-nu mufoi
 PST 1S.TOP_i RFL.NOM_i table -LOC eat

“I was eating at the table.”

It cannot be omitted when the topic reflexive pronoun does not directly follow the topic, even if it is in the nominative case:

- (7) *NeaSapfitacei_i noi ri_i yai.*

nea- sapfita_i-c -ei noi ri_i yai
 person-Sapfita_i-PRS-TOP 1S.NOM RFL.NOM_i be

“I am a priestess.”

It also cannot be omitted when the topic reflexive pronoun directly follows the topic, but in a non-nominative case:

- (8) *Ca nonei_i retye_i feisyä Firelänu yai sei.*

ca nonei_i retye_i feisyä firelä-nu yai sei
 PRS 1S.TOP_i RFL.GENI_i sister.NOM Vrel -LOC be HAB

“As for me, my sister lives in Vrel.”

2.3.1 Post-Verbal Particles

Post-verbal particles are particles that follow the verb and are used to mark aspect and mood. There are two aspect-marking particles, **cä**, which marks perfective aspect, and **sei**, which marks habitual aspect. The imperative mood particle, **tyua**, can be used instead of an aspect-marking particle - in this mood, the sentence can have no topic, and nouns are by default in the present tense, although they can still be marked for other tenses if necessary. Any noun or pronoun can be the subject of the sentence, and thus **tyua** also serves to mark hortatives and jussives. Copulas generally cannot take **cä** or **sei**, except for in the common use of **yai sei** to mean “live”.

- (9) a. *Pfe ruifä tyua!*
pfe rui- fä tyua
 2S.NOM from-go IMP
 “Go away!”
- b. *Mua fä tyua!*
mua fä tyua
 1P.NOM go IMP
 “Let’s go!”
- c. *Cea meafä tyua.*
cea mea-fä tyua
 3P.NOM to- go IMP
 “Let them come.”

Sentences ending with none of these particles are by default in the progressive aspect and indicative mood.

Negation and evidentiality are also marked with another set of post-verbal particles, appearing after the aspect and mood particles. Negation is marked with the particle **rä**, related to the word **rära**, “no, none”. **rä** can optionally be replaced with an evidentiality particle, either **lu** or **te**. **lu** indicates that the sentence is likely to be true, but that it was not directly experienced (or has not yet been experienced but is expected to happen), or was heard through hearsay, or is otherwise likely, but not certain. **te** is used to mean that the truth of the sentence is much more doubtful or uncertain, or was heard from an untrustworthy source. Both of these can be negated with **rä**, which can combine with them into a single word: **lurä** means that it was probable that the action did *not* happen, while **terä** simply means that it was uncertain whether the action of the sentence did *not* happen, rather than uncertain that it did, or that the sentence is uncertain, but more likely to be false than true.

There is also a special post-verbal particle which comes after the negation and evidentiality particles, which is important in conversation and narrative. This particle, **rui**, glossed here as FTRL, indicates that the sentence has relevance to some time in the future of one or more of the nouns involved, the way that “I already ate” is about a past event that has specific relevance to the present (“...so don’t make me lunch”), or “we will arrive soon” has relevance to a further future time than the tense of the sentence, due to implying that something will happen after the arrival. It generally forms a causal link between sentences, similar to how “so”, or “therefore” are often used. This is an important particle for recording stories or events as they happened in order, and tracing chains of causality. **rui** is

also a postposition meaning “from”, which when attached to verbs provides the meaning of “motion away from”, and these usages are related.

2.4 Subordinate and Relative Clauses

Clauses can be complementized in QuCheanya with the complementizer word **qqhoa**. **Qqhoa** is actually a nominalizer for clauses, and can take some noun morphology such as the accusative case marker **-sui** and the derivational suffix **-fye**. Verbs that require subordinate clauses, with meanings like “think”, “know”, “want”, “say”, etc. specify whether the clause is the subject, headed by **qqhoa** or the object, headed by **qqhoasui**. For example, **rapui**, “ought”, takes a subordinate clause as its subject (and only argument), whereas **fyoanyo**, “hope”, has a regular subject noun phrase and takes a subordinate clause as its object, as in example (3).

- (10) *Ca munea_i [[[ria_i] tsomo foase mufoi] qqhoa] rapui.*

ca munea_i [[ria_i tsomo foase mufoi] qqhoa]
 PRS 1P.TOP_i [[RFL.NOM.PL_i more slow eat] CMP.NOM]
rapui
 ought

“We should eat more slowly.”

- (11) *Pa pfei_i ca noi [[ri neaSapfita ceyai] qqhoasui] fyoanyo.*

pa pfei_i ca noi [[ri_i nea- sapfita
 FUT 2S.TOP_i PRS 1S.NOM [[RFL.NOM_i person-Sapfita.NOM
ceyai] qqhoa-sui] fyoanyo
 become] CMP -ACC] hope

“I hope you will become a priestess.”

In (10), **ca munea** is the subject of the subordinate clause, topicalized and replaced in the clause with the topic-reflexive pronoun. In (11), a variation on example (3), it can be seen that **ca noi** is the subject of **fyoanyo**, while the subject of the subordinate clause is **pa pfei**.

Relative clauses are headed by **qqhoafye**, using the derivational affix **-fye** that turns a noun into a modifier. The relative clause precedes the noun it modifies, and the position of that noun within the clause is marked by the relative pronoun **tsi**.

(12) *Ca chetsei_i [ri_i] [[pfecyua tsisu_j syelo] qqhoa_jfyel] yeli_j yai.*

ca chetsei_i ri_i [[pfecyua tsisu_j syelo]
 PRS 3S.TOP_i RFL.NOM_i [[flower.NOM.PL REL.ACC_j please]
qqhoa_j-fyel] yeli_j yai
 CMP -ADJ] boy.NOM_j be

“He is the boy who likes flowers.”

Nouns within the relative clause can be topicalized, just as with nouns within other subordinate clauses:

(13) *Pfecyuaceya_i che [[ria_i tsisu_j syelo] qqhoa_jfyel] yeli_j yai.*

pfecyua_i-c -eya che [[ria_i tsisu_j syelo]
 flower_i -PRS-TOP.PL 3S.NOM [[RFL.NOM.PL_i REL.ACC_j please]
qqhoa_j-fyel] yeli_j yai.
 CMP -ADJ] boy.NOM_j be

“He is the boy who likes the flowers.”

Subordinate and relative clauses may contain **cä**, **sei**, **rä** and/or the evidentiality particles, but not **tyua** or **rui**.

3 Special Vocabulary Notes

3.1 Numbers, Dates, and Times

3.1.1 Numbers and Counting

The number system is a morpheme-for-morpheme map of the traditional counting system that you use now, and many Cheanya languages also continue to use this system in the future, although some of the more standard ones eventually shift more fully to base 10. However, we consider base 6 and base 12 to be indispensable for some fields of mathematics, so they are retained in QuCheanya. For the sake of future readers of this document, we will describe the system fully here.

The numbers from 1 to 12 each have their own unique roots, which are **yu** (1), **syene** (2), **choi** (3), **pfona** (4), **talä** (5), **mai** (6), **roate** (7), **leya** (8), **qhälya** (9), **suano** (10), **cchiso** (11), and **fyeirä** (12). After this, numbers are mainly in base 10, with numbers between 10 and 20 being **suano-choi**, **suano-pfona**, etc. and 20, 30, 40, etc. using just the first syllable of **suano**, as **syenesua** (20), **choisua** (30), **pfonasua** (40), etc. 100 is then **choasuano**, using the augmentative **choa**, and 1000 is **chochoasuano**, with the reduplicated augmentative. However, numbers that are multiples of 6 are not in the usual

base 10 format, but instead in either base 12 and base 6 (if they are multiples of 12) or just base 6. So 18 is not ***suano-leya**, it is **choi mai**, or “three six”. 24 could be either **syene fyeirä**, “two twelve”, or **pfona mai**, “four six”. 36 is either **choi fyeirä** “three twelve” or **choamai**, 100_6 , analogous to **choasuano** (100_{10}), and 144 is likewise **choafyeirä**. After 100, **fu**, “and” is used to add the rest of the number, so **choasuano fu yu** is 101. When it comes to the multiples of 12 and 6, a shortened form is often used; while 42 is **choamai fu mai** and 78 is **syene choamai fu mai** as one might expect, 48 is **choamai syene** rather than the full form **choamai fu syene mai** (although it could also be **pfona fyeirä** as well). In general if the number is something like 110_6 or 210_{12} it would be **choamai fu mai** or **syene choafyeirä fu fyeirä**, but 120_6 , 230_{12} would be **choamai syene**, **syene choafyeirä choi**, etc., without **fu** or the repetition of **mai** or **fyeirä**. For numbers after 100 (in base 10), if the number is 100 more than a multiple of 6 or 12, that part of the number is still in base 6 or 12, e.g. 118 is not ***choasuano fu suano-leya** but **choasuano fu choi mai**. Actual multiples of 6 and 12 continue to be in base 6 and/or 12, e.g. 108 is **qhälya fyeirä** or **choi choamai**. As numbers get larger, however, it becomes more common for a base 10 name to be used for multiples of 6 in common counting.

In some contexts, only base 6 or only base 12 is used. For example, as you will see in section 3.1.2, base 6 is used to talk about seconds within in a minute, and base 12 is used to talk about minutes within an hour. In addition, angles of a circle are exclusively talked about in base 12, with a circle having **syene choafyeirä** (200_{12}) degrees in total, which is 288, and most commonly-used angles are multiples of 12 degrees. As a result, in geometry and trigonometry and related fields, base 12 is often used exclusively. Although the clippings described above (**choamai syene**, **choafyeirä choi**, etc.) are still used for those multiples of 6 and 12, in those specific contexts base 6 or 12 will also be used for numbers that are not multiples of 6, such as **choafyeirä fu yu** (for 145) or **choafyeirä fu syene fyeirä-choi** (for 171) would be used instead of the usual base 10 numbers (**choasuano fu pfonasua-tälä** or **choasuano fu roatesua-yu**).

The mechanism of prefixing a number with **choa-** to form its square and with **chochoa-** to form its cube are productive, although not generally used in counting outside of the three major bases. For example, in a mathematics context, “three squared” would be said as **choachoi** and “three cubed” as **chochoachoi**, even though those are not the way that one would say “nine” or “twenty-seven” in ordinary counting contexts.

3.1.2 Time of Day

As in your time, the day is traditionally divided into three sets of 6 hours. In future times, the traditional 18-hour sundial is converted into an 18-hour mechanical clock, a device that shows the passing of the time the way a sundial does, but without the need for any sunlight. For a time period of about 100 or 150 years or so, it is common in NoraCheanya to have mechanical clocks that mark 30 hours and go in the opposite direction (that is, rightwards across the top of the face and leftwards across the bottom, the opposite of how the sundial moves) because the mechanical clocks were at that time still new and were exclusively being imported from T'arse, where they measure time very differently. However, they are eventually replaced with native Cheanya clocks that measure time the proper way, and we have no desire to use our language to keep time the T'arsi way. For the future benefit of our sisters living in the time of the T'arsi clocks, we describe the Cheanya timekeeping system here.

As previously mentioned, the day is divided into three sets of 6 hours. The first set is called **qätyafye qhaitsea**, or “working hours”, often abbreviated to **QäQhai**, with the beginning of the hour that is designated as 1 one hour after sunrise on the equinox, and ending at the end of hour 6 in the late afternoon. The second set is called **suap-fifye qhaitsea**, “leisure hours”, abbreviated to **SuaQhai**, in which hour 1 begins two hours before sunset on the equinox and hour 6 ends four hours after sunset on the equinox. The remaining hours, from four hours after sunset to an hour after the next dawn, are **foso-rofye qhaitsea**, “sleeping hours”, or **FoQhai**. To tell the time, one would say e.g. **choi QäQhai**, the third hour of the working hours, three hours after dawn, or **syene SuaQhai**, the second hour of the leisure time, which is the time of dusk on the equinox. Each hour has 144 minutes, which are counted exclusively in base 12, and follow the hour connected by **fu**, e.g. **choi fu syene fyeirä pfona QäQhai**, three hours and twenty-eight (24_{12}) minutes after sunrise. With the mechanical clocks, it is even possible to speak of seconds within a minute, of which there are 36 per minute, these being said in base 6, again following the minutes after **fu**. So: **choi fu syene fyeirä pfona fu talä mai syene QäQhai**, three hours and twenty-eight minutes and thirty-two (52_6) seconds after sunrise.

3.1.3 Dates and Monthly Public Holidays

The nine months of the year do not have their descriptive names from the natural Cheanya languages transcribed or translated into QuCheanya, instead we merely say **3 Yeari**, the third month, **7 Yeari**, the seventh month, etc. **Yeari** is indeed also the name of the larger moon that cycles once a month, upon which the months are based

(the smaller one that cycles thrice a year is called **Nyufeisyä**, the little sister). Within each month, the weeks are called **Soine** and are again numbered, so **4 Yeari, 3 Soine**, the third week of the fourth month. This is followed by a number for the day of the week, and preceded by the year, so the date given for the publication of this book, **198, 5 Yeari, 4 Soine 2** is the second day of the fourth week of the fifth month of the year 198.

The monthly public holidays are still in flux in your time, according to the idiosyncrasies of the individual temples and towns. So we shall establish here what they are going forward, and what words we use to refer to them:

The middle two days of weeks 1, 2, 4, and 5 of each month (that is, the six-day weeks) have the **QäQhai** hours reserved for prayer, self-reflection, and general learning. It is not mandatory to do this in the temple (or at all), but the temple is to remain open to the public during these times for any who wish to pray or seek the wisdom of the priestesses. The priestesses may give a sermon or read a fable or share research with those in attendance as is deemed appropriate, or they may leave the people to pray on their own, but they must be available to answer questions and give guidance and material help to all who ask. These days are called **Nyoacelya Lyuya**, “days of wisdom” or “days of knowledge”, as the purpose is to give the people a time to acquire some of the wisdom of the temple for themselves, should they choose to. Of course, the secret knowledge of the operation of the Mirror and the mechanics of time travel must not be given out to the public at any point, but there is still much other knowledge that the temples can provide.

The middle two days of the third week of the month are reserved for the traditional midmonth celebration of the full phase of Yeari, which is generally organized by local governments and lay organizations, and thus does not require special participation from the priesthood, and in general these celebrations can take whatever form the people desire. It does mean that there is no Nyoacelya Lyuya on this week. These days are called **Yearilye Ciria**, simply the celebration of Yeari. Ordinarily, the third week has eight days, but during the 3rd and 6th months, and the 9th month once every five years, it has nine days and thus there is a third day for the celebration, which is generally called **Nyufeisyälye Ciria** after the smaller moon, which is also often full during those particular midmonths.

3.2 Postpositions

Postpositions serve two functions in QuCheanya: to head postpositional phrases that modify verbs or nouns, and to attach to verbs as prefixes to create new verbs. In postpositional phrases, some post-

positions take noun phrases in the locative case, and other take noun phrases in the oblique case. In the table below is a list of postpositions, the cases they take, and how they are used to modify verbs.

Postposition	Meaning	Case	Verbal Modification
mea	"to", "towards"	Locative	Indicates motion towards the speaker (e.g. meafä , "come")
rui	"from", "away from"	Locative	Indicates motion away from the speaker (e.g. ruifä "go (away)")
pai	"up", "over", "above"	Locative	Indicates motion upwards (e.g. paifä , "rise")
chu	"down", "under"	Locative	Indicates motion downwards (e.g. chufä , "fall")
cyo	"out", "outside" or "around"	Locative ("out(side)"), Oblique ("around")	Can indicate motion towards the outside, or can be used to make verbs "bigger", as in cyoquyu , "shout"
via	"inside", "within"	Locative	Indicated motion inside, motion backwards, or motion away from third parties
lei	"with", "together with" or "among", "beside", "next to"	Oblique	Adds meaning of "together" for plural subjects only
tsea	"without", "lacking", "excluding"	Oblique	Indicates "by onesself"
cche	"about", "regarding"	Oblique	Makes verbs "smaller" or otherwise weakens them, e.g. cchequyu , "whisper"
soa	"behind", "in back of", "after" (temporally and sequentially)	Locative	Forms verbs with underhanded connotations: soaquyu , "gossip"
tyui	"in front of", "before" (temporally and sequentially)	Locative	Opposite effect of soa : tyuiquyu , "speak honestly"

3.3 Adjectives of Time and Place, and Demonstratives

Many adjectives of time and place are made up of an adjective base, which is **ra** for adjectives of time, and **le** for adjectives of place, and a prefix that either indicates a distance, or is a quantifier. The dis-

tance prefixes are **ti-** for “close”, and **so-** for “far”, and these can be reduplicated where appropriate to mean “very close” or “very far”. Quantifiers that can appear as part of these adjectives include **nulo**, “all”, **siane**, “some”, or **rära**, “none”. The full table of possibilities is below:

Base	ti-	so-	nulo	siane	rära
ra	(ti)tira (see below)	(so)sora (see below)	nulora , “always”	sianera , “sometimes”	rärara “never”
le	(ti)tile “(right) here”	(so)sole “(over) there”	nulole “everywhere”	sianele “somewhere”	rärale “nowhere”

The meanings of **tira** and **sora** (and their reduplicated forms) depend on the tense. In present tense, **sora** is not used and **tira** means “now”; in past tense, **sora** means “long ago”, and **tira** means “recent”; in future tense, **sora** means “a long time from now” and **tira** means “soon”. The reduplicated form **titira** is only used with the present tense and means “right now”, while **sosora** can mean “a very long time ago” or “very far in the future” depending on the tense. If **tira** or **sora** modify a verb, the relevant tense is the tense of the topic. In sentences with **tyua**, the relevant tense is always the present if they modify the verb as opposed to a noun.

The prefixes **ti-** and **so-** can also be attached directly to the **-fye** suffix to form “this” (**tifye**) and “that” (**sofye**) when used as modifiers. Reduplicated **sosofye** can be used to refer to more distant things, and **titifye** to emphasize “this right here”.

This same set of prefixes can also be applied to the noun bases **tsai** and **nea** to form nominal demonstratives, as follows:

Base	ti-	so-	nulo	siane	rära
tsai	(ti)titsai “this (thing)”	(so)sotsai “that (thing)”	nulotsai “everything”	sianetsai “something”	räratsai “nothing”
nea	(ti)tinea “this (person)”	(so)sonea “that (person)”	nulonea “everyone”	sianenea “someone”	räranea “no one”

The words **(ti)titsai**, **(so)sotsai**, **(ti)tinea** and **(so)sonea** are sometimes used in place of the third person pronoun **che** when there are multiple entities being referred to in the third person in the same sentence and it thus may be difficult to tell which pronoun refers to which thing or person. The distance aspect implied by **ti-** and **so-** or their reduplicated forms can refer to physical distance, or to relative relatedness to the topic or action of the sentence. This essentially adds potentially eight more third person pronouns to aid in disambiguation.

Part V

Dictionary

P

Pai *Postposition* • Up, or above. Affixes to verbs of motion to indicate motion upwards.

Paityapa *Verb* • Jump up, or upwards. **pai** + **tyapa**.

Paifä *Verb* • Rise, go/come up. **pai** + **fä**.

Poica *Noun* • Ball, sphere.

Puchä *Adjective* • Dilute (of gasses, liquids, or colors).

T

Tärasa *Noun* • T'arse.

Te *Particle* • Uncertain evidentiality particle.

Terä *Particle* • Negative uncertain evidentiality particle.

Tityu *Adjective* • Again. This looks like a partial reduplication of **tyu**, but **tyu** does not actually exist as a word in the language.

Ti- *Affix* • Affix meaning “near” which attaches to **le**, **ra** and demonstrative words.

Titsai *Noun* • This thing. **ti-** + **tsai**. Can be reduplicated to **tititsai**.

Tifye *Adjective* • This. **ti-** + **-fye**.

Tinea *Noun* • This person. **ti-** + **nea**. Can be reduplicated to **titinea**.

Tile *Adjective* • Here. **ti-** + **le**. Reduplicated form **titile** means “right here”.

Tira *Adjective* • Near, temporally, **ti-** + **ra**. Depending on the tense of the nouns, can mean “soon”, “recent”, or “now”. Reduplicated **titira** means “right now” in present tense.

Talä *Number* • Five.

C

Cä *Particle* • Perfective marker.

Ceyai *Verb* • Become (with adjective or noun phrase complement).

Cea *Third person plural pronoun*. •

Ci *Verb* • Look at, see. More agentive counterpart to **qera**.

Ciria *Noun* • Celebration, or holiday.

Q

QäQhai *Noun* • Working hours, short for **qätyafye qhaitsea**.

Qätya *Noun* • Work, labor.

Qätyayu *Verb* • To work. **qätya** + **-yu**.

Qäro Noun • Relative yesterday, that is, the most recent 18-hour period the speaker has experienced, which is not necessarily the same as the most recent 18-hour period in the global timeline. Can be reduplicated into **qäqäro**, “the day before yesterday”.

Qera Verb • Notice. Less agentive counterpart to **ci**.

Qu Noun • Language, or dialect.

Quyu Verb • Speak, or say. **qu** + **yu**.

F

Fä Verb • Go, or move in a direction, generally.

Feisyä Noun • Sister.

Fea Pronoun • Second person plural pronoun.

Fiqä Noun • Non-human animal.

Firelä Noun • Vrel.

Foso Verb • Sleep.

FoQhai Noun • Sleeping hours, shortened from **fosorofye qhaitsea**.

Foase Adjective • Slow.

Fu Conjunction • And.

Fuqhe Noun • Table.

S

Sepui Adjective • Wild, untamed, natural (as opposed to crafted, or cultivated).

Sei Particle • Habitual aspect marker.

Sia Pronoun • Plural relative pronoun.

Siane Quantifier • Some. Partial reduplication **sisiane** means “many”.

Sianetsai Noun • Something. **siane** + **tsai**.

Sianenea Noun • Someone. **siane** + **nea**.

Sianele Adjective • Somewhere, located in some place, or some places. **siane** + **le**.

Sianera Adjective • Some time, or sometimes. **siane** + **ra**.

So- Affix • Affix meaning “far away” that affixes onto **le**, **ra**, and demonstratives.

Sotsai Noun • That thing. **so-** + **tsai**. Can be reduplicated to **sosot-sai**.

Sofye Adjective • That. **so-** + **-fye**.

Sonea Noun • That person. **so-** + **nea**. Can be reduplicated to **sosonea**.

Sole Adjective • Far away, in a far away place, “there”. **so-** + **le**. Can be partially reduplicated into **sosole**.

Sora Adjective • Far away temporally, can mean a long time in the past or a long time in the future depending on the tense of the noun.

Not used with present tense. **so-** + **ra**. Can be reduplicated into **sosora**.

Solye *Noun* • Rain.

Soye *Noun* • Style of food.

Soine *Noun* • Week.

Soa *Postposition* • Behind, in back of, or after. Attaches to verbs to add underhanded connotations.

Susua *Verb* • Roll.

Suyu *Adjective* • Often, frequently.

SuaQhai *Noun* • Leisure hours, shortened from **suapfifye qhaitsea**.

Suapfi *Noun* • Leisure, or play.

Suapfiyu *Verb* • To play.

Suano *Number* • Ten.

CH

Che *Pronoun* • Third person singular pronoun.

Chelyi *Noun* • Mist, fog.

Cheanya *Noun* • Person, people, or the Cheanya as an ethnic or linguistic group.

Choi *Number* • Three.

Choa- *Affix* • Augmentative. Used to form large numbers: **choamai** = 36 (6x6), **choasuano** = 100 (10x10), **choafyeira** = 144 (12x12).

Chu *Postposition* • Down, or below. Affixes to verbs of motion to indicate motion downwards.

Chutyapa *Verb* • Jump down, or downwards. **chu** + **tyapa**.

Chufä *Verb* • Descend, fall, go/come down. **chu** + **fä**.

QH

Qhälya *Number* • Nine.

Qhaitse *Noun* • Hour.

Qheara *Adjective* • Beautiful.

Qhoi *Verb* • Stop. Takes either a noun describing an action as a subject, or a complement clause headed by **qqhoa**.

PF

Pfaire *Verb* • Give.

Pfe *Pronoun* • Second person singular pronoun.

Pfecyua *Noun* • Flower.

Pfona *Number* • Four.

TS

Tsai *Noun* • Thing, stuff. Used with **ti-**, **so-**, and quantifiers, used to form agent nominalizations of verbs, and compounds to form the names of the elements.

Tsea *Postposition* • Without, lacking, excluding. Attaches to verbs to indicate “by oneself”.

Tsi *Pronoun* • Singular relative pronoun.

Tsime *Verb* • Shine, glow, or emit light.

Tsomo *Adverb* • Comparative word used to form comparative adjectives, roughly “more”. Partial reduplication **tsotsomo** is the superlative “most”.

Tsoa *Noun* • Relative tomorrow, that is, the next 18-hour period the speaker will experience, which is not necessarily the next 18-hour period in the global timeline. Can be reduplicated to **tsotsoa**, “the day after tomorrow”.

CCH

Cche *Postposition* • About, regarding. Attaches to verbs to make them smaller, or weaker.

Cchiso *Number* • Eleven.

Cchiyä *Adjective* • Intense; could mean “bright”, “loud”, “very hot”, “very cold”, etc. depending on what it modified. Sometimes accompanied by other adjectives for clarification.

-Ccho *Affix* • Nominalizer for adjectives.

QQH

Qqhea *Noun* • The past, in a global, rather than relative, sense.

Qqhoa *Particle* • Complementizer. Can be analyzed as a nominalizer for clauses. Can take case endings and other nominal morphology other than tense and number.

PY

Pyechä *Verb* • Begin, start. Takes either noun referring to an action or a clause headed by **qqhoa** as its subject.

Pyea *Noun* • Global tomorrow. Can be reduplicated into **pipyea**, “the day after tomorrow”. Only used if the global tomorrow and the relative tomorrow are different.

TY

Tyapa *Verb* • Hop, jump.

Tyorei *Noun* • Store, shop.

Tyui *Postposition* • In front of, or before. Attaches to verbs to add a connotation of forthrightness or honesty.

Tyua *Particle* • Imperative/hortative/jussive marker.

CY

Cyaisa *Adjective* • Early.

Cyo *Postposition* • Out, or around. Often affixes to verbs to mean “bigger” actions.

Cyoci *Verb* • Look out, or look around.

Cyoquyu *Verb* • Yell, or shout.

FY

-Fye *Affix* • Affixed to a noun to turn it into an adjective.

Fyeirä *Number* • Twelve.

Fyoanyo *Verb* • Hope, wish for. Takes a clause headed with **qqhoa-sui** as its direct object.

SY

Syene *Number* • Two.

Syelo *Verb* • Please. Used to mean “like” except that the liker is the object and the liked thing is the subject.

Syea *Adverb* • Enough. Reduplicated **sisyea** means “too much”.

Syearä *Adverb* • Not enough. **syea** + **rä**.

Syipfi *Noun* • Baby.

CHY

Chyairo *Verb* • Grow, of plants specifically.

Chyetea *Verb* • Arrive.

Chyure *Noun* • Global yesterday. Can be reduplicated to **chichyure**, “the day before yesterday”. Only used if the global yesterday is different than the relative yesterday.

M

Mai *Number* • Six.

-Me *Affix* • Affix indicating that a word is a proper title, can also be affixed to names to mean “Mr. X” or “Mrs. X”

Mea *Postposition* • To, towards. Affixes to verbs of motion to indicate motion towards the speaker.

Meafä *Verb* • Come.

-Mo *Affix* • Affixes to a number to “N times”.

Mufoi *Verb* • Eat.
Mua *Pronoun* • First person plural pronoun.

N

Nea *Noun* • Person. Used to form compounds indicating professions, agent nominalizations of verbs, and also attaches to **ti-**, **so-** and the quantifiers.

NeaSapfita *Noun* • Priestess. **nea** + **Sapfita**.

Nitsi *Verb* • Walk.

Nora *Noun* • Country.

Noi *Pronoun* • First person singular pronoun.

Nulo *Quantifier* • All, all of, the whole of something.

Nulotsai *Noun* • Everything. **nulo** + **tsai**.

Nulonea *Noun* • Everyone. **nulo** + **nea**.

Nulole *Adjective* • Everywhere, in every place. **nulo** + **le**.

Nulora *Adjective* • Every time, or always. **nulo** + **ra**.

NY

Nyärea *Verb* • Need. Takes either a noun or a clause headed by **qqhoasui** as a direct object.

Nyoace *Noun* • Fact, or piece of information. When plural it means “knowledge” or “information”.

Nyoacelya Lyuya *Noun* • “Days of Knowledge”, from **nyoace** and **lyui**, the middle two days of every week but the third of each month.

Nyu- *Affix* • Diminutive affix, affixes to nouns, often used to form words for baby animals. Can be partially reduplicated to **ninyu-**.

Nyufeisyä *Noun* • The name of the smaller moon. **nyu-** + **feisyä**, literally the “little sister”.

Nyufeisyälye Ciria *Noun* • The extra middle day of the month in the third, sixth, and ninth months that is used for celebrating the smaller moon.

L

Länye *Noun* • Book.

Le *Adjective* • Base for adjectives indicating physical place, can be used with **ti-**, **so-** and quantifiers.

Leya *Number* • Eight.

Lei *Postposition* • With, or together with. Can be affixed to verbs with a plural subject NP to indicate doing something together.

Lu *Particle* • Probably evidentiality particle.

Lurä *Particle* • Evidentiality particle meaning “probably not”.

LY

Lyeina *Adjective* • Happy.

Lyoa *Noun* • The sun.

Lyui *Noun* • Day, period of daylight.

R

Rä *Particle* • Negation particle; not.

Rära *Quantifier* • None, no, none of.

Räratsai *Noun* • Nothing. **rära** + **tsai**.

Räranea *Noun* • No one. **rära** + **nea**.

Rärale *Adjective* • Nowhere, in no place. **rära** + **le**.

Rärara *Adjective* • Never, at no time. **rära** + **ra**.

Ri *Pronoun* • Singular topic-reflexive pronoun.

Ria *Pronoun* • Plural topic-reflexive pronoun.

-Ro *Affix* • Action nominalizer for verbs.

Roate *Number* • Seven.

Rui *Particle* • Future relevance marker.

Rui *Postposition* • From, or away. Can be affixed to verbs of motion to indicate motion away from the speaker.

Ruifä *Verb* • Go, go away. **rui** + **fä**.

Ra *Adjective* • Adjective base for adjectives indicating temporal place or location in time, can be used with **ti-**, **so-**, or quantifiers.

Rapui *Verb* • Ought, should. Takes a clause headed by **qqhoa** as its subject.

Y

Yai *Verb* • Be, or exist. The most basic copula. **yai sei** means “lives in/at”.

Yeqqhi *Noun* • Cat.

Yeli *Noun* • Boy.

Yeari *Noun* • The name of the larger moon, or simply “month”.

Yearilye Ciria *Noun* • The midmonth full moon celebration.

Yia *Postposition* • Inside, within. Attaches to verbs to mean motion backwards, or away from third parties.

Yu *Number* • One.

-Yu *Affix* • Derivational affix that turns nouns into verbs, roughly meaning “do”, or “happen”.

Yu *Verb* • Unbound verbal form of **-yu**, only used for weather expressions that would otherwise create a subjectless sentence, all other cases use the affix.

Part VI

Example Sentences

(14) *Lyoacei tsime sei.*

lyoa-c -ei tsime sei
sun -PRS-TOP shine HAB

“The sun shines.”

(15) *Lyoacei tsime.*

lyoa-c -ei tsime
sun -PRS-TOP shine

“The sun is shining.”

(16) *Lyoaqei tsime sei.*

lyoa-q -ei tsime sei
sun -PST-TOP shine HAB

“The sun shone.”

(17) *Lyoapei tsime sei.*

lyoa-p -ei tsime sei
sun -FUT-TOP shine HAB

“The sun will shine.”

(18) *Lyoatsei tsime sei.*

lyoa-ts -ei tsime sei
sun -SDW-TOP shine HAB

“The sun shines in the other timeline.”

(19) *Lyoaqei tsime rui.*

lyoa-q -ei tsime rui
sun -PST-TOP shine FTRL

“The sun has been shining.”

(20) *Lyoacei tityu tsime.*

lyoa-c -ei tityu tsime
sun -PRS-TOP again shine

“The sun is shining again.”

(21) a. *Lyoapei tsoanu tsime sei.*

lyoa-p -ei tsoa -nu tsime sei
sun -FUT-TOP tomorrow-LOC shine HAB

“The sun will shine tomorrow.”

b. *Tsoapei lyoa rinu tsime sei.*

tsoa_i -p -ei lyoa rinu_i tsime sei
tomorrow-FUT-TOP sun.NOM RFL.LOC shine HAB

“Tomorrow, the sun will shine.”

Notes: **tsoa**, “tomorrow” is a noun and thus can theoretically be marked with an arbitrary tense, however, nouns like “tomorrow”, “yesterday”, “today”, etc. that denote relative points in time are considered inherently tensed and only need to be marked as such if they are topicalized, but not if they differ from the topic noun in tense. **tsoa** can, of course, be marked for a non-future tense, e.g. **tsoaca** or **tsoacei**, but this is only used in contexts where the contradictory meaning conveys something humorous or poetic.

(22) *Lyoacei cchiyä tsime sei.*

lyoa-c -ei cchiyä tsime sei
sun -PRS-TOP intense shine HAB

“The sun shines brightly.”

(23) *Cchiyä lyoacei tsime sei.*

cchiyä lyoa-c -ei tsime sei
intense sun -PRS-TOP shine HAB

“The bright sun shines.”

(24) *Lyoacei tira paifä.*

lyoa-c -ei ti- ra pai-fä
sun -PRS-TOP near-time up- go

“The sun is rising now.”

(25) *Nulo cheanyaqeya cyoquyu cǎ.*

nulo cheanya-q -eya cyo-qu -yu cǎ
all people -PST-TOP.PL out- language-do PRF
“All the people shouted.”

(26) *Siane cheanyaqeya cyoquyu cǎ.*

siane cheanya-q -eya cyo-qu -yu cǎ
some people -PST-TOP.PL out- language-do PRF
“Some [of the] people shouted.”

(27) *Sisiane cheanyaqeya syenemo cyoquyu cǎ.*

si- siane cheanya-q -eya syene-mo cyo-qu -yu
RDP-some people -PST-TOP.PL two- times out- language-do
cǎ
PRF
“Many [of the] people shouted twice.”

(28) *Lyeina cheanyaceya suyu cyoquyu cǎ.*

lyeina cheanya-q -eya suyu cyo-qu -yu cǎ
happy people -PRS-TOP.PL often out- language-do HAB
“Happy people often shout.”

(29) *Nyuyeqqhiqi paityapa cǎ.*

nyu-yeqqhi-q -ei pai-tyapa cǎ
DIM- cat -PST-TOP up- jump PRF
“The kitten jumped up.”

(30) a. *Nyuyeqqhiqi fuqhenu mea paityapa cǎ.*

nyu-yeqqhi-q -ei fuqhe-nu mea pai-tyapa cǎ
DIM- cat -PST-TOP table -LOC to up- jump PRF
“The kitten jumped onto the table.”

b. *Fuqheqi nyuyeqqhi rinu mea paityapa cǎ.*

fuqhe_i-q -ei nyu-yeqqhi rinu_i mea pai-tyapa cǎ
table -PST-TOP DIM- cat.NOM RFL.LOC to up- jump PRF
“As for the table, the kitten jumped onto it.”

- (31) *Nolye ninyuyeqqhiqei ruinitsi cǎ.*
nolye ni- nyu-yeqqhi-q -ei rui- nitsi cǎ
 1S.GEN RDP-DIM- cat -PST-TOP away-walk PRF
 “My little kitten walked away.”
- (32) *Solyecei yu.*
solye-c -ei yu
 rain -PRS-TOP happen
 “It’s raining.”
- (33) *Solyeqei chufǎ cǎ.*
solye-q -ei chu- fǎ cǎ
 rain -PST-TOP down-go PRF
 “The rain came down.”
- (34) *Nyuyeqqhicei solyenu suapfiyu.*
nyu-yeqqhi-c -e solye-nu suapfi-yu
 DIM- cat -PRS-TOP rain -LOC play -do
 “The kitten is playing in the rain.”
- (35) *Solyeqei qhoi cǎ rui.*
solye-q -ei qhoi cǎ rui
 rain -PST-TOP stop PRF FTRL
 “The rain has stopped.”
- (36) *Solyepi tira qhoi cǎ rui.*
solye-p -ei ti- ra qhoi cǎ rui
 rain -FUT-TOP near-time stop PRF FTRL
 “Soon the rain will stop.”

- (37) a. *Ca nonei solyepa tira qhoi qqhoasui fyoanyo.*

ca nonei solye-pa -∅ ti- ra qhoi qqhoa-sui
 PRS 1S.TOP rain -FUT-NOM near-time stop CMP -ACC
fyoanyo
 hope

“I hope the rain stops soon.”

- b. *Solyep_i ca noi ri_i tira qhoi qqhoasui fyoanyo.*

solye_i-p -ei ca noi ri_i ti- ra qhoi
 rain_i -FUT-TOP PRS 1S.NOM RFL.NOM_i near-time stop
qqhoa-sui fyoanyo
 CMP -ACC hope

“As for the rain, I hope it stops soon.”

- (38) a. *Soracchoq_i sepui fiqa rinu_i tile yai sei.*

so-ra -ccho_i-q -ei sepui fiqa rinu_i
 far-time-N_i -PST-TOP wild animal.NOM.PL RFL.LOC_i
ti- le yai sei
 near-place exist HAB

“Long ago, wild animals lived here.”

- b. *Soracchoq_i tile sepui fiqa rinu_i yai sei.*

so-ra -ccho_i-q -ei ti- le sepui fiqa
 far-time-N_i -PST-TOP near-place wild animal.NOM.PL
rinu_i yai sei
 RFL.LOC_i exist HAB

“Long ago, there existed wild animals that lived here.”

- c. *Sora sepui fiqäqeya tile yai sei.*

so-ra sepui fiqä -q -eya ti- le yai sei
 far-time wild animal-PST-TOP.PL near-place exist HAB

“Wild animals from long ago lived here.”

- d. *Tile sepui fiqäqeya sora yai sei.*

ti- le sepui fiqä -q -eya so-ra yai sei
 near-place wild animal-PST-TOP.PL far-time exist HAB

“Wild animals that were here lived long ago.”

The adjectives **tile** and **sora** can modify either the noun, or be the complement of **yai**, with slightly modified meanings. **Sora** can also

be nominalized with **-ccho** and topicalized as in (38a) and (38b), but then it must be referenced in the sentence with the topic-reflexive pronoun in the locative case. It would be preferred to use (38c) or (38d).

(39) *Qa chetsei foase cyoci cã.*

qa chetsei foase cyo-ci cã
 PST 3S.TOP slow out-look PRF
 “Slowly s/he looked around.”

(40) a. *Pfe ruifã tyua!*

pfe rui- fã tyua
 2S.NOM away-go IMP
 “Go away!”

b. *Fea ruifã tyua!*

fea rui- fã tyua
 2P.NOM away-go IMP
 “Go away!” [plural]

(41) *Mua fã tyua!*

mua fã tyua
 1P.NOM go IMP
 “Let’s go!”

(42) *Ca pfei fã qqhoa rapui.*

ca pfei fã qqhoa rapui
 PRS 2S.TOP go CMP.NOM ought
 “You should/ought to go.”

(43) *Pa nonei lyeina fã cã.*

pa nonei lyeina fã cã
 FUT 1S.TOP happy go PRF
 “I will be happy to go.”/“I will go happily.”

(44) *Pa chetsei tira chyetea cǎ rui.*

pa chetsei ti- ra chyetea cǎ rui
 FUT 3S.TOP near-time arrive PRF FTRL
 “S/he will arrive soon.”

(45) a. *Syipfilye poicaqei ruisusua cǎ rui.*

syipfi-lye poica-q -ei rui- susua cǎ rui
 baby -GENA ball -PST-TOP away-roll PRF FTRL
 “The baby’s ball has rolled away.”

b. *Syipfiqui_i relye_i poica ruisusua cǎ rui.*

syipfi-q -ei relye_i poica rui- susua cǎ rui
 baby_i -PST-TOP RFL.GENA_i ball.NOM away-roll PRF FTRL
 “The baby’s ball has rolled away.”

(46) *Syene yeliceya leiqätyayu.*

syene yeli-c -eya lei- qätya-yu
 two boy -PRS-TOP.PL with-work -do
 “Two boys are working together.”

(47) *Chelyipei puchä ceyai lu.*

chelyi-p -ei puchä ceyai lu
 mist -FUT-TOP dilute become PRB
 “The mist will probably clear away.”

(48) a. *Qheara pfecyuaceya nulole chyairo.*

qheara pfecyua-c -eya nulo-le chyairo
 beautiful flower -PRS-TOP.PL all- place grow
 “Lovely flowers are growing everywhere.”

b. *Nulole qheara pfecyuaceya chyairo.*

nulo-le qheara pfecyua-c -eya chyairo
 all- place beautiful flower -PRS-TOP.PL grow
 “The lovely flowers that are everywhere are growing.”

Similarly to (38), **nulole** can modify either the noun or the verb, but (48a) would be preferred due to more evenly distributed adjectives.

(49) *Ca munea tsomo foase mufoi qqhoa rapui.*

ca munea tsomo foase mufoi qqhoa rapui

PRS 1P.TOP more slow eat CMP.NOM ought

“We should eat more slowly.”

(50) *Qa pfei sisyea tira meafä rui.*

qa pfei si- syea ti- ra mea-fä rui

PST 2S.TOP RDP-enough near-time to- go FTRL

“You have come too soon.”