

Chapter 1

Morphology

1.1 Emotion expression

One of the main goals of Kurajo was to create a language in which expression of emotional states and cognitive processes was more flexible than English. For the most part, this was a goal inspired by Anna Wierzbicka’s calls for use of a natural semantic metalanguage when discussing emotion, as languages tend to differ greatly in their emotion terminology. What Kurajo brings is a hopefully language-neutral system based on permutable morphemes.

This design goal is reflected in an Ithkuilian way through the use of an unnatural system of suffixal morphology in that it requires speakers to really think about what exactly they want to say. However, many common emotions have lexicalized compounds to serve as everyday adjectives.

1.1.1 The emotion marker *ga*

ga is an adjective which indicates a state of emotional being. By itself, it glosses to “emotional”, but *gaa* glosses to “emotion.as.an.abstract.concept” through a productive vowel lengthening rule. *ga* has its own system of suffixation that allows many changes to its meaning.

Morphosyntax of *ga* constructions

The adjective *ga* has five slots upon which morphology can affix.

Root	Slot 1	Slot 2	Slot 3	Slot 4	Slot 5
<i>ga</i>	-NEG	-PRIM/-NEUT	-EMO	-TARG	-DUR

Table 1.1: Morphosyntax of *ga*

- “NEG” negates all following morphology.
- “PRIM/NEUT” are two derivational modifiers for the following emotion: PRIM makes an emotion “primal,” while NEUT makes an emotion “neutered.”
- “EMO” is a category for indicating explicit emotional states.
- “TARG” indicates the target of the emotion.
- “DUR” indicates the duration of the previous emotion.

When expressing a specific emotion (that is, not the concept of “emotion” in general), only EMO is mandatory. The other three slots can be omitted without affecting grammaticality, but may be included for distinguishing between more precise differences between emotions.

1.1.2 NEG, PRIM, and NEUT: derivational suffixes

NEG

The NEG slot can only be occupied by one suffix, *-ŋa*. *-ŋa* negates the emotional construction that follows it.

(1.1) Ganga si. [ˈga.ŋa.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-NEG	COP

‘Things are not going well.’

(1.2) Gangatixupa si. [ga.ˈŋa.ti.xu.pa.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>-ti</i>	<i>-xu</i>	<i>-pa</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-NEG	-EMO:AFFECTION	-TARG:ANIM	-DUR:SHORT	COP

‘I am angry at someone.’

Figure 1.1: Examples of *ganga* constructions

PRIM

The PRIM suffix, *-pɔ*, makes an emotion “primal.” This is important for making distinctions between emotions like love and lust, happiness and pleasure, anger and rage, etc.

(1.3) Gapowa si. [ga.ˈpɔ.ua.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-pɔ</i>	<i>-ua</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-PRIM	-EMO:CONFIDENCE	COP

‘I’m feeling courageous.’

(1.4) Gapotitifu si. [ga.ˈpɔ.ti.ti.fu si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-pɔ</i>	<i>-titi</i>	<i>-ɸu</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-PRIM	-EMO:STRONG.AFFECTION	-TARG:NULL	COP

‘I’m horny.’

Figure 1.2: Examples of *gapo* constructions

NEUT

The NEUT suffix, *-nɔʔi*, makes an emotion neutered. This can either reflect a decrease in intensity, or a lack of any intensity in the cases of apathy, ambivalence, etc. Pragmatically, *-nɔʔi* is combined with anger to denote passive-aggressiveness.

(1.5) Gano'i si. [ga.'no.ji.si]

ga *-no?i* *si*
 emotional -NEUT COP

'I'm alright, I guess.' (read in voice of whiny teenager)

(1.6) Gangano'itixu si [ga.'ŋa.no.ji.ti.xu.si]

ga *-ŋa* *-no?i* *-ti* *-xu* *si*
 emotional -NEG -NEUT -EMO:AFFECTION -TARG:ANIM COP

'It's OK. I'm fine.' (In reality, I am mad at you)

Figure 1.3: Examples of *gano'i* constructions

1.1.3 EMO, TARG, and DUR: inflectional suffixes

EMO

EMO suffixes indicate explicit emotional states. Their distinctions are based upon Paul Ekman's theories of basic emotions, but additional suffixes have been added to his proposed basic emotions:

- *-ka* indicates happiness or content.
- *-ti* indicates affection.
- *-vu* indicates confidence. It is commonly negated to express fear or fright (depending on duration).
- *-to* indicates excitement. It is negated to express dissatisfaction.
- *-xa* indicates a sense of pride/accomplishment. It is negated to express guilt, shame, and regret, depending on duration and target. Changes in duration can mean immediate or longstanding satisfaction.

(1.7) Gaka si. ['ga.ka.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:CONTENT	COP

‘Things are going well.’

(1.8) Gangatitixu si! [ga.'ŋa.ti.ti.xu.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>-titi</i>	<i>-xu</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-NEG	-EMO:STRONG.AFFECTION	-TARG:ANIM	COP

‘I am repulsed (by someone)!’

(1.9) Gangawufuda si. [ga.'ŋa.uu.ɸu.da.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ŋa</i>	<i>-vu</i>	<i>-ɸu</i>	<i>-da</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-NEG	-EMO:CONFIDENCE	-TARG:NULL	-DUR:LONG	COP

‘I am anxious.’

(1.10) Gatopa si [ga.'tɔ.pa.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-tɔ</i>	<i>-pa</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:EXCITEMENT	-DUR:SHORT	COP

‘I am surprised.’

(1.11) Gaxamuda si [ga.'xa.mu.da.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-xa</i>	<i>-mu</i>	<i>-da</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:PRIDE	-TARG:REFL	-DUR:LONG	COP

‘I am proud of myself.’

Figure 1.4: Examples of emotional constructions using different EMO suffixes

Table 1.2: Loose English equivalents of Kurajo emotion adjectives

	+	+PRIM	-	-PRIM
-ka	𐌵.𐌵 happiness contentedness	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 pleasure (not nec. sexual)	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 unhappiness discontent sadness, anger(strong)	𐌵.𐌵𐌵𐌵 pain displeasure
-ti	𐌵.𐌵 affection (often romantic)	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 lust wanting, craving	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 disdain detest(stronger)	𐌵.𐌵𐌵𐌵 repulsion disgust
-vu	𐌵.𐌵 confidence	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 courage	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 doubt anxiety	𐌵.𐌵𐌵𐌵 fear
-to	𐌵.𐌵 excitement	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 arousal	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 dissapointment	𐌵.𐌵𐌵𐌵 helplessness
-xa	𐌵.𐌵 pride	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 acceptance self of belonging	𐌵.𐌵𐌵 shame	𐌵.𐌵𐌵𐌵 reclusiveness lack of belonging

TARG

The TARG suffixes indicate the target of the emotion. There are four possibilities for this morphosyntactic category:

- *-xu* represents an animate target. This can be a person or an animal (anything with consciousness).
- *-φu* represents no target. It is also the inanimate suffix for a lot of constructions, and it can serve that purpose here too (eg: mad at your washing machine), but an inanimate pronoun usually follows to provide context in an ambiguous environment.
- *-mu* is a reflexive target.
- *-ru* is a reciprocal target.

(1.12) Gakaxu si. [ga.'ka.xu.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>-xu</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:CONTENT	-TARG:ANIM	COP

‘I am content (with someone).’

(1.13) Gakafu si. [ga.'ka.ϕu.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>-ϕu</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:CONTENT	-TARG:NULL	COP

‘I am content.’

(1.14) Gakamu si. [ga.'ka.mu.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>-mu</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:CONTENT	-TARG:REFL	COP

‘I am content (with myself).’

(1.15) Gakaru si. [ga.'ka.ru.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ka</i>	<i>-ru</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:CONTENT	-TARG:RECIP	COP

‘I am am in a state of mutual content with another person.’

Figure 1.5: Examples of emotional constructions using different TARG suffixes

DUR

DUR suffixes are often omitted in common conversation, and used primarily to parse apart the subtle differences between discrete emotions.

- The long durative *-da* indicates that the emotion occurred for a long period of time, something like the distinction between an emotion and a mood.
- The short durative *-pa*, on the other hand, marks the emotion as a fleeting state.

(1.16) Gatirupa si. [ga.'ti.ru.pa.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ti</i>	<i>-ru</i>	<i>-pa</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:AFFECTION	-TARG:RECIP	-DUR:SHORT	COP

‘I am in love.’ (fleeting)

(1.17) Gatiruda si. [ga.'ti.ru.da.si]

<i>ga</i>	<i>-ti</i>	<i>-ru</i>	<i>-da</i>	<i>si</i>
emotional	-EMO:AFFECTION	-TARG:RECIP	-DUR:LONG	COP

‘I am in love.’ (longstanding)

Figure 1.6: Examples of emotional constructions using different DUR suffixes

1.1.4 Reduplication

Like other morphological categories in Kuraŋɔ, EMO, DUR, TARG, PRIM, NEUT, and NEG can be reduplicated in order to modify intensity. It is interesting to note that reduplicating the PRIM suffix creates the lexicalized expression akin to the word “fuck” in English in terms of distribution and meaning. Etymologically, this comes from expressions like (1.4), which is the most common usage of *po*.