

Relay 11 Torch

Sparksbet

8 June 2018

Torch

φαθολον οσιφα γανο θेमoyon-wa wo tai wan-ten am.
wan-wa ol θisa am κipi i ilsil am-ten.
mo-wa wo olni ilπi.

Grammar Notes

General Sentence Structure

Enlalen word-order is generally VSO, but in most sentences there is a topic, fronted and followed by the clitic *-wa*. If the topic is the same as in the previous sentence, this may be omitted.

The language is pretty strictly head-initial, so adjectives and adverbs (as well as adjectival and adverbial prepositional phrases) follow the nouns and verbs they modify, prepositions precede their objects, etc. The VP of an Enlalen sentence is headed by a *tense particle*, which marks a particular word as the verb. There are five tense particles in Enlalen:

<i>wo</i>	present tense
<i>ol</i>	near past tense
<i>i</i>	near future tense
<i>en</i>	remote past tense
<i>ha</i>	remote future tense

These are relative tenses, so they are evaluated relative to the tense of the preceding sentence/time-word context.

In addition to word-order, arguments in Enlalen are marked by certain clitics. Which clitics are used depends on the aspectual structure of the sentence – in an imperfect or stative sentence, the object of a transitive verb is marked with the accusative clitic *-no*. In a perfective sentence, the subject of a transitive verb is marked with the ergative clitic *-ten*. Neither of these applies if the argument that would be marked has been topicalized or focused; the topic and focus clitics overrule all others.

When it comes to conjunctions, coordinating conjunctions modify an entire sentence and are placed before the topic, while subordinating conjunctions only modify the sub-topic phrase and thus follow the topic, if any. Depending on context, the same conjunction can often serve as either.

Parts of Speech

Enlalen does not distinguish between various parts of speech. Any word can hypothetically be used as a verb, a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Many (but not all) of these can serve as conjunctions or prepositions (or both).

Enlalen ‘nouns’ are set apart by nominalizing suffixes, which, in addition to making clear that they are nominal, also marks for definiteness and specificity.

	Specific	Non-Specific
Definite	<i>-lon</i>	<i>-yon</i>
Indefinite	<i>-so</i>	<i>-yo</i>

Definiteness refers to entities that are identifiable/given in a particular context, whereas specificity refers to entities that are unique in a particular context. The difference in the use of the definiteness/specificity suffixes can be seen in examples like the following:

- (1) Definite Specific: *am-wa wo eniyen i mitilpi almolfilon-ki*
 ‘I plan to marry the ruler (a particular person who is the ruler).’
- Definite Non-Specific: *am-wa wo eniyen i mitilpi almolfiyon-ki*
 ‘I plan to marry the ruler (whoever that may be).’
- Indefinite Specific: *am-wa wo eniyen i mitilpi almolfiso-ki*
 ‘I plan to marry a ruler (a particular person who is one).’
- Indefinite Non-Specific: *am-wa wo eniyen i mitilpi almolfiyo-ki*
 ‘I plan to marry a ruler (any ruler).’

Enlalen has no grammatical number – number is only relevant for choosing 2nd and 3rd person pronouns.

When it comes to verbs, the ‘verb’ of a sentence may not always be the most verb-like lexical item. The word that follows the tense particle is *always* the ‘main’ verb, and any verb-like words that follow are functioning as adverbials. Since there are few to no lexical restrictions on whether a word can serve as main verb, some interestingly subtle variants can occur depending on which word is chosen as main verb and which as adverbial:

- (2) a. *am-wa wo aḡaḡa kiokal.*
 ‘I suffer sadly.’
- b. *am-wa wo kiokal aḡaḡa.*
 ‘I am sad, sufferingly.’

Unlike other words, pronouns are always pronouns and almost always function as nouns without any morphology.

<i>am</i>	1st person exclusive
<i>mo</i>	1st person inclusive
<i>wan</i>	2nd person singular
<i>kan</i>	2nd person plural
<i>fił</i>	3rd person singular
<i>oli</i>	3rd person plural
<i>oil</i>	generic
<i>oyen</i>	reflexive (refers back to the topic)
<i>fiyen</i>	reflexive (refers back to the subject)

Possession is indicated by placing the pronoun agreeing with the person of the *possessor* after the noun referring to the *possessed object*. If the possessor is to be made explicit, a noun referring to the possessor is placed after the pronoun.

- (3) a. *nenḡayon am*
 ‘my parent’
- b. *nenḡayon fiłmayalon*
 ‘Maya’s parent’

Lexicon

<i>ḡaḡo</i>	bright, shine, shiny, light
<i>osiḡa</i>	heavenly body, emit light in the sky, sun, moon, star
<i>yano</i>	from, of, originate, hail from, be from
<i>ḡemo</i>	eyes, appear, seem, apparent
<i>ṭai</i>	take, acquire, get, capture, catch, come into keeping of
<i>ḡisa</i>	see, look at, look over, notice
<i>ḡipi</i>	then, afterwards, subsequently
<i>ilsil</i>	watch, listen, pay attention to, gaze
<i>olni</i>	together, with, along with, associate with
<i>ilpi</i>	tie, fasten, bind