

= Greenlandic language =

Greenlandic is an Eskimo ? Aleut language spoken by about 57 @, @ 000 Greenlandic Inuit in Greenland . It is closely related to the Inuit languages in Canada such as Inuktitut . The main variety , Kalaallisut or West Greenlandic , has been the official language of the Greenlandic autonomous territory since June 2009 ; this is a move by the Naalakkersuisut ( government of Greenland ) to strengthen the language in its competition with the colonial language , Danish . The second variety is Tunumiit oraasiat or East Greenlandic . The Thule Inuit of Greenland , Inukton or Polar Eskimo , is a recent arrival and a dialect of Inuktitut .

Greenlandic is a polysynthetic language that allows the creation of long words by stringing together roots and suffixes . Its morphosyntactic alignment is ergative , meaning that it treats ( i.e. case @-@ marks ) the argument ( " subject " ) of an intransitive verb like the object of a transitive verb , but distinctly from the agent ( " subject " ) of a transitive verb .

Nouns are inflected for one of the eight cases and for possession . Verbs are inflected for one of the eight moods and for the number and person of its subject and object . Both nouns and verbs have complex derivational morphology . Basic word order in transitive clauses is subject ? object ? verb . Subordination of clauses is done by the use of special subordinate moods . A so @-@ called fourth @-@ person category enables switch @-@ reference between main clauses and subordinate clauses with different subjects . Greenlandic is notable for its lack of a system of grammatical tense , as temporal relations are normally expressed through context , through the use of temporal particles such as " yesterday " or " now " or sometimes through the use of derivational suffixes or the combination of affixes with aspectual meanings with the semantic aktionsart of different verbs . However , some linguists have suggested that Greenlandic does mark future tense obligatorily . Another question is whether the language has noun incorporation , or whether the processes that create complex predicates that include nominal roots are derivational in nature .

When adopting new concepts or technologies , Greenlandic usually constructs new words made from Greenlandic roots , but modern Greenlandic has also taken many loans from Danish and English . The language has been written in the Latin script since Danish colonization began in the 1700s . The first orthography was developed by Samuel Kleinschmidt in 1851 , but within a hundred years already differed substantially from the spoken language because of a number of sound changes . An extensive orthographic reform undertaken in 1973 that made the script easier to learn resulted in a boost in Greenlandic literacy , which is now among the highest in the world .

= = History = =

The Greenlandic language was brought to Greenland with the arrival of the Thule people in the 1200s . It is unknown which languages were spoken by the earlier Saqqaq and Dorset cultures in Greenland .

The first descriptions of Greenlandic date from the 1600s , and with the arrival of Danish missionaries in the early 1700s , and the beginning of Danish colonialism in Greenland , the compilation of dictionaries and description of grammar began . The missionary Paul Egede wrote the first Greenlandic dictionary in 1750 , and the first grammar in 1760 .

From the Danish colonization in the 1700s to the beginning of Greenlandic home rule in 1979 , Greenlandic experienced increasing pressure from the Danish language . In the 1950s , Denmark 's linguistic policies were directed at replacing Greenlandic with Danish . Of primary significance was that post @-@ primary education and official functions were conducted in Danish .

From 1851 to 1973 , Greenlandic was written in a complicated orthography devised by the missionary linguist Samuel Kleinschmidt . In 1973 , a new orthography was introduced , intended to bring the written language closer to the spoken standard , which had changed considerably since Kleinschmidt 's time . The reform was effective and in the years following it , Greenlandic literacy received a boost .

Another development that strengthened the Greenlandic language has been the policy of " greenlandization " of Greenlandic society which began with the home rule agreement of 1979 . This

policy has worked to reverse the former trend towards marginalization of the Greenlandic language by making it the official language of education . The fact that Greenlandic has become the only language used in primary schooling has meant that today monolingual Danish @-@ speaking parents in Greenland are raising children bilingual in Danish and Greenlandic . Today Greenlandic has several dedicated news media : the Greenlandic National Radio , Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa , which provides television and radio programming in Greenlandic . The newspaper Sermitsiaq , has been published since 1958 , and in 2010 merged with the other newspaper Atuagagdliutit / Grønlandsposten , which was established already in 1861 to form a single large Greenlandic language publishing house .

Before June 2009 , Greenlandic shared its status as the official language in Greenland with Danish . Since then , Greenlandic has become the sole official language . This has made Greenlandic a unique example of an indigenous language of the Americas that is recognized by law as the only official language of a semi @-@ independent country . Nevertheless , it is still considered to be in a " vulnerable " state by the UNESCO Red Book of Language Endangerment . The country has a 100 % literacy rate . As the Western Greenlandic standard has become dominant , a UNESCO report has labelled the other dialects as endangered , and measures are now being considered to protect the Eastern Greenlandic dialect .

= = Classification = =

Kalaallisut and the other Greenlandic dialects belong to the Eskimo ? Aleut family and are closely related to the Inuit languages of Canada and Alaska . Illustration 1 shows the locations of the different Eskimoan languages , among them the three main dialects of Greenlandic .

The most prominent Greenlandic dialect is West Greenlandic ( Kalaallisut ) , which is the official language of Greenland . The name Kalaallisut is often used as a cover term for all of Greenlandic . The northern dialect , Inuktun ( Avanersuarmitut ) , spoken in the vicinity of the city of Qaanaaq ( Thule ) , is particularly closely related to Canadian Inuktitut . The eastern dialect ( Tunumiit oraasiat ) , spoken in the vicinity of Ammassalik Island and Ittoqqortoormiit , is the most innovative of the Greenlandic dialects , having assimilated consonant clusters and vowel sequences to a greater extent than West Greenlandic . Kalaallisut is further divided into four subdialects . One that is spoken around Upernavik has certain similarities to East Greenlandic , possibly because of a previous migration from eastern Greenland . A second dialect is spoken in the region of Uummannaq and the Disko Bay . The standard language is based on the central Kalaallisut dialect spoken in Sisimiut in the north , around Nuuk and as far south as Maniitsoq . Southern Kalaallisut is spoken around Narsaq and Qaqortoq in the south . Table 1 shows the differences in the pronunciation of the word for " humans " in the three main dialects . It can be seen that Inuktun is the most conservative , maintaining the " gh " which has been elided in Kalaallisut , and Tunumiisut is the most innovative , having further simplified the structure by eliding the / n / .

Michael Fortescue , a specialist in Eskimo ? Aleut as well as in Chukotko @-@ Kamchatkan , argues for a link between Uralic , Yukaghir , Chukotko @-@ Kamchatkan , and the Eskimo ? Aleut languages in Language Relations Across Bering Strait ( 1998 ) . He calls this proposed grouping the Uralo @-@ Siberian languages .

= = Phonology = =

Letters between slashes / / indicate phonemic transcription , letters in square brackets [ ] indicate phonetic transcription and letters in triangular brackets ? ? indicate standard Greenlandic orthography .

= = = Vowels = = =

The Greenlandic three vowel system , composed of / i / , / u / , and / a / , is typical for an Eskimo ? Aleut language . Double vowels are analyzed as two morae , so they are phonologically a vowel

sequence and not a long vowel ; they are also written as two vowels in the orthography . The only diphthong in the language is / ai / , which occurs only at the ends of words . Before a uvular consonant ( [ q ] or [ ʔ ] ) , / i / is realized allophonically as [ e ] , [ ʔ ] or [ ʔ ] , and / u / is realized allophonically as [ o ] or [ ʔ ] , and the two vowels are written e , o respectively ( as in Quechua and Aymara ) . / a / becomes retracted to [ ʔ ] in the same environment . / i / is rounded to [ y ] before labial consonants . / u / is fronted to [ ʔ ] between two coronal consonants .

The allophonic lowering of / i / and / u / before uvular consonants is shown in the modern orthography by writing / i / and / u / as ʔ e ʔ and ʔ o ʔ respectively before uvulars ʔ q ʔ and ʔ r ʔ . For example :

/ ui / " husband " pronounced [ ui ] .

/ uiqarpuq / " she has a husband " pronounced [ ueqaʔpʔq ] and written ʔ ueqarpoq ʔ .

/ illu / " house " pronounced [ iʔʔu ] .

/ illuqarpuq / " he has a house " pronounced [ iʔʔoqaʔpʔq ] and written ʔ illoqarpoq ʔ .

== = Consonants == =

Greenlandic has consonants at five points of articulation : labial , alveolar , palatal , velar and uvular . It does not have phonemic voicing contrast , but rather distinguishes stops from fricatives . It distinguishes stops , fricatives , and nasals at the labial , alveolar , velar , and uvular points of articulation . The earlier palatal sibilant [ ʃ ] has merged with [ s ] in all but a few dialects . The labiodental fricative [ f ] is only contrastive in loanwords . The alveolar stop [ t ] is pronounced as an affricate [ tʃs ] before the high front vowel / i / . Often Danish loanwords are written with Danish letters for voiced stops ʔ b d g ʔ , for example ʔ baaja ʔ " beer " and ʔ Guuti ʔ " God " , but in Greenlandic these stops are pronounced exactly as / p t k / , i.e. [ paʔja ] and [ kuʔtʃi ] .

== = Phonological constraints == =

The Kalaallisut syllable is simple , allowing syllables of ( C ) ( V ) V ( C ) , where C is a consonant and V is a vowel and VV is a double vowel or word @-@ final / ai / . Native words may only begin with a vowel or / p , t , k , q , s , m , n / ; they may end only in / p , t , k , q / or rarely / n / . Consonant clusters only occur over syllable boundaries and their pronunciation is subject to regressive assimilations that convert them into geminates . All non @-@ nasal consonants in a cluster are voiceless .

== = Prosody == =

Greenlandic prosody does not include stress as an autonomous category ; instead , prosody is determined by tonal and durational parameters . Intonation is influenced by syllable weight : heavy syllables are pronounced in a way that may be perceived as stress . Heavy syllables include syllables with long vowels and syllables before consonant clusters . The last syllable is stressed in words with fewer than four syllables and without long vowels or consonant clusters . The antepenultimate syllable is stressed in words with more than four syllables that are all light . In words with many heavy syllables , syllables with long vowels are considered heavier than syllables before a consonant cluster .

Geminate consonants are pronounced long , almost exactly with the double duration of a single consonant .

Intonation in indicative clauses usually rises on the antepenultimate syllable , falls on the penult and rises on the last syllable . Interrogative intonation rises on the penultimate and falls on the last syllable .

== = Morphophonology == =

Greenlandic phonology distinguishes itself phonologically from the other Inuit languages by a series

of assimilations .

Greenlandic phonology allows clusters , but it does not allow clusters of two different consonants unless the first one is / r / . The first consonant in a cluster is always assimilated to the second one resulting in a geminate consonant . Geminate / tt / is pronounced [ ts ] and written ? ts ? . Geminate / ll / is pronounced [ ?? ] . Geminate / ?? / is pronounced [ ç? ] . Geminate / ?? / is pronounced [ ?? ] . Geminate / vv / is pronounced [ f? ] and written ? ff ? . / v / is also pronounced and written [ f ] after / r / .

These assimilations mean that one of the most recognizable Inuktitut words , iglu ( " house " ) , is illu in Greenlandic , where the / ?l / consonant cluster of Inuktitut is assimilated into a voiceless alveolar lateral affricate . And the word Inuktitut itself , when translated into Kalaallisut , becomes Inuttut . The Old Greenlandic diphthong / au / has assimilated to / aa / .

The consonant / v / has disappeared when between / u / and / i / or / a / . This means that affixes beginning with -va or -vi have forms without [ v ] when suffixed to stems ending in / u / .

The vowel / i / of modern Greenlandic is the result of an historic merger of the Proto @-@ Eskimo ? Aleut vowels \* i and \* ? . The fourth vowel was still present in Old Greenlandic as attested by Hans Egede . In modern West Greenlandic the difference between the two original vowels can only be discerned morphophonologically in certain environments . The vowel that was originally \* ? has the variant [ a ] when preceding another vowel and sometimes disappears before certain suffixes .

The degree to which the assimilation of consonant clusters has taken place is an important dialectal feature separating Polar Eskimo , Inukton , which still allows some ungeminated consonant clusters , from West and East Greenlandic . East Greenlandic has shifted some geminate consonants , e.g. [ ?? ] to [ t? ] . In Tunumiit oraasiat , for example , the name of a particular town is Ittoqqortoormiit , which would appear as Illoqqortoormiut in Kalaallisut .

= = Grammar = =

The morphology of Greenlandic is highly synthetic and exclusively suffixing , with the exception of a single highly limited and fossilized demonstrative prefix . It creates very long words by means of adding strings of suffixes to a stem . In principle there is no limit to the length of a Greenlandic word , but in practice words with more than half a dozen derivational suffixes are not so frequent , and the average number of morphemes per word is 3 to 5 . The language employs around 318 inflectional suffixes and between four and five hundred derivational ones .

There are few compound words , but lots of derivations . The grammar employs a mixture of head and dependent marking : both agent and patient are marked on the predicate and the possessor is marked on nouns , while dependent noun phrases inflect for case . The morphosyntactic alignment of Kalaallisut is ergative .

The language distinguishes four persons ( 1st , 2nd , 3rd and 4th or 3rd reflexive ( see Obviation and switch @-@ reference ) , two numbers ( singular and plural ; no dual as in Inuktitut ) , eight moods ( indicative , participial , imperative / optative , interrogative , past subjunctive , future subjunctive and habitual subjunctive ) and eight cases ( absolutive , ergative , equative , instrumental , locative , allative , ablative and prolativ ) . Verbs carry a bipersonal inflection for subject and object . Possessive noun phrases inflect for their possessor , as well as for case .

In this section the examples are written in Greenlandic standard orthography except that morpheme boundaries are indicated by a hyphen .

= = = Syntax = = =

Greenlandic distinguishes three open word classes : nouns , verbs and particles . Verbs inflect for person and number of subject and object as well as for mood . Nouns inflect for possession and for case . Particles do not inflect .

The verb is the only word required to build a sentence . Since verbs inflect for number and person of both subject and object , the verb is in fact a clause itself . Therefore , clauses where all participants are expressed as free @-@ standing noun phrases are rather rare . The following

examples show the possibilities of leaving out these verbal arguments :

Intransitive clause with no subject noun phrase :

Sini @-@ ppoq " ( S ) he sleeps "

sleep @-@ 3p / IND

Intransitive clause with subject noun phrase :

Angut sinippoq " the man sleeps "

man.ABS sleep @-@ 3p / IND

Transitive clause with no overt arguments :

Asa @-@ vaa " ( S ) he loves him / her / it "

love @-@ 3p / 3p

Transitive clause with agent noun phrase :

Angut @-@ ip asa @-@ vaa " the man loves him / her / it "

man @-@ ERG love @-@ 3p / 3p

Transitive clause with patient noun phrase :

Arnaq asa @-@ vaa " ( S ) he loves the woman "

woman.ABS love @-@ 3p / 3p

=== Morphosyntactic alignment ===

The Greenlandic language uses case to express grammatical relations between participants in a sentence . Nouns are inflected with one of the two core cases or one of the six oblique cases .

Greenlandic is an ergative language . This means that , instead of treating the grammatical relations as in most European languages where grammatical subjects are marked with nominative case and objects with accusative , the grammatical roles are defined differently . In Greenlandic the ergative case is used for agents of transitive verbs and for possessors . Absolutive case is used for patients of transitive verbs and subjects of intransitive verbs . Research into Greenlandic as used by the younger generation has shown that the use of ergative alignment in Kalaallisut may be becoming obsolete , converting the language into a nominative ? accusative language .

Intransitive :

Anda sini @-@ ppoq " Anda sleeps "

Anda.ABS sleep @-@ 3p / IND

Transitive with agent and object :

Anda @-@ p nanoq taku @-@ aa " Anda sees a bear "

Anda.ERG bear @-@ ABS see @-@ 3p / 3p

=== Word order ===

In transitive clauses where both object and subject are expressed as free noun phrases , basic , pragmatically neutral word order is AOXV / SXV , where X is a noun phrase in one of the oblique cases . This order is fairly free , though . Topical noun phrases occur at the beginning of a clause whereas new or emphasized information generally come last . This is usually the verb , but it can also be a focal subject or object as well . In spoken language also " afterthought " material or clarifications may follow the verb , usually in a lowered pitch .

On the other hand , the noun phrase is characterized by a rigid order where the head of the phrase precedes any modifiers and the possessor precedes the possessum .

In copula clauses the order is usually Subject @-@ Copula @-@ Complement .

Andap tujuuluk pisiaraa " Anda bought the sweater "

Anda sweater bought

A O V

An attribute appears after its head noun .

Andap tujuuluk tungujortoq pisiaraa " Anda bought the blue sweater "

Anda sweater blue bought

A O X V

An attribute of an incorporated noun appears after the verb :  
Anda sanasuuvoq pikkorrissoq " Anda is a skilled carpenter "  
Anda carpenter.IS skilled  
S V APP

==== Coordination and Subordination =====

Syntactic coordination and subordination is done by combining predicates in the superordinate moods ( indicative , interrogative , imperative , optative ) with predicates in the subordinate moods ( conditional , causative , contemporative and participial ) . The contemporative has both coordinative and subordinative functions depending on context . The relative order of the main clause and its coordinate or subordinate clauses is relatively free , and mostly subject to pragmatic concerns .

==== Obviation and switch @-@ reference =====

The Greenlandic pronominal system includes a distinction known as obviation or switch @-@ reference . There is a special so @-@ called fourth person used to denote a third person subject of a subordinate verb or the possessor of a noun that is coreferent with the third person subject of the matrix clause . Below are examples of the difference between third and fourth person :

illu @-@ a taku @-@ aa " he saw his ( the other man 's ) house "  
house @-@ 3POSS see @-@ 3p / 3p  
illu @-@ ni taku @-@ aa " he saw his own house "  
house @-@ 4POSS see @-@ 3p / 3p  
Ole oqar @-@ poq tillu @-@ kkiga " Ole said I had hit him ( the other man ) "  
Ole say @-@ 3p hit @-@ I / 3p  
Ole oqar @-@ poq tillu @-@ kkini " Ole said I had hit him ( Ole ) "  
Ole say @-@ 3p hit @-@ I / 4p  
Eva iser @-@ uni sini @-@ ssaa @-@ q " When Eva comes in she 'll sleep "  
Eva come.in @-@ 4p sleep @-@ expect @-@ 3p  
Eva iser @-@ pat sini @-@ ssaa @-@ q When Eva comes in ( s ) he 'll sleep ( someone else ) .  
Eva come.in @-@ 3p sleep @-@ expect @-@ 3p

==== Indefiniteness construction =====

There is no category of definiteness in Greenlandic , so the information whether participants are already known to the listener or new in the discourse is encoded by other means . According to some authors , morphology related to transitivity such as the use of the construction sometimes called antipassive or intransitive object conveys such meaning , along with strategies of noun incorporation of non @-@ topical noun phrases . This view , however , is controversial .

Active :

Piitap arfeq takuaa " Peter saw the whale "

Peter @-@ ERG whale see

Antipassive / intransitive object :

Piitaq arfermik takuvoq " Peter saw ( a ) whale "

Peter @-@ ABS whale @-@ INSTR see

==== Verbs =====

The morphology of Greenlandic verbs is enormously complex . The two main processes are inflection and derivation . Inflectional morphology includes the processes of obligatory inflection for mood , person , and voice ( tense / aspect is not an inflectional category in Kalaallisut ) . Derivational morphology modifies the meaning of verbs in a way similar to that expressed by adverbs in English . Derivational suffixes of this kind number in the hundreds . Many of these suffixes are so

semantically salient that they are often referred to as postbases rather than suffixes , particularly in the American tradition of Eskimo grammar . Such semantically " heavy " suffixes may express concepts such as " to have " , " to be " , " to say " , or " to think " . The Greenlandic verb word consists of a root + derivational suffixes / postbases + inflectional suffixes . Tense and aspect is marked by optional suffixes that appear between the derivational and inflectional suffixes .

= = = = Inflection = = = =

Greenlandic verbs inflect for agreement with agent and patient , for mood and for voice . There are eight moods , of which four are used in independent clauses and four in subordinate clauses . The four independent moods are : indicative , interrogative , imperative , optative . The four dependent moods are causative , conditional , contemporative , and participial . Verbal roots can take transitive , intransitive or negative inflections , so that all eight mood suffixes have these three forms . The inflectional system is further complicated by the fact that transitive suffixes encode both agent and patient in a single morpheme , requiring up to 48 different suffixes to cover all possible combinations of agent and patient for each of the eight transitive paradigms . As some moods do not have forms for all persons ( imperative only has 2nd person , optative only 1st and 3rd person , participial mood has no 4th person and contemporative has no 3rd person ) , the total number of verbal inflectional suffixes is about 318 .

= = = = Indicative and interrogative moods = = = =

The indicative mood is used in all independent expository clauses . The interrogative mood is used for posing questions . Questions with the question particle immaqa " maybe " cannot use the interrogative mood .

napparsima @-@ vit ? " Are you sick ? " ( interrogative mood )

be.sick @-@ YOU / INTERR

naamik , napparsima @-@ nngila @-@ nga . " No , I am not sick " ( indicative mood )

no , be.sick @-@ NEG @-@ I / IND

Table 5 shows the intransitive indicative inflection for patient person and number of the verb neri- " to eat " in the indicative and interrogative moods ( question marks mark interrogative intonation ? questions have falling intonation on the last syllable as opposed to most Indo @-@ European languages in which questions are marked by rising intonation ) . The indicative and the interrogative mood each have a transitive and an intransitive inflection , but here only the intransitive inflection is given . Interestingly , consonant gradation like that in Finnish appears to show up in the verb conjugation ( with strengthening to pp in the 3rd person plural and weakening to v elsewhere ) .

Table 6 shows the transitive indicative inflection for patient person and number of the verb asa- " to love " ( an asterisk means that this form does not occur as such but would have to use a different reflexive inflection ) .

= = = = Imperative and Optative moods = = = =

The imperative mood is used to issue orders . It is always combined with the second person . The optative is used to express wishes or exhortations and is never used with the second person . There is a negative imperative form used to issue prohibitions . Both optative and imperative have transitive and intransitive paradigms . There are two transitive positive imperative paradigms : a standard one , and one that is considered rude and is usually used to address children .

sini @-@ git ! " Sleep ! "

sleep @-@ IMP

sini @-@ llanga " Let me sleep ! "

sleep @-@ 1p.OPT

sini @-@ nnak ! " Don 't sleep ! "

sleep @-@ NEG.IMP

===== Conditional mood =====

The conditional mood is used to construct subordinate clauses with the meaning " if " or " when " .  
sequinner @-@ pat Eva ani @-@ ssaa @-@ q " If the sun shines , Eva will go out "  
Sunshine @-@ COND Eva go.out @-@ expect / 3p

===== Causative mood =====

The causative mood is used to construct subordinate clauses with the meaning " because " or " since " or " when " ; it is also sometimes used with the meaning of " that " . The causative is also used in main clauses to imply some underlying cause .

qasu @-@ gami innar @-@ poq " He went to bed because he was tired "  
be.tired @-@ CAU / 3p go.to.bed @-@ 3p  
matta @-@ ttor @-@ ama " I 've eaten blubber ( that 's why I 'm not hungry ) "  
blubber @-@ eat @-@ CAU / I  
ani @-@ guit eqqaama @-@ ssa @-@ vat teriannia @-@ qar @-@ mat " If you go out , remember that there are foxes "  
go.out @-@ COND / YOU remember @-@ fut @-@ IMP fox @-@ are @-@ CAUS

===== Contemporative mood =====

The contemporative mood is used to construct subordinate clauses with the meaning of simultaneity . It is only used if the subject of the subordinate clause and of the main clause are identical . If they differ , the participial mood or causative mood are used . The contemporative can also be used to form complement clauses for verbs of speaking or thinking .

qasu @-@ llunga angerlar @-@ punga " Being tired , I went home "  
be.tired @-@ CONT / I go.home @-@ I  
98 @-@ inik ukio @-@ qar @-@ luni toqu @-@ voq " Being 98 years old , he / she died / he / she was 98 when he died "  
98 @-@ INSTR / PL year @-@ have @-@ CONT / 3p die @-@ 3p  
Eva oqar @-@ poq kami @-@ it akiler @-@ lugit " Eva said she had paid for the boots "  
Eva say @-@ 3p boot @-@ PL pay @-@ CONT / 3p

===== Participial mood =====

The participial mood is used to construct a subordinate clause describing its subject in the state of carrying out an activity . It is used when the matrix clause and the subordinate clause have different subjects . It is often used in appositional phrases such as relative clauses .

atuar @-@ toq taku @-@ ara " I saw her read / I saw that she read "  
read @-@ PART / 3p see @-@ I / 3p  
neriu @-@ ppunga tiki @-@ ssa @-@ soq " I hope he is coming / I hope he 'll come "  
hope @-@ I come @-@ expect @-@ PART / 3p

===== Derivation =====

Verbal derivation is extremely productive , and Greenlandic employs many hundreds of derivational suffixes . Often a single verb will use more than one derivational suffix , resulting in very long words . Below are given some examples of how derivational suffixes can change the meaning of verbs .

-katap- " be tired of "  
taku @-@ katap @-@ para " I am tired of seeing it / him / her "  
see @-@ tired.of @-@ I / 3p  
-ler- " begin to / be about to "



neri @-@ ler @-@ pugut " We are about to eat "  
 eat @-@ begin @-@ WE  
 -llaqqip- " be proficient at "  
 erinar @-@ su @-@ llaqqip @-@ poq " She is good at singing "  
 sing @-@ HAB @-@ proficiently @-@ 3p  
 -niar- " plans to / wants to "  
 aallar @-@ niar @-@ poq " He plans to travel "  
 travel @-@ plan @-@ 3p  
 angerlar @-@ niar @-@ aluar @-@ pungu " I was planning to go home though "  
 go.home @-@ plan @-@ though @-@ I  
 -ngajappoq- " almost "  
 sini @-@ ngajap @-@ pungu " I had almost fallen asleep "  
 sleep @-@ almost @-@ I  
 -nikuu @-@ nngila- " has never "  
 taku @-@ nikuu @-@ nngila @-@ ra " I have never seen it "  
 see @-@ never @-@ NEG @-@ I / 3p  
 -nnitsoor- " not anyway / afterall "  
 tiki @-@ nngitsoor @-@ poq " He hasn 't arrived after all "  
 arrive @-@ not.afterall @-@ 3p

= = = Time reference and aspect = = =

Greenlandic grammar has morphological devices to mark a distinction between , for example , recent and distant past , but the use of these is not obligatory , and they should therefore rather be understood as parts of Greenlandic 's extensive derivational system than as a system of tense markers . Rather than by morphological marking , fixed temporal distance is expressed by temporal adverbials :

toqo @-@ riikataq @-@ poq " He died long ago "  
 die @-@ long.ago @-@ 3p / IND  
 nere @-@ qqammer @-@ pungu " I ate recently "  
 eat @-@ recently @-@ I / IND  
 ippassaq Piitaaq arpaq @-@ poq " Yesterday Peter was running . "  
 yesterday Peter @-@ ABS run @-@ 3p / IND

All other things being equal and in the absence of any explicit adverbials , the indicative mood will be interpreted as complete or incomplete depending on the verbal aktionsart .

Piitaaq arpaq @-@ poq " Peter runs "  
 Peter @-@ ABS run @-@ 3p / IND  
 Piitaaq ani @-@ voq " Peter was gone out "  
 Peter @-@ ABS go.out @-@ 3p / IND

But if a sentence containing an atelic verbal phrase is embedded within the context of a past time narrative , it would be interpreted as past .

Greenlandic has several purely derivational devices of expressing meaning related to aspect and aktionsart , e.g. sar expressing " habituality " and ssaar expressing " stop to " . Next to these , there are at least two major perfect markers : sima and nikuu. sima can occur in several positions with obviously different function Rightmost position indicates evidential meaning , but this can be determined only if a number of suffixes are present .

tiki ( t ) -nikuu @-@ sima @-@ voq " Apparently , she had arrived "  
 arrive @-@ NIKUU @-@ SIMA @-@ 3p / INT

With atelic verbs , there is a regular contrast between indirective evidentiality marked by sima and witnessed evidentiality marked by nikuu . Due to its evidential meaning , the combination of first person and sima sometimes is marked .

qia @-@ sima @-@ voq " He cried ( his eyes are swollen ) "  
 cry @-@ SIMA @-@ 3p / IND

qia @-@ nikuu @-@ voq " He cried ( I was there ) "

cry @-@ NIKUU @-@ 3p / IND

In the written language and more recently also in the spoken language especially of younger speakers , sima and nikuu can be used together with adverbials referring to a particular time in the past . That is , they might arguably mark time reference , but not yet systematically .

Just as Greenlandic does not systematically mark past tense , the language also does not have a future tense . Rather , it employs three different strategies to express future meaning :

suffixes denoting cognitive states that show an attitude about prospective actions .

e.g. Ilimaga @-@ ara aasaq manna Dudley qujanar @-@ tor @-@ si @-@ ffigi @-@ ssa @-@ llugu " I expect to get some fun out of Dudley this summer . "

expect @-@ I / 3p / IND summer this Dudley be.fun @-@ cn @-@ get.from @-@ expect @-@  
CONTEMPORATIVE / 3p

inchoative suffixes creating telic actions which can then be understood as already having begun by virtue of the indicative mood .

e.g. Aggiuti @-@ ler @-@ para " I 've started to bring him . "

bring @-@ begin @-@ I / 3p / IND

moods that mark the speech act as a request or wish .

e.g. Qimmi @-@ t nirukkar @-@ niar @-@ nigik " Let us feed the dogs , ok ? " dog @-@ PL feed @-@ please @-@ we / them / IMP

While the status of the perfect markers as aspect is not very controversial , some scholars have claimed that Greenlandic has a basic temporal distinction between future and non @-@ future . Especially , the suffix -ssa and handful of other suffixes have been claimed to be obligatory future markers . However , at least for literary Greenlandic , these suffixes have been shown to have other semantics that can be used to refer to the future via the strategies just described .

= = = Noun incorporation = = =

There is also a debate in the linguistic literature whether Greenlandic has noun incorporation . This is because Greenlandic does not allow the kind of incorporation common in many languages in which a noun root can be incorporated into almost any verb to form a verb with a new meaning . On the other hand , Greenlandic does often form verbs that include noun roots . The question then becomes whether to analyse these verb formations as incorporation or as denominal derivation of verbs . Greenlandic has a number of morphemes that require a noun root as their host and which form complex predicates that correspond closely in meaning to what is often seen in languages that have canonical noun incorporation . Linguists who propose that Greenlandic does have incorporation argue that these morphemes are in fact verbal roots that must obligatorily incorporate nouns to form grammatical clauses . This argument is supported by the fact that many of the derivational morphemes that form denominal verbs work almost identically to canonical noun incorporation . They allow the formation of words with a semantic content corresponding to an entire English clause with verb , subject and object . Another argument is that the morphemes used to derive denominal verbs come from historical noun incorporating constructions that have become fossilized . Other linguists maintain that the morphemes in question are simply derivational morphemes that allow the formation of denominal verbs . This argument is supported by the fact that the morphemes cannot occur without being latched on to a nominal element . The examples below illustrate how Greenlandic forms complex predicates including nominal roots .

qimmeq " dog " + -qar- " have " ( + -poq " 3p " )

qimme @-@ qar @-@ poq " She has a dog "

illu " house " + - ' lior- " make "

illu @-@ lior @-@ poq " She builds a house "

kaffi " coffee " + -sor- " drink / eat "

kaffi @-@ sor @-@ poq " She drinks coffee "

puisi " seal " + -nniar- " hunt "

puisi @-@ nniar @-@ poq " She hunts seal "

allagaq " letter " + -si- " receive "  
allagar @-@ si @-@ voq " She has received a letter "  
anaana " mother " + -a- " to be "  
anaana @-@ a @-@ voq " She is a mother "

== = Nouns == =

Nouns are obligatorily inflected for case and number and optionally for number and person of possessor . Singular and plural are distinguished and 8 cases used : absolutive , ergative ( relative ) , instrumental , allative , locative , ablative , prosecutive ( also called vialis or prolative ) , and equative . Case and number are marked by a single suffix . Nouns can be derived from verbs or from other nouns by a number of suffixes , e.g. atuar- " to read " + -fik " place " becomes atuarfik " school " and atuarfik + -tsialak " something good " becomes atuarfitsialak " good school " .

The fact that the possessive agreement suffixes on nouns and the transitive agreement suffixes on verbs in a number of instances have similar or identical shapes has even resulted in the theory that Greenlandic has a distinction between transitive and intransitive nouns , parallel to the same distinction in the verbs .

== = = Pronouns == = =

There are personal pronouns for first- , second- , and third @-@ person singular and plural . These pronouns are optional as subjects or objects , but only when the verbal inflection refers to such arguments .

Personal pronouns are , however , necessary in the oblique case :

ilin @-@ nut niri @-@ qu @-@ aa  
thou all. eat tell @-@ to 3s @-@ 3s @-@ indic .  
'He told you to eat it'

== = = Case == = =

The two grammatical core cases Ergative and Absolutive are used to express grammatical and syntactical roles of participant noun phrases . The oblique case expresses information related to movement and manner .

angu @-@ t neri @-@ voq " The man eats "  
man @-@ ABS eat @-@ 3p  
angu @-@ tip puisi neri @-@ vaa " The man eats the seal "  
man @-@ ERG seal @-@ ABS eat @-@ 3p / 3p

The instrumental case is versatile . It is used for the instrument with which an action is carried out , for oblique objects of intransitive verbs ( also called antipassive verbs ) and for secondary objects of transitive verbs .

nano @-@ q savim @-@ mi @-@ nik kapi @-@ vaa " He stabbed the bear with his knife "  
polar bear @-@ ABS knife @-@ his.own @-@ INSTR stab @-@ 3p / 3p  
kaffimik tor @-@ tar @-@ poq " She usually drinks coffee "  
coffee @-@ INSTR drink @-@ usually @-@ 3p  
Piitaq savim @-@ mik tuni @-@ vara " I gave Peter a knife "  
Peter @-@ ABS knife @-@ INSTR give @-@ I / 3p  
It is also used to express the meaning of " give me " and for forming adverbs from nouns :  
imer @-@ mik ! " ( give me ) water "  
water @-@ INSTR

sivisuu @-@ mik sinip @-@ poq " He slept late "  
late @-@ INSTR sleep @-@ 3p

The allative case describes movement towards something .

illu @-@ mut " towards the house "

It is also used with numerals and the question word qassit to express the time of the clock , and in the meaning " amount per unit " :

qassi @-@ nut ? ? pingasu @-@ nut . " When ? " ? " At three o 'clock "

when @-@ ALL three @-@ ALL

kiilu @-@ mut tivi krone @-@ qar @-@ poq " It costs 20 crowns per kilo "

kilo @-@ ALL twenty crown @-@ have @-@ 3p

The locative case describes spatial location :

illu @-@ mi " in the house "

The ablative case describes movement away from something or the source of something :

Rasmussi @-@ mit allagarsi @-@ voq " He got a letter from Rasmus "

Rasmus @-@ ABL receive.letter @-@ 3p

tuttu @-@ mit nassuk " ( antler ) horn from a rein @-@ deer "

rein.deer @-@ ABL horn

The prosecutive case describes movement through something as well as the medium of writing or a location on the body . It is also used to describe a group of people such as a family as belonging to the modified noun .

matu @-@ kkut iser @-@ poq " He entered through the door "

door @-@ PROS enter @-@ 3p

su @-@ kkut tillup @-@ paatit ? " Where ( on the body ) did he hit you ? "

where @-@ PROS hit @-@ 3p / YOU

palasi @-@ kkut " the priest and his family "

priest @-@ PROS

The equative case describes similarity of manner or quality . It is also used for deriving language names from nouns denoting nationalities , i.e. " like a person of x nationality [ speaks ] " .

nakorsatut suli @-@ sar @-@ poq " he works as a doctor "

doctor @-@ EQU work @-@ HAB @-@ 3p

Qallunaa @-@ tut " Danish language ( like a Dane ) "

dane @-@ EQU

= = = = Possession = = = =

In Greenlandic possession is marked on the noun which agrees with the person and number of its possessor . The possessor is in the ergative case . There are different possessive paradigms for all of the different cases . Table 4 gives the possessive paradigm for the absolutive case of illu " house " . Below are given examples of the use of the possessive inflection , the use of the ergative case for possessors and the use of fourth person possessors .

Anda @-@ p illu @-@ a " Anda 's house "

Anda @-@ ERG house @-@ 3p / POSS

Anda @-@ p illu @-@ ni taku @-@ aa " Anda sees his own house "

Anda @-@ ERG house @-@ 4p / POSS see @-@ 3p / 3p

Anda @-@ p illu @-@ a taku @-@ aa " Anda sees his ( the other man 's ) house "

Anda @-@ ERG house @-@ 3p / POSS see @-@ 3p / 3p

= = Vocabulary = =

Greenlandic vocabulary is mostly inherited from Proto @-@ Eskimo ? Aleut , but it has also taken a large number of loans from other languages , especially from Danish . Early loans from Danish have often become acculturated to the Greenlandic phonological system , for example the Greenlandic word palasi " priest " is a loan from the Danish " præst " . But since Greenlandic has an enormous potential for the derivation of new words from existing roots , many modern concepts have Greenlandic names that have been invented rather than borrowed , e.g. qarasaasiaq " computer " which literally means " artificial brain " . This potential for complex derivations also means that Greenlandic vocabulary is built on very few roots which combined with affixes come to form large

word families . For example the root for " tongue " oqaq is used to derive the following words :

oqarpoq ' says'

oqaaseq ' word'

oqaluppoq ' speaks'

oqaasilerisoq ' linguist'

oqaasilerissutit ' grammar'

oqaluttualiortoq ' author'

oqaasipiluuppaa ' harangues him'

oqaloqatigiinneq ' conversation'

oqaatiginerluppaa ' speaks badly about him'

Lexical differences between dialects are often considerable . This is due to the earlier cultural practice of imposing taboo on words which had served as names for a deceased person . Since people were often named after everyday objects , many of these have changed their name several times because of taboo rules , causing dialectal vocabulary to diverge further .

= = Orthography = =

Greenlandic is written with the Latin script . The alphabet :

A E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V

To spell loanwords from other languages , especially from Danish and English , the additional letters B , C , D , X , Y , Z , W , Æ , Ø and Å are used . Greenlandic uses the symbols " ... " and » ... « as quotation marks .

From 1851 and until 1973 Greenlandic was written in the alphabet invented by Samuel Kleinschmidt . This alphabet employed the special character kra ( ?? / ? ) which was replaced by q in the 1973 reform . In the Kleinschmidt alphabet , long vowels and geminate consonants were indicated by means of diacritics on the vowels ( in the case of consonant gemination , the diacritics were placed on the vowel preceding the affected consonant ) . For example , the name Kalaallit Nunaat was spelled Kalâdlit Nunât . This scheme uses a circumflex accent ( ? ) to indicate a long vowel ( e.g. , ât / ît / ût , modern : aat , iit , uut ) , an acute accent ( ´ ) to indicate gemination of the following consonant : ( i.e. , á , í , ú modern : a ( kk ) , i ( kk ) , u ( kk ) ) ] and , finally , a tilde ( ~ ) or a grave accent ( ` ) , depending on the author , indicates vowel length and gemination of the following consonant ( e.g. , ât , ?t , ?t or àt , ìt , ùt , modern : aatt , iitt , uutt ) . The letters ê and ô , used only before r and q , are now written er / eq and or / oq in Greenlandic . The spelling system of Nunatsiavummiutut , spoken in Nunatsiavut in northeastern Labrador , is derived from the old Greenlandic system .

Technically , the Kleinschmidt orthography focused upon morphology : the same derivational affix would be written in the same way in different contexts , despite its being pronounced differently in different contexts . The 1973 reform replaced this with a phonological system : Here , there was a clear link from written form to pronunciation , and the same suffix is now written differently in different contexts . The differences are due to phonological changes . It is therefore easy to go from the old orthography to the new ( cf. the online converter ) whereas going the other direction would require a full lexical analysis .

= = = Sample text = = =

Inuit tamarmik inunngorput nammineersinnaassuseqarlutik assigiimmillu ataqqinassuseqarlutillu pisinnaatitaaffeqarlutik . Silaqassusermik tarnillu nalunngissusianik pilersugaapput , imminnullu iliorfigeqatigiittariaqaraluarput qatanngutigittut peqatigiinnerup anersaavani .

" All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights . They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood . " ( Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights )

= = Cited literature = =

