The Proto-Aalyu Language

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1 Preface

The Proto-Aalyu language is intended as a Protolanguage for a world building project. The origin of this language group comes from a people who are partially agricultural and partially pastoral in an era before the pottery neolithic. The people originate from near a river system fairly far inland. In the warmer months, they hunt and graze, while accumulating some stock, especially fish, for the winters. During the winters, the groups coallesce into semi-permanent camps and rely on stored fish, tubers, and mildly fermented goods. They also continue to fish some.

Proto-Aalyu derives much of its phonological system from Australian languages, but with a moraic system. It is strongly head marking and makes extensive use of verb derivation to express complex meanings. Nouns have an unmarked implicit hierarchy based on animacy, which is heavily influenced by religious perceptions.

2 Phonology

Proto-Aalyu has an abundance of consonants that fills their space rather thoroughly. The vowels, conversely, are less than a typical language, and contrast only in length. The syllable structure is fairly simple, with open syllables being preferred overall. There are no tonal distinctions, and the words are mora timed. For the charts in the vowel and consonant sections, the romanization is provided in angle brackets to the right of each phoneme. The methodology for deriving this scheme will be discussed in a later section within the phonology with the main justification being that internal consistency and ease of use dominated over matching with the IPA or favoring an Anglocentric use of the alphabet.

2.1 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i, iː<i, ii>		u, uː<u, uu>
Low		a, aː<a, aa>	

Proto-Aalyu features three vowel qualities at the extremes of the vowel space. Vowels arise both as long and short variants, but long vowels are far fewer since they rarely surface outside of the first syllable of stems, especially in nouns. The most significant departure from this is that all verbal stems in the plain form have a \aː\ of some kind at their end. The vowels are synchronically very stable with no notable changes in quality regardless of length or environment. The long vowels are not distinguishable from a series of two short vowels. Also, diphthong like vowel-vowel sequences like \ai\ and \iu\ are extremely rare.

2.2 Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar
Fortis	p <p>	t̪<t>	ʈ<th>	c <ky>	k <k>
Lenis	b <b>	d̪<d>	ɖ<dh>	ɟ<gy>	g <g>
Nasal	m <m>	n̪<n>	ɳ<nh>	ɲ<ny>	ŋ<gg>
Rhotic		r̪<r>	ɻ<rh>		
Lateral		l̪<l>	ɭ<lh>	ʎ<ly>	
Approximant				j <j>	w <w>

Proto-Aalyu makes use of five places of articulation, in which three manners are fully present. Being a proto-language, the difference between fortis and lenis stops is not necessarily one of voicing, but could have also been aspiration or another mechanism which caused consistent differences to be related in daughter languages; the choice of using tenuis and voiced graphemes here reflects only their ease of use. In daughter languages, regardless of how they surface, the lenis consonants are much more prone to diachronic changes than either the fortis or nasal consonants.

The lenis consonants are further restricted to only word initial positions. Even within the protolanguage, it seems amply evident that when non-nasal sounds precede them in a word, they lenite to other sounds, which will be detailed later. However, when nasal sound occurs before a lenis consonant, such as with a prefix that has a coda nasal, the lenis consonant remains.

A further note is that the dental rhotic is expected to have been rendered as a tap consonant rather than a trill, but the two could have been interchangeable.

Furthermore, as presented in the following sections, there exist 3 underspecified syllable coda consonants which shall be rendered as **N**, **L**, and **R**. These respectively are homorganic coda nasals, laterals, and rhotics.

2.3 Coda Consonant Realizations

The coda consonants are very underspecified and in general homorganic to the place of articulation of the following consonant, if there is one. The nasal shows the most mutability while the rhotic shows the least which is reflective of the number of points of articulation in the language overall. When these occur word medially, they take on the place of articulation of the following consonant. For example, if **L** is before <ny> then it will surface as \ʎ\. Naturally, this means that **N** always mutates. When the rhotic and lateral can match place of articulation they do, but when they cannot, the dental version surfaces. When a coda consonant is present at the end of a word, the lateral and rhotic take of their dental forms, but the nasal takes on its velar form <gg>. If suffixes attach after it, they will once again become homorganic as described. If the suffix presents an initial vowel, then each of the coda consonants take on their dental form and become phonetically an initial consonant for the suffix.

2.4 Syllable Structure and Timing

The syllable structure is simply `(C)V(T)` where `T` is one of the homorganic coda consonants. Of these, the nasal **N** is more common than the other two. This means that there are four distinct syllable types, where the content affects how long it is. Sequences of `VV`, two sequential short vowels, has the same timing as a long vowel. However, short vowel clusters like that where the two differ in quality are extremely rare. For that reason, they're mentioned here but not explicit in the table.

Syllable	No. Morae
`(C)V`	1
`(C)V:`	2
`(C)VT`	2
`(C)V:T`	3

This timing system is fairly direct. A short vowel presents a single mora, a long vowel two, and coda consonants add an extra onto the syllable. Though the coda consonants take a full mora, they never form the nucleus of any phonemic syllable; however, the use of such sounds when thinking of what to say is not uncommon. All that said, some speakers and regions seem to prefer making some word initial patterns like \um\ a syllablic nasal or \ar\ a syllabic rhotic, especially at the beginning of words. This is not universal, however, but the pattern is definitely evident in daughter languages.

2.5 Romanization Scheme

The Romanization scheme is meant to be as internally consistent as possible and as quick to learn as possible as well, so this section will primarily present this reasoning with justifications for the inconsistencies present. In the interest of ease of use, this scheme was chosen to prefer digraphs over diacritics. It is also largely a phonemic mapping, but there are exceptions allowed for ease.

The vowels are simply echoes of the IPA in quality, and length is noted by doubling the vowel. This doubling provides a dual convenience. It clearly indicates the underlying moraic system that would be less transparent with something like macrons. It also is fairly intuitive since many languages, both natural and constructed, already use such a scheme.

The consonants probably require a little more effort to internalize. First, as the consonant section notes, the distinction between the fortis and lenis stops is not necessarily one of voicing, but the dividing line between voiced and unvoiced consonants in the Latin alphabet has been leveraged to this effect, which is not to far a cry from Hanyu Pinyin which uses it for aspiration. The retroflex series of consonants follows a simple pattern of appending a <h> to the associated dental sound. This was primarily done because <h> is not used elsewhere in Proto-Aalyu because of the lack of fricatives, so it is fairly clear that a digraph is indicated and syllable boundaries are not ambiguous.

The palatal series follows a similar pattern of appending an otherwise unused graph, but is a bit less organized given the nature of the Latin alphabet and how palatal consonants are seemingly rendered in ad hoc manners in it. The graph <y> is appended to either the associated velar or dental consonant, with the exception of \j\ which is simply rendered as <j>. This latter choice was made so that coda nasals and laterals followed by \j\ could be easily distinguished from the palatal nasal and lateral without needing to resort to options like apostrophes to indicate syllable boundaries. The <ly> and <ny> digraphs were chosen both for familiarity and because appending to a velar series graph would either be impossible or cumbersome. The fortis and lenis palatal stops, however, append to the velar series. This is mainly done as an aesthetic measure so that <t> and <d> won't appear to be in abundance and in hopes it may be more intuitive than <ty> or <dy> digraphs may be.

The velar nasal, \ŋ\, is represented as <gg>. This is admittedly quite inelegant and rather non-intuitive. Had <g> not been taken by the lenis velar stop and <ng> not possible at a syllable boundary, both would have been preferred. However, since neither of those two were easy to use and other options like <q> and <g̃> were either less intuitive or more cumbersome to input, <gg> has been selected for clarity and some degree of internal consistency.

Finally, the coda consonants are almost always represented by the dental graph of their associated type, thus <n, l, r> for the nasal, lateral, and rhotic, respectively. An inconsistency with the nasal is tolerated. When it occurs before the labial consonants \p, b, m\, it may be written as <m>; however this is not mandatory. This document will strive to use <n> in all these cases.

2.6 Common Sound Mutations

Very many processes in Proto-Aalyu trigger phonetic changes. Rather than leave those scattered through this document, they will be summarized here. The grammatical rules that cause these patterns will not be explained here, but they should be easily searchable in this document.

2.6.1 Lenis Consonant Mutations

The lenis series of stops is notable for only being nativley attested word initially, and they often reduce when other sounds are affixed to the front of the word. If a vowel, coda **R**, or coda **L**, but not **N**, ends up in front of a lenis consonant, it will reduce as the table below indicates, which shows examples from partial reduplication of nouns:

Consonant	Mutated	Base Word	Reduplicated Example
b	**w**	Baani - Bird	Baawaani - A flock
d	**l**	Dukya - Mountain	Dulukya - Mountain Range
dh	**lh**	Dhan - A Fruit	Dhalhan - A Bunch of Fruits
gy	**j**	Gyaal - A Bee	Gyaajaal - A Swarm of Bees
g	**w**	Gara - Sand	Gawara - Desert

3 Grammatical Overview

Proto-Aalyu is a highly synthetic language. The nouns split into one of three classes, are marked for obviation, optionally marked for two kinds of plurality, and can be directly modified in other ways. The verbs inflect for a number of categories. There is a past vs non-past verbal split, a handful of marked aspects, and a large amount of less inflected categories for various subordinating and adverbial usages. The obviate-inverse marking system used in particular ways on both the nouns and verbs largely takes the place of what many would recognize for grammatical voice.

The sections that follow go through the various topics in the grammar and morphology. After that, longer sections of text and translation will be presented to show the language's lexicon, grammar, and tendencies in action.

4 Nouns

Nouns in Proto-Aalyu are clearly an inflectional category of words, however the degree of morphology attached to nouns is fairly light. All nouns have an implicit animacy that fits into a loose hierarchy which has some minor effects on how nouns may be inflected. As will be seen, this animacy hierarchy has some importance in the verbal morphology as well. Furthermore, third person nouns are marked for obviation for various reasons ranging from sentence level distinctions, to thematic roles, to the general flow of discourse.

4.1 The Animacy Hierarchy

Proto-Aalyu displays a three level animacy hierarchy. Though mostly the same throughout, the different levels are treated differently in minor ways through the language, and the animacy system plays a significant role in verbal morphology. The 3 classes distinguish percieved inanimacy, animacy, and sentience, they are listed here with some examples.

Class	Examples
Agentive	Humans, Spirits, dogs, horses, hawks
Animate	Small birds, reptiles, insects, plants
Inanimate	Rocks, water, tools, housing, ideas

This table gives a rough illustration of how agency typically functions in Proto-Aalyu . That said, certain things may end up higher or lower depending on general or particular perceptions of agency. For example, if a reptile of some sort is seen as threatening or scheming it may be sporadically elevated to the agentive class. Lowering animacy can happen, but is exceedingly rare. Though one might think it would be useful for a rude insult, that too is very very rare. The culture of insults works rather differently.

4.2 Common Nominal Particles and Patterns

There a handful of general use particles and patterns in Proto-Aalyu . With the exception of a couple, they always join at the end on the noun stem, and several may stack on top of each other.

4.3 True Plurals with -lu, -na, and -thi

Plurals can be denoted on all nouns, but are only mandatory on agentive nouns and personal pronouns. The plural suffixes are **-l(u)**, **-na**, and **-thi** for the agentive, animate, and inanimate noun classes respectively. For agentive nouns, this surfaces as **-l** after vowels and as **-lu** after consonants. Some simple examples follow:

`raamal`
spirit.PL
spirits

4.4 Associative Plurals via Partial Reduplication

Associative Plurals are common in Proto-Aalyu , and are used to indicate groups or collections of nouns that are the same or similar. For all noun classes, the associative plural is denoted by reduplicating the first syllable, with some rules based on the structure of the initial syllable. For syllables with an initial consonant, only the initial consonant-vowel sequence is reduplicated with coda consonants ignored. For words with initial vowels, if the vowel is short it will become long. However,

if a word has an initial long vowel, reduplication is not possible. This process is never applied to given names, and there is an aversion towards its use for very specific individuals. Certain consonants also mutate in the reduplication process. In particular, all the lenis stops lenite to approximants or laterals. This is enumerated in the table below:

Consonant	Mutated	Base Word	Reduplicated Example
b	**w**	Baani - Bird	Baawaani - A flock
d	**l**	Dukya - Mountain	Dulukya - Mountain Range
dh	**l**	Dhan - A Fruit	Dhalan - A Bunch of Fruits
gy	**j**	Gyaal - A Bee	Gyaajaal - A Swarm of Bees
g	**w**	Gara - Sand	Gawara - Desert

`Yama -- Yayama`
tuber – RED.tuber
tuber – a bunch of tubers

4.5 Obviation with -an and -ku

Obviation is a marking system that is used to distinguish thrid person nouns that might otherwise be confused. For simple sentences, this allows for clarity in who effects the verb on the other and the degree of volition for lexcially reciprocal verbs. At a discourse level, it keeps competing topics clear. Both agentive and animate verbs share a suffix for indicating the obviative, -**(a)n**, which is -**n** after vowels and -**an** after consonants. Inanimate nouns are always marked with -**ku**. It should be noted, obviation is only marked when the two nouns are of the same animacy or in certain cases where a lower animacy noun exerts on a higher one. In the general case, if two third person nouns of different animacy are present, the higher animacy is assumed to be proximate and the lower obviative.

4.6 Nominal Possession

4.6.1 The -ini- infix

Possession in Proto-Aalyu is marked via the infix -**ini**-. This does not vary based on the animacy of the constituent nouns. This infix is however not used when possessive pronouns may fill the role. Furthermore, when two third person nouns, including pronouns, are the constituents of a possessive noun phrase, the possessed noun will always be marked as obviative

`Aamu ini bawan`
Mom POSS dog.OBV
Mom's dog

4.6.2 Deferential 1st and 2nd Person Possessives

Possession by 1st and 2nd person actors can be indicated through deferential patterns using Bound Adjectives, covered in a later section, and often demonstratives, also covered in a later section. These patterns are not strict possessives because they can be used in a more generic literal sense as well. Essentially, 1st person possession can be politely hinted at by disparaging a nominal with bound adjectives, namely the **run**- prefix mentioned in the Bound Adjectives section, while elevating it with the **y(u)**- prefix can politely indicate 2nd person possession. Frequently, the 1st person disparagement will involve also affixing the proximal demonstrative, and 2nd person one of the distal markers, often the mediodistal marker. Demonstratives are also covered in a later section. 3rd person possession in this way, is not evident in the protolanguage. There are limitations to what kinds of

nouns can be possessed with this hinting pattern. While most will be of the agentive class, animacy is not the dividing line. Normally, family members, close friends, and other elements closely tied to heartfelt relationships are not subject to the 1st person hint so as not to disparage one's children or spouse. 2nd person hints are unsurprisingly used a bit more liberally because the pejorative sound isn't present, so human relations indicated in this way cannot be seen as rude. In this way, we can see the allusion in the following examples:

durunbawan	nyuyaamu
PROX.PEJ.dog	MED.TRUE.mother
My dog	**Your Mother**

4.7 Bound Adjectives

Most words that map to English adjectives in Proto-Aalyu are verbs. However, a small, calcified group of adjectivals may prefix to nouns. All of these have fully regular verbal equivalents, but it common to use these adjectival prefixes to indicate not only their base meaning, but also frequently extended meanings. The below table elaborates all of the bound adjectives:

Prefix	Base Meaning	Common Extenstions
m(a)-	big	strong, scary, old
in-	small	generic diminutive
run-	bad	crappy, stupid,
al-	un-	without, reversal
y(u)-	true	honest, pure
than-	ripe	ready, tasty
kar-	dead	rotten, lost

Only one adjectival prefix may be applied to a given noun. Furthermore, some, such as **kar-**, are exceedingly uncommon on inanimate nouns. The prefixes **m(a)-**, **in-**, and **y(u)-** are frequently used in forming epitaphs for influencial people and spirits or deities in religious contexts. The prefixes **than-** and **m(a)-** also are often used for placenames too. These prefixes do not reduplicate, and when a noun reduplicates for the associative plural, the prefix that may be applied from this group will attach at the very front of the noun before the first reduplicated syllable. As mentioned before, the **run-** prefix is often used to denote 1st person possession, and the **y(u)-** prefix is common to hint at second person possession. Note that some of the prefixes drop their vowel if the modified word starts with a vowel as well. In the table, they are the ones with the parenthetic vowels.

4.8 Pronouns

4.8.1 Introduction to some Binding Morphemes

Many of the pronouns in Proto-Aalyu are formed my mixing various binding morphemes. The ones specific to their sections will be introduced there, but there is a category of quasi-suffixes that denote generic nouns of various animacies, times, locations, and so on. The following table presents these suffixes:

Suffix	Usage
Agentive Noun	**-nya**
Animate Noun	**-kya**
Inanimate Noun	**-wa**
Temporal Past	**-mi**
Temporal Non-Past	**-rhu**
Locations	**-pu**

4.8.2 Demonstratives and the du-, nyu-, and lhu- Prefixes

There are three levels of proximity distinguished by demonstratives in Proto-Aalyu . The proximal indicates things close to the

speaker. The mediodistal denotes things close to the listener.
And the Distal denotes things close to neither of them. These are made by compounding the deictic prefixes **du-**, **nyu-**, and **lhu-** to the nominal suffixes presented in the last section. This presents a three by three split in demonstrative pronouns based on animacy and distance, seen in the table.

	Proximal	Mediodistal	Distal
Agentive	dunya	nyunya	lhunya
Animate	dukya	nyukya	lhukya
Inanimate	duwa	nyuwa	lhuwa

The Demonstrative pronouns are purely pronominal; they are not used to directly modify a noun. That instead is covered by directly appending the diectic prefixes to the noun, such as **duwawan** for "this dog" (note the initial \b\ mutation in **bawan**). This said, as will be seen, there do exist verbal counterparts for demonstrative pronouns.

Further words can be derived with the demonstrative prefixes as well with other suffixes shown in the last section. The temporal and locative suffixes can be used to create words like **dupu** for "here" and **lhurhu** for "a while from now". Of the ones that can be clearly produced **dumi** and **durhu** may seem to be basically the same. Generally, the latter one would be used for ongoing events or events that just happened while the former would represent things that very recently completed. In looser usage, they do overlap in usage a little bit.

4.8.3 Interrogative Words and the mu- Prefix

All of the interrogative words are formed with the **mu-** prefix in some way. The basic pronouns equivalent to "who" or "what" attach the suffixes resulting in **munya**, **mukya**, and **muwa**. Particular animacy interrogative pronouns are used when the speaker knows or has an idea of which class a certain referent may fall into; however, if there is no clue as to the animacy the default is **munya**.

Similar to the demonstratives, the interrogative pronouns cannot directly modify nouns. Instead, if someone wishes to express something like "which child" or "which birds" the **mu-** prefix is attached to the noun directly, such as **mukuuthar** and **muwaanina** for "which child" and "which birds". Again, notice the lenis stop weakening and the plural suffix on `baani`, bird.

In addition to the interrogative pronouns the **-mi**, **-rhu**, and **-pu** suffixes, among others, may append to the **mu-** prefix to form basic interrogative words. In this way, **mupu** results in the word for "where", **mumi** is "when" for past events, and **murhu** is "when" for either future events, ongoing events, or very very recent events.

Furthermore, the interrogative pronouns like the demonstrative ones will have verbal equivalents.

4.8.4 The Reflexive Pronoun binya

There exists a single reflexive pronoun, **binya**, which covers the rough meaning of the English *-self*. The reflexive can be used for both local referents, within the same clause it is used, or in more remote situations, where it refers to things outside of its own clause. It also works in concord with other pronouns forming phrases like **gyuu binya** or **dunya binya** which are roughly equivalent to *myself* and *himself* respectively, though these compounded phrases are relatively rare in common usage. Often one will see the reflexive pronoun incorporated into the verbs with the **-biny-** or **-winy-** affixes fitting in the slot for incorporated nouns. This incorporation style is especially common for activities like bathing or feeding which one frequently does for one's own benefit.

4.8.5 Indefinite

4.8.6 Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns are rarely used since their function is a mandatory part of verbal inflection. When they are used, it is normally to bring that particular person into focus during the discourse. The first and second person pronouns are fully distinct words. The singular versions are **gyuu** and **pal** and the plural versions are **gyuul** and **pallu**. In contrast, the third person pronouns simply are the demonstrative pronouns, proper to the animacy of the referent. The obviation split remains present when demonstratives are used in this way by means of deixis. Using agentive versions as a reference, the proximal third person is **dunya**, same as the proximal demonstrative, and the obviative is **lhunya**. In rare cases, something like **nyunya** may be seen for objects grammatically possessed by germane actors, especially the first and second persons, but it is much more frequent to simply restate the object in some way. If it is especially backgrounded, it will likely be incorporated into the verb in some way.

4.8.7 Personal Possession

Personal possession, in the general case, split between third person and non-third person classes. The first and second persons, both singular and plural, have contracted forms based on the -**ini**- infix. The third person forms plainly use that infix with the demonstratives as might be expected. The first and second person singular possessives have the fused forms of **gyini** and **palyin** respectively, and the plural form are **gyulyin** and **paluni**. These fused forms are simply placed in front of the noun or noun phrase to be possessed. For example, **gyini kaluthi** would be *my hands* and **paluni dhalhan** for, using a colloquialism, *y'all's bunch of fruit*.

4.9 Multiple Affixes on Single Nouns

The prior sections enumerated the nominal affixes that can be attached to nouns, but did not go into the fairly common occurence of a given noun having several affixes. Of the strategies enumerated above only the True Plural and the Associative Plural tend to be mutually exclusive, but this depends on the lexical meaning of the word. For the suffixes, the True Plural markers always come before the Obviative markers. When a partially reduplicated noun is affixed with a Bound Adjective, the adjective binds at the front of the reduplicated noun with no further consonant mutations.

4.10 Numbers

Proto-Aalyu features a base 10 number system with a subbase of 5. The number for 5 appears to derive be related to the word for hand, and the number for 10 is derived from the word for a "pair." The numbers between 5 and 10 are created using a verbal preposition and **kalu**, "five." Each of these roughly mean something like "one on five." This compounding mechanism produces a fair deal of phonetic unstability. The general patter beyond **dalanta** for ten is to simply place the lesser valued portion after it, with the exception of **akujutaa dalanta** and **ithanyutaa dalanta** for eleven and twelve. For the multiples of ten, they are simply formed by prefixing **dalanta** with the value less than ten, with some phonetic reductions happening in this pattern as well, mostly from the \d\ reducing under analysis of being fused to the number before it. This all leads to some numbers being quite long. Moving forward, the word for hundred, **nunuma** seems to be derived from the word **numar** which means a small army or armed group, seemingly for the numbers desired for such small scale campaigns or defenses that may have been part of the life of the speakers of this proto-language.

The word for thousand is derived from seemingly the same word, but with the **m(a)**- prefix on a reduced form. Given the age of the language, there is no word for zero, terms like "nothing," "none," or "absent" being used instead. It is also difficult to reconstruct numbers that exceed the value of ten thousand; it may have existed and seen usage, but such numbers cannot be convincingly supported. The basic numbers are presented in the table.

As one may be able to ascertain, the normal method for constructing larger numbers is to place the multiple before the digit in order of largest digit to smallest. There is of course the exception in smaller value numbers. In this case, a small base is modified with a phrase that roughly means **X on Y** such as with **arijutaa kalu** for eight. The values less than ten continue to use this five based method for higher values as can be seen in the table for 28. As an example of a very large number that would be cumbersome to format for the table, 6942 comes out as **akujutaa kalu manuma tujutaa kalu nunuma tuju dalanta ithan**.

Finally, the ordinal numbers are almost always derived from the cardinal number by suffixing **-nhu** at the very end of the number. Two exceptions exist with **kupun** and **thipi** for first and second respectively. As the table details, these exceptions spread to any number that have one or two as the least significant value, such as in twenty-one and twenty-two.

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal	Notes
1	aku	kupun	Cardinal and Ordinal Disjoin
2	ithan	thipi	Cardinal and Ordinal Disjoin
3	ari	arinhu	
4	tuju	tujunhu	
5	kalu	kalunhu	
6	akujutaa kalu	akujutaa kalunhu	
7	ithanyutaa kalu	ithanyutaa kalunhu	Coda N and palatal merge
8	arijutaa kalu	arijutaa kalunhu	
9	tujutaa kalu	tujutaa kalunhu	\juju\ reduced to \ju\
10	dalanta	dalantanhu	From the collective of **danta**
11	akujutaa dalanta	akujutaa dalantanhu	Imitates the five base numera
12	ithanyutaa dalanta	ithanyutaa dalantanhu	Imitates the five base numera
13	dalantari	dalantarinhu	Slightly contracted "ten - thr
14	dalanta tuju	dalanta tujunhu	
15	dalanta kalu	dalanta kalunhu	
16	dalanta akujutaa kalu	dalanta akujutaa kalunhu	
17	dalanta ithanyutaa kalu	dalanta ithanyutaa kalunhu	
18	dalanta arijutaa kalu	dalanta arijutaa kalunhu	
19	dalanta tujutaa kalu	dalanta tujutaa kalunhu	
20	ithan dalanta	ithan dalantanhu	
21	ithan dalanta aku	ithan dalanta kupun	Return of disjoint Ordinal **ku**
22	ithan dalanta ithan	ithan dalanta thipi	Return of disjoint Ordinal **th**
...			
25	ithan dalanta kalu	ithan dalanta kalunhu	
...			
28	ithan dalanta arijutaa kalu	ithan dalanta arijutaa kalunhu	
29	ithan dalanta tujutaa kalu	ithan dalanta tujutaa kalunhu	
30	ari dalanta	ari dalantanhu	
40	tuju dalanta	tuju dalantanhu	
50	kalulanta	kalulantanhu	reduction of sequential \l\ sy
60	akujutaa kalulanta	akujutaa kalulantanhu	**kalulanta** continues till hun
70	ithanyutaa kalulanta	ithanyutaa kalulantanhu	
80	arijutaa kalulanta	arijutaa kalulantanhu	
90	tujutaa kalulanta	tujutaa kalulantanhu	\juju\ reduces a syllable aga
99	tujutaa kalulanta tujutaa kalu	tujutaa kalulanta tujutaa kalunhu	\juju\ reduces a syllable aga
100	nunuma	nunumanhu	Related to "numar" – "small
200	ithan nunuma	ithan nunumanhu	
300	ari nunuma	ari nunumanhu	
400	tuju nunuma	tuju nunumanhu	
500	kalu nunuma	kalu nunumanhu	
1000	manuma	manumanhu	"big" prefix on reduced hund
8000	arijutaa kalu manuma	arijutaa kalu manumanhu	

5 Verbs

Verbs in Proto-Aalyu are a highly complex and highly inflecting category. Verbs inflect for several important topics like both subject and object, past versus non-past tenses, and various aspects and moods. It also features wide usage of noun incorporation and many adverbial like constructions formed from non-finite verb forms. The verbs depend heavily on the inherent animacy hierarchy discussed in the nouns section.

Verbs also cover what in English and many other languages are considered adjectives. In this way, the verb meaning *red* should be translated as a predicate like "is red." Similarly, what would be considered more classical verbs to many have inflections that make them more explicitly adjectival so that the word for *rotting* in "the rotting tree" fits properly into that noun phrase.

On the topic of adverbial inflected verbs, Proto-Aalyu provides inflections such that *after going* in a sentence like "he slept for the night after going to the far camp" are inflections of the verb itself rather than phrasal constructions. In this same way, the *and* in something simple like "He ate yams and drank mead" is shown by inflecting the verb for "to eat".

This hopefully gives the true impression that verbs are a very complex category. In hopes of providing as much clarity as possible, the following sections will cover a given topic in verbs one at a time and try to build upon previously read material.

5.1 Basic Intro and Verbal Implicits

Verbs in the attached glossary and the larger lexicon will be provided in the most uninflected form possible. Some verbs, such as "to give" will be underinflected in these entries, rendering them ungrammatical; this is because of the verb expecting some kind of object to be contextualized, most often through noun incorporation of some kind.

The basic dictionary style entry of a given verb will always end with the vowel sequence **aa**. This implies at least a 3rd person subject and possibly a 3rd person object in the present tense with a plain informative mood for something that is most likely ongoing. Thus the dictionary entry for "to see" would be **laniyaa**, which strictly translated would be something like "he sees it" or something similar with other 3rd person actors.

Implicit in this is an animacy hierarchy that governs expected subjects and objects. This ordering is 2nd > 1st > 3rd > 3rd obviative. Within the 3rd person categories in the implict animacies, where agentive is more thematic than animate which is more thematic than inanimate. This means for two thrid person nouns of different animacies, the higher animacy class noun is the default subject. 1st and 2nd person actors are marked on the verb explicitly with affixes, and an inversion affix is used when the expected subject hierarchy is reversed, such as when a 1st person actor exerts a verb on a 2nd person actor.

5.2 Inflecting for 1st and 2nd Persons with the -ku, -pa, and -pun Affixes

Verbs take small suffixes that indicate persons beyond the default 3rd person actors. If the verb has a first person subject, it will have the -**ku** affix right after the verb stem. Similarly, for a second person subject, the -**pa** will attach at the same spot as the first person. Finally, if there is a second person subject and first person object, the -**pun** affixes in the same spot again. For the -**ku** and -**pa** affixes that only indicate a single actor on the verb, if the verb is transitive, it is assumed that the object is some 3rd person actor that may be indicated plainly in a separate word or via noun incorporation on the verb itself. One their own, these affixes can only reflect the default thematic hierarchy for subjects.

5.3 Changing Verb Subjects by Inversion with -yini-

In the previous section, the affixes to change who the subject of a verb is was explained; however those affixes never allow for a third person subject and a first or second person object or a first person subject and a second person object because they concur with the verb's implicit actor ordering scheme, which was covered in the Intro and Implicits section. In order to allow for these actor arrangements that oppose the default ordering system, the inversion affix, -**yini**, is placed right after the verb stem right before any explicit person markers. Using the earlier verb example, **laniyaa** means 'he sees it.' Placing a person affix on that same verb we arrive at **laniyaaku** results in 'I see him'. Adding the inversion marker to the mix results in **laniyaayinipa** means 'he sees you.' Covering the final corner in this conflux uses the double person marker and inversion resulting in **laniyaayinipun** means 'I see you.'

6 Appendix Foreword

The following are supplementary sections to the Proto-Aalyu grammatical description for the convenience of the reader. There are several topics and listings that the reader might want to use while reading without needed another documents open at the same time. It includes an abbreviated lexicon, limited to words used in the grammatical description, a listing of grammatical affixes and particles out of context, some cultural notes and tidbits, and extended passages in Proto-Aalyu with translation into English. Each of the appendices to follow will be given a brief description here in the foreword.

Appendix	Description
Reference Lexicon	A listing of all the Proto-Aalyu words used in this document
Particle Listing	A listing and description of particles and affixes
Proto-Aalyu Creation Story	The creation story in Proto-Aalyu and English
Proto-Aalyu The Taming of Dogs	The story of man and dog becoming friends

7 Reference Lexicon

aamu – Mother
aku – one
ari – three
baani – bird
bawa – dog
binya – ”self”
bunpa – Head
dhan – a fruit
dukya – mountain
ithan – two
gara – sand
gyaal – bee
gyuu – I, me
gyuul – I, me
pal – I, me
pall – I, me
raama – spirit
yama – tuber, potato, yam

8 Particle Listing

9 Creation Story

10 The Taming of Dogs