

The Maku Language

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I Phonology

I.1 Consonants

Maku has 17 consonants with a three-way contrast between unvoiced segments, distinguished as plain, tense and aspirated.

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal	m	n				
Plosive	p b	t d		k g		
Fricative	f	s	ç ʒ			
Approximate	w	l	j			
Rhotic tap/trill		r				

I.1.1 Gemination

I.1.2 Positional Allophones

I.2 Vowels

	Front unrounded	Front rounded	Central	Back
Close	i	y		u
Close-Mid	(e)			(o)
Open-Mid	ɛ			ɔ
Open			a	

TABLE I – Vowels

I.2.1 Diphthongs and Glides

I.3 Syllables

Standard Maku may have the maximal form (C)(G)V(N/L)

1.4 Stress, rhythm and intonation

1.5 Tones

1.5.1 Sandhi

2 Orthography

The modern makunian writing system uses a combination of logographic *Dore*, which are adapted from the historical and traditional writing system, and the modern alphasyllabic *Mada*. The vast majority of sentences will require both scripts to be used in unisence, requiring deep knowledge in both to be able to write makunian.

2.1 Dore

2.2 Mada

2.2.1 Diacritics

1. Stress marks 2. Voicing marks 3. Palatalisation Marks ?

2.3 Direction

Traditionally, Makunian is written in a format called *Naro*, which was like inherited through *Dore*. In *Naro*, text is written top-down in vertical columns ordered from left to right. Contemporarily, Makunian is written in a format called *Madokari* (Makunian : left-right), where the text is written horizontally from the left to the right.

The two formats are still used today, with the latter being used in certain literary pieces and such.

3 Grammar

Classification of Words

The modern standard of classification and one taught in education is known as the 9 Gamanjal system, dividing words into nine categories known as Gamanja.

3.1 Word Order

Standard word order is Subject-Object-Verb, being a fairly synthetic language allows the shifting of this order for emphasis. The emphasis will be on whatever is found at the end, for example the emphasis on the object is found in a SVO order.

3.2 Pronouns

3.2.1 Personal

Maku pronouns are inflected based on person, number, gender and case. Consisting of all three persons, in both singular and plural senses.

Emphatic Person Inclusive Exclusive Direct Indirect Disjunctive

Number	Person	Subject
singular	1 st	mora
	2 nd	anoja
	3 rd	supin / supka
plural	1 st	kimana
	2 nd	dorja
	3 rd	zinra

TABLE 2 – Personal Pronouns

3.2.2 Demonstrative

	Proximal	Medial	Distal	Interrogative
Place	mogi	dome	kampar	jomogi
Object	risa	garo		jorisa
Time	ora	dop		jora
Person				jomin
Reason				wo
Manner				wera
One	darsi-mogi	darsi-dome	darsi-kampar	jol
From				
To				

TABLE 3 – Demonstrative Pronouns

3.3 Particles

3.4 Numerals

3.4.1 Cardinal

3.4.2 Ordinal

3.4.3 Counter Words

3.5 Verbs

PRONOUNS : inflected par person, emphatic, inclusive/exclusive, direct/indirect, disjunctive

Verbs are highly inflectional in a polysynthetic context Verbs have multiple suffixes which may be added together, notable valency, mood, tense/aspect and person.

SCHWA IS COMMON AT THE END OF WORDS?

3.5.1 Infinitive, -/y/ form

3.5.2 Valency, -/o/ form

3.5.3 Syntactic Mood

Imperative form is made by losing the final vowel.

3.5.4 Tense & Aspect

3.5.5 Person

There are multiple groups of verbs, 1, 2, 3.

1. Within this group, a verb will change its final vowel when being conjugating to accord.
2. The final vowel is constant throughout all conjugations

3.

4. Irregular

-a -u -i -e -o

Person is conjugated in the prefix of the word

Number	Person	Su
singular	1 st	mora
	2 nd	anoja
	3 rd	supin / supka
plural	1 st	kimana
	2 nd	dorja
	3 rd	zinra

TABLE 4 – Personal Pronouns

3.5.6 Negation

Negation is shown by adding particle "ma" before and inflecting the suffix the verb by adding /z/.

eg. ma _x

3.6 Nouns

Noun classes : Animate Inflected by gender and number (singular, dual Abstract Inanimate Inflected by possessive

3.7 Adjectives

3.8 Adverbs

Pro drop language, but when used with emphasis may be added phrase-finally

4 Lexicon

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