The Timah Language

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1.1 | External History

The Timah language (*tímǝh* [t̪ɪ́mǝ̀h]; lit. <u>language, speech</u>) is a constructed language (*conlang*) made by me, Mareck (M.M.N.H.). Its primary goal is simply to be documented entirely in LaTeX (*LaTeX*).

   Like most of my constructed languages, it tries to focus balancing between the interesting and the naturalistic, in terms of phonology, grammar, etc. Naturalism, however, is not the primary goal. I have therefore given myself the freedom to take liberties in terms of naturalism.

1.2 | Internal History

The Timah language is spoken by the Khogòjòḥe people (*kʰɔ̰kɔtɕɔ̀ʔe* [kʰɔ̰̀kɔ̰̀dʑɔ̀ʔè] lit. <u>many-person</u>).

2 | Phonology

2.1 | Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	m	n				ɴ
Plosive		tʰ t t̪	tɕʰ tɕ tɕ̈	kʰ k k̪	ʔ	
Fricative		sʰ s s̪			h	
Approximant	w	l	j			

Figure 1: Consonant Phonemes

- /tʰ t t̪/ are dental; /n sʰ s s̪ l/ are alveolar.

- /tɕʰ tɕ tɕ̈/ are alveolo-palatal; /j/ is palatal.

- /h/ is articulated with true frication of the glottis, i.e. it is not a voiceless glottal approximant.

- /ɴ/ is a nasal coda archiphoneme |ɴ|, i.e. not an uvular nasal[1].

- The aspirated obstruents /tʰ tɕʰ kʰ sʰ/ may be accompanied by slight breathy-voice on the following vowel.

- The fortis obstruents /t̪ tɕ̈ k̪ s̪/ are articulated with laryngeal tension, and may be accompanied by slight creaky-voice on the following vowel.

2.1.1 | Consonant Allophony

- /m n/ surface as the implosives [ɓ ɗ] word-initally.

- The coda archiphoneme |ɴ| surfaces as [n ɲ ŋ] before alveolar, (alveolo-)palatal, and velar plosives, respectively. It surfaces as nasalization of the preceding vowel before all other consonants. It surfaces word-finally as [ŋ].

- The aspirated obstruents /tʰ tɕʰ kʰ sʰ/ are deäspirated to [t tɕ k s] intervocalically and after /ɴ/.

- The tenuis obstruents /t tɕ k s/ are voiced to [d dʑ g z] intervocalically and after /ɴ/.

- /kʰ/ surfaces as [x] before [a].

- /n/ is palatalized to [ɲ] before [i] word-medially.

- The sibilants /sʰ s s̪/ are palatalized to [ɕʰ ɕ ɕ̈] before [i]. [ɕ] is voiced to [ʑ] and [ɕʰ] is deäspirated to [ɕ] intervocalically and after /ɴ/.

- /l/ surfaces as [ɾ] intervocalically and after /ɴ/.

- /w/ surfaces as [ʋ] before [i].

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[1] Yes, I say /ən ˈuvjələˠ/. Deal with it.

2.1.2 | Dialectal Variations of Consonants

- In some[*which?*] dialects, the fortis plosives /ṭ tɕ̣ ḳ ṣ/ may surface as ejectives [t' tɕ' k' s'] or geminates [tt ttɕ kk ss].

- In some[*which?*] dialects, the alveolo-palatals /tɕʰ tɕ tɕ̣/ may surface as alveolar affricates [tsʰ ts tṣ].

- In some[*which?*] dialects, the lateral [l] has merged with either /j/ or /n/.

- In some[*which?*] dialects, the glottal fricative /h/ may surface as pharyngeal [ħ].

- Depending on dialect[*which ones?*] and idiolect, the lateral /l/ may variously surface as any of [ɹ ɭ ɺ ɻ ɬ ð̞ ɮ ʐ].
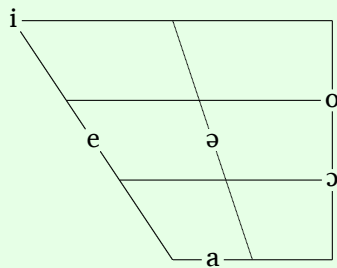
2.2 | Vowels

Figure 2: Vowel Phonemes

- /e/ is true mid [e̞][2].

- /a/ is near-front [a] (i.e. not central [ä]).

2.2.1 | Vowel Allophony

- All vowels are nasalized before nasal consonants.

- /i/ surfaces as [ɨ] after the velars /kʰ k ḳ/ and before coda [ŋ]

- /o ɔ/ raise to [u ọ][2] word-finally in open syllables, after the velars /kʰ k ḳ w/, and before coda [ŋ].

- /a/ surfaces as [æ~ɛ] after the palatals /tɕʰ tɕ tɕ̣ j/ and before coda /j/.

2.2.2 | Dialectal Variations of Vowels

- Some[*which?*] dialects have merged the back mid vowels /o ɔ/ into true mid [ọ].

- Some[*which?*] dialects have merged the back the front vowels /i e/ into [i~ɪ]

[2][e̞ ọ] will be transcribed as [e o] for the sake of brevity.

2.2.3 | Stress

Stress placement in Timah is phonologically determined and is not phonemic.

Stress occurs on the left-most live syllable, wherein a syllable ending in a sonorant /N w j/ or long vowel are grouped as *live* and those ending in /ʔ h/ are grouped as *dead*.

Open syllables (i.e. syllables with a short vowel and no coda) are superseded by live syllables but take precedence over dead syllables in terms of stress hierarchy.

2.3 | Phonological Processes

2.3.1 | Vowel Harmony

Timah displays vowel harmony based on tongue root position.

Vowels are divided into two classes: $+$ATR and $-$ATR, traditionally grouped as *light* and *heavy* vowels. If ambiguous, vowels are assumed to be of the $+$ATR class.

$+$ATR (Light)	i	e	ə	o
$-$ATR (Heavy)	e	ə	a	ɔ

Figure 3: Vowel Harmony

Vowel harmony is very pervasive; harmony spreads rightwards from a stressed vowel until it is terminated.

Vowel harmony is terminated after dead syllables (i.e. syllables ending in /ʔ h/) and non-harmonizing morphemes, e.g. clitics and certain affixes.

ˈCV.CV.CV   ˈCV.CVG.CV

Q   Q
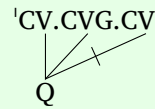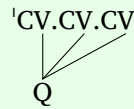
Figure 4: Harmony Spread

2.3.2 | Obstruent Alterations

Radical	Fortis	Tenuis	Aspirate
*t	t̬	t	t^h
*tɕ	tɕ̬	tɕ	$tɕ^h$
*k	k̬	k	k^h
*s	s̬	s	s^h
*ʔ		ʔ	h

Figure 5: Obstruent Alterations

2.3.3 | Approximant Nasalization

Approx.	Nasal
w	m
l	n[3]
j	

Figure 6: Approximant Nasalization

2.4 | Tone

Timah has two distinct tonemes: *high* and *low,* as well as the option of being unmarked for tone. Tonally unmarked syllables are phonetically realized identically to the low tone, but unlike low tone, it can be affected by various tonological processes such as *tone association* and *tone mobility*.

2.4.1 | Tone Association

Tone association is the process in which the tone of a given syllable spreads (or doesn't spread) to the preceding toneless syllable.

Floating tones follow similar rules, but can associate in either direction.
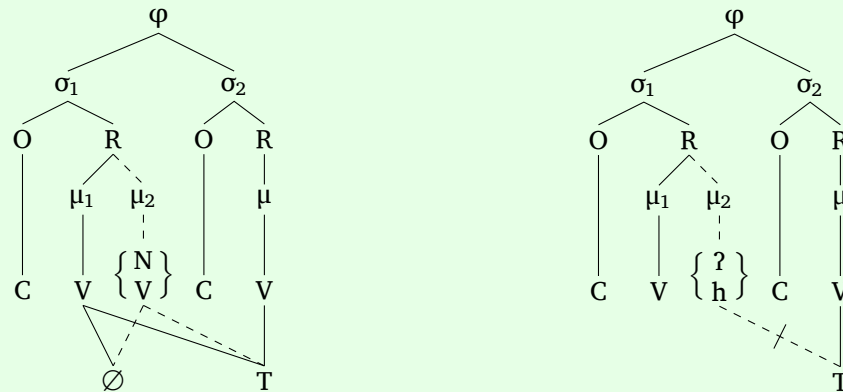
Figure 7: Tone Association

2.4.2 | Tone Mobility

2.4.2.1 | Leftward Tone Shift At the end of a Prosodic Unit (PU), all tones are shifted one syllable leftward until a toneless syllable, leaving the final syllable toneless.
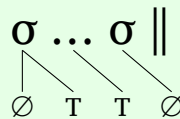
Figure 8: Leftward Tone Shift

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[3] /n/ is denasalized to /l/.

2.4.2.2 | Rightward Tone Shift

2.5 | Phonotactics

2.5.1 | Syllable Structure

$$CV(T)(V^4(T)|H|S)$$

$$H = \{ʔ,h\}$$
$$S = \{ɴ,w,j\}$$
$$T = \{ó,ò\}$$

Figure 9: Syllable Structure

2.5.2 | Restraints

These phonotactic restraints govern allomorphy.

- The nasal coda /ɴ/ cannot precede a nasal /m n/.

- The glottal codae /ʔ h/ cannot precede another glottal /ʔ h/.

- The glottal coda /h/ cannot precede a sonorant /m n w l j/.

- The glides /w j/ cannot precede another glide /w j/.

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[4]Long vowel codae must be homorganic in vowel quality but not necessarily in tone quality.

3 | Orthography

The Timah language uses the *Lóma* script (*lóma* [lɔ́mà] lit. <u>smooth-word</u>), a defective abugida that was borrowed from a neighboring language *Maryu* (Timah *májlɔ* [ɓájrɔ̀]). It was originally written on the large, durable leaves of the *ʂə́lə́w* ([ʂə́ɾə́w]) plant, which contributes to the script's curled aesthetic.

4 | Syntax

4.1 | Sentence Structure

Word order in Timah is primarily *Subject-Object-Peripheral-Verb* in independent clauses, and secondarily *Verb-Subject-Object-Peripheral* in dependent clauses. Only the *verb* must be present.

The *Subject*, or syntactic agent, is the thing that performs the verb; the verb may grammatically agree with the subject's *person*, *number*, and *modality*. It consists of one or more noun phrase(s).

The *Object*, or syntactic patient, is the thing that the verb is directly performed upon; the verb may agree with the salience, or level of affectedness, of the object. It, like the subject, consists of one or more noun phrase(s).

The *Peripheral*, or oblique/indirect object, is the thing that the verb is indirectly performed upon. It is usually marked with a *postposition* (*see § 5.4*) or *oblique case* (*see § 5.3.1*) and consists of noun or postpositional phrase(s).

The *Verb* is the action that is performed within a statement. It consists of one or more *verb phrase(s)*. Some verbs may not take a subject or object (*see § 6.1*).

4.2 | Alignment

The morphosyntactic alignment in Timah is a type of dually-split-ergative. *Realis* nouns align in an *active-stative* manner, while *Irrealis* nouns align in an *ergative-absolutive* manner.

The *active-stative* alignment is only used on realis arguments and is split-S, i.e. the case of the subject of a monovalent verb is determined by the verb's inherent *volitional class* (*see § 6.2*). Volitional verbs' subject takes the agentive case, while non-volitional verbs' subject take the patientive case. In *multivalent* (i.e. an ambivalent or polyvalent verb that takes two or more arguments, *see § 6.1*) verbs, the agentive marks the subject and the patientive marks the object.

The *ergative-absolutive* alignment is used only on irrealis arguments. In multivalent verbs, the *ergative* marks the subject and the agentive marks the object. In monovalent verbs, the agentive marks the subject.

Timah is secundative, with the *theme* (object that is directed toward the recipient) of a trivalent verb (i.e. a polyvalent verb that takes three arguments, *see § 6.1*) being marked by the a postposition (*see § 5.4*).

5 | Nouns

5.1 | Pronouns

5.1.1 | Personal

			Agt.	Pat.	Assoc.	Loc.
Sg.	1		lə	ləhi	jə́ɴ	sʰaj
	2		nɔ́	nɔ	nò	
	3	Anim.	tə́ʔ	tə́hi	tɕàɴ	kéh
		Inan.	haɴ			
Pl.	1		to	tò	ʈáw	
	2		nɔɔ́	nɔ́ɔ̀	néj	
	3	Anim.	ʈóʔ	ʈóhi	tɕʰoɴ	kèè
		Inan.	tʰɔɴ			

(a) Realis

	Agt.	Erg.	Assoc.	Loc.
1	ká	tàʔ	tɕà	ləj
2	nɔ́ɔ́	nəw		sɔ́
3	sə́sá	kíɴ		ṣə́w

(b) Irrealis

Figure 10: Personal Pronouns

5.1.2 | Relative/Interrogative

5.1.3 | Demonstrative

Demonstrative pronouns in Timah are express spatial and temporal[5] position relative to the speaker.

		Anterior		Posterior
		Sinister	Dexter	
Sg.	Prox.	tàá	kò	mɔɴ
	Med.	sáwhe	kàmeʔ	jéhə
	Dist.	ǩitɔ̀		
Pl.	Prox.	tɕaà	ʔakə	wóɴ
	Med.	ʔitɕa	kèho	míí
	Dist.	tekí		

(a) Realis

	Anterior	Posterior	Indefinite
Prox.	sʰà	kɔʔ	nəj
Med.	tòhe	ʔaɴkí	
Dist.	sawa		mə́le

(b) Irrealis

Figure 11: Demonstrative Pronouns

5.2 | Article Enclitics

Articles in Timah attach as enclitics to the final element of their head noun phrase.

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[5]*Anterior pronouns* are associated with the past, while *posterior pronouns* are associated with the future (*see § 11.5.1*)

	Referential		Non-referential	
	Visible	Non-visible	Visible	Non-visible
Singular	=mɔ́ɔ	=haɴ	=s̩i	=t̩éʔ
Plural	=k̩ə	=mé	=kʰə̀ɴ	=tɕáá

Figure 12: Article Enclitics

5.3 | Declensions

5.3.1 | Cases

- Agentive (*Agt.*) : In *multivalent* verbs (i.e. *ambivalent* or *polyvalent* verbs that take two or three arguments, *see § 6.1*), the *agentive* case marks a realis subject or an irrealis object. In *monovalent* verbs, it marks a volitional realis subject (*see § 6.2*) or irrealis subject.

- Patientive (*Pat.*) : In polyvalent verbs, the *patient* case marks a realis object. In monovalent verbs, it marks a non-volitional realis subject.

- Ergative (*Erg.*) : In polyvalent verbs, the *ergative* case marks an irrealis *subject*. It also indicates an inalienable genitive.

- Associative (*Assoc.*) : The *associative* case marks alienable relations that can be further clarified using postpositions.

- Locative (*Loc.*) : The *locative* case marks physical and/or temporal location and movement that can be expanded upon using postpositions.

	Realis	Irrealis
Agt.	-∅	-né
Pat.	-si	-séɴ
Erg.	-ʔi	-ho
Assoc.	-wɔ	
Loc.	-tɕó	-je

(a) Open

	Realis	Irrealis
Agt.	-∅	-té
Pat.	-si	-séɴ
Erg.	-k̩i	-kʰo
Assoc.	-kɔ	
Loc.	-tɕó	-se

(b) Closed

Figure 13: Cases

The *Associative* and *Locative* cases may be accompanied by a postposition (*see § 5.4*). In isolation the *associative* takes the meaning of an alienable genitive (in contrast to the *ergative*, which may have an inalienable genitive meaing) and the *Locative* takes on the meaning of a general locative or temporal (i.e. marking place or time).

5.4 | Postpositions

There are two types of postpositions in Timah: those of *association* and those of *location*. These types are directly related to the *associative* and *locative* noun cases, as the Postpositional Object must take the respective case of its postposition.

- **Associative Postpositions**

    – lí : *accompaniment/use; basic theme of trivalent verb*
    – ḵe : *lack of accompaniment/use; negatory theme of trivalent verb*
    – sì : *intent of reference/relation; relational theme of trivalent verb*
    – kʰɔno : *intent of benefit/purpose; beneficial theme of trivalent verb*
    – tɕé : *state of being*
    – kʰò : *change of state*
    – kéh : *similarity/comparison*
    – ṭɔka : *causation*

- **Locative Postpositions**

    – tí : *movement toward*
    – sʰì : *movement away from*
    – mí : *movement onto*
    – tɕɔ̀ɔ : *movement under*
    – tʰìsé : *movement into*
    – siiʔi : *movement out of*
    – tɕoli : *beginning of movement/time*
    – ʔaɴ : *end of movement/time*
    – kaɴʔɔ : *movement through, by way of, adjacent to*
    – soʔa : *in front of/below/before*
    – sàkə : *behind/above/after*
    – seeʔá : *between, amidst, within*
    – sɔtʰe : *surrounding, around, encompassing*

5.5 | Noun Classes

Noun classes in Timah are separated into the groups *realis* and *irrealis,* which are in part related to verbal modality (*see § 6.3.3*), but are also determined by the speaker's semantic notion of existence concerning the noun (*see § 11.2*).

The *realis* group is further divided into the classes *animate* and *inanimate*, and also distinguishes the *singular* and *plural* numbers. The *irrealis* group does not make any of these distinctions in isolation, but number can be indicated by articles (*see § 5.2*).

The concepts of *realis* and *irrealis* are directly associated with *yaks* and *tigers*, respectively (*see § 11.4*). Yaks and things closely associated with yaks are obligatorily marked as *realis,* while tigers and things closely associated with tigers are obligatorily marked as *irrealis.*

Nouns are also divided into *count* nouns and *non-count* nouns. *Count* nouns are inherently singular and are marked for plural, while *non-count* nouns are inherently transnumeral (i.e. number is underspecified) and are marked for singular or plural. *Non-count* nouns are also unmarked for inanimacy instead of animacy.

	Realis		Irrealis
	Animate	Inanimate	
Singular	∅-	kaw-, kɔ-	wí-
Plural	tɔ-	jé-	

(a) Count

	Realis		Irrealis
	Animate	Inanimate	
Collective	na(N)-	∅-	kɔ́-
Singulative	sé-	kəw -, ko-	wí-
Plurative	to-	jí-	

(b) Non-count

Figure 14: Noun Classes

6 | Verbs

6.1 | Valency Classes

There are four main valency classes in Timah: *avalent, monovalent, ambivalent,* and *polyvalent.*

- *Avalent* verbs take zero arguments.

- *Monovalent* verbs take one argument.

- *Ambivalent* verbs take one or two arguments.

- *Polyvalent* verbs take two or more arguments.

Ambivalent and polyvalent verbs that take exactly two arguments are grouped as *divalent,* polyvalent verbs that take exactly three arguments are grouped as *trivalent,* and polyvalent verbs that take three or more arguments are grouped as *multivalent.* These terms (*divalent, trivalent, multivalent*) are used only in analysis and meta-grouping.

6.2 | Volitional Classes

Verbs are inherently classed as either *volitional* or *non-volitional.* These classes determine the case of the subject in monovalent verbs, as well as semantic intention regardless of valency.
    Volitional verbs usually denote an action that is intentionally performed by the subject.
    Non-volitional verbs usually denote an action that is accidentally performed by the subject.

6.3 | Conjugations

6.3.1 | Pronominal Proclitics & Polypersonal Agreement

Pronominal proclitics are appended to verb phrases and must agree with their respective argument. Said argument(s) can subsequently be dropped from the statement entirely.

			Agt.	Pat.
	1		lə=	le(h)=
Sg.	2		nɔ́=	nɔ=
	3	Anim.	tə́=	té(h)=
		Inan.	ha(ɴ)=	
	1		to=	tò=
Pl.	2		nɔ=(ɔ́)	nɔ́=(ɔ̀)
	3	Anim.	ṭó=	ṭə́(h)=
		Inan.	tʰɔ(ɴ)=	tʰɔ(ɴ)=

(a) Realis

	Agt.	Erg.
1	ká=	tà(ʔ)=
2	nɔ́=(ɔ́)	no=
3	sá=	kí(ɴ)=

(b) Irrealis

Figure 15: Pronominal Proclitics

	Salient	*Non-salient*
Actor	-tá	-tçà
Undergoer	-s̤ɔ́ɔ́	-jə́ə̀
Correlative		-mɔ́tè

Figure 16: Voice

6.3.2 | Expressive Moods

There are three moods in Timah that are independent from normal moods. These are called *expressive moods,* and are placed at the beginning of a statement. They are excluded from the realis/irrealis distinction.

- tçɔ́ : **Imperative**; *commands, wishes, desires*

- sʰa : **Interrogative**; *questions, requests*

- kì : **Precative**; *polite requests and commands*

6.3.3 | Mood & Aspect

Mood and *aspect* are optionally marked using fused mood-aspect prefixes.

	Perfective	*Habitual*	*Continuous*	*Experiential*	*Iterative*
Realis	laj-, le-	k̤a(ʔ)-	tçee-	tçíhi-	həw-, ho-
Irrealis	haj-, he-	tew-, tə-	sʰe(ʔ)-	já-	ʔàti-
Conditional	né(h)-	ne(ɴ)-	ʔaa-	tɔ́sɔ̀(ɴ)-	lɔ́j-, lɔ́-
Dubitative	kʰà-		sà(ɴ)-	taʔe-	nə̀w-, nò-
Desiderative	sɔ̀-		sʰeʔté-	jeʔi(h)-	mátça-
Necessitative	séme-		tçʰɔɔ-		

Figure 17: Aspect & Mood

6.3.4 | Evidential Modality

Timah optionally marks four levels of evidentiality, which express how the information was gathered. Evidentiality markers are placed before their head verb. They are inherently grouped as realis moods, but can be used in conjunction with any mood.

- kʰekʰì : **Witness**; *knows of event directly*

- sə́sɔɴ : **Evidential Inferential**; *knows of event via evidence*

- tɔɴke : **Anecdotal Inferential**; *knows of event via prior experience(s)*

- mɔ́hɔ : **Reportative**; *knows of event indirectly*

6.3.5 | Venitive, Andative & Applicatives

The *ventitive* and *andative* suffixes, collectively called *directional specifiers*, are commonly used with verbs of movement, such as *wə́* <u>move, walk</u>, *sʰɔj* <u>carry, give/take</u>, and others. These are placed directly after the verb root.

- -tí : **Venitive**; *motion toward*

- -sʰì : **Andative**; *motion away from*

    Applicatives are valency-increasing operations that switch the syntactic position of the oblique (indirect) object with that of the (direct) object. They are formed by appending an applicative suffix to the verb, which can be used in tandem with the venitive and andative markers in order to specify direction or efficiency. These are placed directly after the verb root and, if present, the directional specifier.

- -lí : **Relational**; *accompaniment*

- -kʰòɴ : **Beneficial**; *intent of reference/relation or benefit/purpose*

- -țɔʔ : **Causal**; *causation, final causation*

- -kéh : **Complemental**; *similarity/comparison, state of being*

- -tɕò : **Locational**; *abolsute physical or temporal location and movement*

- -sɔ̀ʔ : **Positional**; *relative physical or temporal location and movement*

    The applicatives *-lí* and *-kʰòɴ* may be used to invert the secundative construction (*see § 4.1*), making it indirective. This inversion does not change the statement semantically, only syntactically.
    Further specifications can be made by supplementing the applicative suffix with a postposition (*see § 5.4*) placed after the object.

6.4 | Serial Verb Constructions

A *serial verb construction* (SVC) in Timah is a verb phrase that contains two or more verbs that, within the context of their statement, share the same inflections and one or more arguments. They may be *continuous* (the constituent verbs are placed adjacent to each other) or *discontinuous* (the constituent verbs are separated by an argument.)
    Continuous SVCs obligatorily share the same subject and object, while *discontinuous* SVCs only obligatorily share the same subject (i.e they may take different objects).

6.4.1 | Relative

Relative SVCs are always continuous, and express actions that occur simultaneously or near-simultaneously.

6.4.2 | Consecutive

Consecutive SVCs are always discontinuous, and express actions that occur in sequence.

6.4.3 | Perceptive

Perceptive SVCs may be either continuous or discontinuous, and express sensory interaction.

6.4.4 | Directive

Directive SVCs may be either continuous or discontinuous, and express movement or position.

6.4.5 | Capacitive

Directive SVCs may be either continuous or discontinuous, and express ability or causality.

7 | Copulae

There are two classes of *copulae* in Timah: *essential* and *existential.* These classes are further divided into *assertive, negative,* and *revelatory* forms.

7.1 | Essential Copulae

The *essential copulae* express nominal and descriptive predication.

7.1.1 | Essential-Assertive

The *essential-assertive* copula is the basic copula used for predicating nouns and descriptives.

7.1.2 | Essential-Negative

The *essential-negative* copula expresses negative predication of nouns and descriptives.

7.1.3 | Essential-Revelatory

The *essential-revelatory* copula expresses surprise or doubt from the speaker toward the statement. It suppletes the essential-assertive copula in irrealis moods (*see §§ 6.3.2 to 6.3.4*).

7.2 | Existential Copulae

The *existential copulae* express locational predication as well as possession and existence.

7.2.1 | Existential-Assertive

The *existential-assertive* copula is the basic locative copula used for predicating location as well as indicating possession and existence.

7.2.2 | Existential-Negative

The *existential-negative* copula expresses negative predication of location and indicates lack of possession/existence.

7.2.3 | Existential-Revelatory

The *existential-revelatory* copula expresses surprise or doubt from the speaker toward the predicated location or possessive/existential phrase.

8 | Descriptives & Derivation

There are eleven descriptives (which function as adjectives or adverbs) in Timah. They are placed before their head noun or verb.

- tɕʰàné : *good, positive; full*

- sìɴkà : *bad, negative; empty*

- kʰɔ̰k̰ɔ : *big, strong; many*

- tɕʰi : *small, weak; few*

- semɔ́ʔ : *fast; loud; hard, rough*

- lɔ́ : *slow; quiet; soft, smooth*

- sɔɴ : *short, wide; feminine*

- ʔiɴ : *long, narrow; masculine*

- tɕósʰa : *white, light; fresh, new*

- káj : *warm (color); hot, dry*

- sɔtɕe : *cool (color); cold, wet*

- tʰawsá : *black, dark; stale, old*

8.1 | Derivation

Noun and verbs can be zero-derived from each other, i.e. no overt marking is used to change a noun to a verb and vice versa. More derivations are possible by appending a descriptive before a noun or verb, i.e. attaching it as a prefix.

8.1.1 | Inactive Derivation

8.1.2 | Active Derivation

9 | Numerals

Timah uses a base-60 numeral system. This is not a pure base-60 system, as it uses base-12 as a sub-base to construct the constituent numeric symbols.

0	12	24	36	48
1	13	25	37	49
2	14	26	38	50
3	15	27	39	51
4	16	28	40	52
5	17	29	41	53
6	18	30	42	54
7	19	31	43	55
8	20	32	44	56
9	21	33	45	57
10	22	34	46	58
11	23	35	47	59

Figure 18: Numerals

10 | Ideophones

10.1 | Ideophonemes

There exists a set of consonants in Timah that can appear only in ideophones. These are called *ideophonemes,* and they cannot cluster (i.e. codae /ʔ h ɴ w j/ may not precede them).

	Labial	Alveolar	Dorsal
Nasal	ᵐb	ⁿd	ᵑg~ŋ
Liquid	β̥ β		ʁ̥~χ ʁ~ʁ

(a) Pulmonic

	Dental	Alveolar	Lateral
Tenuis	ǀ	ǃ	ǁ
Aspirate	ǀʰ	ǃʰ	ǁʰ
Nasal	ᵑǀ	ᵑǃ	ᵑǁ
Glottal	ᵑǀˀ	ᵑǃˀ	ᵑǁˀ

(b) Non-pulmonic

Figure 19: Consonant Ideophonemes

Additionally, the syllabic nasals /m̩ n̩ ŋ̍/ may also appear, but only in isolation.

10.2 | Ideophones

There are three types of ideophones in Timah: *phonomimes, phenomimes,* and *psychomimes.*

10.2.1 | Phonomimes

Phonomimes imitate sounds directly.

10.2.2 | Phenomimes

Phenomimes imitate sounds associated with tangible states and conditions.

10.2.3 | Psychomimes

Psychomimes imitate sounds associated with intangible states and conditions.

11 | Semantics & Pragmatics

11.1 | Topic & Focus

The *topic* marks old information, while the *focus* marks new information.

Both topic- and focus-marking are optional, and are usually only used in spoken contexts in order to direct the flow of information.

11.1.1 | Topic & Focus Markers

There are various particles that mark *topic* and *focus*. They are placed before the emphasized phrase.

- **Topic Markers**

    – tʰəj : *phrasal topic; topicalizes the entire phrase*
    – lɔ́ɔ̀: *head topic; topicalizes the head of the phrase*
    – ṣ̊áhe : *dependent topic; topicalizes the dependents of the phrase*

- **Focus Markers**

    – kati : *phrasal focus; focuses the entire phrase*
    – móne : *head focus; focuses the head of the phrase*
    – seé: *dependent focus; focuses the dependents of the phrase*

11.2 | Existence

11.3 | Avoidance

11.4 | Yak/Tiger Dichotomy

11.5 | Deixis

11.5.1 | Directionals & Spatial/Temporal Domains

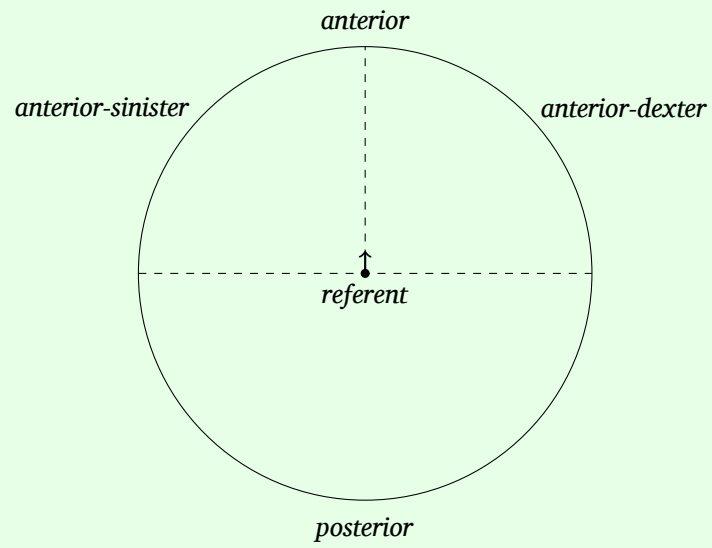The deictic space of Timah is divided into three main domains: *anterior-sinister, anterior-dexter,* and *posterior.*

anterior

anterior-sinister   anterior-dexter

referent

posterior

Figure 20: Deictic Space