???

Tímə́h, the language of *Lą́gų́*

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A Grammar

2017

Dedicated to my haters

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1 | Introduction

1.1 | External History

The Timah language (*tímə*h [tˀíməh]; lit. language, speech) 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 Khokòjòḥe people (*kʰɔkˀɔtɕɔ̀ʔe* [kʰo̰kˀo̰dʑɔ̀ʔè̹] lit. many-person), or Khokans. They live on the Lankung Archipelago (*lə́ɴkoɴ* [lə̋ŋgṵ̃ŋ] lit. our-place)

`TODO` all of this

1.2.1 | Culture

The Khokan people are a largely matriarchal and polyandrous society. The practice of polyandry, wherein a woman may take multiple spouses, is due to the scarcity of land and resources.

Many large communities (consisting of several family clans governed by a single clan) are on or around the more mountainous island centers, where terrace-farming is practiced. On the flatter shores, there are smaller communities (consisting of only a few family clans with no single governing clan).

2 | Phonology

2.1 | Consonants

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Velar*	*Glottal*	*Placeless*
Nasal	m	n				ɴ
Plosive		t^h t $t^ʔ$	$tɕ^h$ tɕ $tɕ^ʔ$	k^h k $k^ʔ$	ʔ	
Fricative		s^h s $s^ʔ$			h	
Approximant	w	l	j			

Figure 2.1: Consonant Phonemes

- /n t^h t $t^ʔ$/ are dental; /s^h s $s^ʔ$ l/ are alveolar.
- /$tɕ^h$ tɕ $tɕ^ʔ$/ 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, i.e., not an uvular nasal[1].
- The aspirated obstruents /t^h $tɕ^h$ k^h s^h/ may be accompanied by slight breathy-voice on the following vowel.
- The fortis obstruents /$t^ʔ$ $tɕ^ʔ$ $k^ʔ$ $s^ʔ$/ 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 as [ŋ] word-finally after non-back vowels and as [ŋ͡m] word-finally after the back vowels /o ɔ/.
- The aspirated obstruents /t^h $tɕ^h$ k^h s^h/ are deäspirated to [t tɕ k s] intervocalically and after /w j ɴ/.
- The tenuis obstruents /t tɕ k s/ are voiced to [d dʑ g z] intervocalically and after /w j ɴ/.
- /k^h/ surfaces as [x] before [a].
- The velars /$k^ʔ$ k k^h/ surface as labio-velars [$k͡p^ʔ$ k͡p $k͡p^h$] before the back vowels /o ɔ/. [k͡p] is voiced to [g͡b] and [$k͡p^h$] is deäspirated to [k͡p] intervocalically and after /w j ɴ/.

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

- /n/ is palatalized to [ɲ] before [i] word-medially.
- The sibilants /sʰ s sˀ/ are palatalized to [ɕʰ ɕ ɕˀ] before [i]. [ɕ] is voiced to [ʑ] and [ɕʰ] is deäspirated to [ɕ] intervocalically and after /w j ɴ/.
- /l/ surfaces as [ɾ] intervocalically and after /w j ɴ/.
- /w/ surfaces as [ʊ] before [i].

2.1.2 | Dialectal Variations of Consonants

- In some[*which?*] dialects, the fortis plosives /tˀ tɕˀ kˀ sˀ/ may surface as ejectives [t’ tɕ’ k’ (t)s’] or geminates [tt ttɕ kk ss~tts].
- In some[*which?*] dialects, the alveolo-palatals /tɕʰ tɕ tɕˀ/ may surface as alveolar affricates [tsʰ ts tsˀ] or true palatals [cʰ c cˀ].
- In some[*which?*] dialects, the lateral [l] has merged with either /j/ or /n/.
- Depending on dialect[*which ones?*] and idiolect, the glottal fricative /h/ may variously surface as any of [x χ ħ h̃].
- Depending on dialect[*which ones?*] and idiolect, the lateral /l/ may variously surface as any of [ɹ ɻ ɻ̢ ɾ ɭ ð̞ ɮ ʐ̢].

2.2 | Vowels

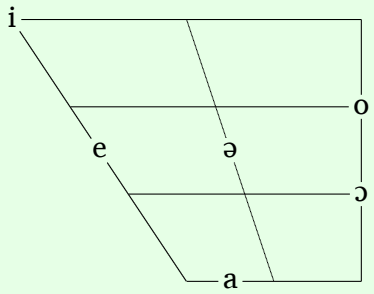


Figure 2.2: Vowel Phonemes

- All vowels may occur as long or short (*see § 2.6.1*)
- /e/ is true mid [e̞][2].
- /a/ is near-front [a] (i.e., not central [ä]).

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

2.2.1 | Vowel Allophony

- All vowels are nasalized before nasal consonants.
- /i/ surfaces as [ɨ] after the velars /kʰ k kˀ/ and before coda [ŋ]
- /o ɔ/ raise to [u o̜][2] word-finally in open syllables, after the velars /kʰ k kˀ w/, and before coda [ŋ].
- /a/ surfaces as [æ~ɛ] after the palatals /tɕʰ tɕ tɕˀ j/ and before coda /j/.

2.2.2 | Dialectal Variations of Vowels

- Some[*which?*] dialects have merged the back vowels /o ɔ/ into true mid [o̜].
- Some[*which?*] dialects have merged the front vowels /i e/ into [i~ɪ]
- In some[*which?*] dialects, the back vowels /o ɔ/ surface as [ɤ$^{\beta}$ ʌ$^{\beta}$], i.e., they are rounded with lip compression instead of protrusion.

2.3 | Phonological Processes

2.3.1 | 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 /ɴ 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.

2.3.2 | 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.

+ATR (Light)	i	ə	o
−ATR (Heavy)	e	a	ɔ

Figure 2.3: 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, such as clitics.

Figure 2.4: Harmony Spread

2.3.3 | Obstruent Weakening

Initial obstruents in compound words, here represented by $\omega_1\omega_2$, may undergo weakening. If an obstruent is present initially in ω_2, it undergoes one of the following mutations.

tˀ	tʰ		t
tɕˀ	tɕʰ		tɕ
kˀ	kʰ	→	k
sˀ	sʰ		s
ʔ			h

Figure 2.5: Obstruent Weakening

2.4 | Obstruent Contraction

In non-initial sequences of $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_1\text{V}\underset{*}{\text{P}}_2\text{V}$, wherein $\underset{*}{\text{P}}$ represents any obstruent and V represents any vowel, the sequence $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_1\text{V}\underset{*}{\text{P}}_2$ is contracted to $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_3$. This does not apply within roots (but can occur at root boundaries e.g., after inflection and in compounds), and applies after obstruent weakening.

P^h represents the aspirated obstruents /tʰ tɕʰ kʰ sʰ h/, P represents the tenuis obstruents /t tɕ k ʔ[2]/, and $\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$ represents the fortis obstruents /tˀ tɕˀ kˀ sˀ ʔ[2]/. The glottals /ʔ h/ only affect contraction when they occur as $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_2$.

P^h		P^h, P		P^h
P^h		$\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$		P
P	+	P^h	→	P^h
P, $\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$		P, $\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$		$\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$
$\text{P}^\text{ˀ}$		P^h		P

Figure 2.6: Obstruent Contraction

The specific place and manner of articulation of $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_3$ is dependent on an hierarchy of the obstruents in the positions $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_1$ and $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_2$, i.e., obstruents lower in the hierarchy assimilate to those higher in the hierarchy.

k* > tɕ* > t* > s* > ʔ, h

Figure 2.7: Obstruent Hierarchy

If there is a tone associated with the elided vowel, it and all tones left of it are shifted one syllable leftward until a toneless syllable (*cf. § 2.5.2*).

[2] /ʔ/ is classed as tenuis when it is either $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_1$ or $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_2$, and as both tenuis and fortis when it is $\underset{*}{\text{P}}_3$

2.5 | 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*.

2.5.1 | 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.

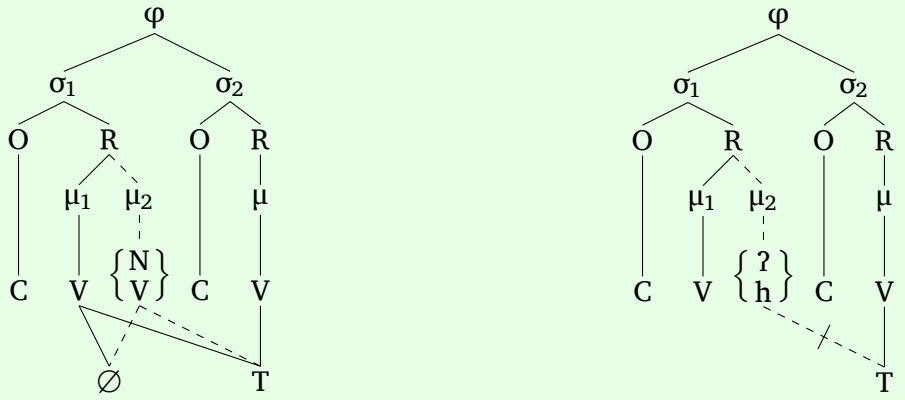


Figure 2.8: Tone Association

2.5.2 | Tone Mobility

Tones in Timah may move from their inherent position to a different surface position.

2.5.2.1 | 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. Unlike tone association, tone shift is not blocked by dead syllables.

`TODO`(?) more tone mobility

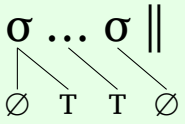


Figure 2.9: Leftward Tone Shift

2.6 | Phonotactics

2.6.1 | Syllable Structure

$$\mathrm{CV(T)(V^{3}(T)|H|S)}$$

H = {ʔ,h}
S = {ɴ,w,j}
T = {◌́,◌̀}

Figure 2.10: Syllable Structure

2.6.1.1 | 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/.

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

3 | Prosody

3.1 | Isochrony

Timah is a moraically-timed language, i.e., the duration of every mora is approximately equal. Nuclei and live codae both count as one mora; onsets and dead codae do not contribute to mora count (*see § 2.3.1*).

3.2 | Prosodic Hierarchy

Prosodic units can be separated into a hierarchy of sub-units.

`TODO` all of this

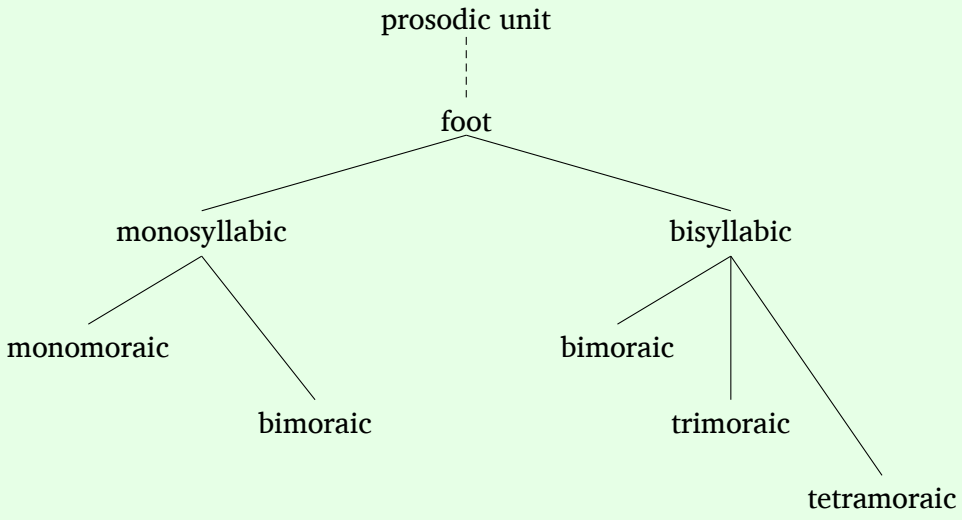


Figure 3.1: Prosodic Hierarchy

3.3 | Intonation

`TODO` all of this

4 | Orthography

The Timah language uses the *Lóma* script (*lṓma* [lőmà] lit. smooth-word), a defective abugida that was borrowed from a neighboring language *Maryu* (Timah *májlɔ* [ɓájɾɔ̀]). It was originally written on the large, durable leaves of the *sˀálǎw* ([sˀəɾəw]) plant, which contributes to the script's curled aesthetic.

TODO native, script, other adaptations

4.1 | Other Scripts

4.1.1 | Romanization

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Velar*	*Glottal*	*Placeless*
Nasal	⟨m⟩	⟨n⟩				⟨◌̓⟩[1]
Plosive		⟨th d t⟩	⟨ch j c⟩	⟨kh g k⟩	⟨ḥ⟩[1]	
Fricative		⟨sh x s⟩			⟨h⟩	
Approximant	⟨w⟩	⟨l⟩	⟨y⟩			

Figure 4.1: Romanization (Consonants)

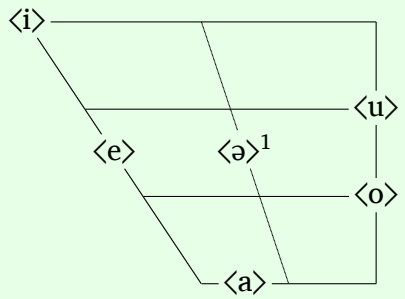


Figure 4.2: Romanization (Vowels)

[1] /ɴ ʔ ə/ may alternatively be romanized as ⟨n ' v⟩, respectively.

4.1.2 | Tibetan

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Velar*	*Glottal*	*Placeless*
Nasal	⟨མ⟩	⟨ན⟩				⟨ཨཾ⟩[2]
Plosive		⟨བ ད ྡ⟩	⟨ཚ ཛ ཙ⟩	⟨ཁ ག ྐ⟩	⟨འ, ཨ⟩[2]	
Fricative		⟨ཕ ཟ ས⟩			⟨ཧ, ཨཿ⟩[2]	
Approximant	⟨ཝ, ྭ⟩[2]	⟨ར⟩	⟨ཡ, ྱ⟩[2]			

Figure 4.3: Tibetan (Consonants)

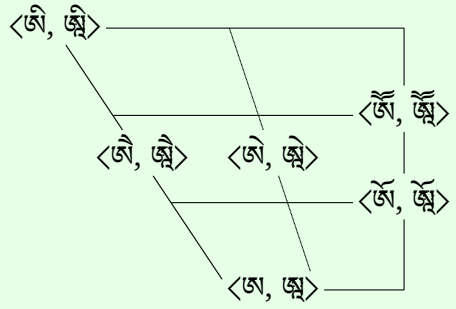


Figure 4.4: Tibetan (Vowels)[2]

4.1.3 | Mkhedruli

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Velar*	*Glottal*	*Placeless*
Nasal	⟨მ⟩	⟨ნ⟩				⟨◌[6]⟩
Plosive		⟨თ დ ტ⟩	⟨ც ძ ჭ⟩	⟨ქ გ კ⟩	⟨ღ⟩	
Fricative		⟨ჩ ზ შ⟩			⟨ჰ⟩	
Approximant	⟨ვ⟩	⟨რ⟩	⟨ჲ⟩			

Figure 4.5: Mkhedruli (Consonants)

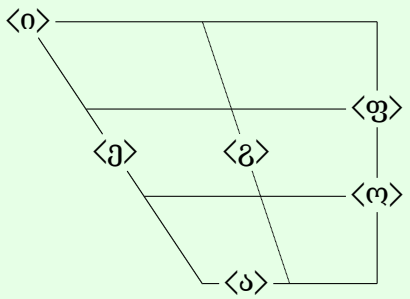


Figure 4.6: Mkhedruli (Vowels)

[2] ⟨ཨ⟩ is a filler letter. If present, the second element is the coda form for consonants, and the long form for vowels.

4.1.4 | Hacm

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Palatal*	*Velar*	*Glottal*	*Placeless*
Nasal	⟨ɒ⟩	⟨n⟩				⟨◌ⁿ⟩
Plosive		⟨fʰ ɷ f⟩	⟨lʰ ɥ l⟩	⟨ɭʰ ɸ ɭ⟩	⟨ɒ⟩	
Fricative		⟨ɟʰ l ɟ⟩			⟨h⟩	
Approximant	⟨o⟩	⟨l⟩	⟨s⟩			

Figure 4.7: Hacm (Consonants)

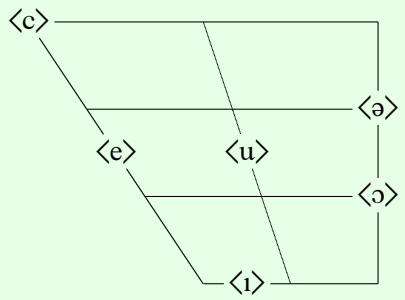


Figure 4.8: Hacm (Vowels)

5 | Syntax

5.1 | Sentence Structure & Word Order

Word order in Timah is primarily *subject-object-peripheral-verb* in independent clauses, and secondarily *verb-initial head-final* in dependent clauses. Only the verb must be present. In copular phrases (*see Ch. 9*), the word order is always *subject-copula-attribute,* wherein the *attribute* is what is being associated with the subject of the copular phrase.

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

The (direct) *object* 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 indirect/oblique object, is the thing that the verb is indirectly performed upon. It is usually marked with a *postposition* (*see § 7.4*) or *oblique case* (*see § 7.3.2*) and consists of noun or postpositional phrase(s).

The *verb* is the action that is performed within a clause. It consists of one or more *verb phrase(s)*. Some verbs may not take a subject or object (*see § 8.2*).

Dependents are placed before their head unless noted otherwise.

5.1.1 | Dependent Clauses

Dependent clauses in Timah are introduced by one of three clausal conjunctions (a subset of *verbal conjunctions*, *see § 11.1*) or a *relative pronoun* (*see § 7.2.3*). They are placed between a dependent and independent clause.

They take *verb-initial head-final* word order, wherein the verb is placed initially and the head of the dependent argument is placed finally, with the background argument (i.e., the argument of the dependent clause that is not the head) placed medially. Thus, the word order of a dependent clause may be either *verb-object-peripheral-subject* or *verb-subject-object-peripheral*. In the former, the subject is the head; in the latter, the object is the head.

Relative clauses are placed before their head noun; only subjects and objects may be relativized, and must take the same role in the relative clause as in the main clause.

- nəj : *introduces basic dependent clause*
- tᴇn : *introduces causal dependent clause*
- motó : *introduces consecutive dependent clause*

The difference between using the conjunction *nəj* as a relativizer and using a relative pronoun (*see § 7.2.3*) is that of referentiality. With non-referential heads and heads unmarked for referentiality, *nəj* is used as a relativizer. With referential heads, one of the relative pronouns is used as a relativizer (*cf. § 7.3.3*).

5.2 | Alignment

The morphosyntactic alignment in Timah is a type of dually-split-ergative that is dependent of factors of *perfectiveness*, *valency*, and *volition*.

Perfectiveness describes the completeness of the verb, *valency* describes the number of arguments of the verb (in this case, a split between one or more than one), and *volition* describes the degree of control or intent concerning the verb (which is directly related to volitional classes, *see § 8.3*). In terms of alignment, all these factors are binary, i.e., *[perfective|non-perfective]*, *[monovalent|polyvalent]*, *[volitional|non-volitional]*.

The *ergative-absolutive* alignment is used obligatorily in polyvalent clauses wherein the subject is specified as perfective.

The *active-stative* alignment is used obligatorily in monovalent clauses wherein the subject is specified as perfective and non-volitional as well as in monovalent clauses wherein the subject is specified only as non-perfective.

Either alignment is possible when the subject in polyvalent clauses is specified as non-perfective, as well as in monovalent clauses wherein the subject is specified as both perfective and non-volitional. Which alignment is used is pragmatically determined (*see § 15.1*).

			Erg.-Abs.	*Either*	*Act.-Stat.*
Mono.	*Pfv.*	*Vol.*		×	
		Nvol.			×
	Npfv.	*Vol.*			×
		Nvol.			×
Poly.	*Pfv.*	*Vol.*	×		
		Nvol.	×		
	Npfv.	*Vol.*		×	
		Nvol.		×	

Figure 5.1: Alignment

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 § 8.2*) being marked by the a postposition (*see § 7.4*).

5.3 | Repeat Argument Dropping

In ergative-absolutive statements, a repeated absolutive argument can be dropped. In active-stative statements, a repeated subject can be dropped. Switching grammatical voice (*see § 8.5.3*) allows the opposing argument to be dropped.

5.4 | Clitics

What are termed *clitics* in Timah are actually phrasal affixes, i.e., they are affixes that attach to the initial or final component of their phrase. These are glossed and referred to as clitics, but may also be called *gruppenflexion* or the aforementioned phrasal affixes.

6 | Lexical Categories & Properties

6.1 | Lexical Categories & Roots

There is largely no lexical noun-verb distinction in Timah, i.e., most content words can act either as a noun or as a verb. The exceptions are the closed classes of *true nouns* and *true verbs*, collectively called *limitives* (*see §§ 7.1 and 8.1*). Non-limitives, collectively called *formatives*, are further divided into two root classes: *constant* and *mutable* roots.

6.1.1 | Constant Roots

Constant roots consist of one or more sequences of CV(F), and inflect primarily by affixation. These are more common than mutable roots, especially in true nouns and verbs.

6.1.2 | Mutable Roots

Mutable roots consist of a set of consonants. Each consonant within a consonantal root may have a tone associated with it.

Consonantal roots may take one of many *consonantal templates*, which describe the positioning of the individual consonants (marked by subscripts) in a root as well as tone-accepting positions (marked by superscripts). Long vowels may only occur in the environment _{CV,#} (i.e., before a single consonant or at a word boundary). Floating tones migrate to the closest tonally-unmarked long vowel mora, if present.

(σ_a) and (σ_b) are the optional *leading* and *trailing syllables*, respectively. (σ_a) consists of an onset, nucleus, and optional coda. (σ_b) consists of a nucleus and coda. The nucleus of (σ_b) is elided in the environment V_ (i.e., following a vowel). (C) is the optional *leading consonant*. If unmarked, C_1 is reduplicated and epenthetically inserted as the leading consonant.

- **1** : (σ_a)$\underline{C}_1V^1\underline{C}_2V^2$($\sigma_b$)
- **2** : (σ_a)$\underline{C}_1V^1\underline{C}_2$-◌^{2}($\sigma_b$)
- **3** : (σ_a)(C)V$\underline{C}_1V^1\underline{C}_2V^2$($\sigma_b$)
- **4** : (σ_a)(C)$V^1\underline{C}_1V^2\underline{C}_2$($\sigma_b$)
- **5** : (σ_a)(C)$V^1\underline{C}_1\underline{C}_2V^2$($\sigma_b$)

Consonant templates are notated as $_{\#}$[(σ_a),(C)V,…,V,(σ_b)], wherein $_{\#}$ is the template form number, and [(σ_a)(C)V,…,V,(σ_b)] is the optional leading and trailing syllables, leading consonant, and a list of the constituent vowels. Mutable roots are notated as C^T-C^T or C^T-C^T-C^T, wherein C is a consonant and ^{T} is an optional toneme (◌́ or ◌̀). These can be combined to form $_{\#}$[(σ_a),(C)V,…,V,(σ_b)]{C^T-C^T(-C^T)}

If $C_{\#}$ is in the environment _{C,#} (i.e., before another consonant or at a word boundary), it merges into a coda consonant.

m n		ɴ
t* k*		ʔ
tɕ* s*	→	h
l j		j

Table 6.1: Coda Mergers

Additionally, if there is an illegal coda-onset cluster (*see § 2.6.1.1*), it is deleted and lengthens the preceding vowel. It may also apply tone to the long vowel.

ʔ		◌◌́
h	→	◌◌̀
ɴ w j		◌◌

Figure 6.1: Coda Reduction

6.2 | Integrity

Grammatical class, or *integrity* in Timah is divided by compositional integrity, or completeness of the item. The *complete* class is further divided by animacy. Animacy distinction may not always occur in inflections.

- **Complete**; *the item is viwed in its entirety; the item is sufficient, complete, whole*; CMPLT
  - **Animate**; *living, mobile, heat, abstract*; ANIM
  - **Inanimate**; *non-living, immobile, cold, concrete*; INAN
- **Incomplete**; *the item is viewed partially; the item is deficient, incomplete, condensed*; NCMPLT

Generally, these refer to the compositional integrity within the context of the situation.
`TODO` example sentences

6.3 | Probability

Grammatical number in Timah is divided not by amount, but *probability*, i.e., if the amount is likely or unlikely to change.

- **Stable**; *the amount is not likely to change*; STBL
- **Unstable**; *the amount is likely to change*; NSTBL
- **Panstable**; *it is unknown if the amount is likely or unlikely to change*; PNSTBL

Generally, these refer to the probability to change within the context of the situation.
`TODO` example sentences

7 | Nouns

7.1 | True Nouns

True nouns consist of a set of nouns that cannot be used as verbs. True nouns can stand independent but can also be used to modify other nouns. See App. A for a list of true nouns.

7.2 | Pronouns

Pronouns are a subset of true nouns that take the function of another noun or noun phrase.

7.2.1 | Personal

Personal pronouns decline for probability, person, animacy (in 3rd person), case, and integrity.

			Agt.	*Pat.*	*Erg.*	*Assoc.*	*Loc.*
Stbl.	*1*		lə	ləhi	jə́ɴ	sʰaj	tɕʰɔ̀
	2		nɔ́	nɔ	nò		nə
	3	*Anim.*	tə́ʔ	tə́hi	tɕàɴ	kéh	té
		Inan.	haɴ				
Nstbl.	*1*		to	tò	tʔáw		jə́
	2		nɔɔ́	nɔ́ɔ̀	néj		tɕɔ
	3	*Anim.*	tʔóʔ	tʔóhi	tɕʰoɴ	kèè	kʰəw
		Inan.	tʰɔɴ				

(a) Complete

	Agt.	*Pat.*	*Erg.*	*Assoc.*	*Loc.*
1	ká	ke	tàʔ	tɕà	ləj
2	nɔ́ɔ́	náw	nəw		no
3	sə́sá	seh	kíɴ		sʔəw

(b) Incomplete

Figure 7.1: Personal Pronouns

7.2.2 | Possessive

Possessive pronouns decline for person (of the possessor), integrity, and animacy (of the possessed). They indicate ownership and relation. They are placed after their head noun.

	Complete		*Incomplete*
	Animate	*Inanimate*	
1	lə́ɴ	jə́	sə̀ɴ
2	ná	nə́j	waɴ
3	tɔ́ɔ	tɕɔ́ɔ́	kaá

Figure 7.2: Possessive Pronouns

7.2.3 | Relative/Interrogative

Relative/interrogative pronouns decline for integrity, probability, and domain. They are used to introduce relative clauses and to mark specific characteristics of a question.

		Personal	*Location*	*Proportion*	*Manner*	*Reason*
Complete	*Stbl.*	ʔəsè	kʰɔ̀naj	silɔ	sáj	sʰèh
	Nstbl.	taɴsà	kʰiɴhə			
Incomplete		ʔehi	kéhe	saʔií	səmɔ́ɔ	sʰɔjna

Figure 7.3: Relative/Interrogative Pronouns

7.2.4 | Demonstrative

Demonstrative pronouns decline for number, proximality, and deictic position. They express spatial and temporal position relative to the speaker (*see § 15.2.1*). Demonstratives of *proportion* and *manner* express to what extent and in what way, respectively.

They may modify a noun or pronoun, or stand on their own. They are placed after the noun they are modifying. When unimportant, unknown, or ambiguous, laterality distinction defaults to *sinister*.

		Anterior		*Posterior*
		Sinister	*Dexter*	
Stbl.	*Prox.*	tàá	kò	mɔɴ
	Med.	sáwhe	kàmeʔ	jéhə
	Dist.	kʔitɔ̀		
Nstbl.	*Prox.*	tɕaà	ʔakə	wóɴ
	Med.	ʔitɕʔa	kèho	míí
	Dist.	tekí		

(a) Complete

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

(b) Incomplete

		Complete	*Incomplete*
Prop.	*Prox.*	jə́	likɔ̀ɴ
	Dist.	jíɴ	
Man.	*Prox.*	wɔ́j	misɔɴ
	Dist.	kə̀ɴ	

(c) Proportion & Manner

Figure 7.4: Demonstrative Pronouns

- **Proximal**; *able to be heard by speaker*
- **Medial**; *able to be seen by speaker and/or heard by listener*
- **Distal**; *able to be seen by speaker; may be indistinct or non-visible*
- **Anterior**; *in front of the speaker; associated with the past*
  - **Sinister**; *to the left of the speaker; associated with volitional events*
  - **Dexter**; *to the right of the speaker; associated with non-volitional events*
- **Posterior**; *behind the speaker; associated with the future*

7.3 | Declensions

class	**root**	*case*	*(article)*

Figure 7.5: Declension Slots

7.3.1 | Noun Classes

Noun classes in Timah are separated into the groups *complete* and *incomplete*, which are associated with semantic wholeness or entirety of the noun (*see § 6.2*).

The *complete* group is further divided into the classes *animate* and *inanimate*. The *panstable* number is generally associated with mass nouns.

	Complete		*Incomplete*
	Animate	*Inanimate*	
Stbl.	∅-	kaw-, kɔ-	wí-
Nstbl.	tɔ-	jé-	
Pnstbl.	na(ɴ)-	∅-	

Figure 7.6: Noun Classes

7.3.2 | Cases

- **Agentive** (*Agt.*) : In *multivalent* verbs (i.e., *ambivalent* or *polyvalent* verbs that take two or three arguments, *see § 8.2*), the *agentive* case marks a Complete subject or an Incomplete object. In *monovalent* verbs, it marks a volitional Complete subject (*see § 8.3*) or Incomplete subject.
- **Patientive** (*Pat.*) : In polyvalent verbs, the *patient* case marks a Complete object. In monovalent verbs, it marks a non-volitional Complete subject.
- **Ergative** (*Erg.*) : In polyvalent verbs, the *ergative* case marks an Incomplete *subject*.
- **Associative** (*Assoc.*) : The *associative* case marks genitive and genitive-like 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.

	Complete	*Incomplete*
Agt.	-∅	-ɴ-(◌́)
Pat.	-h	-h-(◌́)
Erg.	-ʔ	-ho
Assoc.	-wɔ	
Loc.	-tɕó	-je

(a) Open

	Complete	*Incomplete*
Agt.	-∅	-té
Pat.	-si	-séɴ
Erg.	-kˀi	-kʰo
Assoc.	-kɔ	
Loc.	-tɕó	-se

(b) Closed

Figure 7.7: Cases

The *associative* and *locative* cases, collectively called *peripheral cases*, may be accompanied by a postposition (*see § 7.4*). 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).

7.3.2.1 | Declension of Mutable Roots

See § 6.1.2 for mutable root templates.

		Complete		*Incomplete*
		Animate	*Inanimate*	
Agt.	*Stbl.*	$_{1}$[e,e]	$_{3}$[Ci,o,ii]	
	Nstbl.	$_{2}$[i,ɔ]	$_{5}$[no,ii]	$_{1}$[ɔɔ,o]
	Pnstbl.	$_{4}$[aa,a]		
Pat.	*Stbl.*	$_{2}$[ɔ]	$_{5}$[li,ɔ]	
	Nstbl.	$_{5}$[ʔa,ii]	$_{3}$[t^{h}e,ə,aa]	$_{5}$[tɕ^{ʔ}a,i]
	Pnstbl.	$_{2}$[a]		
Erg.		$_{4}$[jee,o]		$_{5}$[Co,o]
Assoc.		$_{3}$[Caa,e,a]		$_{3}$[kɔ,e,a]
Loc.		$_{4}$[hee,i]		$_{5}$[k^{h}a,oo]

Figure 7.8: Declensions of Mutable Roots

7.3.3 | Article Enclitics

Articles in Timah decline for referentiality, visibility, and probability. They attach as enclitics to the final element of their head noun phrase.

	Referential		*Non-referential*	
	Visible	*Non-visible*	*Visible*	*Non-visible*
Stbl.	=mɔ́ɔ	=haɴ	=s^{ʔ}i	=t^{ʔ}éʔ
Nstbl.	=k^{ʔ}ə	=mé	=k^{h}ə̀ɴ	=tɕáá
Pnstbl.	=já		=k^{h}ɔɔ	

Figure 7.9: Article Enclitics

7.4 | 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*
  - k^{ʔ}e : *lack of accompaniment/use; negatory theme of trivalent verb*
  - k^{h}ɔno : *intent of benefit/purpose; beneficial/purposive theme of trivalent verb*
  - sì : *intent of reference/relation*
  - tɕé : *state of being*
  - k^{h}ò : *change of state*
  - kéh : *similarity/comparison*

  - tˀɔka : *causation*

- **Locative Postpositions**
  - tí : *movement toward*
  - sʰì : *movement away from*
  - mí : *movement onto*
  - tɕɔ̀ɔ : *movement under*
  - tʰìsé : *movement into*
  - sii?i : *movement out of*
  - tɕoli : *beginning of movement/time*
  - ʔaɴ : *end of movement/time*
  - kaɴʔɔ : *movement through, by way of, adjacent to*
  - so?a : *in front of/below/before*
  - sàkə : *behind/above/after*
  - see?á : *between, amidst, within*
  - sɔtʰe : *surrounding, around, encompassing*

7.5 | Noun Reduplication

Many nouns (including pronouns) may optionally be fully reduplicated and attached to their root to indicate plurality or intensity. Reduplication to mark plurality is never used when a numeral is used to quantify the root noun.

(1) tɕɔ̀?i
person
a person

(2) tɕɔ̀?i ~tɕɔ̀?i
person ~person
people

In some nouns, full reduplication may also be used to derive mass nouns.

(3) hòɴ
dog
a dog

(4) hòɴ ~hòɴ
dog ~dog
a pack of dogs

8 | Verbs

8.1 | True Verbs

True verbs consist of a set of verbs that cannot be used as nouns. See App. B for a list of true verbs.

8.2 | Valency Classes

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

- **Avalent**; *zero arguments*; AVAL
- **Monovalent**; *one argument*; MVAL
- **Ambivalent**; *one or two arguments*; BVAL
- **Polyvalent**; *two or more arguments*; PVAL

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 two or more arguments are grouped as *multivalent*. These terms (*divalent, trivalent, multivalent*) are used only in analysis and meta-grouping.

Copulae (*see Ch. 9*) are considered monovalent.

8.3 | Volitional Classes

Verbs are inherently classed as either *volitional* or *non-volitional*. These classes determine the case of the subject in monovalent verbs in active-stative-aligned clauses. They denote inherent intent of the agent, regardless of the situational intent. They directly affect alignment (*see § 5.2*).

- **Volitional**; *denote an action that is intentionally performed by the subject*; VOL
- **Non-volitional**; *denote an action that is accidentally performed by the subject*; NVOL

8.4 | Verbal Reduplication

Reduplication is more prominent in verbs than in nouns. Full reduplication of the root can optionally be used to indicate greater intensity, but partial reduplication is used in verbal paradigms.

`TODO` example sentences

$|R_{i\sim}|$ indicates full reduplication of the initial syllable, and $|{\sim}R_{f}|$ indicates full reduplication of the final syllable.

8.5 | Conjugations

subj.	*obj.*	*(classifier)*	*mode*	*(noun)*	**root**	*voice*	*(DoI)*	*(directional)*	*(applicative)*

Figure 8.1: Conjugation Slots

8.5.1 | Pronominal Proclitics

Pronominal proclitics are obligatorily appended to verb phrases and must agree with their respective argument. Pronouns are dropped when pronominal proclitics are present.

			Agt.	*Pat.*	*Erg.*
Stbl.	*1*		lə=	le(h)=	jə́(ɴ)=
	2		nɔ́=	nɔ=	nɔ̀=
	3	*Anim.*	tə́=	té(h)=	tɕà(ɴ)=
		Inan.	ha(ɴ)=		
Nstbl.	*1*		to=	tò=	tˀáw=, tˀɔ́=
	2		nɔ=(́)	nɔ́=(̀)	néj=, ní=
	3	*Anim.*	tˀó=	tˀə́(h)=	tɕʰo(ɴ)=
		Inan.	tʰɔ(ɴ)=		

(a) Complete

	Agt.	*Pat.*	*Erg.*
1	ká=	tà(ʔ)=	tà(ʔ)=
2	nɔ́=(́)	nəw=, no=	no=
3	sá=	se(h)=	kí(ɴ)=

(b) Incomplete

Figure 8.2: Pronominal Proclitics

8.5.2 | Noun Incorporation & Salience

In certain verbs, object and peripheral nouns may be *incorporated*, or attached to, the verb. The incorporated noun may be phonologically reduced or even undergo suppletion. They are always placed directly before the verb root.

When a noun is incorporated, the meaning of the phrase becomes more general, e.g., he chops the tree (a specific tree) vs. he chops trees (as a profession, in general). Furthermore, an incorporated noun is never in focus, allowing other parts of the statement to be emphasized.

Additionally, the incorporated noun may optionally be marked with a noun class prefix (*see § 7.3.1*). If it is a peripheral object, it may take an associative or locative case marker. The incorporated noun is not marked for anything else.

`TODO` example sentences

8.5.3 | Voice & Investment

The verbal voices in Timah are symmetric, i.e., they do not alter the valency of the verb, only the arguments' roles.

Voice indicators also inflect for the *investment* of the subject. This indicates that the subject has some sort of interest or stake pertaining to the action, e.g., give (uninvested) vs. loan (invested).

	Uninvested	*Invested*
Actor	-tá	-tɕà
Undergoer	-sˀɔ́ɔ́	-jə̀ə̀
Correlative	-mɔ́tè	

Figure 8.3: Voice

The *correlative* voice indicates that both the agent and patient are in some way related; it is often used for reflexive constructs, but can also be used for reciprocal constructs.

(5) lə= laj- mólá -mɔ́tè
1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= PFV.CMPLT- wash -CV
I wash myself

(6) to= laj- mólá -mɔ́tè
1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= PFV.CMPLT- wash -CV
we wash ourselves

(7) to= tò= laj- mólá -mɔ́tè
1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= 1.STBL.PAT.CMPLT= PFV.CMPLT- wash -CV
we wash each other

8.5.4 | Domain of Influence

The *domain of influence* describes the area in which the object is able to be affected by the subject. With certain verbs this is fairly straightforward, e.g., sensory verbs—the domain of influence describes the area in which the subject can sense the object.

Verbs conjugate via suffixes for the presence of the object inside or outside the domain of influence of the subject.

- ◌́-N, -náʔ : *inside the domain of influence*; ∈DOI
- -lɔ́ɔ̀ : *outside the domain of influence*; ∉DOI

Only multivalent verbs in either the actor or undergoer voices may be marked for domain of influence, i.e., avalent and monovalent verbs, and verbs in the correlative voice may not take domain of influence marking.

When verbs in which the object is understood to be inherently inside or outside the domain of influence take domain of influence marking it indicates success or failure of the verb.

(8) ∅- hòN -∅ =mɔ́ɔ jə́N= tə́=
CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.AGT =REF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.ERG= 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT=
laj- ʔaná -tá -lɔ́ɔ̀
PFV.REAL- hit -AV.NINVST -∉DOI
I (tried to) hit the dog

When pertaining to abstract concepts, the domain of influence instead describes the perceived attainability of the object (i.e., the subjective probability of it being able to enter the domain of influence).

(9) ∅- hòN -si =sʔi lə= té=
CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.PAT =NREF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=
hɔnɔ́ -tɕà -N
want -AV.INVST -∈DOI
I want a dog (and believe this to be attainable)

(10) ∅- hòN -si =sʔi lə= té=
CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.PAT =NREF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=
hɔnɔ́ -tɕà -lɔ̀ɔ̀
want -AV.INVST -∉DOI
I want a dog (and believe this to be unattainable)

8.5.5 | Expressive Moods

There are five moods in Timah that are independent from basic moods. These are called *expressive moods*, and are placed at the beginning of a clause. They are considered *irrealis*.

TODO example sentences

- tɕɔ́ : **Imperative**; *commands, wishes, desires*; IMP
- s^ha : **Interrogative**; *questions, requests*; INT
- təj : **Polar Interrogative**; *yes/no questions; tag questions*; POL
- kì : **Precative**; *polite requests and commands*; PREC
- tʔɔ́N : **Suggestive**; *suggestions, admonitions, warnings*; SUG

8.5.6 | Mood & Aspect

Mood and *aspect* (collectively called *mode*) are optionally marked using fused mood-aspect prefixes. All moods (expressive, basic, and evidential) are collectively called *modals*.

	Imperfective	*Habitual*	*Perfective*	*Experiential*	*Iterative*
Realis	∅-	kʔa(ʔ)-	laj-, le-	jíhi-	R_i~kʔa(ʔ)-
Affirmative	~R_f	kʔa(ʔ)-√~R_f	laj-√~R_f, le-√~R_f	jíhi-√~R_f	R_i~kʔa(ʔ)-√~R_f
Irrealis	tɔ(ʔ)-	tew-, tə-	haj-, he-	já-	R_i~tew-, R_i~tə-
Conditional	ʔo-		né(h)-		
Hypothetical	tàj-, tè-		k^hà-		R_i~tàj-, R_i~tè-

Figure 8.4: Aspect & Mood

The *realis* and *affirmative* moods are classed as *realis*, while the *irrealis*, *conditional*, and *hypothetical* moods are classed as *irrealis*.

- **Moods**
  - **Realis** : *event is known to be real*; REAL
  - **Affirmative** : *event is emphasized as being real*; AFF

  - **Irrealis** : *event is unknown or known to be unreal*; IRR
  - **Conditional** : *event is dependent upon other events*; COND
  - **Hypothetical** : *event is unknown or counterfactual, but possible*; HYP
- **Aspects**
  - **Imperfective** : *event is incomplete*; NPFV
  - **Habitual** : *event is repeated across multiple timeframes*; HAB
  - **Perfective** : *event is complete*; PFV
  - **Experiential** : *event is experienced*; EXP
  - **Iterative** : *event is repeated within the same timeframe*; ITER

8.5.6.1 | Conjugation of Mutable Roots

See § 6.1.2 for mutable root templates.

		Actor	*Undergoer*	*Correlative*
Realis	*Npfv.*	$_{1}$[o,o]	$_{4}$[joo,e]	$_{5}$[Cii,ɔ]
	Hab.	$_{3}$[he,əə,e]	$_{2}$[i]	$_{3}$[Ca,ee,a]
	Pfv.	$_{4}$[wi,a]	$_{4}$[Cə,i]	$_{1}$[ee,ə]
	Exp.	$_{2}$[o]	$_{1}$[aa,e]	$_{4}$[mɔ,ə]
	Iter.	$_{4}$[Cee,a]	$_{2}$[ə]	$_{2}$[a]
Irrealis	*Npfv./Hab.*	$_{2}$[a]	$_{3}$[se,i,a]	$_{5}$[kˀoo,e]
	Pfv./Exp.	$_{1}$[ə,ɔɔ]	$_{5}$[na,aa]	$_{5}$[li,ee]
	Iter.	$_{5}$[Cə,i]	$_{4}$[Cee,i]	$_{1}$[i,ə]

Figure 8.5: Conjugation of Mutable Roots

Additionally, there is a set of affixes that inflect mutable roots.

- ~R$_{f}$: **Affirmative**; *attaches to realis stem*
- ʔo- : **Conditional**; *attaches to irrealis stem*
- tàj-, tè- : **Hypothetical**; *attaches to irrealis stem*
- -tɕà : **Invested**; *attaches to actor or undergoer stem*

8.5.7 | Evidential Moods

Timah optionally marks four levels of evidentiality (as well as a *quotative*), which express how the information was gathered. Evidentiality markers are placed before their head verb. They are considered *realis*.

TODO example sentences

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

- sə́sɔɴ : **Evidential Inferential**; *knows of event via evidence*; EVID
- tɔɴke : **Anecdotal Inferential**; *knows of event via prior experience(s)*; ANEC
- mɔ́hɔ : **Reportative**; *knows of event indirectly*; REP
- ʔaj : **Quotative**; *marks quoted speech, dialogue; can be used in conjunction with other evidentials*; QUOT

8.5.8 | Directional Specifiers & Applicatives

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

TODO example sentences

- -tí : **Venitive**; *motion toward*; VEN
- -sʰì : **Andative**; *motion away from*; AND

Applicatives are valency-increasing operations that switch the syntactic position of the peripheral (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.

TODO example sentences

- -lí : **Relational**; *accompaniment*; REL
- -kʰòɴ : **Beneficial**; *intent of benefit/purpose or reference/relation*; BEN
- -tˀɔʔ : **Causal**; *causation, final causation*; CAUS
- -kéh : **Complemental**; *similarity/comparison, state of being*; COMTL
- -tɕò : **Locational**; *abolsute physical or temporal location and movement*; LOCNL
- -sɔ̀ʔ : **Positional**; *relative physical or temporal location and movement*; POSNL

The applicatives *-lí* and *-kʰòɴ* may be used to invert the secundative construction (*see § 5.1*), making it indirective. This inversion does not change the clause semantically, only syntactically.

Further specifications can be made by supplementing the applicative suffix with a postposition (*see § 7.4*) placed after the object.

8.6 | Verbal Classifiers

Verbal classifiers are used with certain verbs to describe characteristics of the object, specifically *composition* and *category*. It is most often used with verbs of handling.

TODO example sentences

	Innate	*Discrete*	*Coherent*	*Aggregate*	*Diverse*
Standing	ʔi-	tàj-, tè-		sahi-	
Sitting	kaw-, kɔ-	maa-	maa-√~R_f	ʔitii-	itii-√~R_f
Lying	tɕè-		tɕè-√~R_f	tí(ɴ)-	tí(ɴ)-√~R_f
Generic	$k^ʔ$áj-, $k^ʔ$í-	məájə(ɴ)-		ʔɔj- ʔe	

Figure 8.6: Verbal Classifiers

- **Composition**; *describes the grouping and organization of the entity*
  - **Innate**; *unspecified composition*; INN
  - **Discrete**; *group of similar entities*; DISC
  - **Coherent**; *organized group of similar entities*; COH
  - **Aggregate**; *group of dissimilar entities*; AGG
  - **Diverse**; *organized group of dissimilar entities*; DIV
- **Category**; *describes semantic properties of the entity*
  - **Standing**; *entity is taller than it is wide*; STA
  - **Sitting**; *entity is as tall as it is wide*; SIT
  - **Lying**; *entity is wider than it is tall*; LNG
  - **Generic**; *unspecified category*; GEN

8.7 | 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 clause, 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).

`TODO` expand on specific SVCs

8.7.1 | Perceptive

Perceptive SVCs are always discontinuous, and express sensory interaction.

8.7.2 | Directive

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

8.7.3 | Capacitive

Capacitive SVCs are always continuous, and express ability, attitude, or causality.

9 | Copulae

Timah *copulae* are a subset of true verbs, in which there are three classes: *essential*, *existential*, and *referential*. These classes are further divided into *assertive*, *negative*, and *revelatory* forms.

Copulae only inflect for person and mood/aspect (*see §§ 8.5.1 and 8.5.6*), and the constituent arguments within a copular phrase (i.e., the subject and attribute) both take the (unmarked) agentive case (the attribute is marked like the object in copular person agreement).

As noted in § 5.1, all copular phrases have *Subject-Copula-Attribute* word order. Copulae are always considered monovalent, although pronominal proclitics agree identically as in polyvalent verbs.

Copulae are divided into three classes: *essential*, *existential*, and *referential*. These are further divided into the subclasses *assertive*, *negative*, and *revelatory*.

The essential copulae express nominal and descriptive predication. The existential copulae express locational, existential, and possessive predication. The referential copulae, while traditionally classed as such due to how they pattern, do not act like the other two classes of copula. They may either refer to the inherent action of the subject or, if present, to the directly preceding verb. Additionally, referential copulae cannot refer to preceding copulae.

The assertive subclass expresses the basic form of the copula. The negatory subclass negates the copula. The revelatory subclass expresses surprise, doubt, and/or interest, and suppletes the assertive form of a copula when any irrealis modal is present (*see §§ 8.5.5 to 8.5.7*).

- **Essential**
  - kew : **Assertive**
  - kəlé : **Negative**
  - ʔowó : **Revelatory**
- **Existential**
  - nénɴ : **Assertive**
  - néjé : **Negative**
  - təjə : **Revelatory**
- **Referential**
  - tʰàh : **Assertive**
  - tʰàné : **Negative**
  - ʔəjtɕa : **Revelatory**

10 | Descriptives & Derivation

There are twelve descriptives (which function as adjectives or adverbs) in Timah. They are placed before their head noun or verb. All descriptives may optionally be fully reduplicated to indicate greater intensity.

- tɕʰànéˊ : *good, positive; full*
- sìɴkà : *bad, negative; empty*
- kʰɔkʔɔ : *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*

10.1 | Comparison

Comparative constructions are formed by appending a postposition after the descriptive in a copular clause. The recipient of comparison is placed after the subject, i.e., *Subject-Recipient-Copula-Attribute*.

- sʰì : *positive comparison*
- míh : *equative comparison*
- tí : *negative comparison*

(11) ∅- keteh -∅ =mɔ́ɔ ∅- tɕɔ̀ʔi
ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- person
-tɕó sʰì =mɔ́ɔ tə́= kew tɕósʰa
-LOC.CMPLT ABL =REF.VIS.SG 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT= COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new
the child is younger than the man

Superlative constructions are formed by appending *séè* all, every before the recipient, or using it in place of the recipient. Excessive constructions are formed by omitting the recipient entirely.

(12) ∅- keteh -∅ =mɔ́ɔ séè (∅)- (tɕɔ̀ʔi)
ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG all (ANIM.STBL.CMPLT)- (person)
-(tɕó) sʰì =(mɔ́ɔ) tə́= kew tɕósʰa
-(LOC.CMPLT) ABL =(REF.VIS.SG) 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT= COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new
the child is the youngest of all (men)

(13) ∅- keteh -∅ =mɔ́ɔ sʰì tə́=
ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG ABL 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT=
kew tɕósʰa
COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new
the child is very young

10.2 | Derivation

Derivation is possible by appending a descriptive onto a noun or verb as a prefix. Additionally, there exists a small closed class of various derivational affixes.

Prefixes

- tɔ̀j-, tə- : *opposite, reverse*
- tɕʰà(ʔ)- : *person, profession*
- lə(h)-(◌́) : *place; time*
- kósó- : *homorganic group/mass*
- kʰe- : *heterorganic group/mass*
- tɕá(ɴ)-(◌̀) : *prevent, stop, interrupt*
- sáj-, sé- : *pretend, mimic, falsify*
- sóo- : *cause, source*
- ʔikə̀- : *expected accompaniment*

Suffixes

- -tɕˀə́ : *attempt, try*
- -tàj : *product, result*
- (◌́)-litɔ́ : *within a period of time*
- -kˀə́ʔe : *tool, instrument*
- (◌̀)-sˀoo : *abstraction, mass*
- -tɕì : *animals, inedible plants*
- -mitàɴ: *edible plants, food*
- -kosée : *pejorative, derogatory*
- -tɕì : *previous, former*
- (◌́)-nə : *eventual, later*

11 | Function Words

11.1 | Conjunctions

There are two groups of conjunctions in Timah: *nominal* and *verbal*. *Nominal* conjunctions connect nouns, noun phrases, and descriptives; *verbal* conjunctions connect verbs and verb phrases, and can be used to introduce clauses.

- **Nominal**
  - ní : *presents non-contrast*
  - ʔika : *presents contrast*
  - teh : *presents alternative*
- **Verbal**
  - nəj : *presents non-contrast; introduces basic (dependent) clause*
  - teɴ : *presents rationale, causality; introduces causal (dependent) clause*
  - motó : *presents consequence; introduces consecutive (dependent) clause*
  - ʔihi : *presents contrast*
  - kàh : *presents alternative*

11.2 | Satellite Conjunctions

Conjunctions may be used initially or finally in a statement as discourse markers.

- ní : *indicates weak affirmation of the statement*
- ʔika : *inquires weak affirmation of the listener's experience*
- teh : *indicates surprise, doubt, or interest toward the statement*
- nəj : *indicates strong affirmation and/or discourse-completion of the statement*
- teɴ : *indicates agreement with the listener*
- motó : *inquires strong affirmation of the listener's experience*
- ʔihi : *inquires contrast of the listener's experience to the speaker's statement*
- kàh : *requests more information from the listener*

11.2.1 | Ellipsis

(14) kaw- melə -si lə= ha= niwi -tá
INAN.STBL.CMPLT- bread -PAT.CMPLT 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.INAN.PAT= eat -AV
nəj tə́ʔ kaw- kʰə̀tàj -si
and.VRBL 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT INAN.STBL.CMPLT- milk -PAT.CMPLT
I eat bread and he (eats) milk

11.3 | Affirmatory & Negatory

- **Affirmatory**
  - sɛ́ɴ : **Affirmatory-Basic**; *affirms with no regard to evidence*
  - sʰɛ̀ : **Affirmatory-Witness**; *affirms via visual evidence*
  - sʰɔ̀ : **Affirmatory-Sensory**; *affirms via non-visual evidence*
  - sʔó : **Affirmatory-Evidential**; *affirms via direct evidence*
  - tɕʔɛ́ɴ : **Affirmatory-Anecdotal**; *affirms via prior experience(s)*
  - jɔ́ɴ : **Affirmatory-Reportative**; *affirms via indirect evidence*
- **Negatory**
  - kə́j : **Negatory-Basic**; *negates with no regard to evidence*
  - kʰə̀j : **Negatory-Sensory**; *negates via sensory/direct evidence*
  - sə́j : **Negatory-Inferential**; *negates via direct evidence/prior experience(s)*
  - wáj : **Negatory-Reportative**; *negates via indirect evidence*

12 | Numerals

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

0	ʔi	*12*	tɕíha	*24*	síɴ	*36*	sekɔ́	*48*	tʰàse
1	tʰè	*13*	tɕˀəə	*25*	koɴ	*37*	hino	*49*	sʰii
2	niɴ	*14*	náʔah	*26*	ʔəəha	*38*	sʰàə	*50*	sˀóo
3	kɔ	*15*	sʰa	*27*	tʰaà	*39*	tè	*51*	kʰɔ̀j
4	kʰì	*16*	sʰɔh	*28*	tòo	*40*	kˀɔ̀ʔ	*52*	lɔ́ʔeɴ
5	tɕʰajá	*17*	kʰeé	*29*	tɕəɴ	*41*	sómáɴ	*53*	tʰòɴ
6	soo	*18*	jo	*30*	sʰìh	*42*	hasʰè	*54*	tɕɔh
7	sə́h	*19*	tàɴʔa	*31*	sˀə	*43*	kè	*55*	sò
8	ʔɔsə	*20*	tɕʰà	*32*	nɔ́j	*44*	kʰo	*56*	taloh
9	kʰii	*21*	təkˀo	*33*	sàtɕíí	*45*	lato	*57*	jíli
10	tɕé	*22*	ʔətɕˀó	*34*	satɕaʔ	*46*	tɕəh	*58*	tʰɔ̀
11	ləha	*23*	tɔkʰo	*35*	tɕʰoɴ	*47*	sìitʰɔ	*59*	heɴtʰe

Figure 12.1: Numerals

13 | Register Terms

There is a system of social register terms in Timah that are used to describe the social relations between the speaker and listener, especially between family members and members within a community.

	Inferior			*Equivalent*			*Superior*		
	Younger	*Equal*	*Elder*	*Younger*	*Equal*	*Elder*	*Younger*	*Equal*	*Elder*
Formal	tèhah		waj	kátɕʰè	sʰò	sʰəw	létɕaʔ	jóʔoh	sako
Polite	lɔj	tɕʰaw	tɕoo	sə́hkəh		woʔɔ	kʰemé	miiʔí	
Familiar		tɕʰɔsʰə	toʔa	kʰa		tʰìiʔɔj	tʰìtɕíɴ		tʰè
Pejorative		kəj		ketɕʰɔ̀			kʰèle		

Figure 13.1: Register Terms

14 | Ideophones

14.1 | Ideophonemes

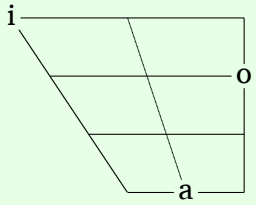
There exists a set of phonemes in Timah that can appear only in ideophones. These are called *ideophonemes*, and they cannot cluster (i.e., codae /ʔ h ɴ w j/ may not precede them). Basic consonants can appear in ideophones, but ideophones are restricted to a reduced vowel inventory.

	Labial	*Alveolar*	*Dorsal*
Nasal	ᵐb	ⁿd	ᵑg~ŋ
Liquid	ʙ̥ ʙ		ʀ̥~χ ʀ~ʁ

(a) Pulmonic

	Dental	*Alveolar*	*Lateral*
Tenuis	ǀ	!	ǁ
Aspirate	ǀʰ	!ʰ	ǁʰ
Nasal	ᵑǀ	ᵑ!	ᵑǁ
Glottal	ᵑǀʔ	ᵑ!ʔ	ᵑǁʔ

(b) Non-pulmonic



(c) Vowels

Figure 14.1: Ideophonemes

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

14.2 | Ideophones

There are three types of ideophones in Timah: *phonomimes*, *phenomimes*, and *psychomimes*. See App. D for a list of ideophones.

- **Phonomimes**; *imitate sounds directly*; textscphon
- **Phenomimes**; *imitate sounds associated with tangible states and conditions*; textscphen
- **Psychomimes**; *imitate sounds associated with intangible states and conditions*; textscpsych

15 | Semantics & Pragmatics

15.1 | Topic & Focus

Topic and *focus* are important elements of discourse in Timah. Under certain circumstances (*see § 5.2*), the presence of explicit topic-fronting and/or focus-marking can change which alignment is used. Variably-aligned statements default to the active-stative alignment, but take the ergative-absolutive alignment when the speaker wishes to emphasize or topicalize the subject.

In general, the topic marks known or old information, while the focus marks unknown or new information.

15.1.1 | Topic & Focus Marking

The *topic* of a clause can be explicitly marked by changing the alignment of a variably-aligned clause to ergative-absolutive. In invariably-aligned clauses, the topic is explicitly marked by fronting the topicalized argument.

The topic strongly correlates to the subject of the clause, but this is not always the case. If the speaker wishes to emphasize the object, the arguments must be switched and the verb put into the undergoer voice (*see § 8.5.3*).

The *focus* of a clause can be explicitly marked by appending one of three *focus markers* before the head of the phrase containing the focus.

`TODO` example sentences, expand on topic/focus stuff

(15)

- kˀitɔ̀ : *focuses the entire phrase*
- tàá : *focuses the head of the phrase*
- kò : *focuses the dependents of the phrase*

The specific focus will always be intonationally emphasized.

(16)

15.2 | Deixis

15.2.1 | Spatial/Temporal Deixis & Domains

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

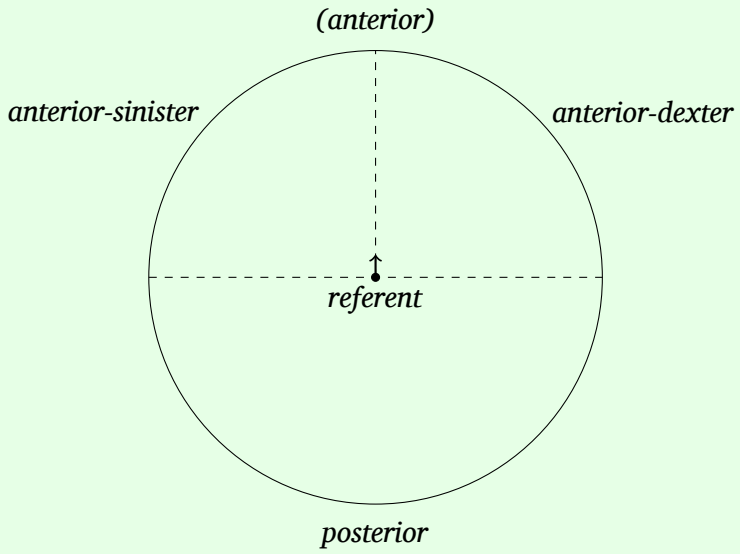


Figure 15.1: Deictic Space

16 | Speech Registers

There exists three special *speech registers* in Timah. While identical in grammar, these registers differ in lexicon content and size.

- **Nuptial Register**; *used by people who are or have been in an intimate relationship*
  - **Internal Subregister**; *used when speaking directly to one's intimate partner*
  - **External Subregister**; *used by people who are or have been in a relationship, with no regard to the status of the listener*
- **Avoidance Register**; *used when speaking to and around one's previous intimate partners*
- **Foreign Register**; *used when around foreigners, i.e., non-Khokan people*
  - **Positive Subregister**; *used when speaking to foreigners that are considered favorable by the speaker*
  - **Negative Subregister**; *used when speaking to foreigners that are considered hostile by the speaker*

`TODO` all of this

| Appendices

Within these dictionary appendices, entries are notated as *word (reduced form) : (inherent inflections) definition*. Arguments in parentheses do not appear for all entries.

Entries followed by a superscript *NI NX A FP FN* correspond to the nuptial internal, nuptial external, avoidance, foreign positive, and foreign negative registers, respectively (*see Ch. 13*).

`TODO` all of this

A | True Nouns

• *tɕɔ̀ʔi (tɕ^{ʔ}è)* : (ANIM) person, human, humanoid creature

• *kon* : (INAN, PNSTBL) place, location, area

• *keteh, tɕatih*^{FP} : (ANIM) baby, child, young person

• *sisì (s^{ʔ}ìì)* : (ANIM, PNSTBL) water, liquid, fluid; motion, movement

• *neh* : (INAN) rock, stone, solid; immobility, inactivity

• *tɕì* : (ANIM) animal, creature, beast

• *tɕasí* : (INAN) tree, plant

• *sóósa* : (INAN) container, vessel, receptacle

B | True Verbs

- *wɔ́* : (VOL, BVAL) move, walk, come/go
- *sʰɔj* : (VOL, PVAL) carry, give/take
- *niwi* : (VOL, BVAL) consume, eat, drink
- *tɕɔ́j* : (VOL, PVAL) speak, write, communicate
- *kʰajtɛ̀* : (VOL, BVAL) hear, see, directly sense; read, understand
- *hasì* : (VOL, BVAL) smell, taste, indirectly sense
- *jékɔ* : (VOL, BVAL) feel, sense; know
- *seʔmɔ́* : (VOL, PVAL) make, cause, do

• *kˀètɕˀè, jáɴ*[NI] : (ANIM) *n.* friend, spouse; expected accompaniment ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* accompany; be in a relationship

• *kʰə̀* : (ANIM) *n.* breast; fat ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* produce milk; nurture, care (for)

• *tɕóhkʰə̀* : (INAN) *n.* milk, fat ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be/have/drink milk; be fat

• *melə, kətóhi*[FP] : (INAN) *n.* bread, solid food, light/hollow food ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* make solid food, eat solid food

• *hòɴ* : (ANIM) *n.* dog, wolf, canine ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be a dog

• *lɔ́ɴlə* : (INAN) *n.* dumpling, dough; smallness, roundness; cuteness ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* have/eat/make dumpling(s), dough; be small and round; be cute

• *ləneh* : (INAN) *n.* mountain, collection of rock/stone ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* be/climb a mountain; stop, prevent

• *sóo* : (INAN) *n.* excrement, waste ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* excrete, produce waste

• *tɕii* : (INAN) *n.* sand, dust, gravel, grain; sugarcane, sugar, sweetness ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* separate, crumble; be particulate, granular; be sweet

• *ʔaná* : (INAN) *n.* injury, damage; sickness; immobility, laziness; rope ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* injure, damage; make immobile; be lazy; tie (up), bind, restrain

• *mísʰoh* : (ANIM) *n.* aversion, repulsion, disgust ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* be averse, repulsed, disgusted

• *kʰòo* : (ANIM) *n.* fingers, hand, arm ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* touch, interact (with)

• *nɔ́mɔ* : (ANIM) *n.* tooth; bite ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* bite, chew

• *tətɕìɴ* : (ANIM) *n.* eye, pair of eyes; sight ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* see, watch, look (at)

• *wí-k-n* : (ANIM) *n.* mouth, opening, orifice ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* hold in one's mouth, suck; fellate

• *tɕʰà-sˀ-h* : (INAN) *n.* that which is contained; injury ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* contain (within); incapacitate, debilitate

• *sələɴ* : (ANIM) *n.* intestines, that which is digested ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* digest, break down (naturally; dissolve)

• *wónəj* : (INAN) *n.* small amount; poverty ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* have few; be poor

• *wítɕʰə* : (INAN) *n.* weakness, laziness ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be weak, lazy

• *wo-l-hɔ̀* : (INAN) *n.* snow, ice, frost, cold water ‡ (NVOL, AVAL) *v.* snow, hail, rain coldly

• *lɔtɕˀɔ́* : (ANIM) *n.* rain ceremony ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* perform a rain ceremony

• *sɔ̀-nɔ́-(ə)j* : (ANIM) *n.* bear; fear ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be a bear; be afraid

• *wíini* : (ANIM) *n.* cat; cleverness, wit ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be a cat; be clever, witty

D | Ideophones