

???

*Tíməh*, the language of *Ləgu*

**M.M.N.H.**

*A grammar*

2017

*Dedicated to my haters*

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# 1 | Introduction

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## 1.1 | External history

The Timah language (**tʰíməh** [tʰíməh]; 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  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (*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 Khokan people (**kʰəkʰətəʔe** [kʰəkʰətəʔe] lit. many-person). They live on the Lankung Archipelago (**lónkon** [lónɡũŋ] lit. our-place)

TODO all of this

### 1.2.1 | People

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

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).

TODO expand this

### 1.2.2 | Place

The Lankung Archipelago consists of five main islands and hundreds of smaller islands surrounding the main islands. The main islands are mainly flat, with mountainous centers and forested areas.

TODO expand this

### 1.2.3 | Beliefs & practices

TODO expand this

#### 1.2.3.1 | Magic

TODO expand this

### 1.2.4 | Dialects

There are four main dialects of Timah. They are, from northmost to southmost, the *Cliff*, *Far Lake*, *Near Lake*, and *Shore* dialects. The Near Lake dialect is the prestige dialect, and is the one



described here. The Far Lake and Shore dialects are fairly similar to the Near Lake dialect; the Cliff dialect is the most divergent.

## 2 | Phonology

### 2.1 | Consonants

|                    | <i>Labial</i> | <i>Alveolar</i>                 | <i>Palatal</i>                     | <i>Velar</i>                    | <i>Glottal</i> | <i>Placeless</i> |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Nasal</i>       | m             | n                               |                                    |                                 |                | N                |
| <i>Plosive</i>     |               | t <sup>h</sup> t t <sup>ʔ</sup> | tɕ <sup>h</sup> tɕ tɕ <sup>ʔ</sup> | k <sup>h</sup> k k <sup>ʔ</sup> | ʔ              |                  |
| <i>Fricative</i>   |               | s <sup>h</sup> s s <sup>ʔ</sup> |                                    |                                 | h              |                  |
| <i>Approximant</i> | w             | l                               | j                                  |                                 |                |                  |

Figure 2.1: Consonant phonemes

- /n t<sup>h</sup> t t<sup>ʔ</sup>/ are dental; /s<sup>h</sup> s s<sup>ʔ</sup> l/ are alveolar.
- /tɕ<sup>h</sup> tɕ tɕ<sup>ʔ</sup>/ are alveolo-palatal; /j/ is palatal.
- /h/ is articulated with true frication of the glottis, i.e., it is not a voiceless glottal approximant.
- /N/ is a nasal coda archiphoneme, i.e., not an uvular nasal<sup>1</sup>.
- The aspirated obstruents /t<sup>h</sup> tɕ<sup>h</sup> k<sup>h</sup> s<sup>h</sup>/ may be accompanied by slight breathy-voice on the following vowel.
- The glottalized obstruents /t<sup>ʔ</sup> tɕ<sup>ʔ</sup> k<sup>ʔ</sup> s<sup>ʔ</sup>/ 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-initially.
- The coda archiphoneme /N/ 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 [ŋ̃m] word-finally after the back vowels /o ɔ/ and before the labio-velars [k̠p<sup>ʔ</sup> k̠p k̠p<sup>h</sup>].
- The aspirated obstruents /t<sup>h</sup> tɕ<sup>h</sup> k<sup>h</sup> s<sup>h</sup>/ are deaspirated to [t tɕ k s] intervocally and after /w j N/.
- The tenuis obstruents /t tɕ k s/ are voiced to [d dɕ g z] intervocally and after /w j N/.
- /k<sup>h</sup>/ surfaces as [x] before /a/. This does not occur after /N/.
- The velars /k<sup>ʔ</sup> k k<sup>h</sup>/ surface as labio-velars [k̠p<sup>ʔ</sup> k̠p k̠p<sup>h</sup>] before the back vowels /o ɔ/. [k̠p] is voiced to [g̠b] and [k̠p<sup>h</sup>] is deaspirated to [k̠p] intervocally and after /w j N/.

<sup>1</sup>Yes, I say /ən 'uvjəlɔ/. Deal with it.

- /n/ is palatalized to [ɲ] before [i] word-medially.
- The sibilants /s<sup>h</sup> s s<sup>ʔ</sup>/ are palatalized to [ɕ<sup>h</sup> ɕ ɕ<sup>ʔ</sup>] before [i]. [ɕ] is voiced to [ʑ] and [ɕ<sup>h</sup>] is deäspirated to [ɕ] intervocalically and after /w j ɲ/.
- /l/ surfaces as [ɾ] intervocalically and after /w j ɲ/.
- /w/ surfaces as [ʋ] before [i].

### 2.1.2 | Dialectal variations of consonants

- In some<sup>[which?]</sup> dialects, the glottalized plosives /t<sup>ʔ</sup> tɕ<sup>ʔ</sup> k<sup>ʔ</sup> s<sup>ʔ</sup>/ may surface as ejectives [t' tɕ' k' s'] or geminates [tt ttɕ kk ss-ts].
- In some<sup>[which?]</sup> dialects, the alveolo-palatals /tɕ<sup>h</sup> tɕ tɕ<sup>ʔ</sup>/ may surface as alveolar affricates [ts<sup>h</sup> ts ts<sup>ʔ</sup>], true palatals [c<sup>h</sup> c c<sup>ʔ</sup>], or as non-affricated alveolo-palatals [tʃ<sup>h</sup> tʃ tʃ<sup>ʔ</sup>].
- In some<sup>[which?]</sup> dialects, the lateral [l] has merged with either /j/ or /ɲ/.
- Depending on dialect<sup>[which ones?]</sup> and idiolect, the glottal fricative /h/ may variously surface as any of [x χ ɦ ɦ̃].
- Depending on dialect<sup>[which ones?]</sup> and idiolect, the lateral /l/ may variously surface as any of [ɾ ɽ ɭ ɮ ʎ ʐ ʑ].
- In the Shore dialect, /w/ surfaces as [ʋ<sup>β</sup>], i.e., it has lip compression instead of protrusion.

## 2.2 | Vowels

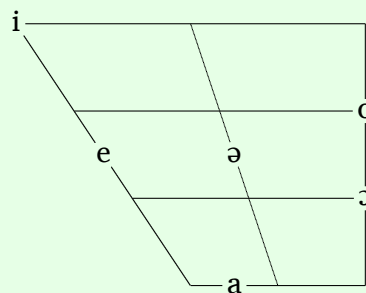


Figure 2.2: Vowel phonemes

- All vowels may occur as long or short (see § 2.7.1)
- /e/ is true mid [e]<sup>2</sup>.
- /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 [i] after the velars /k<sup>h</sup> k k<sup>ʔ</sup>/ and before coda [ŋ].
- /o ɔ/ raise to [u ɔ]<sup>2</sup> word-finally in open syllables, after the velars /k<sup>h</sup> k k<sup>ʔ</sup> w/, and before coda [ŋ].
- /a/ surfaces as [æ-ɛ] after the palatals /tɕ<sup>h</sup> tɕ tɕ<sup>ʔ</sup> j/ and before coda /j/.

### 2.2.2 | Dialectal variations of vowels

- Some<sup>[which?]</sup> dialects have merged the back vowels /o ɔ/ into true mid [ɔ].
- Some<sup>[which?]</sup> dialects have merged the front vowels /i e/ into [i-ɪ].
- In the Shore dialect, the back vowels /o ɔ/ (and their allophones) surface as [ɣ<sup>β</sup> ʌ<sup>β</sup>], i.e., they have 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 /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.

Clitics are ignored by stress placement.

### 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; within a word, 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/, represented by σ<sub>ɪ</sub>) and non-harmonizing morphemes, such as clitics.

<sup>2</sup>[ɛ ɔ] will be transcribed as [e o] for the sake of brevity.



Figure 2.4: Harmony spread

### 2.3.3 | Obstruent weakening

Initial obstruents in compound words (including verbs with incorporated nouns, *see* § 8.6.2), here represented by  $\omega_1\omega_2$ , may undergo weakening. If an obstruent is present initially in  $\omega_2$ , it undergoes one of the following mutations.

|            |            |          |
|------------|------------|----------|
| $t^?$      | $t^h$      | $t$      |
| $t\zeta^?$ | $t\zeta^h$ | $t\zeta$ |
| $k^?$      | $k^h$      | $k$      |
| $s^?$      | $s^h$      | $s$      |
| $?$        |            | $h$      |

Figure 2.5: Obstruent weakening

## 2.4 | Obstruent contraction

In non-initial sequences of  $P_1VP_2V$ , wherein  $P_*$  represents any obstruent and  $V$  represents any vowel, the sequence  $P_1VP_2$  is contracted to  $P_3$ . 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  $/t^h t\zeta^h k^h s^h h/$ ,  $P$  represents the tenuis obstruents  $/t t\zeta k \gamma^3/$ , and  $P^?$  represents the glottalized obstruents  $/t^? t\zeta^? k^? s^? \gamma^3/$ . The glottals  $/? h/$  only affect contraction when they occur as  $P_2$ .

|          |   |          |   |       |
|----------|---|----------|---|-------|
| $P^h$    |   | $P^h, P$ |   | $P^h$ |
| $P^h$    |   | $P^?$    |   | $P$   |
| $P$      | + | $P^h$    | → | $P^h$ |
| $P, P^?$ |   | $P, P^?$ |   | $P^?$ |
| $P^?$    |   | $P^h$    |   | $P$   |

Figure 2.6: Obstruent contraction

The specific place and manner of articulation of  $P_3$  is dependent on an hierarchy of the obstruents in the positions  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , i.e., obstruents lower in the hierarchy assimilate to those higher in the hierarchy.

<sup>3</sup> $/\gamma^3/$  is classed as tenuis when it is either  $P_1$  or  $P_2$ , and as both tenuis and glottalized when it is  $P_3$

$$k^* > t\phi^* > t^* > s^* > \text{?, h}$$

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 (see § 2.6.1).

## 2.5 | Degemination

Timah does not allow gemination of consonants, even across word boundaries. When a coda /ʔ h w j/ precede a word with an identical onset, the onset is elided and the coda takes its place. This occurs on the phonetic level.

s<sup>2</sup>áw wíini

/s<sup>2</sup>áw wíini/

[s<sup>2</sup>áv\_îîni]

some cats

## 2.6 | 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 mobility* and *tone association*.

### 2.6.1 | Tone mobility

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

#### 2.6.1.1 | 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.

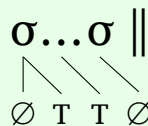


Figure 2.8: Leftward tone shift

#### 2.6.1.2 | Rightward tone movement

If the stressed syllable of a word is toneless, the nearest tone leftward of the stressed syllable moves to the stressed syllable.

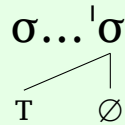


Figure 2.9: Rightward tone movement

### 2.6.2 | Tone association

Tone association is the process in which the tone of a given syllable may spread to the preceding toneless syllable under certain circumstances. This applies after tone mobility.

In these diagrams, S represents a sonorant /N w j/ and G represents a glottal /ʔ h/

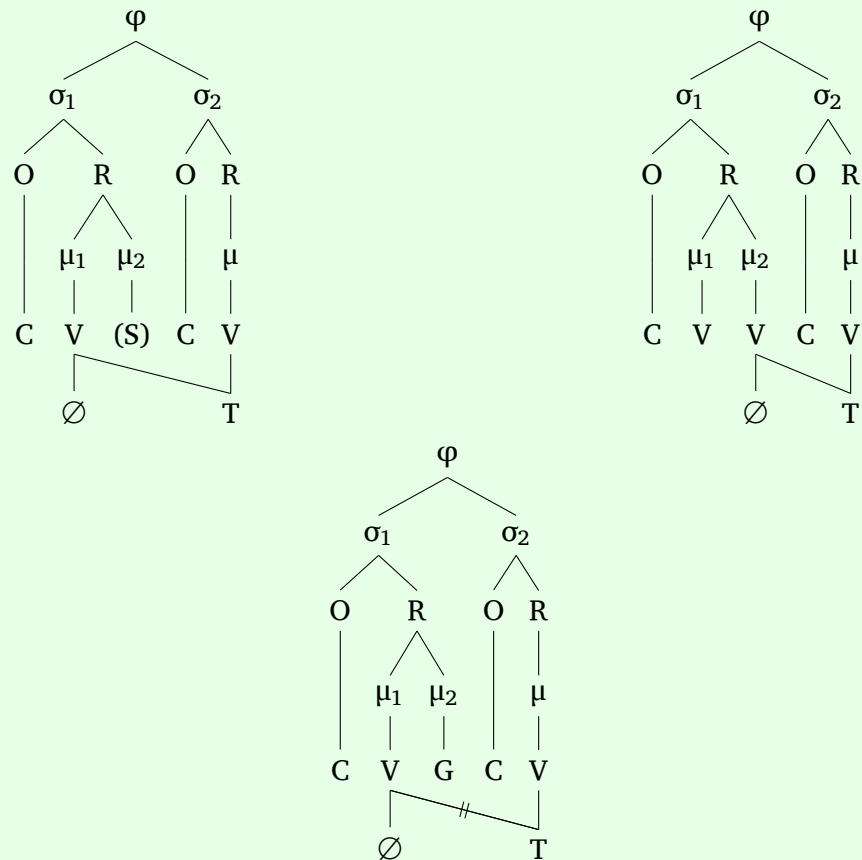


Figure 2.10: Tone association

Floating tones follow similar rules, but associate in the direction in which they moved.

## 2.7 | Phonotactics

### 2.7.1 | Syllable structure

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

$$H = \{?,h\}$$

$$S = \{N,w,j\}$$

$$T = \{ó,ò\}$$

Figure 2.11: Syllable structure

#### 2.7.1.1 | Restraints

These phonotactic restraints govern allomorphy.

- The nasal coda /N/ cannot precede a nasal /m n/.
- The glottal codae /? h/ cannot precede another glottal /? h/.
- The glottal coda /h/ cannot precede a sonorant /m n w l j/.
- The glides /w j/ cannot precede another glide /w j/.
- The glide /w/ cannot follow /o ɔ/.
- The glide /j/ cannot follow /i e/.

In roots, the following coda reductions occur if the former rules are violated. The coda is deleted and lengthens the preceding vowel (if short). It may also apply tone to the long vowel.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} ? & & \underline{\underline{ó}} \\ h & \rightarrow & \underline{\underline{ò}} \\ N\ w\ j & & \underline{\underline{ó}} \end{array}$$

Figure 2.12: Coda reduction

<sup>4</sup>Long vowel morae must be homorganic in vowel quality, but not necessarily in tone.



## 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

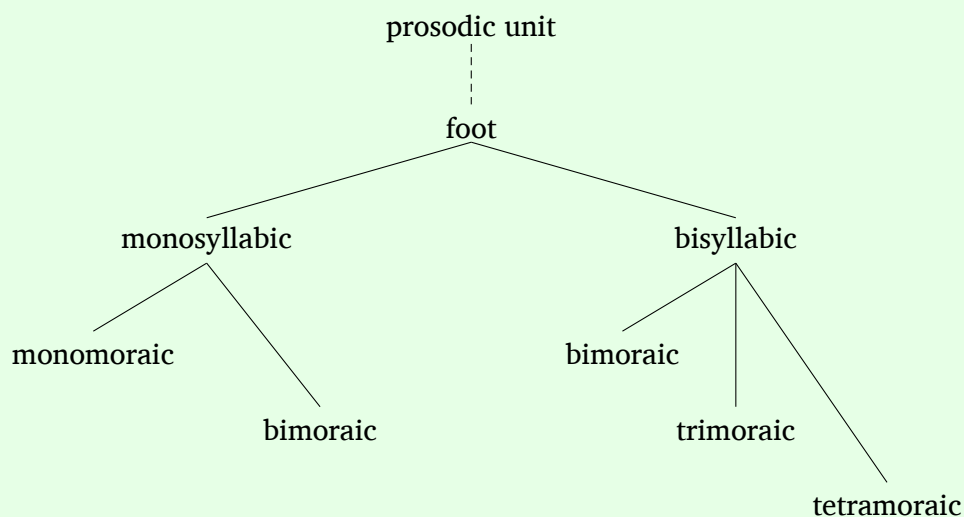


Figure 3.1: Prosodic hierarchy

### 3.3 | Intonation

TODO all of this

## 4 | Orthography

The Timah language uses the *Loma* script (**lóma** [lómà] lit. *smooth-word*), a defective abugida that was borrowed from a neighboring language *Maryu* (Timah **májlo** [bǎjɾò]). It was originally written on the large, durable leaves of the **sʔólów** ([sʔóɾów]) plant, which contributes to the script's curled aesthetic.

TODO native, script, other adaptations; tone markers

### 4.1 | Other scripts

#### 4.1.1 | Latin

|                    | <i>Labial</i> | <i>Alveolar</i> | <i>Palatal</i> | <i>Velar</i> | <i>Glottal</i>   | <i>Placeless</i> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Nasal</i>       | ⟨m⟩           | ⟨n⟩             |                |              |                  | ⟨ŋ⟩ <sup>6</sup> |
| <i>Plosive</i>     |               | ⟨th d t⟩        | ⟨ch j c⟩       | ⟨kh g k⟩     | ⟨h⟩ <sup>6</sup> |                  |
| <i>Fricative</i>   |               | ⟨sh x s⟩        |                |              | ⟨h⟩              |                  |
| <i>Approximant</i> | ⟨w⟩           | ⟨l⟩             | ⟨y⟩            |              |                  |                  |

Figure 4.1: Latin (consonants)

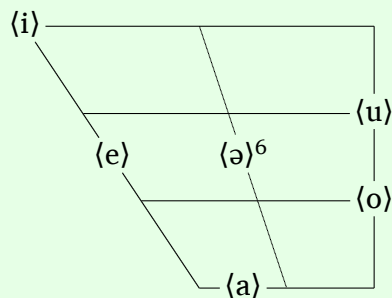


Figure 4.2: Latin (vowels)

Vowels are marked with ⟨ó⟩ for high tone, ⟨ò⟩ for low tone, and unmarked for toneless.

<sup>6</sup>/N ʔ ə/ may alternatively be romanized as ⟨n ' v⟩, respectively.

### 4.1.2 | Tibetan

|             | Labial               | Alveolar | Palatal              | Velar    | Glottal              | Placeless         |
|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Nasal       | ⟨མ⟩                  | ⟨ན⟩      |                      |          |                      | ⟨ཨྀ⟩ <sup>7</sup> |
| Plosive     |                      | ⟨ཐ ཌ ཏ⟩  | ⟨ཆ ཇ ཅ⟩              | ⟨ཀ ཁ ཁ།⟩ | ⟨འ, ལྷ⟩ <sup>7</sup> |                   |
| Fricative   |                      | ⟨ཤ ཟ ས⟩  |                      |          | ⟨ད, ཨམ⟩ <sup>7</sup> |                   |
| Approximant | ⟨ཤ, ཤྱ⟩ <sup>7</sup> | ⟨ར⟩      | ⟨ཡ, ཡྱ⟩ <sup>7</sup> |          |                      |                   |

Figure 4.3: Tibetan (consonants)

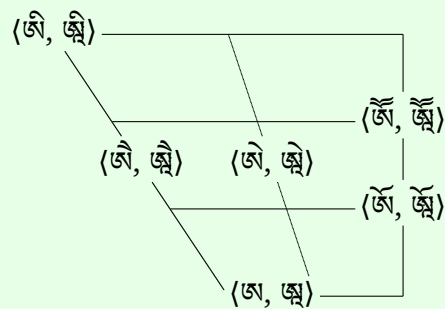


Figure 4.4: Tibetan (Vowels)<sup>7</sup>

Tone is not marked.

### 4.1.3 | Mkhedruli

|             | Labial | Alveolar | Palatal  | Velar   | Glottal | Placeless        |
|-------------|--------|----------|----------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Nasal       | ⟨ཐ⟩    | ⟨ཌ⟩      |          |         |         | ⟨ཾ⟩ <sup>6</sup> |
| Plosive     |        | ⟨ཏ ཌ ཏ⟩  | ⟨ཅ ཐ ཏྲ⟩ | ⟨ཀ ཁ ཁ⟩ | ⟨འ⟩     |                  |
| Fricative   |        | ⟨ཐ ཏ ཏ⟩  |          |         | ⟨ཅ⟩     |                  |
| Approximant | ⟨ཐ⟩    | ⟨ཌ⟩      | ⟨ཏ⟩      |         |         |                  |

Figure 4.5: Mkhedruli (consonants)

<sup>7</sup>⟨ཨྀ⟩ is a filler letter. In slots with two elements, the second element is the coda form for consonants, and the long form for vowels.

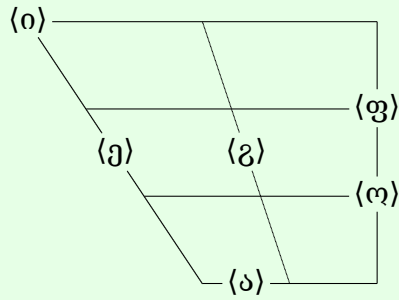


Figure 4.6: Mkhedruli (vowels)

Vowels are marked with ⟨Ჟ⟩ for high tone, ⟨Რ⟩ for low tone, and unmarked for toneless.

#### 4.1.4 | Hacm

|             | Labial | Alveolar | Palatal  | Velar    | Glottal | Placeless |
|-------------|--------|----------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| Nasal       | ⟨Ს⟩    | ⟨Ტ⟩      |          |          |         | ⟨ᲣᲤ⟩      |
| Plosive     |        | ⟨ᲥᲦ Ყ Შ⟩ | ⟨ᲩᲪ Ძ Წ⟩ | ⟨ᲭᲮ Ჯ Ჰ⟩ | ⟨Ჱ⟩     |           |
| Fricative   |        | ⟨ᲳᲴ Ჵ Ჶ⟩ |          |          | ⟨Ჸ⟩     |           |
| Approximant | ⟨Ს⟩    | ⟨Ტ⟩      | ⟨Უ⟩      |          |         |           |

Figure 4.7: Hacm (consonants)

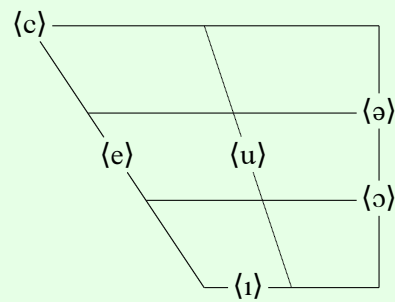


Figure 4.8: Hacm (vowels)

Vowels are marked with ⟨Ს⟩ for high tone, ⟨Ტ⟩ for low tone, and unmarked for toneless.

### 5.1 | Sentence structure & word order

Word order in Timah is primarily *subject-object-peripheral-verb* in independent clauses and clausal dependent clauses, and secondarily *verb-initial head-final* in phrasal dependent clauses (see § 5.1.1). Only the verb must be present. In copular phrases (see § 8.9), 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 argument that performs the verb. It consists of one or more noun phrase(s).

The (direct) *object* is the argument upon which the verb is directly performed. It, like the subject, consists of one or more noun phrase(s).

The *peripheral*, or indirect/oblique object, is the argument upon which the verb is indirectly performed. 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 § 8.3). A verb must agree with its subject and object (see § 8.6.1).

Dependents are placed before their head unless noted otherwise.

#### 5.1.1 | Dependent clauses

*Dependent* clauses in Timah are divided into two types, *phrasal* and *clausal* dependent clauses. They are introduced by one of three clausal conjunctions (a subset of *verbal conjunctions*, see § 11.1) or a *relative pronoun* (see § 7.2.2). They are placed before their head. All dependent clauses are deranked (see § 8.6).

*Phrasal* dependent clauses consist of both *relative* and *adverbial* clauses (i.e., they are not differentiated). They modify a word or phrase and 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 phrasal dependent clause may be either *verb-object-peripheral-subject* or *verb-subject-peripheral-object*. In the former, the subject is the head; in the latter, the object is the head. Only subjects and objects (i.e., not peripherals) may be relativized, and must take the same role in the relative clause as in the main clause.

*Clausal* dependent clauses consist of content clauses. Word order does not change, besides mandatory introduction by a clausal conjunction.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| nəj  | introduces basic dependent clause       |
| ten  | introduces clausal dependent clause     |
| motó | introduces consecutive dependent clause |

The difference between using the conjunction **nəj** as a relativizer and using a relative pronoun is that of *clausal restriction*. With unrestrictive clauses, **nəj** is used as a relativizer. With restrictive clauses, one of the relative pronouns (see § 7.2.2) is used as a relativizer.

## 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 § 8.4). In terms of alignment, these factors are binary, i.e., [*perfective*|*non-perfective*], [*monovalent*|*multivalent*], [*volitional*|*non-volitional*].

The *ergative-absolutive* alignment is used obligatorily in multivalent 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 multivalent 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 § 16.1).

|               |              |              | <i>Erg.-Abs.</i> | <i>Either</i> | <i>Act.-Stat.</i> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <i>Mono.</i>  | <i>Pfv.</i>  | <i>Vol.</i>  |                  | ×             |                   |
|               |              | <i>Nvol.</i> |                  |               | ×                 |
|               | <i>Npfv.</i> | <i>Vol.</i>  |                  |               | ×                 |
|               |              | <i>Nvol.</i> |                  |               | ×                 |
| <i>Multi.</i> | <i>Pfv.</i>  | <i>Vol.</i>  | ×                |               |                   |
|               |              | <i>Nvol.</i> | ×                |               |                   |
|               | <i>Npfv.</i> | <i>Vol.</i>  |                  | ×             |                   |
|               |              | <i>Nvol.</i> |                  | ×             |                   |

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 § 8.3) acting as the peripheral and being marked by a postposition (see § 7.4), and the recipient acting as the object.

## 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 § 8.6.3) 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 head phrase. These are glossed and referred to as clitics, but may also be considered *gruppenflexion* or phrasal affixation.

## 6 | Lexical categories & properties

---

### 6.1 | Lexical categories

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 *nominal limitives*, or true nouns, and *verbal limitives*, or true verbs (see §§ 7.1 and 8.1). These are grouped together as *limitives*, and contrast with *formatives*, which consist of content words that can act as either a noun or a verb.

### 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.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Complete</b>   | <i>item is viewed in its entirety; as sufficient, complete, whole; CMPLT</i> |
| <b>Animate</b>    | <i>living, mobile, heat, abstract; ANIM</i>                                  |
| <b>Inanimate</b>  | <i>non-living, immobile, cold, concrete; INAN</i>                            |
| <b>Incomplete</b> | <i>item is viewed partially; as deficient, incomplete, condensed; NCMLPT</i> |

Generally, these refer to the compositional integrity within the context of the situation.

### 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.

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Stable</b>    | <i>the amount is not likely to change; STBL</i>                            |
| <b>Unstable</b>  | <i>the amount is likely to change; NSTBL</i>                               |
| <b>Panstable</b> | <i>it is unknown if the amount is likely or unlikely to change; PNSTBL</i> |

Generally, these refer to the probability to change within the context of the situation.

## 7 | Nouns

### 7.1 | Nominal limitives

*Nominal limitives* consist of a set of nouns that cannot be used as verbs. See App. A for a list. Some nominal limitives are used as classifiers in tandem with a numeral (see Ch. 12) to describe a noun.

### 7.2 | Pronouns

*Pronouns* are a subset of nominal limitives that take the function of another noun or noun phrase.

#### 7.2.1 | Personal

*Personal* pronouns decline for probability, person, animacy (in 3<sup>rd</sup> person), case, and integrity.

|        |   | Agt.              | Pat.               | Erg.               | Assoc.            | Loc.              |
|--------|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Stbl.  | 1 | lə                | ləhi               | jəN                | s <sup>h</sup> aj | tɕ <sup>h</sup> ə |
|        | 2 | nó                | nɔ                 |                    | nò                | nə                |
|        | 3 | táʔ               | təhi               | tɕàN               | kéh               | té                |
|        |   |                   | han                |                    |                   |                   |
| Nstbl. | 1 | to                | tò                 |                    | t <sup>ʔ</sup> áw | jə                |
|        | 2 | nɔ́               | nɔ́                |                    | néj               | tɕɔ               |
|        | 3 | t <sup>ʔ</sup> óʔ | t <sup>ʔ</sup> óhi | tɕ <sup>h</sup> ON | kèè               | k <sup>h</sup> əw |
|        |   |                   | t <sup>h</sup> ɔN  |                    |                   |                   |

(a) Complete

|   | Agt. | Pat. | Erg. | Assoc. | Loc.              |
|---|------|------|------|--------|-------------------|
| 1 | ká   | ke   | tàʔ  | tɕà    | ləj               |
| 2 | nɔ́  | náw  |      | nəw    | no                |
| 3 | səsá | seh  |      | kín    | s <sup>ʔ</sup> əw |

(b) Incomplete

Figure 7.1: Personal pronouns

The *associative* personal pronouns may be used possessively by appending one after the object of possession (i.e., as a suffix).

- (1) hòN<sup>s</sup>aj  
 hòN -s<sup>h</sup>aj  
 dog -1.STBL.ASSOC  
 my dog



The *animate-inanimate* distinction in 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns can also be used as a *proximate-obviate* distinction.

TODO expand; example sentences

### 7.2.2 | Relative/interrogative

*Relative/interrogative* pronouns decline for integrity, probability, and domain. They are used to introduce relative clauses (see § 5.1.1) and to mark the specific characteristics of a question (see § 8.6.6).

|                   |              | <i>Personal</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Proportion</i> | <i>Manner</i> | <i>Reason</i> |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Complete</i>   | <i>Anim.</i> | ʔəsè            | kʰɔ̃naj         | silɔ              | sáj           | sʰèh          |
|                   | <i>Inan.</i> | tansà           |                 |                   |               |               |
| <i>Incomplete</i> |              | ʔehi            | kéhe            | saʔíí             | səmɔ́ɔ        | sʰɔ̃jna       |

Figure 7.2: Relative/interrogative pronouns

### 7.2.3 | Demonstrative

*Demonstrative* pronouns decline for number, proximality, laterality, and deictic position. They express spatial and temporal position relative to the speaker (see § 16.2.1). 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.

|                     |              | <i>Anterior</i> |               | <i>Posterior</i> |                       |                  |                 |                  |                   |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                     |              | <i>Sinister</i> | <i>Dexter</i> |                  |                       |                  | <i>Anterior</i> | <i>Posterior</i> | <i>Indefinite</i> |
| <i>Stbl.</i>        | <i>Prox.</i> | tàá             | kò            | mɔN              | <i>Prox.</i>          | s <sup>h</sup> à | kɔ?             | nəj              |                   |
|                     | <i>Med.</i>  | sáwhe           | kàme?         | jéhə             |                       | <i>Med.</i>      | tòhe            | ʔankí            | móle              |
|                     | <i>Dist.</i> | kʔitò           |               |                  |                       |                  | <i>Dist.</i>    | sawa             |                   |
| <i>Nstbl.</i>       | <i>Prox.</i> | tɕaà            | ʔakə          | wón              | <i>(b) Incomplete</i> |                  |                 |                  |                   |
|                     | <i>Med.</i>  | ʔitɕʔa          | kèho          | míí              |                       |                  |                 |                  |                   |
|                     | <i>Dist.</i> | tekí            |               |                  |                       |                  |                 |                  |                   |
| <i>(a) Complete</i> |              |                 |               |                  |                       |                  |                 |                  |                   |

(a) *Complete*

|              |              | <i>Complete</i> | <i>Incomplete</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Prop.</i> | <i>Prox.</i> | jé              | likòN             |
|              | <i>Dist.</i> | jín             |                   |
| <i>Man.</i>  | <i>Prox.</i> | wój             | misɔ̃N            |
|              | <i>Dist.</i> | kèN             |                   |

(c) *Proportion & manner*

Figure 7.3: Demonstrative pronouns



### 7.3.2 | Cases

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Agentive</b>    | <i>In active-stative clauses (see § 5.2), this marks the subject of a multivalent verb (see § 8.3) or the subject of a volitional monovalent verb. In ergative-absolutive clauses, this marks the object of a multivalent verb or the subject of a monovalent verb; AGT</i> |
| <b>Patientive</b>  | <i>In active-stative clauses, this marks the object of a multivalent verb or the subject of a non-volitional monovalent verb; PAT</i>   |
| <b>Ergative</b>    | <i>In ergative-absolutive clauses, this marks the subject of a multivalent verb. This can also be used as an inalienable genitive; ERG</i>  |
| <b>Associative</b> | <i>This marks genitive and genitive-like relations, which can be further clarified using postpositions; ASSOC</i>   |
| <b>Locative</b>    | <i>This marks physical and/or temporal location and movement that can be further clarified using postpositions; LOC</i>   |

|               | Complete | Incomplete |               | Complete   | Incomplete        |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| <i>Agt.</i>   | -Ø       | -N-(ó)     | <i>Agt.</i>   | -Ø         | -té               |
| <i>Pat.</i>   | -h       | -h-(ó)     | <i>Pat.</i>   | -si        | -sén              |
| <i>Erg.</i>   | -ʔ       | -ho        | <i>Erg.</i>   | -kʔi       | -k <sup>h</sup> o |
| <i>Assoc.</i> | -wɔ      |            | <i>Assoc.</i> | -kɔ        |                   |
| <i>Loc.</i>   | -tɕó     | -je        | <i>Loc.</i>   | -tɕó       | -se               |
|               | (a) Open |            |               | (b) Closed |                   |

Figure 7.6: 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 meaning) and the locative takes on the meaning of a general locative or temporal (i.e., marking place or time).

### 7.3.3 | Article enclitics

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

*Referential* describes a specific instance of the class comprised of the given entity, while *non-referential* describes any instance of the class comprised of the given entity.

|                | <i>Referential</i> |                    | <i>Non-referential</i> |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
|                | <i>Visible</i>     | <i>Non-visible</i> | <i>Visible</i>         | <i>Non-visible</i> |
| <i>Stbl.</i>   | =mɔɔ               | =han               | =∅                     | =tʰéʔ              |
| <i>Nstbl.</i>  |                    | =mé                |                        | =tɕáá              |
| <i>Pnstbl.</i> |                    | =já                |                        | =kʰɔɔ              |

Figure 7.7: Article enclitics

## 7.4 | Postpositions

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

### Associative Postpositions

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| lí    | <i>accompaniment/use; basic theme of trivalent verb</i>                        |
| kʰe   | <i>lack of accompaniment/use; negatory theme of trivalent verb</i>             |
| kʰɔno | <i>intent of benefit/purpose; beneficial/purposive theme of trivalent verb</i> |
| sì    | <i>intent of reference/relation</i>  |
| tɕé   | <i>state of being</i>  |
| kʰò   | <i>change of state</i>   |
| kéh   | <i>similarity/comparison</i>   |
| tʰɔka | <i>causation</i>   |

**Locative Postpositions**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| tí                 | <i>movement toward</i>                          |
| s <sup>h</sup> ì   | <i>movement away from</i>                       |
| mí                 | <i>movement onto</i>                            |
| tɕɔɔ               | <i>movement under</i>                           |
| t <sup>h</sup> isé | <i>movement into</i>                            |
| siiʔi              | <i>movement out of</i>                          |
| tɕoli              | <i>beginning of movement/time</i>               |
| ʔaŋ                | <i>end of movement/time</i>                     |
| kaŋʔɔ              | <i>movement through, by way of, adjacent to</i> |
| soʔa               | <i>in front of/below/before</i>                 |
| sàkə               | <i>behind/above/after</i>                       |
| seeʔá              | <i>between, amidst, within</i>                  |
| sə <sup>h</sup> e  | <i>surrounding, around, encompassing</i>        |

**7.5 | Noun reduplication & quantification**

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.

- (3) tɕɔʔi  
tɕɔʔi  
person  
a person
- (4) tɕɔʔitɕɔʔi  
tɕɔʔi ~tɕɔʔi  
person ~person  
people

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

- (5) hòŋ  
hòŋ  
dog  
a dog
- (6) hòŋhòŋ  
hòŋ ~hòŋ  
dog ~dog

a pack of dogs

Plural reduplication can be used in conjunction with integrity in order to quantify the arguments of a verb. Marking an argument as both plural and complete indicates that all participants performed the action together. Marking an argument as both plural and incomplete indicates that each of the participants performed the action separately.

(7) *ketehketeh tálajkála*

Ø- keteh -keteh -Ø tá= laj- kála  
 CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- child -child -AGT.CMPLT 3.STBL.CMPLT.ANIM.AGT= PFV.REAL- fish  
 -Ø  
 -AV

the children all went fishing (collectively)

(8) *wíketehketehté sálajkála*

wí- keteh -keteh -té sá= laj- kála -Ø  
 NCMPLT- child -child -AGT.NCMPLT 3.NCMPLT.AGT= PFV.REAL- fish -AV

the children each went fishing (individually)

### 8.1 | Verbal limitives

*Verbal limitives* consist of a set of content words that cannot be used as nouns. See App. B for a list. Some verbal limitives can be used in tandem with other verbs to form a *serial verb construction* (see § 8.8).

### 8.2 | Verbal negation

Verbs are negated by appending a negatory particle (see § 11.3) before the negated verb. The verb must be in an irrealis mood (see § 8.6.7). As negatory (and affirmatory) particles inherently indicate evidentiality, evidential modality (see § 8.6.8) is dropped.

(9) *ləlajkála*

lə=            laj-            kála -Ø  
1.STBL.AGT= PFV.REAL- fish -AV

I went fishing

(10) *kój ləhajkála*

kój            lə=            haj-            kála -Ø  
NEG.BAS 1.STBL.AGT= PFV.IRR- fish -AV

I did not go fishing

### 8.3 | Valency classes

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

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Avalent</b>    | <i>zero arguments; AVAL</i>                    |
| <b>Monovalent</b> | <i>zero or one arguments; MVAL</i>             |
| <b>Ambivalent</b> | <i>one or two arguments; BVAL</i>              |
| <b>Subvalent</b>  | <i>one or two arguments, see § 8.3.1; SVAL</i> |
| <b>Polyvalent</b> | <i>two or more arguments; PVAL</i>             |

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 ambivalent and polyvalent verbs that take two or more arguments are grouped as *multivalent*. These terms (*divalent*, *trivalent*, *multivalent*) are used only in analysis and metagrouping.

Copulae (see § 8.9) are considered monovalent.

### 8.3.1 | Subvalency & salience

Some verbs are classed as *subvalent*. Although these verbs may take up to two arguments, the argument that would prototypically be the object is demoted to the peripheral argument, called the *subvalent peripheral*. This demotion is motivated by the property of *salience*, or how much the object is affected by the subject. Verbs with less salient objects tend to be subvalent.

The subvalent peripheral is put in the locative case (see § 7.3.2) and takes the postposition *tí* (see § 7.4). When negated, the postposition *s<sup>h</sup>i* is used instead. There is no verbal agreement for the subvalent peripheral.

Colloquially, the subvalent peripheral may be treated as the object (i.e., as if the verb *were not* subvalent) to express that it *was* strongly affected. Inversely, the object of an ambivalent verb may be treated as the subvalent peripheral (i.e., as if the verb *were* subvalent) to express that it *was not* strongly affected.

(11) \**tɕə̀ʔihmɔ́ lətéhk<sup>h</sup>ajtè*

\*Ø-                      tɕə̀ʔi    -h                      =mɔ́                      lə=                      téh=  
 \*CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- person -CMPLT.PAT =REF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=  
 Ø-                      k<sup>h</sup>ajtè -Ø  
 NPFV.REAL- see    -AV  
\*I see the person (colloq. and the person was affected)

(12) *tɕə̀ʔitɕó tí mɔ́ lək<sup>h</sup>ajtè*

Ø-                      tɕə̀ʔi    -tɕó                      tí                      =mɔ́                      lə=                      Ø-  
 CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- person -CMPLT.LOC toward =REF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= NPFV.REAL-  
 k<sup>h</sup>ajtè -Ø  
 see    -AV  
I see (toward) the person

## 8.4 | 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).

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Volitional</b>     | denotes an action that is intentionally performed; VOL    |
| <b>Non-volitional</b> | denotes an action that is unintentionally performed; NVOL |

## 8.5 | 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<sub>i</sub>~| indicates full reduplication of the initial syllable, and |-R<sub>f</sub>| indicates full reduplication of the final syllable.



## 8.6 | Conjugations

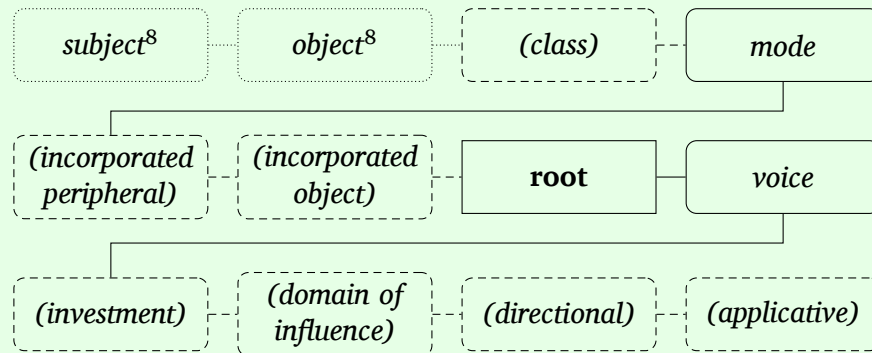


Figure 8.1: Conjugation slots

In dependent clauses, verbs are *deranked*—they take a more limited inflection template.

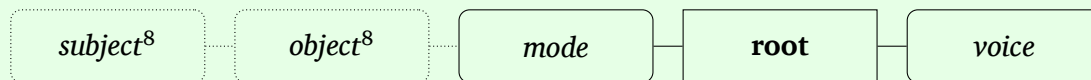


Figure 8.2: Deranked conjugation slots

Copulae also take more limited inflection.

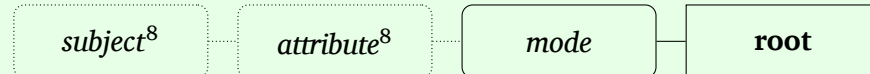


Figure 8.3: Copular conjugation slots

### 8.6.1 | 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.

<sup>8</sup>Subject and object/attribute slots are optional when the corresponding argument is not present.

|               |   | <i>Agt.</i> | <i>Pat.</i> | <i>Erg.</i> |   | <i>Agt.</i> | <i>Pat.</i> | <i>Erg.</i> |
|---------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Stbl.</i>  | 1 | lə=         | le(h)=      | jó(N)=      |   |             |             |             |
|               | 2 | nó=         | nɔ=         | nò=         |   |             |             |             |
|               | 3 | Anim.       | tə=         | té(h)=      |   |             |             |             |
|               |   | Inan.       | ha(N)=      | tɕà(N)=     | 1 | ká=         | tà(ʔ)=      | tà(ʔ)=      |
| <i>Nstbl.</i> | 1 |             | to=         | tò=         |   |             |             |             |
|               | 2 |             | nɔ=(ó)      | nó=(ò)      | 2 | nó=(ó)      | nəw=, no=   | no=         |
|               | 3 | Anim.       | tʔó=        | tʔó(h)=     | 3 | sá=         | se(h)=      | kí(N)=      |
|               |   | Inan.       | tʰɔ(N)=     | tɕʰo(N)=    |   |             |             |             |

(a) Complete

(b) Incomplete

Figure 8.4: Pronominal proclitics

### 8.6.2 | Noun incorporation

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 an object 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.

Likewise, incorporated peripheral nouns are never in focus, but do not necessarily generalize the phrase. Incorporation of peripheral nouns, especially instruments, is common.

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

### 8.6.3 | Voice

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

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| -∅    | <b>Actor voice</b> ; the subject is the agent, the object is the patient; AV                        |
| -tá   | <b>Undergoer voice</b> ; the subject is the patient, the object is the agent; UV                    |
| -mótè | <b>Correlative voice</b> ; the agent/patient distinction of the subject (and object) is reduced; CV |

The *correlative* voice is often used for reflexive constructs, but can also be used for reciprocal constructs.

#### (13) ləmólámótè

lə= mólá -mótè

1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= wash -CV

I wash myself

(14) *lələmólámótè*

lə=                      lə=                      mólá -mótè  
 1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= 1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= wash -CV  
we wash ourselves

(15) *kákámólámótè*

ká=                      ká=                      mólá -mótè  
 1.AGT.NCMPLT= 1.AGT.NCMPLT= wash -CV  
we wash each other

## 8.6.4 | Investment

The property of *investment* indicates that the subject has or does not have some sort of interest or stake pertaining to the action, e.g., give (uninvested) vs. loan (invested).

|      |  |                      |
|------|--|----------------------|
| -Ø   |  | <i>uninvested</i>    |
| -tçà |  | <i>invested; INV</i> |

## 8.6.5 | 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.

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| ó-N, -ná? |  | <i>inside the domain of influence; ∈DOI</i>  |
| -lǝ       |  | <i>outside the domain of influence; ∉DOI</i> |

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 the success or failure of the verb.

(16) *hònmóó jéntélaj?anáǝ*

Ø-                      hòN -Ø                      =móó                      jén=                      tá=  
 CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.AGT =REF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.ERG= 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT=  
 laj-                      ?aná -Ø -lǝ  
 PFV.REAL- hit -AV -∉DOI  
I (tried to) hit the dog (and failed)

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).

(17) **hònsi lətéhɔ́nɔ́n**

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

(18) **hònsi lətéhɔ́nɔ́lɔ́**

Ø-                      hòN -si                      =Ø                      lə=                      té=  
 CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.PAT =NREF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=  
 hɔ́nɔ́ -Ø -lɔ́  
 want -AV -∉DOI  
I want a dog (and believe this to be unattainable)

**8.6.6 | 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             | <b>Imperative</b> ; <i>commands, wishes, desires</i> ; IMP          |
| s <sup>h</sup> a | <b>Interrogative</b> ; <i>questions, requests</i> ; INT             |
| təj              | <b>Polar</b> ; <i>yes/no questions; tag questions</i> ; POL         |
| kì               | <b>Precative</b> ; <i>polite requests and commands</i> ; PREC       |
| tʔɔ́N            | <b>Suggestive</b> ; <i>suggestions, admonitions, warnings</i> ; SUG |

The *interrogative* marker s<sup>h</sup>a may be used in tandem with an interrogative pronoun (see § 7.2.2).

**8.6.7 | Mode**

*Mode* (consisting of both *mood* and *aspect*) are obligatorily marked on a verb using prefixes. All moods (expressive, basic, and evidential) are collectively called *modals*.

|                     | <i>Imperfective</i> | <i>Habitual</i> | <i>Perfective</i>                          | <i>Experiential</i>   | <i>Iterative</i>                          |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Realis</i>       | Ø-                  | kʔa(?)          | laj-, le-                                  | jíhi-                 | R <sub>i</sub> -kʔa(?)                    |
| <i>Affirmative</i>  | -R <sub>f</sub>     | kʔa(?)          | laj-√-R <sub>f</sub> , le-√-R <sub>f</sub> | jíhi-√-R <sub>f</sub> | R <sub>i</sub> -kʔa(?)                    |
| <i>Irrealis</i>     | tɔ(?)               | tew-, tə-       | haj-, he-                                  | já-                   | R <sub>i</sub> -tew-, R <sub>i</sub> -tə- |
| <i>Conditional</i>  | ʔo-                 |                 | né(h)-                                     |                       |   |
| <i>Hypothetical</i> | tàj-, tè-           |                 |  | k <sup>h</sup> à-     | R <sub>i</sub> -tāj-, R <sub>i</sub> -tè- |

Figure 8.5: Mode

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

### Mood

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Realis</b>       | <i>event is known to be real</i> ; REAL               |
| <b>Affirmative</b>  | <i>event is emphasized as being real</i> ; AFF        |
| <b>Irrealis</b>     | <i>event is unknown or unreal</i> ; IRR               |
| <b>Conditional</b>  | <i>event is dependent upon other events</i> ; COND    |
| <b>Hypothetical</b> | <i>event is unknown or unreal, but possible</i> ; HYP |

### Aspect

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Imperfective</b> | <i>event is incomplete</i> ; NPFV                         |
| <b>Habitual</b>     | <i>event is repeated across multiple timeframes</i> ; HAB |
| <b>Perfective</b>   | <i>event is complete</i> ; PFV                            |
| <b>Experiential</b> | <i>event is experienced</i> ; EXP                         |
| <b>Iterative</b>    | <i>event is repeated within the same timeframe</i> ; ITER |

#### 8.6.7.1 | Conditionals

*Conditionals* are formed by using a statement in the conditional mood (the *consequence*) in tandem with a statement in another mood (the *condition*). The statements are always separated by a conjunction (see § 8.6), and may be in either order depending on topic and focus (see § 16.1).

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Implicative</b>    | REAL + <b>ten</b> ; <i>basic factual conditional</i>            |
| <b>Emphatic</b>       | AFF + <b>ten</b> ; <i>the consequence is emphasized</i>         |
| <b>Counterfactual</b> | IRR + <b>motó</b> ; <i>the condition is considered unlikely</i> |
| <b>Predictive</b>     | HYP + <b>motó</b> ; <i>the condition is considered likely</i>   |

#### 8.6.8 | 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

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| k <sup>h</sup> ek <sup>h</sup> ì | <b>Witness</b> ; <i>knows of event directly</i> ; WIT  |
| śsɔ̀N                           | <b>Evidential</b> ; <i>knows of event via evidence</i> ; EVID                                      |
| tɔ̀Nke                           | <b>Anecdotal</b> ; <i>knows of event via prior experience(s)</i> ; ANEC                            |
| móhɔ̀                            | <b>Reportative</b> ; <i>knows of event indirectly</i> ; REP  |
| ʔaj                              | <b>Quotative</b> ; <i>marks quoted speech, dialogue; can be used with other evidentials</i> ; QUOT |

### 8.6.9 | Directional specifiers & applicatives

The *venitive* and *andative* suffixes, collectively called *directional specifiers*, are commonly used with verbs of movement, such as **wó** move, walk, **s<sup>h</sup>ɔ̀j** carry, give/take, and others. These are placed directly after the verb root.

TODO example sentences

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| -tí               | <b>Venitive</b> ; <i>motion toward, with</i> ; VEN       |
| -s <sup>h</sup> ì | <b>Andative</b> ; <i>motion away from, against</i> ; AND |

*Applicatives* are valency-increasing operations that switch the syntactic position of the peripheral with that of the object. They are formed by appending an applicative suffix after the verb, which can be used in tandem with a directional specifier in order to express direction or efficiency. These are placed directly after the verb root and, if present, after the directional specifier.

TODO example sentences

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| -lí                | <b>Relational</b> ; <i>accompaniment</i> ; REL  |
| -k <sup>h</sup> òN | <b>Beneficial</b> ; <i>intent of benefit/purpose or reference/relation</i> ; BEN      |
| -tʔɔ̀ʔ             | <b>Causal</b> ; <i>causation, final causation</i> ; CAUS                              |
| -kéh               | <b>Complemental</b> ; <i>similarity/comparison, state of being</i> ; COMP             |
| -tɕò               | <b>Locational</b> ; <i>relative physical or temporal location and movement</i> ; LOCL |
| -sòʔ               | <b>Positional</b> ; <i>absolute physical or temporal location and movement</i> ; POSL |

The applicatives **-lí** and **-k<sup>h</sup>òN** may be used to invert the secundative construction (see § 5.1), making it indirective. This allows the theme to be relativized (see § 5.1.1).

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

## 8.7 | Verbal classifiers

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

TODO example sentences

|                 | <i>Complete</i> |                  | <i>Incomplete</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                 | <i>Animate</i>  | <i>Inanimate</i> |                   |
| <i>Standing</i> | ʔi-             | tàj-, tè         | sahi-             |
| <i>Sitting</i>  | maa-            |                  | mií-              |
| <i>Lying</i>    | tɕè-            | tí(N)-           |                   |
| <i>Generic</i>  | kʔəj-, kʔí-     |                  | ʔɔj-, ʔə-         |

Figure 8.6: Verbal classifiers

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Standing</b> | <i>entity is taller than it is wide; STA</i> |
| <b>Sitting</b>  | <i>entity is as tall as it is wide; SIT</i>  |
| <b>Lying</b>    | <i>entity is wider than it is tall; LNG</i>  |
| <b>Generic</b>  | <i>unspecified category; GEN</i>             |

## 8.8 | 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

### 8.8.1 | Perceptive

*Perceptive* SVCs are always discontinuous, and express sensory interaction.

### 8.8.2 | Directive

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

### 8.8.3 | Capacitive

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

## 8.9 | Copulae

Timah *copulae* are a subset of verbal limitives that are used to connect arguments.

Copulae only inflect for person and mode (see §§ 8.6.1 and 8.6.7). The constituent arguments within a copular phrase (i.e., the subject and attribute) both take the (unmarked) agentive case (the attribute agrees as 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 multivalent verbs (i.e., the attribute is treated as the object in terms of agreement).

Copulae are divided into three classes: *essential* (ESSNT), *existential* (EXIST), and *referential* (REF). These are further divided into the subclasses *assertive* (ASSRT), *negative* (NEG), and *revelatory* (REV).

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 §§ 8.6.6 to 8.6.8).

|                   | <i>Essential</i> | <i>Existential</i> | <i>Referential</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Assertive</i>  | kew              | nén                | t <sup>h</sup> àh  |
| <i>Negatory</i>   | kələ             | néjé               | t <sup>h</sup> àné |
| <i>Revelatory</i> | ʔowó             |                    | təjə               |

Figure 8.7: Copulae



## 9 | Descriptives

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

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| tɕʰàné | <i>good, positive; full</i>      |
| sìnkà  | <i>bad, negative; empty</i>      |
| semɔʔ  | <i>fast; loud; hard, rough</i>   |
| lɔ     | <i>slow; quiet; soft, smooth</i> |
| kʰɔkʰɔ | <i>big, strong; many</i>         |
| tɕʰi   | <i>small, weak; few</i>          |
| sɔN    | <i>short, wide; feminine</i>     |
| ʔiN    | <i>long, narrow; masculine</i>   |
| tɕósʰa | <i>white, light; fresh, new</i>  |
| káj    | <i>warm (color); hot, dry</i>    |
| sòtɕe  | <i>cool (color); cold, wet</i>   |
| tʰawsá | <i>black, dark; stale, old</i>   |

Order of descriptives is as listed from top to bottom, i.e., *quality-agility-magnitude-length-color*.

### 9.1 | Dyadic color terms

In addition to the four main color terms, there exists a set of terms that describe the transition from one color to another, called *dyadic color terms*.

|   |              | A            |             |             |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|   |              | <i>white</i> | <i>warm</i> | <i>cool</i> | <i>black</i> |
| Ω | <i>white</i> | ×            | kétɕóh      | sòtɕʰáh     | sʰátɕʰá      |
|   | <i>warm</i>  | tɕókʰáj      | ×           | sòkʰáj      | sóké         |
|   | <i>cool</i>  | tɕósà        | kétɕʰə      | ×           | tʰósòh       |
|   | <i>black</i> | tɕótʰɔ       | kétɕá       | sòtɕʰéw     | ×            |

Figure 9.1: Dyadic color terms

## 9.2 | 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*.

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| s <sup>h</sup> i | positive comparison |
| míh              | equative comparison |
| tí               | negative comparison |

(19) ketehmów tɕəŋitɕó s<sup>h</sup>imów tákew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a

Ø- keteh -Ø =mów Ø- tɕəŋi  
 ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- person  
 -tɕó s<sup>h</sup>i =mów tá= kew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a  
 -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 placing the quantifier *sée* all, every (see § 11.4) before the recipient, or using it in place of the recipient. Excessive constructions are formed by omitting the recipient entirely.

(20) ketehmów sée (tɕəŋitɕó) s<sup>h</sup>i(mów) tákew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a

Ø- keteh -Ø =mów sée (Ø- tɕəŋi  
 ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG all (ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- person  
 -tɕó) s<sup>h</sup>i =(mów) tá= kew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a  
 -LOC.CMPLT) ABL =(REF.VIS.SG) 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT= COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new  
the child is the youngest of all (men)

(21) ketehmów s<sup>h</sup>i tákew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a

Ø- keteh -Ø =mów s<sup>h</sup>i tá=  
 ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG ABL 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT=  
 kew tɕós<sup>h</sup>a  
 COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new  
the child is very/too young

## 10 | Word formation

Word formation in Timah is achieved through the processes of *derivation* and *compounding*.

### 10.1 | 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, as well as specific processes that utilize sound symbolism.

| Prefixes   |                                 | Suffixes |  |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| tàj-, tèt- | <i>opposite, reverse</i>        | -tɕʔə    | <i>attempt, try</i>                    |
| tɕʰà(?)    | <i>person, profession</i>       | -tàj     | <i>product, result</i>                 |
| lə(h)-(ó)  | <i>place; time</i>              | (ó)-litɔ | <i>container, captivity, portation</i> |
| kósó-      | <i>homorganic group/mass</i>    | -kʔəʔe   | <i>tool, instrument</i>                |
| kʰe-       | <i>heterorganic group/mass</i>  | (ə)-sʔoo | <i>abstraction, mass</i>               |
| tɕá(N)-(ə) | <i>prevent, stop, interrupt</i> | -tɕì     | <i>animals, inedible plants</i>        |
| sáj-, sé-  | <i>pretend, mimic, falsify</i>  | -mitàn   | <i>edible plants, food</i>             |
| sóo-       | <i>cause, source</i>            | -kosée   | <i>pejorative, derogatory</i>          |
| ʔikə-      | <i>expected accompaniment</i>   | -tɕì     | <i>previous, former</i>                |
|            |                                 | (ó)-nə   | <i>eventual, later</i>                 |

#### 10.1.1 | Sound symbolism

*Sound symbolism* can also be used as a means of derivation, using processes of alteration.

*Magnitude* is associated with the process of *strength alteration*, wherein certain consonants are classed as either *strong* or *weak*. Strong forms are associated with greater magnitude, while weak forms are associated with lesser magnitude.

| Strong |   | Weak |
|--------|---|------|
| t*     | ↔ | s*   |
| tɕ*    | → |      |
| k*     | ↔ | tɕ*  |
| ʔ      | ↔ | h    |

Figure 10.2: Magnitude

*Movement* is associated with the process of *nasal alteration*, wherein certain consonants are classed as either *oral* or *nasal*. Oral forms are associated with slower movement, while nasal forms are associated with faster movement.

| <i>Oral</i>         |   | <i>Nasal</i>    |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| w                   | ↔ | m               |
| l                   | ↔ | n               |
| j                   | → |                 |
| -w, -j <sup>9</sup> | → | -N <sup>9</sup> |
| oo                  | ← |                 |

Figure 10.3: *Movement*

## 10.2 | Compounding

*Compounding* in Timah is divided into *coördinating* and *subordinating* compounding.

### 10.2.1 | Coördinating

In coördinating compounds, the elements are equal and may be in any order. These are formed by appending one word onto another.

TODO example

### 10.2.2 | Subordinating

In subordinating compounds, elements are order-dependent; each element is a subset of the following element. These are formed by appending the reduced form (if one exists) of a word before the word by which it is subordinated.

TODO example

---

<sup>9</sup>These are the coda phonemes /w j N/.

## 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   | <i>presents non-contrast</i> |
| ?ika | <i>presents contrast</i>     |
| teh  | <i>presents alternative</i>  |

#### Verbal

|      |  |
|------|--|
| nəj  | <i>presents non-contrast; introduces basic (dependent) clause</i>          |
| ten  | <i>presents rationale, causality; introduces causal (dependent) clause</i> |
| motó | <i>presents consequence; introduces consecutive (dependent) clause</i>     |
| ?ihi | <i>presents contrast</i>   |
| kàh  | <i>presents alternative</i>  |

### 11.2 | Satellite conjunctions

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

|      |  |
|------|--|
| ní   | <i>indicates weak affirmation of the statement</i>                               |
| ?ika | <i>inquires weak affirmation of the listener's experience</i>                    |
| teh  | <i>indicates surprise, doubt, or interest toward the statement</i>               |
| nəj  | <i>indicates strong affirmation and/or discourse-completion of the statement</i> |
| ten  | <i>indicates agreement with the listener</i>                                     |
| motó | <i>inquires strong affirmation of the listener's experience</i>                  |
| ?ihi | <i>inquires contrast of the listener's experience to the speaker's statement</i> |
| kàh  | <i>requests more information from the listener</i>                               |

### 11.3 | Affirmatory & negatory

*Affirmatory* and *negatory* particles in Timah are used to affirm and negate statements, e.g., when answering a polar question. Various levels of evidentiality are expressed in them.

#### Affirmatory

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| sén                | <b>Affirmatory-basic</b> ; <i>affirms with no regard to evidence</i> ; AFF.BAS   |
| s <sup>h</sup> è   | <b>Affirmatory-witness</b> ; <i>affirms via visual evidence</i> ; AFF.WIT        |
| s <sup>h</sup> ò   | <b>Affirmatory-sensory</b> ; <i>affirms via non-visual evidence</i> ; AFF.SNS    |
| s <sup>ʔ</sup> ó   | <b>Affirmatory-evidential</b> ; <i>affirms via direct evidence</i> ; AFF.EVID    |
| tɕ <sup>ʔ</sup> én | <b>Affirmatory-anecdotal</b> ; <i>affirms via prior experience(s)</i> ; AFF.ANEC |
| jón                | <b>Affirmatory-reportative</b> ; <i>affirms via indirect evidence</i> ; AFF.REP  |

#### Negatory

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| kój               | <b>Negatory-basic</b> ; <i>negates with no regard to evidence</i> ; NEG.BAS                    |
| k <sup>h</sup> àj | <b>Negatory-sensory</b> ; <i>negates via sensory/direct evidence</i> ; NEG.SNS                 |
| sój               | <b>Negatory-inferential</b> ; <i>negates via direct evidence/prior experience(s)</i> ; NEG.INF |
| wáj               | <b>Negatory-reportative</b> ; <i>negates via indirect evidence</i> ; NEG.REP                   |

### 11.4 | Quantifiers

*Quantifiers* are particles that indicate or delimit the amount of that which they modify.

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| kii                 | <i>none, no</i>              |
| sée                 | <i>all, every</i>            |
| s <sup>ʔ</sup> áw   | <i>some, few</i>             |
| not <sup>ʔ</sup> e  | <i>many, most</i>            |
| hak <sup>h</sup> ín | <i>countable, finite</i>     |
| səntóʔ              | <i>uncountable, infinite</i> |

## 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. There is no overt difference between cardinal and ordinal numbers. All numerals may be used as descriptives or as formatives.

|    |                     |    |                     |    |                    |    |                     |    |                     |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 0  | ʔi                  | 12 | tɕíha               | 24 | sín                | 36 | sekó                | 48 | t <sup>h</sup> àse  |
| 1  | t <sup>h</sup> è    | 13 | tɕ <sup>ʔ</sup> əə  | 25 | kon                | 37 | hino                | 49 | s <sup>h</sup> ii   |
| 2  | nin                 | 14 | nəʔah               | 26 | ʔəəha              | 38 | s <sup>h</sup> əə   | 50 | s <sup>ʔ</sup> óo   |
| 3  | kɔ                  | 15 | s <sup>h</sup> a    | 27 | t <sup>h</sup> aà  | 39 | tè                  | 51 | k <sup>h</sup> əj   |
| 4  | k <sup>h</sup> ì    | 16 | s <sup>h</sup> ɔh   | 28 | tòo                | 40 | k <sup>ʔ</sup> ɔʔ   | 52 | lóʔeN               |
| 5  | tɕ <sup>h</sup> ajá | 17 | k <sup>h</sup> eé   | 29 | tɕəN               | 41 | sómán               | 53 | t <sup>h</sup> òN   |
| 6  | soo                 | 18 | jo                  | 30 | s <sup>h</sup> ih  | 42 | has <sup>h</sup> è  | 54 | tɕɔh                |
| 7  | sóh                 | 19 | tànʔa               | 31 | s <sup>ʔ</sup> ə   | 43 | kè                  | 55 | sò                  |
| 8  | ʔɔsə                | 20 | tɕ <sup>h</sup> à   | 32 | nój                | 44 | k <sup>h</sup> o    | 56 | taloh               |
| 9  | k <sup>h</sup> ii   | 21 | tək <sup>ʔ</sup> o  | 33 | sàtɕíí             | 45 | lato                | 57 | jíli                |
| 10 | tɕé                 | 22 | ʔətɕ <sup>ʔ</sup> ó | 34 | satɕaʔ             | 46 | tɕəh                | 58 | t <sup>h</sup> ò    |
| 11 | lóha                | 23 | tək <sup>h</sup> o  | 35 | tɕ <sup>h</sup> oN | 47 | sìit <sup>h</sup> ɔ | 59 | hent <sup>h</sup> e |

Figure 12.1: Numerals

### 12.1 | Higher & lower numerals

*Higher numerals* in Timah are formed by using a positional numbering system, wherein each consecutive slot  $n$  contains a numeral  $x$  and indicates  $60n x$ .

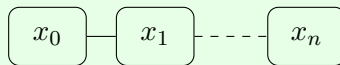


Figure 12.2: Higher numerals

#### 12.1.1 | Numeric distributors

*Numeric distributors* may also be used to form higher numerals as well as *lower numerals*. They multiply or divide the numeral they are appended to by a set value.

|      |    |                   |    |
|------|----|-------------------|----|
| -nii | 2× | -jih              | 2÷ |
| -kʔʔ | 3× | -k <sup>h</sup> à | 3÷ |
| -kì  | 4× | -té               | 4÷ |
| -tɕé | 5× | -sì               | 5÷ |
| -sʔo | 6× | -hɔ               | 6÷ |

Numerals may be added and subtracted using the postpositions **lí** and **kʔe** (which are placed after their arguments), respectively.



## 13 | Units of measure

---

### 13.1 | Time

#### 13.1.1 | Seasons

A year is divided into eight main seasons.

|         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| mólóló  | <i>spring</i>                   |
| miiʔló  | <i>late spring/early summer</i> |
| tɕiiʔló | <i>midsummer</i>                |
| kʰəʔóló | <i>late summer/early autumn</i> |
| lóoʔló  | <i>autumn</i>                   |
| níjòʔló | <i>late autumn/early winter</i> |
| woʔóló  | <i>midwinter</i>                |
| həlóló  | <i>late winter/early spring</i> |

## 14 | Register terms & personal names

### 14.1 | Register terms

*Register terms* in Timah are used to describe the social relationship between people using the three properties of *status*, *age*, and *formality*.

|                   | <i>Inferior</i> |              |              | <i>Equivalent</i> |              |              | <i>Superior</i> |              |              |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                   | <i>Younger</i>  | <i>Equal</i> | <i>Elder</i> | <i>Younger</i>    | <i>Equal</i> | <i>Elder</i> | <i>Younger</i>  | <i>Equal</i> | <i>Elder</i> |
| <i>Formal</i>     |                 | tèhah        | waj          | kátɕʰè            | sʰò          | sʰəw         | létɕaʔ          | jóʔoh        | sako         |
| <i>Polite</i>     | lɔj             | tɕʰaw        | tɕoo         | sóhkəh            |              | woʔɔ         | kʰemé           | miiʔí        |              |
| <i>Familiar</i>   |                 | tɕʰəsʰə      | toʔa         | kʰa               |              | tʰiiʔɔj      | tʰitɕín         |              | tʰè          |
| <i>Pejorative</i> |                 | kəj          |              | ketɕʰò            |              |              | kʰèle           |              |              |

Figure 14.1: Register terms

These terms can also be used to describe familial relations. Status corresponds to the position of kin in relation to one's generation, i.e., *inferior* corresponds to kin below one's generation, *equivalent* to kin within one's generation, and *superior* to kin above one's generation. Age corresponds to relative age, while formality corresponds to relative social status.

### 14.2 | Personal names

A *personal name* in Timah consists of many elements.

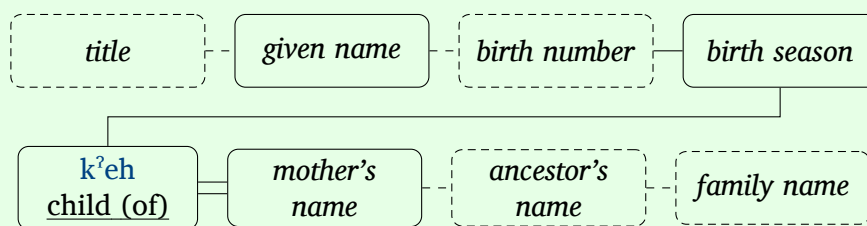


Figure 14.2: Personal name structure

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Title</b>           | <i>an optional social title, often a register term and/or profession</i>  |
| <b>Given name</b>      | <i>one's given name</i>   |
| <b>Birth number</b>    | <i>an optional number corresponding to the birth order of oneself in relation to one's siblings (if one has siblings)</i> |
| <b>Birth season</b>    | <i>the season of one's birth (see § 13.1.1)</i>   |
| <b>Mother's name</b>   | <i>one's mother's given name, always preceded by <a href="#">k'eh</a></i>   |
| <b>Ancestor's name</b> | <i>an optional ancestor's given name, real or mythical</i>  |
| <b>Family name</b>     | <i>an optional word or phrase that describes the family (e.g., a common family profession or a family descriptor)</i>     |

The elements «[k'eh](#) (mother's given name)» may be repeated an arbitrary amount of times, each consecutive matriarch applying to the previous one.

## 15 | Ideophones

### 15.1 | 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 ɳ w j/ may not precede them). Basic consonants can appear in ideophones, but ideophones are restricted to a reduced vowel inventory.

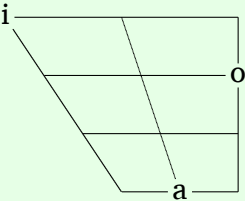
|               | <i>Labial</i>       | <i>Alveolar</i> | <i>Dorsal</i>      |  | <i>Dental</i>   | <i>Alveolar</i> | <i>Lateral</i>   |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
|               |                     |                 |                    | <i>Tenuis</i>  |                 | !               |                  |
| <i>Nasal</i>  | <sup>m</sup> b      | <sup>n</sup> d  | <sup>ŋ</sup> g-ŋ   | <i>Aspirate</i>  | <sup>h</sup>    | ! <sup>h</sup>  | <sup>h</sup>     |
| <i>Liquid</i> | <sup>l</sup> ḡ Ḃ    |                 | <sup>ʀ</sup> χ R-Ḃ | <i>Nasal</i>   | ṽ               | ṽ!              | ṽ                |
|               | <i>(a) Pulmonic</i> |                 |                    | <i>Glottal</i>   | ṽ  <sup>ʔ</sup> | ṽ! <sup>ʔ</sup> | ṽ   <sup>ʔ</sup> |
|               |                     |                 |                    | <i>(b) Non-pulmonic</i>  |                 |                 |                  |
|               |                     |                 |                    |  |                 |                 |                  |
|               |                     |                 |                    | <i>(c) Vowels</i>  |                 |                 |                  |

Figure 15.1: Ideophonemes

Additionally, the syllabic nasals /ṁ ṇ ṣ/ also appear, but only in isolation.

### 15.2 | Ideophones

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

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Phonomimes</b>  | <i>imitate sounds directly; PHON</i>  |
| <b>Phenomimes</b>  | <i>imitate sounds associated with tangible states and conditions; PHEN</i>    |
| <b>Psychomimes</b> | <i>imitate sounds associated with intangible states and conditions; PSYCH</i> |

## 16 | Semantics & pragmatics

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### 16.1 | 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.

#### 16.1.1 | 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 § 8.6.3).

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

|       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| kʔitò |  | <i>focuses the entire phrase</i>            |
| tàá   |  | <i>focuses the head of the phrase</i>       |
| kò    |  | <i>focuses the dependents of the phrase</i> |

The specific focus will always be intonationally emphasized.

### 16.2 | Deixis

#### 16.2.1 | Spatial/temporal deixis & domains

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

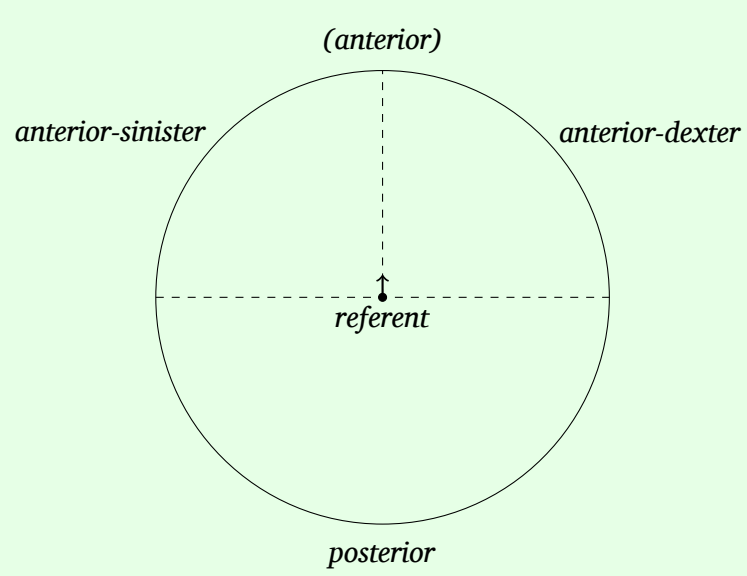


Figure 16.1: Deictic space

## 17 | Speech registers

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

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nuptial registers</b>     | <i>used by people who are or have been in an intimate relationship</i>                                     |
| <b>Internal subregister</b>  | <i>used when speaking directly to one's intimate partner</i>   |
| <b>External subregister</b>  | <i>used by people who are or have been in a relationship, with no regard to the status of the listener</i> |
| <b>Avoidance subregister</b> | <i>used when speaking to and around one's previous intimate partners</i>                                   |
| <b>Foreign registers</b>     | <i>used when around foreigners, i.e., non-Khokan people</i>  |
| <b>Positive subregister</b>  | <i>used when speaking to foreigners that are considered favorable by the speaker</i>                       |
| <b>Negative subregister</b>  | <i>used when speaking to foreigners that are considered hostile by the speaker</i>                         |
| <b>Vital registers</b>       | <i>used when hunting, gathering, and/or observing certain animals or plants</i>                            |
| <b>Shallow subregister</b>   | <i>used when hunting and observing inherently terrestrial animals</i>                                      |
| <b>Deep subregister</b>      | <i>used when hunting and observing inherently aerial and/or aquatic animals</i>                            |
| <b>Passive subregister</b>   | <i>used when gathering plants and collecting spoils</i>  |

TODO all of this

## | Appendices

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

Entries followed by a superscript *NI NX NA FP FN VS VD VP* correspond to the nuptial internal, nuptial external, nuptial avoidance, foreign positive, foreign negative, vital shallow, vital deep, and vital passive registers, respectively (see Ch. 14).

TODO all of this

## A | Nominal limitives

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- **tɕɔ̃ʔi (tɕʰɛ̃)** : (ANIM) *n.* person, human, humanoid creature ‡ *cl.* people, all humanoids
- **kON** : (INAN, PNSTBL) *n.* place, location, area ‡ *cl.* places, locations
- **keteh (kʰeh), tɕatih<sup>FP</sup>** : (ANIM) *n.* baby, offspring; child, young person ‡ *cl.* young (of an animal), offspring
- **siɕi (sʰii)** : (ANIM, PNSTBL) *n.* water, air; liquid, fluid; motion, movement ‡ *cl.* all fluids
- **neh** : (INAN) *n.* rock, stone, solid; immobility, inactivity ‡ *cl.* rocks, stones, natural solids; hard body parts e.g., shells, bone, teeth, nails
- **tɕi** : (ANIM) *n.* animal, creature, beast ‡ *cl.* all wild terrestrial animals excluding insects
- **tɕasí** : (INAN) *n.* tree, plant; foliage, vegetation ‡ *cl.* all non-edible plants
- **sóósa** : (INAN) *n.* container, vessel, receptacle ‡ *cl.* all containers; all foods that can contain other food
- **kʰɔ̃ʔe** : (INAN) *n.* tool, instrument, weapon ‡ *cl.* all tools, instruments, weapons; functional body parts e.g., appendages, sensory organs
- **tʰilɔ̃** : (ANIM) *n.* body; flesh, meat (living); physical form; body language, behavior
- **tʰɛ̃ʔ** : (INAN) *n.* corpse; flesh, meat (dead/raw); death ‡ *cl.* soft body parts e.g., flesh, hair, skin; all animal-derived foods
- **kʰàtí** : (ANIM) *n.* flesh, meat (cooked); meal, feast
- **jého** : (INAN) *n.* fruit; edible plant; the flesh of a fruit; flower ‡ *cl.* all plant-derived foods; all flowers
- **ʔolowí (ʔoló)** : (ANIM) *n.* season, the division of a year; time ‡ *cl.* time, all temporal concepts
- **ma** : (INAN) *n.* word, symbol, name; writing ‡ *cl.* all symbols, names



- **wó** : (VOL, MVAL) *n.* move, walk, come/go
- **mó** : (VOL, MVAL) *n.* run, move quickly; jump, leap
- **s<sup>h</sup>ɔj** : (VOL, PVAL) *n.* carry, give/take
- **niwi** : (VOL, BVAL) *n.* consume, eat, drink
- **tɕɔj** : (VOL, PVAL) *n.* speak, write, communicate
- **k<sup>h</sup>ajtè** : (VOL, SVAL) *n.* hear, see, directly sense; read, understand

- **hasi** : (VOL, SVAL) *n.* smell, taste, indirectly sense
- **jéko** : (VOL, BVAL) *n.* feel, sense; know
- **seʔmó** : (VOL, PVAL) *n.* make, cause, do
- **k<sup>h</sup>o** : (NVOL, AVAL) *n.* occur, happen, exist
- **hɔnó** : (VOL, BVAL) *n.* want, desire, wish

## | m

- **mís<sup>h</sup>oh** : (ANIM) *n.* aversion, repulsion, disgust ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* be averse, repulsed, disgusted
- **melə (mii)** : (INAN) *n.* bread; food made from grain; grain ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* prepare/eat bread; prepare grain
- **mólá** : (INAN) *n.* wave, gust; flow, movement, direction ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* make wet; wash, clean; push, move

## | n

- **nǐjò** : (ANIM) *n.* awareness of something dangerous, premonition; warning, caution, advice; omen, prophecy; foresight ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* warn, caution, advise; prophesize, foresee, predict
- **nátçè** : (INAN) *n.* solid food ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* prepare solid food
- **nómɔ (nón)** : (ANIM) *n.* tooth; bite ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* bite, chew

## | t<sup>h</sup>, t, t<sup>ʔ</sup>

- **t<sup>h</sup>aʔwá (t<sup>h</sup>áw)** : (ANIM) *n.* yak, cow, dzo; wisdom, strength, power; work, effort ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* be a yak, cow, dzo; be wise, strong, powerful; (do) work, put effort into
- **tíkísháj (tíʔsé)** : (INAN) *n.* hardness, durability, endurance ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* be/make hard, durable, enduring; improve, enhance, fix
- **tɔnlá** : (ANIM) *n.* voice, sound; song, music ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* make sound, music; sing
- **tətçìn (tçʔín)** : (ANIM) *n.* eye, pair of eyes; sight ‡ (NVOL, SVAL) *v.* see, visually sense

## | tç<sup>h</sup>, tç, tç<sup>ʔ</sup>

- **tç<sup>h</sup>às<sup>ʔ</sup>ah (tç<sup>h</sup>àʔ)** : (INAN) *n.* that which is contained; injury ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* contain (within); incapacitate, debilitate
- **tçii** : (INAN) *n.* sand, dust, gravel, grain; sugarcane, sugar, sweetness ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* separate, crumble; be particulate, granular; be sweet
- **tçóhk<sup>h</sup>ə (tçoh)** : (INAN) *n.* milk, fat ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be/have/drink milk; be fat

## | k<sup>h</sup>, k, k<sup>ʔ</sup>

- **k<sup>h</sup>ə** : (ANIM) *n.* breast; fat ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* produce milk; nurture, care (for)
- **k<sup>h</sup>òo** : (ANIM) *n.* fingers, hand, arm ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* touch, interact (with)
- **kiʔəj (k<sup>ʔ</sup>ii)** : (INAN) *n.* boat, method of travel; transportation; trade, commerce; goods, cargo, something to be transported ‡ (VOL, PVAL) *v.* travel (by boat); transport; trade (goods)
- **kətóhi<sup>FP</sup> (mii)** : (INAN) *n.* any grain, cereal or pulse; bread ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* grow/harvest grain
- **kála (kóɔ)** : (ANIM) *n.* fish; conspiracy, scheme ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* fish, go fishing; conspire, scheme
- **k<sup>ʔ</sup>ètç<sup>ʔ</sup>è (ján), ján<sup>NI</sup>** : (ANIM) *n.* friend, spouse; expected accompaniment; friendship, relationship ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* accompany; be in a relationship

## | ʔ

• **ʔeləw (láo)** : (ANIM) *n.* squamate reptile, lizard, snake; tail; self-amputation (of an appendage) ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* be a squamate reptile, lizard, snake; have/move/be a tail; self-amputate (an appendage)

• **ʔəhee** : (INAN) *n.* cold food; raw food; something to be made cold ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* prepare cold food; cool, make cold

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

• **ʔanko** : (INAN) *n.* bed, place of rest; sleep, rest; dream, hallucination ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* sleep, rest; dream, hallucinate

| s<sup>h</sup>, s, s<sup>ʔ</sup>

• **sənəj (sáj)** : (ANIM) *n.* bear; fear ‡ (NVOL, MVAL) *v.* be a bear; be afraid

• **set'oʔ** : (ANIM) *n.* river, moving body of water; narrow portion of material, strip ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* travel by river, moving body of water; make into narrow portions, strips

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

• **s'ələw** : (INAN) *n.* saraw plant, a squat wide-leafed plant used as material on which to write; the leaf of the saraw plant; any material on which one writes ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* harvest (the leaves of) a saraw plant; write

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

• **səjsi** : (ANIM) *n.* hot food; cooked food; something to be made warm ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* prepare hot food; heat, make warm

## | h

• **həlóo** : (INAN) *n.* root; source, origin, cause; stability ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* be a source, origin; cause; be stable; stabilize

• **hòn** : (ANIM) *n.* dog, wolf, canine; any domesticated animal ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* be a dog; domesticate

## | w

• **wìn** : (ANIM, PNSTBL) *n.* rain, precipitation ‡ (NVOL, AVAL) *v.* rain, precipitate; fall, come down, descend

• **mínwo** : (ANIM) *n.* bird; flight; gossip ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* be a bird; fly; gossip

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

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

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

• **wəwkʰo (wóʔ)** : (INAN) *n.* that which is broken; breakage, damage, injury ‡ (NVOL, BVAL) *v.* break, damage, injure; be broken, damage, injured

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

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

## | 1

• **lijókʷo (lijóʔ)** : (INAN) *n.* face, flat surface; table ‡ (VOL, BVAL) *v.* flatten, make flat; be flat; lay flat

• **let<sup>h</sup>itça (litç<sup>h</sup>a)** : (ANIM) *n.* liquid food ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* prepare liquid food

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

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

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

## | j

• **jon** : (INAN) *n.* cave, dwelling; quiet, silence ‡ (VOL, MVAL) *v.* live in a cave; be quiet, silent

