???

Tímǝh, the language of *Lə́gų*

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A Grammar

2017

Dedicated to my haters

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1 | Introduction

1.1 | External History

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

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

1.2 | Internal History

The Timah language is spoken by the Khokòjòḫe people (*kʰɔkˀɔtɕɔ̀ʔe* [kʰɔ̀kˀɔ̀dʑɔ̀ʔè̠] lit. <u>many-person</u>), or Khokans. They live on the Lankung Archipelago (*lǝ́nkoɴ* [lə̆́ŋgṳ̀ŋ] lit. <u>our-place</u>)

TODO all of this

1.2.1 | Culture

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

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

2 | Phonology

2.1 | Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	m	n				ɴ
Plosive		tʰ t tˀ	tɕʰ tɕ tɕˀ	kʰ k kˀ	ʔ	
Fricative		sʰ s sˀ			h	
Approximant	w	l	j			

Figure 1: Consonant Phonemes

- /n tʰ t tˀ/ are dental; /sʰ s sˀ l/ are alveolar.

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

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

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

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

- The fortis obstruents /tˀ tɕˀ kˀ sˀ/ are articulated with laryngeal tension, and may be accompanied by slight creaky-voice on the following vowel.

2.1.1 | Consonant Allophony

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

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

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

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

- /kʰ/ surfaces as [x] before [a].

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

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

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

- /w/ surfaces as [ʋ] before [i].

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

2.1.2 | Dialectal Variations of Consonants

- In some[which?] dialects, the fortis plosives /tˀ tɕˀ kˀ sˀ/ may surface as ejectives [t' tɕ' k' (t)s'] or geminates [tt ttɕ kk ss~tts].

- In some[which?] dialects, the alveolo-palatals /tɕʰ tɕ tɕˀ/ may surface as alveolar affricates [tsʰ ts tsˀ] or true palatals [cʰ c cˀ].

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

- Depending on dialect[which ones?] and idiolect, the glottal fricative /h/ may variously surface as any of [x χ ħ h̃].

- Depending on dialect[which ones?] and idiolect, the lateral /l/ may variously surface as any of [ɹ l̠ ɻ ɭ l ð̠ ʐ z̠].
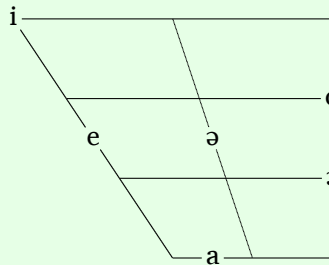
2.2 | Vowels

Figure 2: Vowel Phonemes

- /e/ is true mid [e̞][2].

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

2.2.1 | Vowel Allophony

- All vowels are nasalized before nasal consonants.

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

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

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

2.2.2 | Dialectal Variations of Vowels

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

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

- In some[which?] dialects, the back vowels /o ɔ/ surface as [ɤᵝ ʌᵝ], i.e., they are rounded with lip compression instead of protrusion.

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

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.

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 3: Vowel Harmony

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

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

ˈCV.CV.CV   ˈCV.CVG.CV

Q   Q

Figure 4: Harmony Spread

2.3.3 | Obstruent Weakening

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

$$t^{ʔ} \quad t^{h} \quad \rightarrow \quad t$$
$$tɕ^{ʔ} \quad tɕ^{h} \quad \rightarrow \quad tɕ$$
$$k^{ʔ} \quad k^{h} \quad \rightarrow \quad k$$
$$s^{ʔ} \quad s^{h} \quad \rightarrow \quad s$$
$$ʔ \qquad\qquad \rightarrow \quad h$$

Figure 5: Obstruent Weakening

2.4 | Tone

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

2.4.1 | Tone Association

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

   Floating tones follow similar rules, but can associate in either direction.

Figure 6: Tone Association

2.4.2 | Tone Mobility

At the end of a Prosodic Unit (PU), all tones are shifted one syllable leftward until a toneless syllable, leaving the final syllable toneless.

   `TODO(?)` more tone mobility

Figure 7: Leftward Tone Shift

2.5 | Phonotactics

2.5.1 | Syllable Structure

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

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

Figure 8: Syllable Structure

2.5.2 | Restraints

These phonotactic restraints govern allomorphy.

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

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

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

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

2.6 | Prosody

2.6.1 | 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*).

2.6.2 | Intonation

TODO all of this

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

3 | Orthography

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

     `TODO` native, script, other adaptations

3.1 | Other Scripts

3.1.1 | Romanization

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	⟨m⟩	⟨n⟩				⟨ॖ⟩[4]
Plosive		⟨th d t⟩	⟨ch j c⟩	⟨kh g k⟩	⟨ḥ⟩[4]	
Fricative		⟨sh x s⟩			⟨h⟩	
Approximant	⟨w⟩	⟨l⟩	⟨y⟩			

Figure 9: Romanization (Consonants)
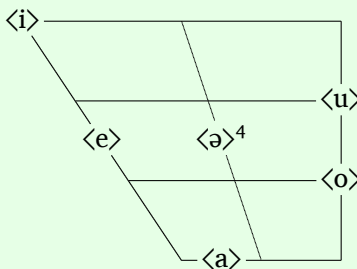
Figure 10: Romanization (Vowels)

3.1.2 | Tibetan

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	⟨མ⟩	⟨ན⟩				⟨ཨྃ⟩[5]
Plosive		⟨ཐ ད ཏ⟩	⟨ཚ ཛ ཙ⟩	⟨ཁ ག ཀ⟩	⟨འ, ཇ⟩[5]	
Fricative		⟨ཤ ཟ ས⟩			⟨ཧ, ཨཿ⟩[5]	
Approximant	⟨ཝ, ཝྷ⟩[5]	⟨ར⟩	⟨ཡ, ཡྷ⟩[5]			

Figure 11: Tibetan (Consonants)

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[4] /ɴ ʔ ə/ may alternatively be romanized as ⟨n ' v⟩, respectively.
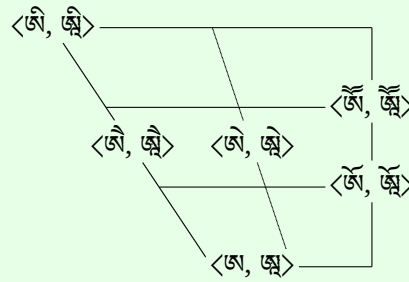
Figure 12: Tibetan (Vowels)[5]

3.1.3 | Mkhedruli

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	⟨ძ⟩	⟨б⟩				⟨◌[6]⟩
Plosive		⟨თ ფ ჟ⟩	⟨ც đ �წ⟩	⟨ქ გ ჭ⟩	⟨ჩ⟩	
Fricative		⟨ჩ ჲ ს⟩			⟨ჳ⟩	
Approximant	⟨ვ⟩	⟨რ⟩	⟨ჲ⟩			

Figure 13: Mkhedruli (Consonants)
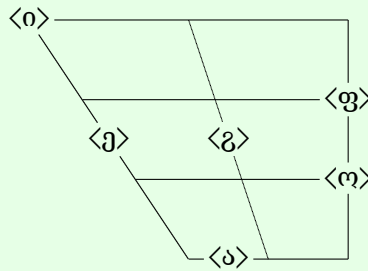
Figure 14: Mkhedruli (Vowels)

3.1.4 | Hacm

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Placeless
Nasal	⟨ɒ⟩	⟨n⟩				⟨◌ⁿ⟩
Plosive		⟨ꞁʰ ᴕ ꞁ⟩	⟨ꞁʰ ᴧ ꞁ⟩	⟨ꞁʰ ꝓ ꞁ⟩	⟨ꝓ⟩	
Fricative		⟨ɟʰ ꞁ ɟ⟩			⟨h⟩	
Approximant	⟨o⟩	⟨l⟩	⟨s⟩			

Figure 15: Hacm (Consonants)

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[5]⟨অ⟩ is a filler letter. If present, the second element is the coda form for consonants, and the long form for vowels.
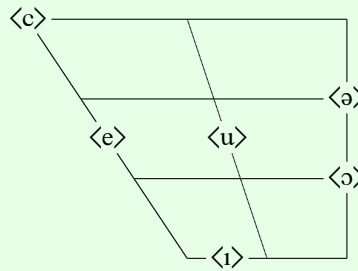
Figure 16: Hacm (Vowels)

4 | Syntax

4.1 | Sentence Structure & Word Order

Word order in Timah is primarily *Subject-Object-Peripheral-Verb* in independent clauses, and secondarily *Verb-Subject-Object-Peripheral* in dependent clauses. Only the verb must be present. In copular phrases (*see § 8*), the word order is always *Subject-Copula-Attribute,* wherein the *attribute* is what is being associated with the subject of the copular phrase.

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

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

The *peripheral*, or indirect/oblique object, is the thing that the verb is indirectly performed upon. It is usually marked with a *postposition* (*see § 6.5*) or *oblique case* (*see § 6.4.1*) 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 § 7.2*).

Dependents are placed before their head unless noted otherwise.

4.1.1 | Dependent Clauses

Dependent clauses in Timah are introduced by one of three clausal conjunctions (a subset of *verbal conjunctions, see § 10.1*) or a *relative pronoun* (*see § 6.2.3*). They take *Verb-Subject-Object* word order except in copular clauses, where the word order remains *Subject-Copula-Attribute*. Relative clauses are placed before their head noun; only subjects and objects may be relativized, and must take the same role in the relative clause as in the main clause.

- nəj : *introduces basic dependent clause*

- teɴ : *introduces causal dependent clause*

- motó : *introduces consecutive dependent clause*

(1) tə́=   laj-   nɔ́mɔ -tá ∅-   hòɴ -∅
     3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT= PFV.CMPLT- bite   -AV ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- dog -AGT.CMPLT

=mɔ́ɔ	nəj	∅-	tɕɔ̀ʔi	-∅	=mɔ́ɔ
=REF.VIS.SG	CONJ.DEP	ANIM.STBL.COMPLT-	person	-AGT.CMPLT	=REF.VIS.SG
tɕ́=		kew	sìnkà		
3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT=		COP.ESSNT.ASSRT	weak		

the man that the dog bit is weak

4.2 | 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 level of intent concerning the verb. In terms of alignment, all these factors are binary, i.e., *[perfective|non-perfective]*, *[monovalent|polyvalent]*, *[volitional|non-volitional]*.

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

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

Either alignment is possible when the subject in polyvalent clauses is specified as non-perfective, as well as in monovalent clauses wherein the subject is specified as both perfective and non-volitional. Which alignment is used is pragmatically determined (*see § 14.1*).

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

Figure 17: 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 § 7.2*) being marked by the a postposition (*see § 6.5*).

4.3 | Repeat Argument Dropping

In ergative-absolutive statements, a repeated absolutive argument can be dropped. In active-stative statements, a repeated subject can be dropped.

4.4 | Clitics

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

5 | Lexical Categories & Properties

5.1 | Lexical Categories

There is largely no lexical noun-verb distinction in Timah, i.e., most words can act either as a noun or as a verb. The exceptions are the closed classes of *true nouns* and *true verbs* (*see §§ 6.1 and 7.1*).

5.2 | Integrity

Grammatical class, or *integrity* in Timah is divided by compositional integrity, or completeness of the item.

- **Complete**; *the item is viwed in its entirety; the item is sufficient, complete, whole*; CMPLT

- **Incomplete**; *the item is viewed partially; the item is deficient, incomplete, condensed*; NCMPLT

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

5.3 | Probability

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

- **Stable**; *the amount is not likely to change*; STBL

- **Unstable**; *the amount is likely to change*; NSTBL

- **Panstable**; *it is unknown if the amount is likely or unlikely to change*; PNSTBL

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

6 | Nouns

6.1 | True Nouns

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

6.2 | Pronouns

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

6.2.1 | Personal

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

			Agt.	Pat.	Erg.	Assoc.	Loc.
Stbl.	1		lə	ləhi	jə́N	sʰaj	tɕʰɔ̀
	2		nɔ́	nɔ		nò	nə
	3	*Anim.*	tə́ʔ	tə́hi	tɕàN	kéh	té
		Inan.	haN				
Nstbl.	1		to	tò	t'áw		jə́
	2		nɔɔ́	nɔ́ɔ̀	néj		tɕɔ
	3	*Anim.*	t'ɔ́ʔ	t'ɔ́hi	tɕʰoN	kèè	kʰəw
		Inan.	tʰɔN				

(a) Complete

	Agt.	Pat.	Erg.	Assoc.	Loc.
1	ká	ke	tàʔ	tɕà	ləj
2	nɔ́ɔ́	náw	nəw		no
3	sə́sá	seh	kíN		s'əw

(b) Incomplete

Figure 18: Personal Pronouns

6.2.2 | Possessive

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

	Complete		Incomplete
	Animate	*Inanimate*	
1	lə́ɴ	jə́	sèɴ
2	ná	nə́j	waɴ
3	tɔ́ɔ	tɕɔɔ́	kaá

Figure 19: Possessive Pronouns

6.2.3 | Relative/Interrogative

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

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

Figure 20: Relative/Interrogative Pronouns

6.2.4 | Demonstrative

Demonstrative pronouns decline for number, proximality, and deictic position. They express spatial and temporal position relative to the speaker (*see § 14.2.1*). Demonstratives of *proportion* and *manner* express <u>to what extent</u> and <u>in what way</u>, respectively. They may modify a noun or pronoun, or stand on their own. They are placed after the noun they are modifying.

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

(a) Complete

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

(b) Incomplete

		Complete	Incomplete
Prop.	Prox.	jə́	likɔ̀ɴ
	Dist.	jíɴ	
Man.	Prox.	wɔ́j	misɔn
	Dist.	kɛ̀ɴ	

(c) Proportion & Manner

Figure 21: Demonstrative Pronouns

- **Proximal**; *able to be heard by speaker*

- **Medial**; *able to be seen by speaker and/or heard by listener*

- **Distal**; *able to be seen by speaker; may be indistinct or non-visible*

- **Anterior**; *in front of the speaker; associated with the past*

  - **Sinister**; *to the left of the speaker; associated with volitional events*
  - **Dexter**; *to the right of the speaker; associated with non-volitional events*

- **Posterior**; *behind the speaker; associated with the future*

6.3 | Declensions

class	**root**	case	(article)

Figure 22: Declension Slots

6.4 | Noun Classes

Noun classes in Timah are separated into the groups *complete* and *incomplete,* which are associated with semantic wholeness or entirety of the noun (*see § 5.2*).

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

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

Figure 23: Noun Classes

6.4.1 | Cases

- **Agentive** (*Agt.*) : In *multivalent* verbs (i.e., *ambivalent* or *polyvalent* verbs that take two or three arguments, *see § 7.2*), the *agentive* case marks a Complete subject or an Incomplete object. In *monovalent* verbs, it marks a volitional Complete subject (*see § 7.3*) or Incomplete subject.

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

- **Ergative** (*Erg.*) : In polyvalent verbs, the *ergative* case marks an Incomplete *subject*.

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

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

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

(a) Open

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

(b) Closed

Figure 24: Cases

The *Associative* and *Locative* cases, collectively called *peripheral cases*, may be accompanied by a postposition (*see § 6.5*). In isolation the *associative* takes the meaning of an alienable genitive (in contrast to the *ergative*, which may have an inalienable genitive meaing) and the *Locative* takes on the meaning of a general locative or temporal (i.e., marking place or time).

6.5 | Postpositions

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

- **Associative Postpositions**

- lí : *accompaniment/use; basic theme of trivalent verb*
- kʔe : *lack of accompaniment/use; negatory theme of trivalent verb*
- kʰɔno : *intent of benefit/purpose; beneficial/purposive theme of trivalent verb*
- sì : *intent of reference/relation*
- tɕé : *state of being*
- kʰɔ̀ : *change of state*
- kéh : *similarity/comparison*
- tʔɔka : *causation*

- **Locative Postpositions**

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

6.6 | Article Enclitics

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

	Referential		Non-referential	
	Visible	Non-visible	Visible	Non-visible
Stbl.	=mɔ́ɔ	=haɴ	=sʔi	=tʔéʔ
Nstbl.	=kʔə	=mé	=kʰə̀ɴ	=tɕáá
Pnstbl.	=já		=kʰɔɔ	

Figure 25: Article Enclitics

6.7 | Noun Reduplication

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

(2)   tɕɔ̀ʔi
      person
      <u>a person</u>

(3)   tɕɔ̀ʔi   ~tɕɔ̀ʔi
      person ~person
      <u>people</u>

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

(4)   hòɴ
      dog
      <u>a dog</u>

(5)   hòɴ ~hòɴ
      dog ~dog
      <u>a pack of dogs</u>

7 | Verbs

7.1 | True Verbs

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

7.2 | Valency Classes

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

- **Avalent**; *zero arguments*
- **Monovalent**; *one argument*
- **Ambivalent**; *one or two arguments*
- **Polyvalent**; *two or more arguments*

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

7.3 | Volitional Classes

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

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

7.4 | Verbal Reduplication

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

$|R_i\textasciitilde|$ indicates full reduplication of the initial syllable, and $|\textasciitilde R_f|$ indicates full reduplication of the final syllable.

7.5 | Conjugations

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

Figure 26: Conjugation Slots

7.5.1 | Pronominal Proclitics

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

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

(a) Complete

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

(b) Incomplete

Figure 27: Pronominal Proclitics

7.5.2 | Noun Incorporation & Salience

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

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

Additionally, the incorporated noun may optionally be marked with a noun class prefix (*see § 6.4*). 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

7.5.3 | Voice & Investment

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

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

	Uninvested	Invested
Actor	-tá	-tɕà
Undergoer	-sˀɔ́ɔ́	-jə́ə̀
Correlative	-mɔ́tè	

Figure 28: Voice

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

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

     I wash myself

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

     we wash ourselves

(8) to=   tò=   laj-   mólá -mɔ́tè
     1.STBL.AGT.CMPLT= 1.STBL.PAT.CMPLT= PFV.CMPLT- wash -CV

     we wash each other

7.5.4 | Domain of Influence

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

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

- ó-N, -náʔ : *inside the domain of influence*; ∈DOI

- -lɔ́ɔ̀ : *outside the domain of influence*; ∉DOI

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

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

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

     I (tried to) hit the dog

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

(10) ∅-   hòN -si   =sˀi   lə=   té=
     CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.PAT =NREF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=
     hɔnɔ́ -tçà   -N
     want -AV.INVST -∈DOI

     I want a dog (and believe this to be attainable)

(11) ∅-   hòN -si   =sˀi   lə=   té=
     CMPLT.ANIM.STBL- dog -CMPLT.PAT =NREF.VIS.STBL 1.STBL.AGT= 3.STBL.ANIM.PAT=
     hɔnɔ́ -tçà   -lɔ́ɔ̀
     want -AV.INVST -∉DOI

     I want a dog (and believe this to be unattainable)

7.5.5 | Expressive Moods

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

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

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

- təj : **Polar Interrogative**; *yes/no questions; tag questions*

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

- tˀɔ́N : **Suggestive**; *suggestions, admonitions, warnings*

7.5.6 | Mood & Aspect

Mood and *aspect* (collectively called *mode*) are optionally marked using fused mood-aspect prefixes.

	Imperfective	Perfective	Habitual	Continuous	Experiential	Iterative
Realis	∅-	laj-, le-	$k^ˀa$(ʔ)-	tɕee-	jíhi-	R_i~$k^ˀa$(ʔ)-
Affirmative	~R_f	laj-√~R_f, le-√~R_f	tɕee-√~R_f		jíhi-√~R_f	R_i~tɕee-√~R_f
Irrealis	tɔ(ʔ)-	haj-, he-	tew-, tə-	s^he(ʔ)-	já-	R_i~tew-, R_i~tə-
Conditional	ʔo-	né(h)-	ne(N)-	ʔaa-		
Hypothetical	tàj-, tè-	$k^hà$-	nə̀w-, nò-		taʔe-	R_i~nə̀w-, R_i~nò-

Figure 29: Aspect & Mood

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

- **Moods**

    - **Realis** : *event is known to be real*
    - **Affirmative** : *event is emphasized as being real*
    - **Irrealis** : *event is unknown or known to be unreal*
    - **Conditional** : *event is dependent upon other events*
    - **Hypothetical** : *event is unknown or counterfactual, but possible*

- **Aspects**

    - **Imperfective** : *event is incomplete*
    - **Perfective** : *event is complete*
    - **Habitual** : *event is repeated across multiple timeframes*
    - **Continuous** : *event is incomplete or ongoing*
    - **Experiential** : *event is experienced*
    - **Iterative** : *event is repeated within the same timeframe*

7.5.7 | Evidentials

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

TODO example sentences

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

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

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

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

- ʔaj : **Quotative**; *marks quoted speech, dialogue; can be used in conjunction with other evidentials*

7.5.8 | Directional Specifiers & Applicatives

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

TODO example sentences

- -tí : **Venitive**; *motion toward*

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

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

TODO example sentences

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

- -kʰ�òɴ : **Beneficial**; *intent of benefit/purpose or reference/relation*

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

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

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

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

The applicatives *-lí* and *-kʰòɴ* may be used to invert the secundative construction (*see § 4.1*), making it indirective. This inversion does not change the clause semantically, only syntactically.

Further specifications can be made by supplementing the applicative suffix with a postposition (*see § 6.5*) placed after the object.

7.6 | Verbal Classifiers

Verbal classifiers are used with certain verbs to describe characteristics of the object. It is most often used with verbs of handling.

    `TODO` example sentences

	Innate	Discrete	Coherent	Aggregate	Diverse
Living	ʔi-		tàj-		sahi-
Solid	kaw-	maa-	maa-√~R$_f$	ʔitii-	itii-√~R$_f$
Fluid		tɕè-	tɕè-√~R$_f$	tín-	tín-√~R$_f$
Generic	kʔə́j-		məə́jə́ɴ-		ʔɔj-

Figure 30: Verbal Classifiers

- **Innate**; *unspecified composition*

- **Discrete**; *group of similar entities*

- **Coherent**; *organized group of similar entities*

- **Aggregate**; *group of dissimilar entities*

- **Diverse**; *organized group of dissimilar entities*

7.7 | Serial Verb Constructions

A *serial verb construction* (SVC) in Timah is a verb phrase that contains two or more verbs that, within the context of their clause, share the same inflections and one or more arguments. They may be *continuous* (the constituent verbs are placed adjacent to each other) or *discontinuous* (the constituent verbs are separated by an argument.)

    Continuous SVCs obligatorily share the same subject and object, while *discontinuous* SVCs only obligatorily share the same subject (i.e they may take different objects).

    `TODO` expand on specific SVCs

7.7.1 | Perceptive

Perceptive SVCs are always discontinuous, and express sensory interaction.

7.7.2 | Directive

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

7.7.3 | Capacitive

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

8 | Copulae

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

   Copulae only inflect for person and mood/aspect (*see §§ 7.5.1 and 7.5.6*), and 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 on the copula). As noted in § 4.1, all copular phrases have *Subject-Copula-Attribute* word order.

8.1 | Essential Copulae

The *essential* copulae express nominal and descriptive predication.

8.1.1 | Essential-Assertive

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

8.1.2 | Essential-Negative

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

8.1.3 | Essential-Revelatory

The *essential-revelatory* copula *ʔowó* expresses surprise, doubt, and/or interest from the speaker toward the statement. It suppletes the essential-assertive copula in irrealis moods (*see §§ 7.5.5 to 7.5.7*).

8.2 | Existential Copulae

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

8.2.1 | Existential-Assertive

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

8.2.2 | Existential-Negative

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

8.2.3 | Existential-Revelatory

The *existential-revelatory* copula *təjə* expresses surprise, doubt, and/or interest from the speaker toward the predicated location or possessive/existential phrase. It suppletes the existential-assertive copula in irrealis moods (*see §§ 7.5.5 to 7.5.7*).

8.3 | Referential Copulae

The *referential* copulae are traditionally classed as copulae due to how they pattern, but function differently. Depending on context, they express either an inherent action associated with the agent, or they refer to the verb in the directly preceding clause. They cannot refer to other copulae.

8.3.1 | Referential-Assertive

The *referential-assertive* copula *tʰə̀h* expresses basic reference of the inherent action or preceding verb

8.3.2 | Referential-Negative

The *referential-negative* copula *tʰə̀né* expresses negative reference of the inherent action or preceding verb.

8.3.3 | Referential-Revelatory

The *referential-revelatory* copula *ʔəjtça* expresses surprise, doubt, and/or interest from the speaker toward the inherent action or preceding verb. It suppletes the referential-assertive copula in irrealis moods (*see §§ 7.5.5 to 7.5.7*).

9 | Descriptives & Derivation

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

- tɕʰàné : *good, positive; full*

- sìɴkà : *bad, negative; empty*

- kʰɔkˀɔ : *big, strong; many*

- tɕʰi : *small, weak; few*

- semɔ́ʔ : *fast; loud; hard, rough*

- lɔ́ : *slow; quiet; soft, smooth*

- sɔɴ : *short, wide; feminine*

- ʔiɴ : *long, narrow; masculine*

- tɕósʰa : *white, light; fresh, new*

- káj : *warm (color); hot, dry*

- sɔtɕe : *cool (color); cold, wet*

- tʰawsá : *black, dark; stale, old*

9.1 | Comparison

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

- sʰì : *positive comparison*

- míh : *equative comparison*

- tí : *negative comparison*

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

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

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

(14) ∅-   keteh -∅   =mɔ́ɔ   sʰì tɘ́=
      ANIM.STBL.CMPLT- child -AGT.CMPLT =REF.VIS.SG ABL 3.STBL.ANIM.AGT.CMPLT=
      kew   tɕósʰa
      COP.ESSNT.ASSRT new
      <u>the child is very young</u>

9.2 │ Derivation

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

Prefixes

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

Suffixes

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

10 | Function Words

10.1 | Conjunctions

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

- **Nominal**

    - ní : *presents non-contrast*
    - ʔika : *presents contrast*
    - teh : *presents alternative*

- **Verbal**

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

10.2 | Satellite Conjunctions

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

- ní : *indicates weak affirmation of the statement*

- ʔika : *inquires weak affirmation of the listener's experience*

- teh : *indicates surprise, doubt, or interest toward the statement*

- nəj : *indicates strong affirmation and/or discourse-completion of the statement*

- teɴ : *indicates agreement with the listener*

- motó : *inquires strong affirmation of the listener's experience*

- ʔihi : *inquires contrast of the listener's experience to the speaker's statement*

- kàh : *requests more information from the listener*

10.2.1 | Ellipsis

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

      <u>I eat bread and he (eats) milk</u>

10.3 | Affirmatory & Negatory

- **Affirmatory**

    - séɴ : **Affirmatory-Basic**; *affirms with no regard to evidence*
    - sʰè : **Affirmatory-Witness**; *affirms via visual evidence*
    - sʰɔ̀ : **Affirmatory-Sensory**; *affirms via non-visual evidence*
    - sˀó : **Affirmatory-Evidential**; *affirms via direct evidence*
    - tɕˀéɴ : **Affirmatory-Anecdotal**; *affirms via prior experience(s)*
    - jóɴ : **Affirmatory-Reportative**; *affirms via indirect evidence*

- **Negatory**

    - kə́j : **Negatory-Basic**; *negates with no regard to evidence*
    - kʰàj : **Negatory-Sensory**; *negates via sensory/direct evidence*
    - sə́j : **Negatory-Inferential**; *negates via direct evidence/prior experience(s)*
    - wáj : **Negatory-Reportative**; *negates via indirect evidence*

11 | Numerals

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

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

Figure 31: Numerals

12 | Register Terms

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

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

Figure 32: Register Terms

13 | Ideophones

13.1 | Ideophonemes

There exists a set of phonemes in Timah that can appear only in ideophones. These are called *ideophonemes*, and they cannot cluster (i.e., codae /ʔ h ɴ w j/ may not precede them). Basic consonants can appear in ideophones, but ideophones are restricted to a reduced vowel inventory.
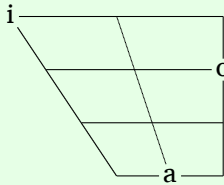
	Labial	Alveolar	Dorsal
Nasal	ᵐb	ⁿd	ᵑg~ŋ
Liquid	ʙ̥ ʙ		ʀ̥~χ ʀ~ʁ

(a) Pulmonic

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

(b) Non-pulmonic

(c) Vowels

Figure 33: Ideophonemes

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

13.2 | Ideophones

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

- **Phonomimes**; *imitate sounds directly*; textscphon

- **Phenomimes**; *imitate sounds associated with tangible states and conditions*; textscphen

- **Psychomimes**; *imitate sounds associated with intangible states and conditions*; textscpsych

14 | Semantics & Pragmatics

14.1 | Topic & Focus

Topic and *focus* are important elements of discourse in Timah. Under certain circumstances (*see § 4.2*), 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.

14.1.1 | 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 § 7.5.3*).

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

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

(16)

- kʔitɔ̀ : *focuses the entire phrase*

- tàá : *focuses the head of the phrase*

- kò : *focuses the dependents of the phrase*

The specific focus will always be intonationally emphasized.

(17)

14.2 | Deixis

14.2.1 | Spatial/Temporal Deixis & Domains

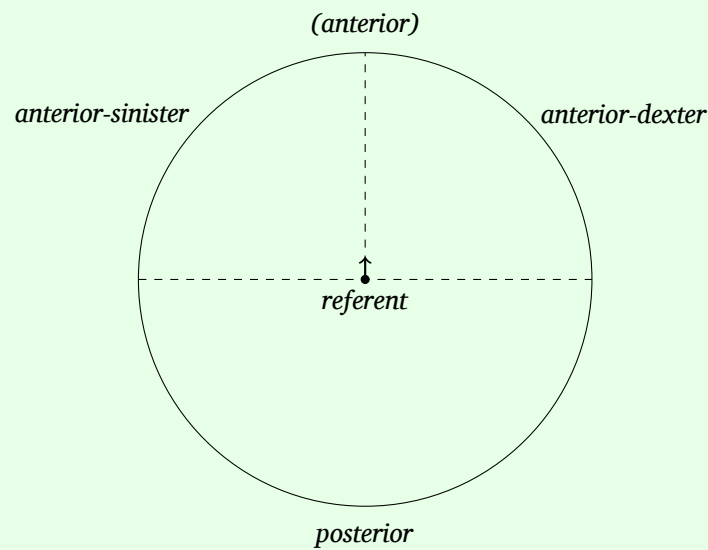The deictic space of Timah is divided into three main domains: *anterior-sinister, anterior-dexter,* and *posterior.*

Figure 34: Deictic Space

14.3 | Speech Registers

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

TODO all of this

14.4 | Nuptial Register

The *nuptial register* is used by people who are or have been in an intimate relationship. It is further divided into *internal* and *external* subregisters.

14.4.1 | Internal Subregister

The *internal subregister* is used when speaking directly to one's intimate partner.

14.4.2 | External Subregister

The *external subregister* is used by people who are or have been in a relationship, with no regard to the status of the listener.

14.5 | Avoidance Register

The *avoidance register* is used when speaking to and around one's previous intimate partners.

| **Appendices**

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

A | **True Nouns**

• *tɕɔ̀ʔi (tɕˀè)* : (ANIM) person, human, humanoid creature

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

• *keteh* : (ANIM) baby, child, young person

• *sisì (sˀìì)* : (ANIM, PNSTBL) water, liquid, fluid; motion, movement

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

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

• *tɕasí* : (INAN) tree, plant

B | True Verbs

- *wə́* : move, walk, come/go
- *sʰɔj* : carry, give/take

- *niwi* : consume, eat, drink

C | Dictionary

• *kʔètɕʔè* : (ANIM) *n.* friend, spouse; expected accompaniment ‡ *v.* accompany; be in a relationship

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

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

• *melə* : (INAN) *n.* bread, solid food, light/hollow food ‡ *v.* make solid food, eat solid food

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

• *lɔ́ɴlə* : (INAN) *n.* dumpling, dough ‡ *v.* have/eat/make dumpling(s), dough

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D | Ideophones