Naniuk Reference Grammar

Michael Ferdinand Moser

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Contents

1 General Information & Intro

Name	Naniuk (Begonian)
Type	Agglutinative
Alignment	Ergative-Absolutive
Head-Direction	Final
Word Order	SOV
Tonal	No
Gender	Yes (Tangible vs. Intangible)
Conjugation	Yes (according to: Tense, Person, "Attitude", Telicity)
Declension	Yes (according to: Case)

Begonian is the English name for this conlang. I will use those two names synonymically.

1.1 Setting

This document is supposed to provide an outline of the grammatic features of my conlang *Naniuk*[1] that I have been working on for what I think must be some two years by now.
I have been mostly working on the linguistic dimension and spent relatively little thought on the conworld associated with the language. I've so far only determined that the home country of the speakers of Naniuk is called *Begonia* (endonym *Nanime*, see map in the Appendix in English. The country is situated in the far North-East in an additional continent of planet Earth. Begonia has a population of approximately three million and features subarctic climate with long cold winters stretching from October to April and mild summers. A part of the country lies next to a huge fault zone and is hit by giant earthquakes every decade or so. The most important economic centres include the capital *Kargana* (approx. 480000 inhabitants) to the east of the country and *Pyran* (approx. 550000 inhabitants) to the south. Furthermore, the country takes in significant revenue through winter tourism in the mountaineous regions in the north and north west.
Concerning history, first signs of civil population have been recorded in the 9^{th} century. The name *Nanime* has first been mentioned in the 13^{th} century after the merging of two minor states called *Kargis* and *Pyran*, hence the city names. The two states used to be at war most of the time, which still shows to this day as "friendly" rivalry in sports competitions. During the late 17^{th} century Begonian armed forces fought a violent war against attackers from *Hattuku*, which was eventually won and integrated into the country. Hattukan language stood out by having an elaborate series of pharyngealized sounds and while standard Naniuk is not analyzed to have phonemic pharyngealization, it is often apparent allophonically in dialects of communities home to what once was controlled by Hattuku.

1.2 Goals

Naniuk is aimed to be a fusion of Turkish, Basque and some own ideas I've gathered (read: stolen) reading papers about grammatic properties common to language families I'm particularly interested in (Uralic, Altaic) or simply from participating in/observing discussion in online conlanging platforms. Another funny observation is that, wherever I travelled, the local language of that country always ended up influencing my conlang to some extent. So don't be surprised to detect a heap of similarities with Scandinavian languages or Korean. :)

[1] Reminiscent of the very first country name I made up when I was 1o years old: *Narnesia*. The film *Narnia* was released three years later, so it has nothing to do with it. ;)

2 Phonology

2.1 Consonants

What follows is the inventory of the phonemic consonants used in Naniuk.[2] The status of long obstruents as phonemes is however disputed.[3] The content in between the < and > signs shows the orthographic convention(s) specific to the sound, of which a small number is in free variation.

		Coronal					
		Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-Alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	pulmonic	p <p>		t <t> t: <tt>		k <k>, k: <kk>	
	ejective			t' <ts>		k' <kx>	
Affricate	pulmonic			ts <ts> ts: <tss>			
	ejective			ts' <tts>			
Fricative	pulmonic		s̪ ~ θ<z>	s <s>, s: <ss>		x <ɟ, x>, x: <hh>	h <h>
	ejective			s' <ss>		x' <hɟ, hx>	
Nasal		m <m>		n <n>	ɲ <ň>		
Liquid				L <r>			
Approximant					j <j>	w <uı>	

2.1.1 Allophony

While quite extensive, in some parts this section does not go into full detail. This is true especially for the description of processes when all sorts of obstruents, be they short, long or non-pulmonic, clash. See ... for more.

- **/C[+plosive, +pulmonic, –voice, –length]/ → [C[+voice]] / C[+voice]_V[–stress]**
  In other words, all pulmonic short plosives become voiced when surrounded by two sonorants and if the following syllable bears no kind of stress. Again, there is dialectal variation in whether that process is applied only to plosives or to other obstruents aswell.
- **/XP:/ → [X:P]**
  The length property of short pulmonic plosives transfers to the preceding sound, unless there is a diphthong. Sometimes, this process is applied to affricates and fricatives aswell. This process is blocked however if the preceding syllable contains more than two morae. Examples include: /at:a/ → [a:ta], /aʊt:a/ → [aʊt:a], /aʊst:a/ → [aʊst:a].
- **/P:V/ → [PV↰]**
  Long word-initial plosives change the tone of the succedent vowel from low to a rising-falling pattern, while it turns into its own short counterpart. This process occurs even if it

[2] When I started my conlang for the very first time, it contained like 60 consonantal phonemes including ubiquitious voice, pulmonicity and pharyngealization contrast, four coronal rows and palatalization contrast in the alveolars.

[3] I used TablesCreator to create this table.

causes the initial syllable to contain three morae.
e.g.: /kːɯ/ → [kɯˠ]

- – /**L**/ → **[ɾ]** (in onset position)
  – /**L**/ → **[l]** (in coda position)
  – /**L**/ → **[n]**
  /L/ becomes a nasal when it surrounded by other nasals.

- /**n**/ → **[n**$_{PoA^X}$**]** / **_C[+obstruent]**$_{PoA^X}$
The alveolar nasal adapts its place of articulation to any preceding obstruent, such that it becomes [ŋ] when followed by a velar sound for example or [m] when followed by /p/.

- /**C[+nasal]/ or /L/** → **[C[-voice]] / _CV[+stress]**
All sonorants except for the approximants devoice when followed by an obstruent and a syllable bearing some sort of stress.

- /**C[+velar]/** → **[C[+palatal]] / _V[+high, +front]**
Velar sounds tend to be frontened when surrounded by front vowels.

- /**C[+obstruent, –plosive, +alveolar]/** → **[C[+post-alveolar]] / _V[+high, +front]**
Alveolar non-plosive obstruents are typically backed if following /i/ or /y/. Example instantiations of this process include: /is/ → [iʃ], /yt͡sː/ → [yt͡ʃː].

- – /**C1[+coronal]**$^{MoA(X)}$/ → ∅ / **_C2[+coronal]**$^{MoA(X)}$
If two coronal sounds clash that share mode of articulation, C1 is elided and C2 compensatorily lengthened.
  – /**C1[+coronal]**$^{MoA(X)}$/ → **[C1[+coronal]MoA (Y)] / _C2[+coronal]**$^{MoA(Y)}$
If two coronal sounds clash that additionally differ in their mode of articulaton, the PoA of the preceding coronal adapts fully to that of the second coronal.

- /**C[+coronal]/** → **[C[+coronal, +pharyngealized] / V[+back]_ V[+back]**
Many dialects also still obtain the pharyngeal fricative [ħ] and contrast it with [h], Also many speakers pharyngealize many sounds when in the environment of back vowels: [s(ː)ˤ], [t(ː)ˤ], [x(ː)ˤ], [nˤ], etc.

- /**x/** ⇒ **[k]** / **_ C[+fricative, +coronal]**
The velar fricative is typically stopped if followed by a coronal fricative.
Examples: /xs/ ⇒ [ks], /xs̪/ ⇒ [ks̪]

- /**C[+velar, –pulmonic]/** ⇒ **[C[+uvular]]**
It's characteristic of some dialect groups to back velar ejectives.

2.1.2 Characteristics

What follows is a short description of the nature of the phonemic consonants in Naniuk aswell as in bits how they came about diachronically[4]

- **Plosives**: Begonian differentiates voiceless bilabial, alveolar and velar plosives. There is both a length and glottalization contrast for /t, k/ vs. /t:, k:/ vs. /t', k'/, although underlyingly long plosives surface as their short counterparts, but lengthening the preceding sound âĂŞ this is not true if the preceding sound is a diphthong where long plosives surface as such. Additionally, plosives may surface with up to three differing types of aspiration:

[4]I have to admit I'm not very diachronics-savvy. It is the one dimension of conlanging I care least about.

Preaspiration, Postaspiration, no aspiration. (check Aspiration for more). Pulmonic non-aspirated plosives are voiced when surrounded by voiced sounds. The velar glottalized plosives may be backed.

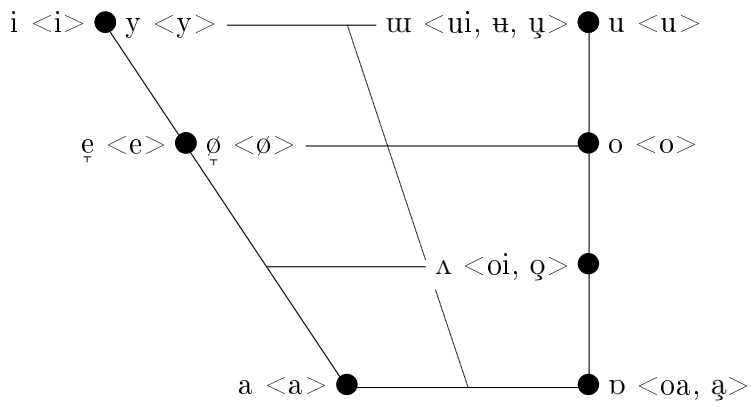
- **Affricates**: Begonian employs coronal affricates as phonemes contrasted by length/glottalization. These sounds are considered phonemes as they can fill the coda position which generally can only be filled by a sound considered to have one time unit. Depending on the analysis a dental sibilant affricate is also accepted to be phonemic.
- **Fricatives**: There are dental, alveolar, velar and glottal fricatives. Alveolar obstruents become post-alveolar following high-front vowels. Velar ejective phonemes tend to be backed by many speakers and/or fronted when surrounded by high-front vowels. Alveolar and velar fricatives are contrasted by length and pulmonic vs. non-pulmonic. The dental fricative may be a non-sibilant /θ/ (typically in onsets) or a its sibilant counterpart /s̪/ (typically in codas).
- **Nasals**: Bilabial, alveolar and alveolo-palatal nasals. Each of them can go to either onset or coda position. Nasals cause any surrounding obstruents to become voiced. They tend to nasalize and heighten preceding vowels.
- **Liquid(s)**: Begonian is considered to have only one phonemic liquid noted by /L/ in the overview above. /L/ is realized as [ɾ] in onset position and [l] in coda position. [l] may additionally be velarized after low-back vowels. Until some point in the past there used to be phonemic contrast between flapped and continued trills which is still obvious in modern orthography as /L/ may be written using <r> or <rr> within the same morpheme. Furthermore it becomes a nasal when surrounded by nasals.
- **Semivowels**: Begonian uses /j/ and /w/ as phonemic semivowels. Both can freely cause clusters with any other sounds. /w/ may not appear in coda position and is furthermore not attested to appear word-initially.

How did long and ejective obstruents come about? It is deemed likely that there has been a phonemic glottalic stop in Naniuk that merged with the obstruents such that various ejective series have developped. Further, historians assume Naniuk once featured /ɯɻ/ that – if preceded by an obstruent – disappeared and become a length marker.

2.2 Vowels

2.2.1 Monophthongs

Naniuk is analyzed to have ten phonemic monophthongs. Here they are listed in the vowel diagram with their corresponding orthographic representations:



2.2.2 Diphthongs

Here is a list of the most common diphthongs used. Diphthongs have their own graphemes, although some of those graphemes may represent different pronounciations.

a͡ʊ	<á>
e͡ə ~ j͡ɛ	<é>
ɪ͡ə ~ a͡ɪ	<í>
ʏ͡ə	<ý>
ɔ͡ʊ	<ó>
ʊ͡u ~ ʊː	<ú>

Historically all of these sounds had been plain long ATR counterparts of the other vowels, i.e. /i:/, /e:/, /o:/, /u:/[5], /y:/ and /a:/ but have later largely diphthongized if in stressed position. In a syllable bearing no sort of stress, diphthongs still mostly surface as plain long vowels.

2.2.3 Allophony

As can be seen, the pronounciation of vowels largely depends on the surrounding consonants. A few patterns are apparent though: Nasal sounds heighten and nasalize any preceding vowels. Labial sounds tend to front them, whereas dorsal ones and /h/ tend to lower them. Vowels pretty much retain their underlying features when around coronal sounds, and if word-finally without coda and stressed.

Another criterion is whether a vowel is in a syllable with some degree of stress or not. Unstressed vowels tend to be more central. However in other cases, /i/ becomes a diphthong, /u/ fronts to [ʏ], and /e/ and /o/ are heightened. However, there are some restrictions to that: /i/ only becomes a diphthong if neither of the surrounding syllables contain a diphthong. /e/ is only heightened, if it's not in the final syllable of a word, where it tends to be centralized to a schwa. /a/ becomes [ɐ] only word-finally. In all other cases, the two/three mentioned pronounciations of unstressed vowels ([ʏ] ~ [y] for /y/, etc.) appear to be arbitrary and somewhere on a continuum between that.

Underlying diphthongs are vastly turned into long vowels if in unstressed position. Usually the first vowel of the diphthong becomes "long". However there is one exception to that pattern, in that /a͡ʊ/ <á> becomes [ɒː] ~ [ɔː] if unstressed.

The following table provides an overview of all allophonic processes in Naniuk vowels – furthermore, I'm using this as a guideline for all the phonetic transcriptions below the glosses. Note though, that this is, while an accurate description for the most part, on many levels, a simplification. It's not exactly the same for every native Naniuk speaker and in some words the pronounciation of some vowels is not as depicted below.

[5] It may indeed be considered odd, if not to say unnatural, for a language to have /ʊː/ while lacking /u:/.

/**Phoneme**/	_C [+bilabial]	_C [+coronal]	_C [+nasal]	_ C [+velar]	_/h/	*Unstressed*
/i/	[a͡ɪ]	[i]	[ĩ]	[e̞]	[a͡ɪ]	[i], [ɪ], [a͡ɪ]
/y/	[œ͡ʏ]	[y]	[ỹ]	[ø̞]	[œ͡ʏ]	[ʏ], [y]
/e/	[e]	[e]	[ĩ]	[ɛ]	[ɛ]	[ə], [ɛ], [ɪ]
/ø/	[ø]	[ø]	[ỹ]	[œ]	[œ]	[ʏ], [œ]
/a/	[ɛ]	[a]	[ɛ̃]	[ɑ]	[ɑ]	[a], [ɐ]
/ɒ/	[ɐ], [ɜ̞]	[ɒ]	[ɔ̃]	[ɒ]	[ɒ]	[ɒ], [ɜ]
/ʌ/	[ɜ]	[ʌ]	[ɤ̃]	[ʌ]	[ɑ]	[ʌ], [ɜ]
/o/	[ʊ]	[o]	[ʊ̃]	[ɔ]	[ɔ], [o]	[ʊ]
/u/	[ʉ]	[u]	[ũ]	[o̞]	[u]	[ʏ], [ɵ]
/ɯ/	[ɨ], [ʏ]	[ɯ]	[ɯ̃]	[ɤ̞]	[ɯ]	[ɯ], [ə]

Diphthongs

/Phoneme/	Unstressed
/ɪə̯/	[ɪː]
/ʏɵ̯/	[ʏː]
/ɛə̯/	[ɛː]
/aʊ̯/	[ɔː]
/ɔʊ̯/	[uː]
/ʊ̯ː/	[ʊː]

2.2.4 Vowel Harmony

One of the major characteristics of Naniuk is that in most morphological alterations front–back vowel harmony can be observed. Simply, the set of all monophthongs are split into two front vs. back subsets:

front	**back**
/i/, /y/	/ɯ, u/
/e̞/, /ø̞/	/o/
	/ʌ/
/a/	/ɒ/

Here is a modified version of the table showing the front vs. back pairs including diphthongs:

front	**back**
/i/	/ɯ/
/y/	/u/
/e/	/ʌ/
/ø̞/	/o/
/a/	/ɒ/
/a͡ʊ̯/, /ɪ͡ə/, /ʏ͡ɵ/	/ʊ̯ː/
/j͡ɛ/	/ɔ͡ʊ̯/

That is supposed to mean the following: If a suffix contains the vowel /i/ if attached to a stem with a front vowel in its last syllable that /i/ will change to a /ɯ/ if the last syllable of the stem contains a back vowel, and so on.

Surprisingly the diphthong /a͡ʊ̯/ forms a part of the front series. It is contained in some suffixes attaching to a front stem, but changes to /ʊ̯ː/ if the stem has a back vowel in its final syllable.

The same alteration occurs with suffixes that contain any of /ɪ͡ə/ or /ʏ͡ɵ/ if attached to a stem with a final front syllable.

Unusual for head-final languages, Naniuk does feature a small set of prefixes. And unlike most suffixes, prefixes are actually not subject to vowel harmony.

2.3 Syllable Structure

In summary, Naniuk syllable maximally contain a single consonant in the onset optionally followed by a semivowel /j/ or /w/, a single mono– or diphthong and a single consonant in the coda:

$$\mathbf{C_1\ [j,\ w]\ V\ C_2}$$

Underlyingly any of the available consonants may take the C_1 or C_2 position, however long and ejective obstruents their short/pulmonic counterpart in the coda. Likewise, all the affricates in C_2 surface as [tˀ].

2.4 Restrictions in the Phonotactics

There is a number of sound sequences that may come up if affixes are concatenated that are not licensed by the syllable structure. This section shows how these deviations are "repaired". The left side of the arrow shows the forbidden sound sequence and the right hand side the phonetic surface form.

- **/$\mathbf{V_\alpha C_1 C_2 C_3}$/ ⇒ [$\mathbf{C_1 V_\alpha C_2 C_3}$] or [$\mathbf{C_1 C_2 V_\alpha C_3}$]**
  Consonant clusters are broken by reduplicating the vowel of the preceding syllable. The location of the duplicated vowel always lies in between morpheme boundaries.

- – **/VPS/ ⇒ [VFS]** (1)
  – **/MpS/ ⇒ [M:S]** (2)
  – **/DpS/ ⇒ [DS]** (3)
  M is understood to be a monophthong, V to be any vowel, P to be a (pulmonic, short) plosive and S to be a plosive or a nasal. In (1) a plosive right before another stop is spirantized to its corresponding fricative, this happens if P is /t/ or /k/. /p/ right before another stop sound is elided with the previous monophthong lengthened (see (2)). If /p/ precedes another stop and follows a diphthong, the /p/ is not pronounced and nothing else happens. (3)

- **/$\mathbf{M_1 M_2 M_3}$/ ⇒ [$\mathbf{M_1 n M_2 M_3}$] or [$\mathbf{M_1 M_2 n M_3}$]**
  Should there be three monophthongs clashing, an epenthetic /n/ is inserted wherever the morpheme boundary is.

2.5 Stress & Prosody

There are two main ways of stressing syllables, either by articulating syllables with low fundamental frequency and high volume (fron now on *low stress*, **LS**) or by articulating with high fundamental frequency and unmarked volume (henceforth *high stress*, **HS**). Length isn't used to denote stressing, as it's inherent to each syllable in a word.

- Every word with at least two syllables, has low stress on the first syllable.
- Words with more than three syllables, have LS on the first syllable and HS on the fourth.

- In words with clusters of prefixes and suffixes, the first syllable has LS regardless, but the first syllable belonging to a lexical morpheme has HS if it's not the second syllable in the word overall. Also, the first syllable belonging to a suffix has HS.

Examples (R = syllable in the root, P = syllable in the prefix cluster, S = syllable in the suffix cluster):

Syllable Structure	**Stress Pattern**
R1–R2	LS–X
R1–S1	LS–X
R1–R2–R3	LS–X–X
R1–R2–R3–R4	LS–X–X–HS
R1–R2–S1	LS–X–HS
P1–R1–R2–R3–S1	LS–X–X–HS–X
P1–P2–R1–R2–S1–S2	LS–X–HS–X–HS–X

Note that LS and HS cannot directly follow each other, there has to be at least one acoustically unmarked syllable X in between.

2.6 Aspiration

- Only the pulmonic plosives and affricates can be aspirated in some way.
- At the beginning of a word or in the onset of a syllable with low stress plosives are postaspirated by default.
- Between two vowels with the following syllable containing high stress plosives are preaspirated by default.
- If any of these sounds are in a consonant cluster, aspiration is blocked altogether. Or in other words consonant clusters with aspirated plosives are not allowed by phonotactics.
- Additional <h> changes the aspiration sequence: While <natatat> would be [nadadat], <natahtat> would be [nadahtat]. No aspiration is articulated when /h/ is in the onset of a syllable.
- Intervocally voiced plosives cannot bear aspiration.
- All plosives in onsets of syllables containing either high or low stress are always aspirated in some way.

Examples: Where P = Plosive or Affricate, B = Plosive voiced intervocally, C = any other consonant, V = any mono-/diphthong:

Syllable Structure	**Stress Pattern**	**Aspiration Pattern**
PV.CV.PV	LS–X–X	P^{h}V.CV.BV
PV.CV.PV	LS–X–HS	P^{h}V.CV.^{h}PV
PCV.CV.PV	LS–X–X	PCV.CV.PV
PV.CV.PCV	LS–X–HS	P^{h}V.CV.PCV
PV.CV.CV.PV	LS–X–HS–X	P^{h}V.CV.CV.BV
PV.CV.PCV.PV.PV.PCV	LS–X–HS–X–HS–X	P^{h}V.CV.PCV.BV.^{h}PV.PCV

2.7 Further Observations

2.7.1 Utterance–Final Low Floating Tone

There is a tendency among some speakers to pronounce the last syllable of an utterance with a low tone:

(a) Pakka áxin jurrat. [(...) jù.ɾɛ̀t˥] = *The man shot the bear.*
(b) Huizárok átstotta imúraň tumík. [(...) t^{h}ù.mì:k˥] = *The dancer cries because his foot hurts.*

Furthermore, if by the stress rules the last syllable ends up with a high tone, it may or may not be pronounced with a falling tone instead:

(c) Jók hititu kamrin átata. [(...) ɐ̀ʊ̯.ɾa.^{h}tă̂] = *I give you the book.*

I have however not paid attention to these non-phonemic tonal processes in the transcriptions in this overview.

2.7.2 Vowel Devoicing Among Female Speakers

Female speakers often devoice vowels where they are typically pronounced with a high tone, consider the above sentence:

Jók hititu kamrin átata.

Where women will often pronounce <hititu> as [hi̥.ɾaɪ̯.^{h}tú̥], and <átata> as [ɐ̀ʊ̯.ɾa.tḁ́], removing the preaspriation and high tone and devoicing the vowel instead.

2.8 Spectograms for Typical Utterances

Summarizing, here are spectrograms for exemplary pronounciations/tone contours for declarative (without any foregrounded constituents), declarative (with a topicalized and focalized constituent), declarative (with a phonologically complex subclauses embedded) and interrogative sentences:

- Jók hititu kamrin átata.
  "I give you the book."

- Jók hititu í áta kamrin kata .
  "It's the book which I give to you."

- Jók hititu sym ɪkxønetsem sýtiňjý kamrin átata.
  "I gave you the book so that you can study for the big test."

- Jók hititu áta hjátta?
  "What do I give you?"

- Hik júrrtu kamrin pátassa!
  "Give me the book!"

3 Nouns

Nouns may take any form the phonotactical rules allow and inflect for number and case and may pick up a number of affixes. The canonical morphological sequence for nouns is as follows:

Negation	**Stem**	Possession	Number	Case

3.1 Nominal Morphology

3.1.1 Case Paradigm

Naniuk features an *ergative-absolutive* type morphosyntactic alignment.

There are a total of 26 cases found in standard speech – one of it's "trademarks" so to speak. Some cases have different allomorphs besides vowel harmony. The left side is the "front" allomorph with the right side the "back" version.

Absolutive	–∅, –a
Ergative (Non–Past)	–k
Ergative (Past)	–ka, –ha[6]
Genitive	–ín/–ún
Dative	–ty/–tu
Instrumental	–em/–oim
Comitative	–ý/–ú, –hara/hąra
Essive	–kkita/–kkɥta
Comparative	–yɟ/–uɟ
Abessive	–ssuta/–ssyta
Adessive	–mina/–mɥna
Inessive	–tø/–to
Superessive	–kká/–kkú
Subessive	–raj
Apudessive	–ahta
Allative	–m, –ára/–úra
Perlative	–hhé/–hhó, –ňi/–ňɥ
Ablative	–ik/–ɥk, –taka
Prolative	–tá/–tú
Terminative	–han/–hąn
Semblative	–írus/–úrus
Translative	–sse/–ssǫ
Causative	–ta, –hi/–hɥ, –nam
Concessive	–jeň/–jǫň
Benefactive	–ý/–ú
Temporative	–hɟym/–hɟum

Suffixes containing /a/ as its sole vowel may be subject to vowel harmony, where it alternates with /ɒ/, or not – where it always surfaces with an [a].

In general, Naniuk nouns need not be overtly marked for number if it's not deemed important enough for discourse or if context provides sufficient information. If not the following affixes may be put in the *Number* slot.

Nullar	–akén/–akón–
Singular	–∅–
Dual/Paucal	–h–
Plural	–z–

- **Ergative**: Marks the grammatical agents/forces in sentences when there are direct objects involved. It is also used with abstract objects like sentences or nominalized verbs. Even if an action occurs without the control of the "agent" (more like patient), ergative has to be used – but an atelic marker on the verb represents the patient- status of the subject. The ergative case marker is –k in non-past tense and often either –ka or –ha in the past tense. The ergative case marker exhibits suppletion if the verb is inflected for past tense and has to be remembered with each new noun learned.

- **Absolutive**: Default form for each noun. Subjects in sentences without direct objects involved and direct objects themselves take this zero marker independently of semantic properties (e.g. whether the subjects does something willingly or not).

- **Dative**: Marks indirect objects. Personal pronouns taking the absolutive or dative case marking may also be incorporated into the verb.

- **Genitive**: Marks the possessor of objects (not in all dialects). Also plays an important role in nominalization in subordinate clauses.

- **Instrumental/Comitative**: Both mark things with whose help someone achieved something. The latter implies a human component, i.e. a living helper, or alternatively, an object/state/etc. that is extremely helpful. The comitative case marker is –hara/–hoara if used in combination with a name and –ú/–ý elsewhere. The former implies a non-living helper, e.g. a tool. In word formation, things with which the head part of a compound consists of or is filled with, etc. takes the instrumental case marker.

Jók himít púmǫm pátimónǫm/hitú
jók himít púm–ǫm–∅ pátimón–oim/hit–ú
1SG.ERG far see–NMLZ–ABS manual–INSTR/2SG–COM
muitémtáta.
muit–ém–tá=ta
DUR–go–CAUS=1SG.NPST

[jɔ͡ʊkˀ hɐ̀ɪ.mɪːtˀ pʰɔ̀ː.mɜm pʰɐ̀ʊ̯.ɾi.ˌmɔ́ʊ̯.nɜm ˈmʊ̀ɪ.ɾɛːm̥.tá.ɾɐ]
"I am setting up the TV with the manual/with you."

Sym ikkaňtý jó sym kymiz ápura
sym ikkaň–t–ý jó sym kymiz ápy–ura
great health–1SG.POSS–COM 1SG.ABS great year NDEF–ALL
joizoak.
joizoa=k.
reach.PST=1SG.PST

[sœ͡ʏm ˈɐ̀ː.kɐɲ̊.ˌtʏ́ɵ jɔ͡ʊ sœ͡ʏm ˈkʰœ̀ʏ.miz̥ ˈɐ̀ʊ̯.bʏ.ɾɐ ˈjʌ̀θɜkˀ]
"Thanks to my great health I made it to an old age."

- **Locative/Movement Cases**: *Allative* marks movement towards something, *Ablative* movement away from something. Though ablative marking also has a metaphorical meaning as in avoiding something or is used in personal pronouns to signalize something happens to someone's detriment. In compounds it is used to determine what is intended to be mitigated, avoided or fought (e.g.: ramútuk aɟké ∼ "breakdown service"). *Perlative* marks objects through (locally) which an action occurs, some older speakers use it to denote the patient in antipassive constructions.

  The surface form of the movement cases Allative, Perlative and Ablative depends on whether the referent through/to/from which a movement happens has a fixed position versus a movable position.

  The *Prolative* is one of the most seldomly used cases and nearly no longer used productively, its usage is restricted to objects making a certain action systematically happen/possible.

  Haru kemm / kenhhé / kenik / kentá
  cat–ABS house–ALL / house–PERL / house–ABL / house–PRO
  haru–∅ ken–m / ken–hhé / ken–ik / ken–tá
  ékagzepim.
  EGEV–run–ATEL
  ék–agzep–im

  ['hà.ɾʏ kɪ̃mː 'kʰɪ̃ɲ.xɪ 'kʰɪ̃ɲ.naɪk˺ kʰɪ̃ɲ.dɔː 'ɛ̀ə.gag.zɪˌʰpa‿ɪm]
  "I see the cat is running towards/through/away/by means of the house."

  Ját hitɣk méstomít háj.
  DEM–ABS 2SG–ABL fast–INT COP.PST.FIN
  ját–∅ hit–ɣk mésto–mít háj

  [ja‿ʊt˺ hɪ̀.ɾɯk˺ mɛ̀‿əs.tʊˌmíə̯t˺]
  "That was too fast for you."

  Ablative case may also be used for dependents in NPs:

  Irkoita menozɣk méazok eɟtuıa ápyha
  mayor–CAUS decision–ABL people–ERG hand NDEF–DU–ABS
  irkoi–ta menoz–ɣk méaz–k eɟtuıa ápy–h–a
  azkotak.
  be_high–CAUS=3SG.NPST
  azko–ta=k

  ['ɪ̀l.gɜˌʰ tá 'mɪ̀̃.nʊˌθɔ́k˺ mɛ̀‿ə.a.ˌθɔ́k˺ ɛ̀x.twɐ 'à‿ʊ.byˌhá 'àn̈.kʊˌʰ tɑk˺]
  "The people who are against the mayor's decision are demonstrating."

- **Locative/Stative Cases**: Adessive and Abessive mark things that either present or absent. Inessive objects within an action, Superessive whereupon, Subessive under which, Apudessive near what an action occurs. Marks involuntary possession aswell.

  Jóttaha pór ukújtaka júrrmɣna / júrrssąta
  boy–ERG.PST ball–ABS window–ABL 1SG–ADESS / 1SG–ABESS
  jótta–ha pór–∅ ukúj–taka júrr–mɣna / júrr–ssąta
  zǫhkat.
  kick.PST=3SG.PST
  zǫhkat=∅

['jɔ̟ʊ̯.tːaˌhá pɔʊ̯l 'ɔ̟.guːjˌtá.gɐ 'jʊ̀ːl.mɯnɐ 'jʊ̀ːl.sːɒ.ɾɐ s̪ʌh.kɐt̚]
"The boy kicked the ball out of the window under my presence/without me."

Jóga	mitssínem	hýjtt	ıttérato	/ ıttérakkú	/
1SG.ERG	beer–INSTR	cup–1SG.POSS–ABS	table–INE	/ table–SUPE	/
jóga	mitssí–em	hýjt–t–∅	ıttéra–to	/ ıttéra–kkú	/
ıttéraraj	/ ıttérahta	maízak.			
table–SUBE	/ table–APUD	place.PST=1SG.PST			
ıttéra–raj	/ ıttéra–ahta	maíza=k			

['jɔ̟ʊ̯.gɐ 'mì̯.t̪sːiˌñ̪ím hʏɵt̚'tɛ̟̆ɔ̯.ɾaˌʰtó 'tɛ̟̆ɔ̯.ɾaːˌkúː 'tɛ̟̆ɔ̯.ɾaˌráj 'tɛ̟̆ɔ̯.ɾah.tɐ 'màːɾˌθáːk̚]
"I put my cup of beer in/on/under/near the table."

Furthermore, Inessive can be used to mark countable objects in a non-completed action:

Uzék	kamrintø	jó	itsmónumak.
three	book–INE	1SG.ABS	read.PST–ATEL=1SG.PST
uzék	kamrin–tø	jó	itsmó–um=k

['ùˌs̪ɛːk̚ 'kʰɛ̀̃m.naɪ̯n̪̊ˌtǿ jɔ̟ʊ̯ 'ìt̪̟s.muːˌnɯ́.mɐk̚]
"I've read three books" (– but not completely).

- **Essive-Formal**: Used within constructions making use of equal comparison. Marks objects with certain properties equal to others. (see *copular verbs*) May also be used as an introduction:

Ak	hik	etuňuk	akýs	ápoim		ixárzatu
∅.ERG	2SG.ERG	money–ADJZ	problem	NDEF–INSTR		buy–NMLZ–PL–DAT
ak	hik	etuň–uk	akýs	ápy–oim		ixa–ár–z–tu
hozum	ápy	ihtama	itt	rójnatkkɣta	kut	
solution	NDEF–ABS	suggest	TOP	bank.teller–ESS	2SG.NPST.TEL	CNJ.ABS
hozum	ápy–∅	ihtama	itt	rójnat–kkɣta	kut	∅
hajtík.						
expect=3SG.NPST						
hajtí=k						

[ɑk̚ hɐ̟k̚ 'èˑɾʏˌɲɔ̟́k̚ 'ɑ̀.gys 'ɑ̀ʊ̯.bɜm 'ɐ̟̀.xɔːlˌθáˑɾʏ 'hò.θʏm 'ɑ̀ʊ̯.by 'ɑ̀ɪh.ta.mɐ it̚ 'rɔ̀ʊ̯j.nasːˌkʉ̃ˑɾɐ kut̚ 'háj.ɾɪːk̚]
"As a bank teller, you are expected to offer solutions to the customers regarding financial problems."

- **Semblative**: Oftentimes fused with the Essive case: Marks objects with certain properties similar to others.
- **Comparative**: Important for comparisons. Marks the standard an object is being compared to. (see *Comparative Clauses*)
- **Translative**: Often used with predicative adjectives: Marks what an object turns into/becomes. (see *Copular Verbs*)

- **Causative**: Used to denote the reason an action/state occurs and in antipassive constructions to denote the oblique patient. (*Valence*) There's a number of different surface realizations of the causative case marker but fortunately for the foreign language learner they pretty much carry identical semantics.

- **Terminative**: Offers a time frame for an action, marks the object representing a point in time until which an action occurs. In combination with a time duration it expresses "(with)in X".

Muitmáttathan	kenttø	hiti
DUR–sleep–1SG.POSS–TERM	house–1.SG.POSS–INE	2SG.ABS
muit–mátta–t–han	ken–t–tø	hiti

  ísmeňim.
  OBL:NEG–talk–ATEL
  ís–meň–im.

  [ˈmʉ̀ʉs.mɔːˌtːàt.hɐn ˈkʰɛ̀ɲːtœ hit ˈìʃ.mɪˌɲɑ́ːm]
  "As long as I'm sleeping you shouldn't talk in my house."

Jók	ópury	ápyný	kɥm	ɪttó zujóhhąn
1SG.ERG	poor.N	NDEF–BENE	project–ABS	two week–DU–TERM
jók	ópury	ápy–ý	kɥm	ɪttó zujó–h–hąn

  upátakut.
  finish=1SG.TEL
  upá=takut

  [jɔ̃ʊ̃kˀ ˈɔ̀ʊ̯.bʏ.ɾy ˈɑ̀ʊ̯.byˌnýʊ̯ kɨm tːɔ̃ʊ̯ ˈθù.juːˌxːɔ̃́n ˈɐ̀.bɔːˌʰta.gʏtˀ]
  "I will have finished the project for the poor within two weeks."

- **Concessive**: Marks nouns despite who/which an action or state is occurring.

Jó	zutjájoň	hróza.
1SG.ABS	tired.N–CONC	do_sports
jó	zutjá–joň	hróza

  [jɔʊ̯ ˈθʊ̀t.jɔːˌjʊ̃ɲ̃ ˈɾɔ̀ʊ̯.θɐ]
  "I worked out despite being very tired."

- **Benefactive**: Often fused with the Dative case: Marks the beneficient of an action. Marks intention and purpose/finality in nominalized verbs (see *purpose clauses*). May also be used as dependent of a Noun:

Ját	ytmítý	méazok	jók	hját	tinaň
DEM	one–AUG–BENE	people–ERG	1SG.ERG	what	say–NMLZ
ját	yt–mít–ý	méaz–k	jók	hját	tina–ň

akjǫzta	∅	itámarrashak.
∅–not_know=1SG.NPST	CNJ.ABS	be_stupid–MIR1=3SG.NPST.LOW
ak–jǫz=ta	∅	itám–arras=hak

  [jaʊ̯tˀ ˈỳs.mɪːˌʰtý ˈmɛ̀ə.aˌθɔ́kˀ jɔʊ̯kˀ hjaʊ̯tˀ ˈtʰɛ̀ɲ.nɐɲ ˈɑ̀k.jɜs̪ˌtá ˈìs.ma.ɾasˌhɑ́kˀ]
  "The people supporting this party are so naïve that I don't know what to say."

- **Temporative**: Marks the time frame during which an action occurs.

Jóka	jóhmeňtín		okúr	ápynún	tykaň
1SG.ERG.PST	conlang–1SG.POSS–GEN		sound	NDEF–GEN	use–NMLZ–ABS
jóka	jóhmeň–t–ín		okúr	ápy–ún	tyka–ň–∅
azkúmhɟum	mɣthajrazakut.				
class–TEMP	DUR–make.PST=1SG.TEL				
azkúm–hɟum	mɣt–hajra=zakut.				

[jɔ͡ʊ.gɐ ˈjɔh.mɪŋ̊ˌtɪ͡ən ˈɔ.gʏɾ ˈɑ͡ʊ.byˌnʊ́ːn ˈtʰɑ̀e.gɐ̟ɲ ˈàn̪.kuːmˌxʼɯ́m ˈmʊ̀ɪt.haj.ɾaˌθá.gʏtˀ]
"I made the phonology for my conlang during class."

Cases can be stacked to express multiple dimension in one:

Ø	kemm	mithhékká	/	mithhéraj	sámkut.
3SG.ABS	house–ALL	hill–PERL–SUPE	/	hill–PERL–SUBE	go.PST=3SG.TEL
Ø	ken–m	mit–hhé–kká	/	mit–hhé–raj	sám=kut

[økɪ̃mː ˈmɪ̀t.xːɛːˌkːáʊ̯ ˈmɪ̀t.xːɛːˌɾáj ˈsɛ̃m.gʏtˀ]
"He went to the house over/under the hill.

The Perlative marker shows he went through the hill and the Superessive/Subessive marker additionally shows he went on top of/below the hill.

3.1.2 Morphonological Rules

The following overview exemplifies the various morphophonemic (epenthetic, syncopic) processes to reach the phonological form of utterance when various sorts of monophthongs and diphthongs clash at morpheme boundaries:

Underlying Representation	Surface Representation	Comments
...-RM-SM-... *(nouns)* [1]RM is one of /i, y, e, a, o, u/ [2]RM is one of /ø, ɯ, ʌ, ɒ/	[1]...SM...* [2]...RM...	[1]/pyna/ + /us/ ⇒ /pynu(:)s/ *, **, *** [2] /pynɒ/ + /us/ ⇒ /pynɒ(:)s/ Exception: f.e. /pynɒ/ + /u/ ⇒ [pynɒnu]: Instead of being elided, an epenthetic /n/ is added between the morpheme boundaries if an affix consisting of a single monophthong is added.
...-RM-SD-... *(nouns)* [1]RM is one of /i, y, e, a, o, u/ [2]RM is one of /ø, ɯ, ʌ, ɒ/	[1]...SM... [2]...RM–[n]–SD...	[1]/pyna/ + /e͡ən/ ⇒ [pyne͡ən] [2] /pynɒ/ + /e͡ən/ ⇒ [pynɒne͡ən]
...-AM-RV-... [1]AM is one of /i, y, e, a, o, u/ [2]AM is one of /ø, ɯ, ʌ, ɒ/	[1]...RV(:).. [2]...AM(:)...	[1]/pe/ + /aɾi/ ⇒ [pa(:)ɾi] [2]/pe/ + /ɒɾi/ ⇒ [pɒ(ː)ɾi] [3]/pɒ/ + /aɾi/ ⇒ [pɒ(ː)ɾi]
...-AD-RV-...	AD–[n]–RV	[1]/pe͡ə/ + /aɾi/ ⇒ [pe͡ənaɾi] [2]/pe͡ə/ + /ɒɾi/ ⇒ [pe͡ənɒɾi] [3]/pe͡ə/ + /a͡ʊɾi/ ⇒ [pe͡ənaʊɾi]
...-RD-SV-...	RD–[n]–SV	[1]/turɔ͡ʊ/ + /ys/ ⇒ [turɔ͡ʊnys] [2]/turɔ͡ʊ/ + /e͡ən/ ⇒ [turɔ͡ʊne͡ən]
...-V_1-V_2-... where both V_1 and V_2 are one of /ø, ɯ, ʌ, ɒ/	...-V_1-(-[n]-)V_2-...	/pynɒ/ + /øs/ → [pynɒ(n)øs]
...-D-D-... where both D are equivalent	...D...	/hɛ͡ə/ + /ɛ͡əna/ → [hɛ͡əna]

*Yields RM(:) for the ergative, comparative, allative and possessive–singular affixes.
**Compensatory lengthening is facultative.
***Suffixes attaching to nouns subject to vowel harmony assimilate to second right-most syllable in a word if the final syllable is elided.

To clarify: M and D are short for monophthong/diphthong, where V may be either of the two. A, R and S are short for affix (actually prefix), root and suffix. E.g.: The sequence *AM–RV* becomes *RV* if M is one of /i, e, a, o, u, y/ – that means that the monophthong (M) in the prefix (A) (→ AM) is not expressed overtly and only any vowel (V) in the root (R) (→ RV) remains.

The previous and following table are further understood to be an extension of what is described in the allophony sections above. Here is what happens if all kinds of obstruents clash at morpheme boundaries, who gets their "right of way" and what may happen to the phonological context:

Where P(:) is understood to be a (long) plosive, E to be an ejective, M to be a monophthong, D to be a diphthong, V to be either of the latter two, F a Fricative and lower case p is simply /p/. These processes aren't restricted to morpheme boundaries, but also occur between words, however in the phonetic transcriptions I haven't paid attention to this detail. Also, all the processes explained in the allophony section apply between morpheme boundaries aswell.

Attentive readers will have noticed in the allophony section that underlying word-initial length contrast in plosives technically becomes a tone contrast in the adjacent vowels instead:
/taja/ → [t^{h}àjɐ], /t:aja/ → [tə̂.jɐ]

Underlying Representation	Surface Representation	Comments
/V_1PX:V_2/ where P is one of /t, k/ and X: is any long obstruent	[V_1F:X$\tilde{V}_2$]	Long plosives turn the preceding short plosive into its correspondent long fricative and make the preceding vowel pronounced with a rising-falling tone: /atkːɛː/ → [asːkɛ̃ː]
/MpX:V/	[M:XV]	/apkːe/ → [aːke]
/DpX:V/	[DX:V]	/a͡ʊpkːe/ → [a͡ʊkːe]
/VP:X/	[V:FX]	/ikːt/ → [iːxt]
/MP:X:V/	[M:F:X$\tilde{V}$]	/etːkːɪə̯/ → [eːsːkɪ̃ə̯]
/DP:X:V/	[DF:X$\tilde{V}$]	/ʏ͡øtːkːɪə̯/ → [ʏ͡øsːkɪ̃ə̯]
/(t͡s, t͡sː, t͡s')X/	[1]Sx], [2]Tx], [3]X:]	[1]If X is a plosive or nasal: /at͡s'pa/ → [aspa], exception: /at͡sta/ → [at:a] [2]If X = /L/: /at͡s'ra/ → /atra/ [3]If X is a fricative or affricate: /at͡s'xa/ → [ax:a] Affricates retain their underlying pronounciation if followed by vowels.
/(sː, s', xː, x')X/	[1][X], [2][(t, k)X], [3][(s, x)X]	[1]X is a fricative: /asːxa/ → [axa] [2]X = /L/: /asːra/ → [/atra/], /ax'ra/ → [/akra/] [3] X is anything else: /axːk'ɔ͡ʊ/ → [axk'ɔ͡ʊ] Fricatives retain their underlying pronounciation if followed by vowels.
/P_1P_1/	P_1ː	If two tokens of the same (short, pulmonic) plosive meet at morpheme boundaries they transform to a single long one.
/VPE/ where P is one of /t, k/	[VFE]	/itk'/ → [isk']
/MpE/	[M:E]	/ipk'/ → [i:k']
/DpE/	[DE]	/ɪ͡əpk'/ → [ɪ͡ək']
/MP:E/	[MF:E]	/it:k'/ → [is:k']
/DP:E/, /DEP:/	[DFE]	/a͡ʊkːt'/ → [a͡ʊxt']
/E_1E_2/	E_2	If two ejectives clash, the latter survives.
/P#/	P$^{\urcorner}$	Plosives aren't audibly released if word-finally.

However there's also aspiration patterns to tell those two apart so it's not a strict contrast anyway.

Exceptions to the morphonological processes laid out above include:

Underlying Representation	Surface Representation	Comments
/np/	[m:]	anpa → [am:a]
/C_1C_2/	[C_1aC_2]	If a suffix consisting only of a single phoneme Y is attached to a host X with a closed syllable at the end an epenthetic [a] is added, unless the resulting consonant sequence can be combined to a long obstruent: /atk/ → [atak] This is to avoid two consonants in coda position. But: /att/ → [a:t]
/X:Y:Z:/	[XYZ]	If all segments in a syllable are long, they tend to be collectively shortened.
/nL/	[l:] <rr>	/aranra/ → [aral:a]
/Ln/	[n:] <nn>	/araɾna/ → [araɾn:a]
/Lm/, /Lɲ/	[m:], [ɲ:]	/araʎma/ → [aram:a], /araɾ$\underset{+}{\text{ɲ}}$a/ → [ara$\underset{+}{\text{ɲ}}$:a]
/ks/, /ps/	[gz], [bz]	These consonant clusters are often voiced if intervocally or between morpheme boundaries.
/xs/	[gz]	
/kx/	[x:]	/akxa/ → [ax:a]
/iu/, /io/	[y] <y>	/atios/ → [atys]
/ui/, /oi/	[ɯ]	/atuis/ → [atɯs]
/eu/, /eo/, /ue/, /oe/	[ø] <ø>	/ateos/ → [atøs]
/ɪə̯o/, /oɪə̯/, /ɪə̯u/, /uɪə̯/, /ʊ̯:i/, /ɔʊ̯i/, ...	[ʏθ]	/atʊ:is/, /atɔʊ̯is/, /.../ → [atʏθs]
/ɛə̯o/, /oɛə̯/, /ɛə̯u/, /uɛə̯/, /ʊ̯:e/, /ɔʊ̯e/, ...	[ø:]	/atʊ:es/, /atɔʊ̯es/, /.../ → [atø:s]

Orthographic adaptations:

- If a stem ends in an alveolo-palatal nasal written with <ni>, the <i> is left out and a caron is added to <(X)> if the added affix does not have a zero onset:
  jarrkoini (mathematics–ABS) → jarrkoiňtá (mathematics-PERL)
  réjani (question-ABS) → réjaňmat (question-TRANS)
- If a stem ends in <k> and the added affix begins with <i, í, y> or <ý> an <u> may be added in between to signalize there's no change in pronounciation:
  pak [pɑkˀ] (man-ABS) → pakuý [$p^hɑ.gʏ$:] (man-COM) This is because sometimes velars are fronted if surrounded by front vowels.
- In many cases, it's up to choice whether to write a word according to its underlying features or adapt it to the allophony: In <pakuý> the <k> became voiced by adding the comitative suffix, so it may be written <paguý> - but that's not compulsory. Further examples include <iksaň> (AUX.1SG.ERG–3SG.DO), written either <iksaň> or <igzaň>.
- Word-initial long obstruents are written <ɪtt, ɪts, ɪkk, ɪhh, ...>.

3.1.3 Definiteness

There is an indefinite postposition *ápy* used in the following situations:

(1)

Øga	muɪokkɣ	ápy	osáta.
3SG.ERG.PST	book	NDEF–ABS	create.PST=3.PST
øga	muɪokkɣ	ápy–∅	osáta=∅

['ɔ̀e.gɐ 'mʷɔ̀ː.kɯ 'a͡ʊ̯.bʏ 'ɔ̀.sɔː.tɐ]
"He wrote a/any book."

vs.

(2)

Øga	muɪokkɣ	osáta.
3SG.ERG.PST	book–ABS	create.PST=3.PST
øga	muɪokkɣ–∅	osáta=∅

"He wrote the book."

The postposition *ápy* takes over any number/case suffix from its complements as can be seen in the two sentences above: In (1) the Absolutive case marker attaches to the postposition, whereas in (2) it's part of the noun "the book".

Further usages include:

- **Mass Noun (Partitive, Non–Specific):**

Pynúto	zaherók	ápy	sjá.
Pynu–INE	CONJ=snow	NDEF–ABS	stand
Pynú–to	za=herók	ápy–∅	sjá

['pʰỳ̰.nuːˌʰtó 'θà.hɪˌɾɔ́ʊ̯k˥ 'a͡ʊ̯.bʏ sja͡ʊ̯]
"There is a lot of snow in Pynú."

- **Mass Noun, Generic:**

Hik	harré ápoim	mottataňja	ithuɪemsse.
2SG.ERG	salt NDEF–INSTR	eat–NMLZ–AP–ABS	NEG=love=2.NPST
hik	harré ápy–oim	mottat–ň–∅	it=huɪem=sse

[hẹ̬k˥ 'hà.lːɛ 'a͡ʊ̯.bɜm 'mòː.taˌʰtɛ̋ɲ̟.jɐ 'ì̯t.ʍɛm̥ˌtá]
You don't like eating (stuff) with salt."

Note that *ápy* does not tend to be put overtly after nouns that are further specified by adjectives/relative clauses/etc.:

Hik	(?? hrón	harré ápoim)	mottataňja
2SG.ERG	(?? white salt	NDEF–INSTR)	eat–NMLZ–AP–ABS

ithuɪemsse.
NEG=love=2.NPST
"You don't like eating (stuff) with white salt."

- **Count Noun, Generic**

Hik	itmér	í	øk	haru	ápy	parak
2SG.ERG	NEG=know.PST	FOC	3SG.ERG	cat	NDEF–ABS	like=3.NPST
hik	it=mér	í	øk	háru	ápy–∅	par=k
	hák?					
CNJ.ABS	Q=2.PST					
∅	há=k					

[hẹ̥kˀ ˈìs.mjɛl ɪː økˀ ˈhà.ɾʏ ˈà͡ʊ̯.bʏ ˈpʰà.ɾɐkˀ ha͡ʊ̯kˀ]
"Didn't you know that she likes cats?"

Overall, there is the tendency to put *ápy* after non–specific entities that are not further specified by other non–numeric modifiers. Specific entities that have been referred to earlier in discourse aren't marked like that.

Note that in the postposition construction it is irrelevant whether the entity is in plural or any other number. The last sentence may be also understood to mean *"Didn't you know that she likes a/any cat?"*.

Jók	émpatto	uzék	mézza	púmtakut.
1SG.ERG	park–INE	three	people–PL–ABS	see=1SG.NPST.VOL
jók	émpat–to	uzék	méz–z–a	púm=takut

[jɔ͡ʊ̯kˀ ˈɛ̀ə̯m.paːˌtó ˈùn̪.ɛːkˀ ˈmɛ̀ə̯.n̪ːɐ ˈpʰòːm.taˌʰkútˀ]
"I want to see these three people in the park."

Jók	émpatto	uzék	méz	ápy	púmtakut.
1SG.ERG	park–INE	three	people	NDEF–ABS	see=1SG.NPST.VOL
jók	émpat–to	uzék	méz	ápy	púm=takut

"I want to see some three people in the park."

The indefinite postposition may appear within the same NP with a number aswell:

the house	kén
a house/Any house/Houses (in general)	kén ápy
the one house	yt kén
any one house	yt kén ápy
this one house	yt ját kén
these two houses	ıttó ját kén

3.1.4 Word Formation

The case suffix taken by the left part of the compound depends on the intended semantics: The word "breakdown assistance" can be translated as (glossing only) *breakdown–ABL assistance* for the intended meaning that the assistance serves to avoid/repair breakdowns. Alternatively it could be translated as breakdown–BENE assistance if one were to talk about an "assistance" causing breakdowns.

Formally, compounds are indicated by a hyphen. Acoustically, the right part of the compound is included in the metric realization: zóroin–mena would have HS on the first syllable of the first word and the first syllable of the second word if they were to be treated as separate words. As a

Noun + Noun	
rokkɣta–útsja(snow–ESS ball)	snowball ""ball as snow"
jottasɣk–mátoɟ (autumn–ABL=jacket)	autumn jacket *"Ablative: "Jacket against autumn","Jacket saving from (the effects of) autumn"*
hrózú–etsjúni(sport–BENE=clothes)	sport clothes (Benefactive: *"Clothing for sports"*)
zórɋm–mena(milk–INSTR bottle)	milk bottle (Instrumental: *"Bottle with milk"*)
zórkkɣta–mena(milk–ESS=bottle)	milk bottle (Essive: *"The bottle itself consists of milk"*
Verb + Noun	
takaňú-pjékka(sit–NMLZ–BENE=place)	*"sitting place/spot"*

compound, it bears HS on the first syllable and LS on the fourth syllable. Also, morphophonemic processes between word boundaries apply (e.g., realization of rozú–etsjúni as [ˈɾɔ̀ʊ̯.θɪˌt͡sjʊ̃ˌ̃ɲ]).

Begonian speakers also make extensive use of verb+verb compounds when creating new verbs, where the first part is invented and the second part is an already existant verb, mostly with high frequency, that inflects for tense. The reason why this is done is that there is no standard way of inflecting verbs for past tense which could be used for new words, it's exclusively lexical.

3.1.5 Derived Nouns

Let me just bring up an example of how action nouns are used in sentences – consider the base sentence:

Ujatók ótumot rasúnírus ahmak.
vet–ERG dog–1SG.POSS–ABS careful examine=3SG.NPST
ujató–k ótumot–∅ rasúnírus ahma=k

[ˈùˌjaˌʰtɔ́k˥ ɔ̀ʊ̯.ɾʏˌmót˥ ˈɾà.suː.niˌɾús ˈɑ̀h.mɐk˥]
"The vet examines my dog carefully."

When nominalizing the main verb ahma (∼ (to) examine), the following structure is yielded:

Rasúnírus ujatóta ótumtu ahmaňka øk
careful vet–CAUS dog–DAT examine–NMLZ–ERG.PST 3SG.ERG
rasúnírus ujató–ta ótum–tu ahma–ň–ka øk
ótumtta irrikkeň tinakas ∅
dog–1SG.POSS–CAUS RES–be_healthy–NMLZ–ABS say=3SG.NPST.HON CNJ.ABS
ótum–t–ta irr–ikkeň–∅ tina=kas ∅
tárak.
CAUS–3SG.DO=3SG.PST
tá–ra=k.

[ˈɾà.suː.niˌɾús ˈùˌjaˌʰtɔ́.tɐ ˈɔ̀ʊ̯.ɾʏm̥ˌtú ˈɑ̀h.maɲˌká œk ˈɔ̀ʊ̯.ɾʏm̥ːˌtá ˈì.ɾɑɪˌkːɪ́̃n ˈtʰɪ̀̃.naˌʰkás ˈtʰɑ̀ʊ̯.ɾɐk˥]
"The vet's careful examination of my dog led him to say he's going to be healthy again."

Agent Noun	–ár/–ttoná	huɪizo (to dance) → huɪizár/huɪizottoná (dancer), Saxka (England) → Saxkattoná (Englishman)
Patient Noun	–iǩó	ɪttsazu (∼ (to) train sb.) → ɪttsazikxó (trainee)
Action Noun	–ň	husní (to complain) → husníň (complaint)
Status Noun	–ň	teɟ (child) → teɟaň (childhood)
Instrumental Agent Noun	–em/–ǫm	hámu (to make music) → hámǫm (music player device)
Instrumental Patient Noun	–oizen	hámu (to make music) → hámoizen (instrument), taka (to sit) → takoizen (seat)
Diminuitive / Action Noun Pejorative	tiɟ	nohhak (shelf) → tiɟnohhak (little shelf), husní → tiɟhusníň (miserable/laughable complaint)
Augmentative / Action Noun Honoured	–mít	nohhak (shelf) → nohhakmít (huge shelf), hámuň (song) → hámuňmít (great song, hit, evergreen)
Quality Noun	–oni	zekut (new) → zekutoni (news)
Mass Noun[7]	–ápy	hitajá (kitten) → hitajápy (group of kittens), ryz (friend) → ryzápy (clique)
Ability–Noun	–ártu	mɥn (to climb) → mɥnartu (somebody who can climb)

Expressed generally in tables, the following restructuring happened:

S	**O**	**V**
Agent (Ergative) *ujatók*	Patient (Absolutive) *ótum*	X=FIN *ahmak*
→		
Obl	**IO**	**S**
Causer of the nominalized action (Causative) *ujatóta*	Receiver of the nominalized action (Dative) *ótumtu*	X-NMLZ-ERG(.PST): The nominalized verb now serves as the grammatical agent of the sentence. *ahmaňka*

3.2 Pronouns

3.2.1 Possession

Well, actually, possession doesn't really belong in this chapter, as Begonian employs affixes rather than actual pronouns, but for the time being I'll file possession under pronouns anyway:

Person	**Singular**	**Dual**	**Plural**
1	–(e)t–/–(ǫ)t–	–ját–/–jút–	–ttéj–/–ttój–
2	–ni–	–jáni–/–júni–	–tteni–/–ttǫni–
3	–n–	–ján–/–jún–	–ttsan–/–ttsǫn

As shown by the noun template at the beginning of the chapter, if possession and case markers combine, possession markers precede the case markers, e.g.:

without my two houses: *ken–t–h–(e)raj*
without our (two) houses: *ken–ttéj–raj*
without our (two) two houses: *ken–ját–h–(a)raj*

This gives two possibilities for expressing possession which have gained contrasting function:

Nératok	hąkun	itáta	izpatrak.
brother–1SG.POSS–ERG	pencil–3SG.POSS–ABS	NEG=give.INF	AUX.3SG.ERG–
néra–t–k	hąku–n–∅	it–áta	iz–pat–rak

1SG.IO–3SG.DO.NONABSTR

[ˈnɛ̯ə.ɾaˌʰtɔ́kˀ ˈhɔ̀.gʏn ˈì.ɾɔː.θɐ ˈì̪s̪.pat.ɾɐkˀ]
"My brother wouldn't give me his (— the brother's) pencil."

Nératok	ýn	hąku	itáta	izpatrak.
brother–1SG.POSS–ERG	3SG.GEN	pencil–ABS	NEG=give.INF	AUX.3SG.ERG–
néra–t–k	ýn	hąku–∅	it–áta	iz–pat–rak

1SG.IO–3SG.DO.NONABSTR

"My brother wouldn't give me his (— someone else's) pencil."

Furthermore, there's a (copula) + Possessor in oblique case (typically Apudessive or Superessive) like in Uralic languages used to mark involuntary possession:

Júrrkkú	moizuň	ittroamjoň!
1SG–SUPE	ill–NMLZ–ABS	ITER–beɓad–CONT
júrr–kkú	moizu–ň-∅	itt–roam–joň

[ˈjʊ̀ːlˌkːʊ́ː ˈmʌ̀.s̪̈ʏɲ̟ ˈì̪t.ɾɒmˌjʊ̋ɲ̟]
"My illness keeps̟ getting worse and worse!"

3.2.2 Pronominals

3.2.3 Relative Pronouns

3.2.4 Demonstratives

3.2.5 Numbers & Quantifiers

3.2.6 Distributive Numerals

4 Verbal Morphology

4.1 Lexical Class

4.1.1 Tempus

4.1.2 Immediate/Remote Distinction

Basically, immediate past is used when the the action referred to has happened not too long before and still has consequences until speaker's time. However, the definition of "not too long" is relative: One uses the immediate past to express that one thinks something happened not too long ago, so for the sentence:

Mǫzigóhɟum	kuá	óm	sym	més	háj.
thousand–TEMP	ago	DEM	big	war–ABS	EXIST.PST
mǫzigó–hɟum	kuá	Óm	sym	més–∅	háj

[ˈmʌ̀.θa͡ɪ.guːˌxʼʉ́m kwa͡ʊ̯ ɔ͡ʊ̯m sœ͡ʏm me͡əs ha͡ʊ̯j]
"The last big war happened (only) 624 years ago."

You would want to use the immediate past, when you think 1000 years is not much time in this case – or another example:

Ụnde	ápy	(...)	asókka	háj.
dinosaur	NDEF–ABS	(...)	go_extinct	PST
ụnde	ápy–∅	(...)	asókka	háj

[ˈʊ̃̈n.dɪ ˈà͡ʊ̯.bʏ ˈàsuː.kːɐ ha͡ʊ̯j]
"Dinosaurs have gone extinct (only) 65 mil. years ago."

...whereas one uses the remote past to express something happened a long time ago in relation to the context:

"Schalke 04"–ka	hun	Píkimuk	menik	huɪttą	háj	
"Schalke 04"–ERG.PST	INTJ	German–ADJZ	championsship–ABS	win.PST	PST	
"Schalke 04"–ka	hun	Píkime–uk	menik–∅	huɪttą	háj	
azúkuɟ	ɪttýmít	kymiza	án	ja.		
fifty–COMP	more	year–PL–ABS	since	COP		
azúkuɟ	kymiz–z–a	án	ja.			

[ˈsàl.gɪˌʰká hũn ˈpè̯.ga͡ɪˌmó̯k ˈmɪ̀̃.na͡ɪkˀ ˈhwɪ̀ː.tɐ ha͡ʊ̯j ˈà.s̪ʊːˌʰkó̯x ˈtœ̆ʏ.mɪːtˀ ˈkʰœ͡ʏ.miˌθːá a͡ʊ̯n ja]
"... man, it's been over 50 years since Schalke 04 last won the German championsship."

This would warrant for the usage of the remote past, even though 50–odd years is by far not as long a time span as 1000 years or 65 million years.

To make things more drastic:

Jó	háj	hjem	uzék	aǰatú		kuıa mǫt	uza.
1SG.ABS	PST	return_home	three	hour–TERM		ago already	TOP=3.PST
jó	háj	hjem	uzék	aǰa–tú		kuıa mǫt	uz=a

[jɔ͡ʊ haʊ̯͡j hjĩm ˈù.θɛːkˀ ˈɑ̀.xaˌʰtóː kwa mʌtˀˈù.θɐ]
"I've already come home 3 hours ago. — instead of, say, 1 hour as expected."

...would also warrant for the usage of the remote past.

Morphological realization: The past stem appears in its non–finite form followed by the correspondent present stem in its finite form:

Jóga	hititu	kamrin	émutak.	
1.ERG.PST	2SG–DAT	book–ABS	give.PST=1SG.PST	
jóga	hiti–tu	kamrin–∅	émuta=k	

[jɔ͡ʊ.gɐ ˈhì.ra͡ɪˌʰtú ˈkʰèm.na͡ɪn ˈɛ̀͡ə.mʏˌʰtákˀ]
"I gave you the book."

Jóga	hititu	kamrin	yt	ıtssarohǰum	kuıa	émuta
1SG.ERG.PST	2SG–DAT	book–ABS	one	week–TEMP	ago	give.PST
jóga	hiti–tu	kamrin–∅	yt	ıtssaro–hǰum	kuıa	émuta

átahan.
give.PRES=1SG.PST.LOW
áta=han.

[jɔ͡ʊ.gɐ ˈhì.ra͡ɪˌʰtú ˈkʰèm.na͡ɪn ytˀ ˈtsːá.ɾʊˌxʉ́m kwa ˈɛ̀͡ə.mʏˌʰtá ˈà͡ʊ.ɾaˌhɛ̃̀n]
"I gave you the book a week ago already."

Future tense is routinely expressed through usage of relevant tempus adverbials:

4.1.3 Zero-Conversion from Nouns

4.1.4 Attitudal Mood

4.1.5 Periphrastic Conjugation

4.1.6 Negation

4.1.7 Gerund

4.2 Strong Ergative Class

4.3 Stative Class

4.4 SCM Verbs

4.5 Experiencer Verbs Class

4.6 Particles

4.7 Modal Verbs

4.8 Copulae & Copular Verbs

Predicative adjectives function as verbs for the non-past tense, in that case just add the correspondent verb affixes:

Ját	hozum	itpózjaɟ.
DEM	assignment–ABS	NEG=be_boring
ját	hozum–∅	it=pózjaɟ

[jaʊ̯tˀ ˈhò.θʏm ˈi̯s.puːs̻ˌjákˀ]
"This assignment is not boring."

For nouns and adjectives in the past tense, the verb *já* functions as copula:

Haru	ápy	és	akparmítsata	hezeni
cat	NDEF–ABS	REL–ABS	DUMMY–like–INT=1SG.NPST-HON	animal
haru	ápy–∅	és–∅	ak–pa–rmít=sata	hezeni

ápy	øgas.
NDEF–ABS	3SG.COP.HON
ápy–∅	øgas.

[ˈhà.ɾʏ ˈá͡ʊ̯.bʏ ɛ͡əs
ˈɑ̀x.palˌmíə̯t.sa.tɐ ˈhè.s̻iɲ ˈá͡ʊ̯.bʏ ˈɑ̀.gɐs]
"Cats are my favorite animals."

já is one of only two verbs to have a separate future form *ni*. Inflected for past tense, youâĂŹd get *háj*, which is identical to the past tense form of the copula.

Notice that *ém* (∼ to go) serves as copula with a temporal complement:

Nykkit	ómrap	ém.
job_interview–1SG.POSS–ABS	tomorrow	go
nykki–t–∅	ómrap	ém

[ˈnø̞ː.kitˀ ˈɔ̀ʊ̯m.nɐpˀ ɛ͡əm]
"My job interview is tomorrow."

Furthermore, it's become standard to use *sjá* (∼ to stand) as the copula with a locative stative complement:

Hagzum	ápoim	symmít	jarrku	Átrjamekká	sjá.
mountain	NDEF–INSTR	big–INT	number–ABS	Austria–SUPE	stand
hagzum	ápy–oim	sym–mít	jarrku–∅	Átrjame–kká	sjá

[ˈhàg.zʏm ˈɑ̀ʊ̯.bɜm ˈsɔ̀e̯ʏ.mːɪːtˀ ˈjàl.gʏ ˈɑ̀ʊ̯t.ɾja.mɪːˌkáʊ̯]
"The biggest amount of mountains is in Austria."

For all other types of complements *ja* serves as the copula.

4.9 Predicative Possession

És	ytik	ıttóm	mésto	ómrjataň	artuk
REL–ABS	one–ABL	two–ALL	rapid	run–NMLZ–ABS	DDY=3SG.NPST
és	yt–ik	ıttóm	mésto	ómrjat–ň–∅	artu=k

pótut	já.
car–(1.SG.POSS)–ABS	EXIST.NPST
pótu–t	já.

[ɛ͡əs ˈy̯.ɾa͡ɪkˀ ˈtɔ̃͡ʊm ˈmɛ͡əs.tʊ ˈɔ͡ʊm.njaˌʰɛ́n ˈàl.dʏkˀ ˈpʰɔ̀͡ʊ.ɾʏtˀ ja͡ʊ]
"I have a car which can drive from A to B very fast."

The verb *já* (∼ to be) also serves as existential marker in sentences with the possessed object as the complement. Adding possessive markers to the possessed object in combination with the existential marker yields a predicatve possession construction.

Patonýn	uzék	okka	já.
father–2SG.POSS–GEN	three	son–ABS	EXIST.NPST
pat–ni–ún	uzék	okka–∅	já

[ˈpʰà.ɾuˌnɣ́n ˈù.θɪkˀ ˈɔː.kɐ ja͡ʊ]
"Your father has three sons."

Possessors not referred to with personal pronouns take the Genitive case.

4.10 Predicative Direction

4.11 Aspect

Durative/Progressive	mɥt–	Used to stress the length factor of actions. Usually occurs in the company of temporal adverbials. Can be used for continuous actions along side the atelic affix.
Atelic/Telic	–im–/–um–	Atelic marks actions that (continuously or not) happen without a specific goal in mind. May be combined with the iterative prefix. The telic marker only verb-related affix to fuse with the finiteness marker: Used when an action happens continuously implying there's a specific goal/intention. Can also be used to stress the fact an action has been completed (perfective). But telic in combination with past does not mean the intended action has been completed, just that it was supposed to be/it was the subject's goal. In sentences with PPVA auxiliaries the telic marker becomes an affix (–yt/–ut) attaching to the verb stem.

Resultative	kyt–/kut–	Can only be used in combination with verbs taking a direct object and marked for past tense: A certain direct object has been achieved by means of another action/state: Øk ojtarín kuthókuskas = "He has worked for the success, he has been working so that he has success now (German.: "Erfolg erarbeitet.")
Iterative/Restitutive	itt–, irr–	The former is used to express something which happens frequently (can be combined with the progressive affix), the latter is used when an action reverts something into an old/former state, e.g.: tájɟe = (to) treat, doctor so., ittájɟe = (to) look after, take care of, irrtájɟe = (to) heal Restitutive is also used if an action starts over again: Øirrmátta. = *He went to bed again.*
Reversive	(prefix) –irr–/–urr–	The above marker used as a suffix means an action has been reverted. This usually has an undertone that this is happening to someone's detriment: Øk émuturrsąň. = *"He took it away from you."* vs.: Øk irrémutasąň. = *"He gave it to you again."* An additional application is signalizing an action happening without someone's volition because of incompetence/failure, somewhat the opposite of Resultative: Øk ojtarín mátsurrhan. = *He has lost success by sleeping. / He missed out on success by sleeping.* Another usage is to signify something has been changed/modified or redone with a certain action: zą̈rtam ikuzínirra = *"He reserved another seat, he rereserved his seat"*
Ingressive/Inchoative	–ém–/–óm–	Used when an action is about to start, slowly begins to do so or is already occurring. pjoka = (to) drive, pjokóm = (to) start the engine Combined with the negative marker actions/states are describes not yet happening: Øitpjokóm. = *"She's not driving yet."*

Continuative	–jeň–/–joň–	Used when an action has not yet been completed/is still occurring; used to stress the fact one continuous action is going on for a surprisingly long time with no end in sight: Øpjokajoňak = *"He drives on and on." / "He's still driving." / "He drove and drove".* Combined with the negative marker actions/states are indicated to not happen anymore: Øitpjokajoň. = *He's not driving anymore.* In conjunction with predicate adjectives: Ørąmjoň. = *"He gets worse and worse."*
Egressive	–ín–/–ún–	Used when an action slowly comes or is brought to an end: pjokún = (to) stop the car
Deliminative	tiɟ –	Prefixed to a verb when an action is carried through only with little intensity (identical with the diminuitive marker): Tixmøtta. = *"She ate (only) a little."*
Intensive	–mít–	Suffixed to a verb when an action is carried through with high intensity, opposite to the aspect above; another usage of this suffix is to stress the truth value in a sentence: Møttatmít. = *"She ate a lot/heavily"; "She really did eat."*
Gnomic	→ *Decreasing Valence* for more	Marking verbs for antipassive and leaving out the oblique patient is increasingly used in a way to express universal truths or actions/states occurring without interruption.

Hik áɟin jurratkxessut.
2SG.ERG bear–ABS see.PST=2SG.PST.TEL
hik áɟin–∅ jurrat=kxessut
[hɐ̟̈k˥ ˈà͡ʊ.xɪn ˈjù.ɾasˌk’é.sːʏt˥]
"You looked at the bear." – (you wanted to see him)

Hik áɟin jurratumak.
2SG.ERG bear–ABS see.PST=2SG.PST
hik áɟin–∅ jurrat–um=k
[hɐ̟̈k˥ ˈà͡ʊ.xɪn ˈjù.ɾaˌʰtʉ.mɐk˥]
"You saw the bear." – (by accident)

Hik áɟin mɣtjurratumak.
2SG.ERG bear–ABS DUR–see.PST=2SG.PST
hik áɟin–∅ mɣt–jurrat–um=k
[hɐ̟̈k˥ ˈà͡ʊ.xɪn ˈmʊ̀t.jʏ.ɾaˌʰtʉ.mɐk˥]
"You saw the bear." – (without volition, for a longer period)

(3) Jók jarrkoini ittsýtimta.
1SG.ERG Mathematics–ABS ITER–study–ATEL=1SG.NPST
jók jarrkoini–∅ itt–sýti–im=ta

[jɔʊ̯kˀ ˈjàl.gɜɲˈi̯ːt.sʏːˌʰa͡ɯ́m.tɐ]
"I keep studying Mathematics." – (without real motivation or goal)

(4) Jók jarrkoini ittsýtizakut.
1SG.ERG Mathematics–ABS ITER–study–ATEL=1SG.TEL
jók jarrkoini–∅ itt–sýti–im=zakut

"I keep studying Mathematics." – (because I am motivated to, doing it to land a good job, etc.)

The first sentence implies someone is studying Mathematics but really doesn't know what to do with it or its use. The second sentence implies an intention, e.g. he's studying Mathematics to land a well-paying job or score good grades.

Jók jarrkoini irrsýtita.
1SG.ERG mathematics–ABS RES–study=1SG.NPST
jók jarrkoini–∅ irr–sýti=ta

[jɔʊ̯kˀ ˈjàl.gɜɲ ˈi̯l.sʏːˌʰtí̯.tɐ]
"I am studying Mathematics again."

This means someone had learnt Maths at some point but forgotten all of it and know tries to regain all the lost knowledge.

Jók jarrkoiňǫm zaran ápy
1SG.ERG.PST Mathematics–INSTR CONJ=skill NDEF–ABS
jók jarrkoini–ǫm za=aran ápy–∅
irrmojataň tiɟzakut.
RES–lose.PST–NMLZ–ABS DAT=1SG.TEL
irr–mojat–ň–∅ tiɟ=zakut.

[jɔʊ̯kˀ ˈjàl.gɜˌɲúm ˈθà.ɾɐn ˈa͡ʊ̯.bʏ ˈi̯l.mʊ.jaˌʰtɛ̯́ɲ ˈtɐ̯̀x.θa.gʏtˀ]
"I suddenly lost all my Mathematics skills."

Someone suddenly (DAT), effectively (TEL), "relost" (RES–lose.PST) all his Maths skills. Poor guy.

4.12 Voice & Valence

4.13 Epistemic Modality

4.14 Reflexivity & Reciprocality

To express reflexivity use "*aɟ, aɟok, aɟún, ...*" and add it right next to the subject it's referring to. This at the same time works as the intensifier myself, yourself, etc. and as reciprocality marker:

Jóka	aʃ	jenumítak.
1SG.ERG.PST	REFL–ABS	be_good–INT=1SG.PST
jóka	aʃ–∅	jenu–mÃŋt=k

[ˈjɔ̀ʊ̯.gɐ ɑx ˈjɪ̀̃.nʏˌmíə̯.tɐkˀ]
"I've improved myself."

Jóttaha	øk	pór	úkujúra	zoihkat
boy–ERG.PST	3SG.ERG.PST	ball–ABS	window–ABL	kick.PST=3SG.PST
jótta–ha	øk	pór–∅	úkuj–úra	zoihkat=∅
akhɟ̆um	aɟ̆	ékkojǫmhak.		
CONJ–TEMP	REFL–ABS	CONF–hurt.PST–ATEL=3SG.PST.LOW		
ak–hɟ̆um	aɟ̆–∅	ék–kojǫ–um=hak		

[ˈjɔ̀ʊ̯.tːaˌhá œkˀ pɔʊ̯l ˈòː.gʏˌjú.ɾɐ ˈθʌh.kɐtˀ ˈà.xːʏm ˈɛ̀ə̯.kːʊˌjɤ̋̃m.hɐkˀ]
"I'm sure the boy hurt himself kicking the ball out of the window..."

PPVA can also be used to express reflexivity:

Jóga	jenumít	igzaň.
1SG.ERG.PST	be_good–INT	AUX.(1SG.ERG–1SG.DO)
jóga	jenu–m'it	igzaň

"I've improved myself."

Here is an instance that shows how *aʃ* is used as a reciprocality marker:

Zaj	aʃzú	hókuszakut.
1SG.INCL.PL.ABS	RECP–PL–BENE	work.PST=1PL.TEL
zaj	aʃ–z–ú	hókus=zakut

[θaj ˈàx.θʏ ˈhɔ̀ʊ̯.gʏsˌθá.gʏtˀ]
"We used to work for each other."

4.15 Personal Moods

4.16 Specifiers

5 Specifiers

5.1 Attributes

5.2 Adverbs

5.3 Predicate Adjectives

5.4 Substantive

5.5 Comparison Constructions

6 Syntactic Properties

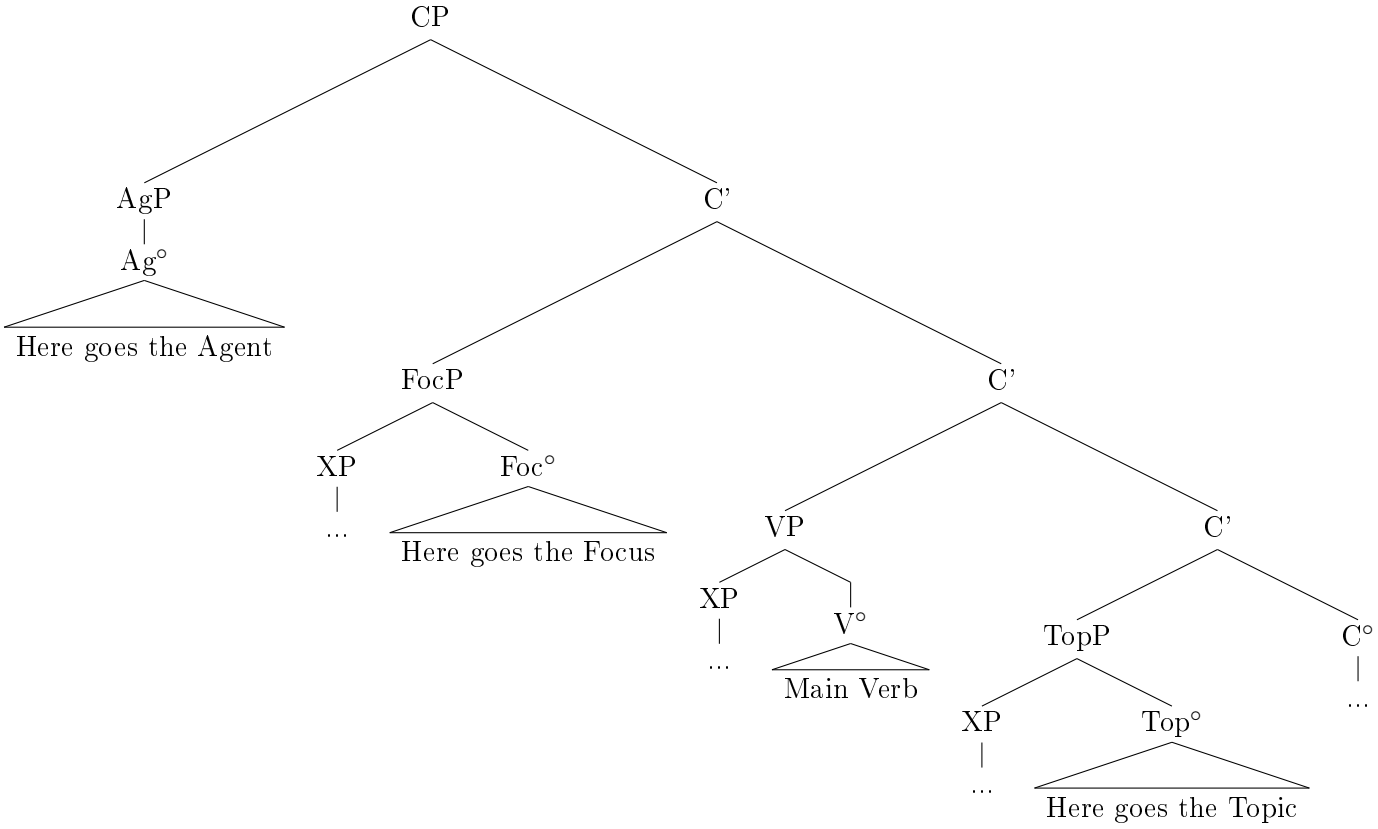
Begonian is a predominantly head-final/left-branching and mixed-marking language. Basic word order is strictly SOV both for main and subordinate clauses. Pragmatically non-salient objects and adjuncts themselves may be freely scrambled though (see below).

6.1 Basic Declarative Sentence Structure

Agent	Focus	Neutral	Verb-Stem	Topic	Finiteness

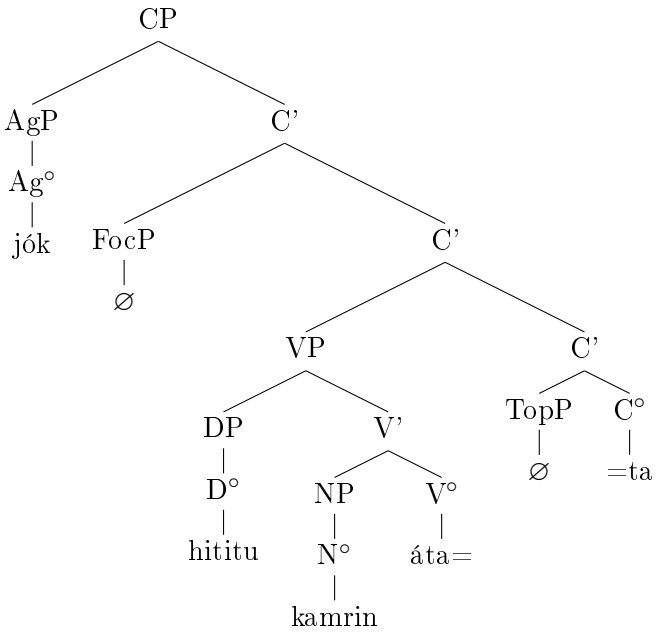
- **Agent-Position**: If a sentence contains a grammatical agent, it's positioned exclusively at the very beginning of a sentence. Subjects are placed to the neutral position.
- **Focus**: Introduces new information in a sentence and occupies the position right after the agent. The heads of the phrases in this position are followed by the postposition í. However, only one phrase per sentence may go here.
- **Neutral**: Place where anything else in the sentence goes, may be freely scrambled, although the absolutive direct object tends to directly precede the verb stem.
- **Verb-Stem**: Place where the verb-stem, but not the conjugation ending goes
- **Topic**: Central information in a sentence followes the verb stem. Furthermore, the onset/nucleus of the first syllable of the head of the topic phrase is reduplicated and placed as a separate word right after that phrase, if the word in question doesn't contain high stress. In the other case, the preposition *itt* is added instead of reduplication.
- **Finiteness**: The place where the conjugation ending and/or the auxiliary that is part of the polypersonal conjugation go. If the topic position is empty, it is directly suffixed to the verb stem. Otherwise it is either directly suffixed to the reduplicated part of the topic phrase (if phonotactical restrictions aren't breached by this) or placed as a separate word. Either way, either the finiteness marker or the PPVA auxiliary exclusively end a sentence. Nota bene that the person of the phrase in the topic position determines the finiteness marker. If there the TopP is empty, the Agent controls the finiteness marker. If there is no agent either, this position is left empty.

Summarizing, the basic roster for a Naniuk sentence could be something like this:



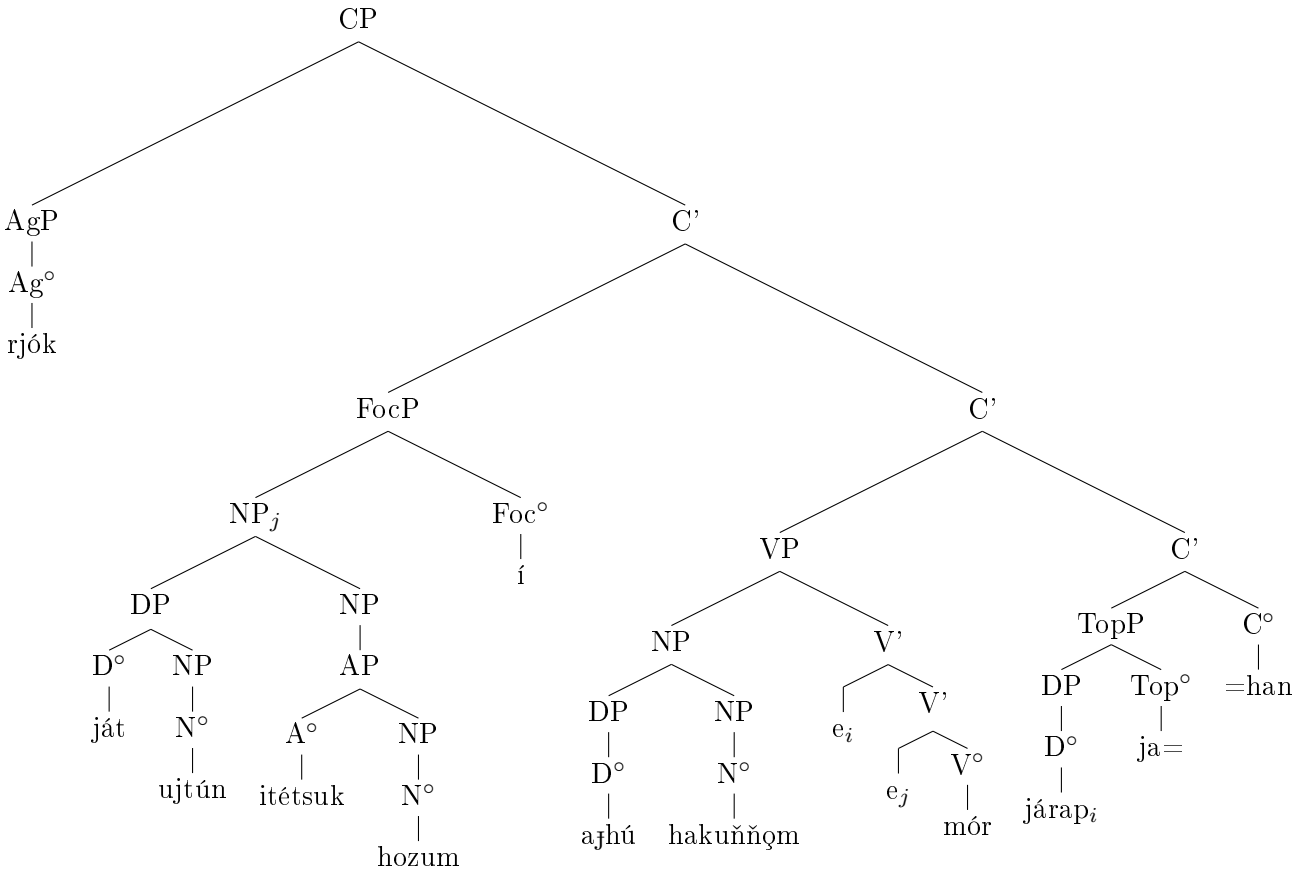
Jók	hititu	kamrin	ádata.
1SG.ERG	2SG–DAT	book–ABS	give=1SG.NPST
jók	hiti–tu	kamrin–∅	áta=ta

"I give you the book."



Rjók	ját	ujtún	itétsuk	hozum	í	
1_and$_2$.ERG	DEM	assignment–GEN	NEG=correct	solution–ABS	FOC	
rjók	ját	ujte–ún	it=étsuk	hozum–∅	í	
aɟhú		hakuňňǫm	mór	járap	jahan.	
RECP–DUAL–BENE		work–NMLZ–INSTR	find.PST	today	TOP=1PL.PST.LOW	
aɟ–h–ú		hakun–ň–ǫm	mór	járap	ja∼han	

"Today, we two couldn't find the solution to this assignment by working for each other."



Synutmít í jóhzaj sam mɣtém otoni ota.
often–INT FOC 1PL.EXCL–ABS go.PST DUR–go.PRES that.time TOP=3.PST
synut–mít í jóhzaj sam mɣt–ém otoni ot=a
"Back then we used to go outside more often."