

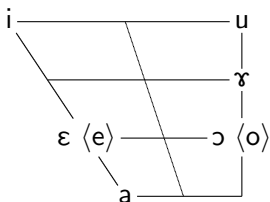
An Overview of Ishiculu Grammar

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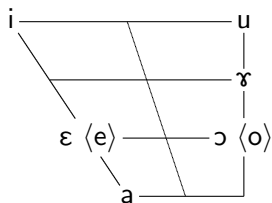
Phonology

- ▶ 31 consonants, including: η ; no uvular/glottal; d/t/t^h; no v/z
- ▶ Six vowels, with “moderately high” consonant-vowel ratio



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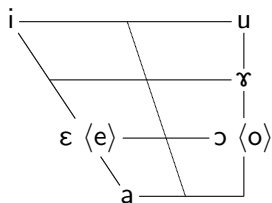
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- ▶ Tonal with four tonemes

Noun classes; morphology; word order

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- ▶ Synthetic verbal morphology; no overt case morphology on pro/nouns
 - ▶ Nom. - dat. - acc. - √ - derivational - tense

Bona ba-ngiw-i -nde-ta-mpi mina nta u. Mina
PRON.1.PL 1.PL-1SG-4.PL -eat-CAUS-PST PRON.1SG three CLF.4 PRON.1SG
ngi-ba-i -nde-ta-mpi bona nta u.
1SG-1.PL-4.PL -eat-CAUS-PST PRON.1.PL three CLF.4

'They fed me three (blocks of cheese, say). I fed them three.'

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- ▶ Topicalization of the object

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cars(8) 1SG-8.PL-have three CLF.8

'Cars, I have (three).'

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- ▶ Locative expressions

Tsɛ-nji-tso ɬi-huma iɓi ika.
PREP.SUR-table-POST.ABL 3SG-jump CLF.6 cat(6)

'Off the table jumps a cat.'

Classifiers

Ngiw-u-nde-mbi shidzi.

1SG-4.SG-eat-PST cheese(4)

'I ate cheese.'

Ngi-zhiy-ioani kitabu.

1SG-7.PL-like book(7)

'I like books.'

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1SG-7.PL-have three CLF.7 book(7)

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Ngiw-u-nde-mbi u shidzi ce-John.

1SG-4.SG-eat-PST CLF.4 cheese(4) GEN-John

'I ate John's cheese.'

Ngiw-u-nde-mbi ligha u shidzi.

1SG-4.SG-eat-PST this CLF.4 cheese(4)

'I ate this cheese.'

Ngiw-u-nde-mbi u shidzi uw-uw-ioani wona.

1SG-4.SG-eat-PST CLF.4 cheese(4) 2SG-4.SG-like PRN.4.SG

'I ate the cheese that you like.'

Valence changing

► Causative

Ngi-ka-shi-so-**ta** Ari nta_{to} kitabu.
1SG-1.SG-7.SG-read-CAUS Ari CLF.7 book(7)
'I (will) make Ari read the book.'

Valence changing

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- ▶ Prototypical verbs in Ishiculu are transitive at most.

Fu-Philadelphia ngi-ka-shi-ke-**ta**-mbi Ari nta^{to} kitabu.
in-Philadelphia 1SG-1.SG-7.SG-have-CAUS-PST Ari CLF.7 book(7)

'I gave Ari the book in Philadelphia.'

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► Passive

Ntafo kitabu shi-so-**walr**-mbi.
CLF.7 book(7) 7.SG-read-PASS-PST
'The book was read.'

Valence changing

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► The agent is then ineffable.

* Ntafo kitabu shi-ngi-so-walx-mbi mina.
CLF.7 book(7) 7.SG-1SG-read-PASS-PST PRON.1SG
Intended meaning: 'The book was read by me.'

Passive of causative

- ▶ Causee is promoted directly.

U-ko -meti-~~ta~~-wa~~ru~~-mbi ishi hehe.
2SG-5.SG -receive-CAUS-PASS-PST CLF.5 cake(5)
'You were sent a cake.'

Passive of causative

- ▶ Causee is promoted directly.

U-ko -meti-**ta-walɿ**-mbi ishi hehe.
2SG-5.SG -receive-CAUS-PASS-PST CLF.5 cake(5)
'You were sent a cake.'

- ▶ Object needs to be promoted to the causee position first.

Ntafo kitabu shi-ke-**walɿ-ta-walɿ**.
CLF.7 book(7) 7.SG-have-PASS-CAUS-PASS
'The book is given.'

Relative clauses

Primary strategy relativizes subject

Ngiw-uw-ioani meyi shɿ u-ka-shi-ke-ɬa-mbi Ari ntaɬo kitabu.
1SG-3.SG-like CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-1.SG-7.SG-have-CAUS-PST Ari CLF.7 book(7)
'I like the teacher that gave Ari the book.'

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Direct objects need to be passivized

* Ngiw-shiy-ioani ntaɬo kitabu meyi shɿ u-so-mbi.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-read-PST
Intended meaning: 'I like the book that the teacher read.'

Ngiw-shiy-ioani ntaɬo kitabu u-so-waɿ-mbi.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) 3.SG-read-PASS-PST
'I like the book that was read.'

Resumptive pronouns

Ngiw-shiy-ioani ntaɬo kitabu meyi shɿ u-so-mbi sona.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-read-PST PRN.7.SG
'I like the book that the teacher read.'

Questions? Comments?