

# Ambu

## Auxiliary Language Handbook

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## Abstract

Ambu is my latest constructed language (conlang) project, in the form of an 'auxiliary' language. Its goals are to be minimal and subsequently easily spoken, understood, and adoptable by anyone of any language. It is *a priori*, meaning its concepts & lexicon are not based upon pre-existing language. However, I have noticed some Germanic/Italic influences slipping in!

This handbook serves as its only grammatical guide, in testimony to its minimalistic approach.

Started in April, 2018.



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# Phonology & Orthography

## Alphabet

Vowel	IPA
i	/i/
e	/ɛ/
a	/a/
o	/ɒ/
u	/u/
q	/ə/

Loan	IPA
j	/j/
r	/ɹ/

Consonant	IPA
m	/m/
n	/n/
t	/t/
k	/k/
p	/p/
b	/b/
d	/θ/
s	/s/
c	/ʃ/
w	/w/

The full alphabet is therefore:

i e a o u q m n t k p b d s c w (j r)

\*Loan Words

Words from other languages, in order to be used fluently, must go through phonetic loan conversion. Listed below are phonemes not within the alphabet:

Foriegn	Native
y, ÿ, ɪ, ʏ, e	i
ø, œ, ɜ, æ	ɛ
ə, ɵ, ɐ	ə
ɐ, ɶ	a
ɑ, ʌ, ɔ, o	o
ʌ, ʊ, ʍ, ʉ	u

Foriegn	Native
d, tʃ	t
ð, ʒ	ʃ
g, x	k
f, v, ʈ	θ
z	s
ŋ	n
l	r
h, hw	w

\*Morphology

CVCV, VCCV

VmnV

## Writing

- The initial of a sentence is a capital.
- The initial of a proper-noun is a capital.
- Sentences finish with a period (.), or question mark (?) if a question, or exclamation mark (!) if an exclamation.
- A comma (,) separates clauses.
- Vowels of double length are duplicated, e.g. aa.
- Numerics are wrote using the Arabic system, using apostrophes (') to delimit each three digits, and a period (.) to seperate whole and decimal numbers.

\*Features

A ‘feature’ is an Ambu word genre with particular cause, usually 1-3 characters long.

Pronouns

Person	Glossary	English	Ambu Pronoun
1st	1	I	i
2nd	2	you	e
3rd	3	them/they	a
reflexive	0	self	o
1st + 2nd	1+2	we/us (inclusive)	ie
1st + 3rd	1+3	we/us (exclusive)	ia
2nd + 3rd	2+3	them+you	ea
other	0s	each other	u

Suffixes

Suffix	Glossary	Ambu Pronoun Suffix
of (possessive)	-p	-n
plural	-s	-s
possessive plural	-ps	-ns



## Copulas

Tense	Glossary	Ambu Copula
past	[past]	si
present	[pres]	sa
future	[futu]	su

## Suffixes

Suffix	Glossary	Ambu Copula Suffix
negative	-(!)	-n

## Tense Markers

Tense	Glossary	Ambu Tense Marker
past	(past)	ni
present	(pres)	na
future	(futu)	nu
ever	(ever)	no
forever	(cont)	ne

# Articles

English	Glossary	Ambu Article
this (near me)	{ 1x }	pi
that/it/those (near you)	{ 2x }	pe
this/these (near us)	{ 1x2 }	pie
that/it/those (away from us)	{ 3x }	pa
a/an	{ idef }	po
the	{ def }	pu

## Suffixes

Suffix	Glossary	Ambu Article Suffix
of (possessive)	-p	-p

## Descriptors

Question	Glossary	Ambu Question
what	?what	ci
which	?which	cin
where	?where	ce
when	?when	cen
how	?how	ca
why	?why	can
who	?who	co
how much	?much	cu
how many	?many	cun

'Who' encompasses animate or once animate beings.

# Spacials & Chronologicals

## Spacials

All Spacials are glossed as “@spacial” (e.g. @here).

### Travel

here sti	anywhere stie nowhere stien	there ste
source stin	→	destination sten
↑ up sta	⦿ stop stan	↓ down sto
away stu	continue stun → across stuq through stqu	toward stq

### Position

in front ski	above ska	behind ske
adjacent/beside sku	in skua out skqa	opposite skq
on/over spa	below/under sko	off spo
left spi	middle/between spu	right spe
beyond swe	among spq	around swa
near/close swq	with swi	far swu

## Chronologicals

Chronologicals are glossed as "@chronological" (e.g. @whenever), bar "@n" (Xst/nd/rd) and "@x" (X times) followed by a space and a number.

start/firstly <b>kap</b> finish/lastly <b>kep</b>	earlier <b>ka</b> whenever <b>kas</b>	since <b>kan</b> then <b>kos</b>
while/amid <b>ko</b> meanwhile <b>kon</b>	now <b>ki</b> instantly <b>ku</b>	up to/until <b>kin</b> suddenly <b>kus</b>
shortly <b>kis</b> finally <b>kop</b>	later <b>ke</b> immediately <b>kun</b>	eventually <b>ken</b> consequently <b>kes</b>
Xst/nd/rd X <b>kic</b>	again <b>kup</b>	X times X <b>kuc</b>

## Chronospacial

Chronospacial	Glossary	Ambu Chronospacial
before, previous	@before	<b>sik</b>
after, next	@after	<b>sek</b>

# Numbers

Numbers are linked together for each order within either base-10 or base-16. E.g. **-100 = qbetitit**.

Number	Ambu Number
0	it
1	et
2	at
3	ot
4	ut
5	ik
6	ek
7	ak

Number	Ambu Number
9	uk
A	ic
B	ec
C	ac
D	oc
E	uc
F	qc
-1*	qt-

Symbol	Ambu Term
. (point)	-qk-
=	-id-
!=	-in-
% (percent)	ad-
/ (fraction)	-ed-
°	ud-
~ (appox)	qd-

Operation	Ambu Term
+	-is-
-	-es-
*	-as-
/	-os-
^	-us-
% (mod)	-qs-
√	on-

## **| \*Amounts & Measurements**

some

all

## Modals & Condition

Modal	English Modal	Ambu Modal
condition	if	di
deduction	should, ought	din
ability	can	de
offering/invitation	can, shall, will	den
request	could	dein
possibility	could, may	da
slight possibility	might	dan
determination	will, shall	dain
permission	can, could, may	do
obligation	must	don
advice/suggestion	should, ought, shall	dq

## \*Conjunctions

## \*Evidentials



## \*Grammar

### | \*Word structure

#### \*Compounds

compound nouns, verbs, adjectives

#### \*Adjective Superlatives

# | \*Sentence Structure

## Genre Order

- Core genre order is Subject Verb Noun. The subject can be of any genre, or any number of genres until a verb is reached.
- Adjectives follow the noun/verb they describe.
- Descriptors can be used as the subject of a verb.

## \*Feature Order

Feature	Order
Pronoun	pronoun noun
Copula	X copula Y
Tense Marker	sentence/verb tense-marker
Article	article noun/adjective/verb
Descriptor	noun/verb/adjective descriptor
Spacial	(pronoun) spacial noun
Chronological	

## \*Copula

## Question Asking

When asking a question, the possible statement is made (e.g. Are you hungry? Is rather You are hungry?), and the final vowel of words within inquiry is double length. The glossary for a word within inquiry is -?.

## Imperative

When declaring an imperative, the possible statement is made (e.g. You clean the bath!).

## Verb Transitivity

All verbs can be used transitively (with an object), in which their carrying out is applied to a supplied object (e.g. She sang him, He grew the plant, It rains the car).

If the verb is used intransitively (without an object) it is performed upon the subject.

## Examples

English	Glossary	Ambu
Peter walks.	Peter walk	Piter ambi.
... is walking.	... walk (pres)	... ambi na.
... walked.	... walk (past)	... ambi ni.
... will walk.	... walk (futu)	... ambi nu.
... is tall.	... [pres] tall	... sa anto.
... was tall.	... [past] tall	... si anto.
... will be tall.	... [futu] tall	... su anto.
The rabbit falls.	{def} rabbit fall	Pu bune wine.
... is falling.	... fall [pres]	... wine na.
... did not fall.	... fall(!) (past)	... winen ni.
Hello, my name is Patrick.	hello, 1p name [pres] Patrick	Hai, in nama sa Patrik.
Oh, sorry, I didn't know this seat was yours.	oh, sorry, 1 know(!) {1x} seat [past] 2p	O, hei, i mimin pi bume si en.
It's mine now.	{1x} [pres] 1p (pres)	Pi sa in na.
It wasn't ever mine.	{1x} [past](!) 1p (ever)	Pi sin in no.

English	Glossary	Ambu
Where are you running?	2 run ?where?	E anbi cee?
The rabbits will eat themselves.	{ def} rabbit(s) eat 0 (futu)	Pu bunes amni o nu.
The rabbits didn't eat each other.	{ def} rabbit(s) eat(!) 0s (past)	Pu bunes amnin ou ni.
They are the dogs who saw us.	3 { def} dog(s) is ?who see 1+3 (past)	U pu kunas sa co unti ia ni.
The tall one won't eat.	{ def} tall eat(!) (futu)	Pu anto amnin nu.
Have all the leaves fallen from the tree?	{ def} leaf(s) all? fall { def} @from tree	Pu tepas biboo wine pu ti tebu?
You've grown since I last saw you.	2 grow @since 1 see	E tame kan i unti

\*Lexicon

Kinship

Kinship terms are linked together to refer to relations. Starting with the speaker, links move through relations, such as: mother's mother: **umum**; brother's wife's sister: **apimam**.

Kinship	Ambu Kinship
sister	am
brother	ap
mother	um
father	up
daughter	em
son	ep
wife	im
husband	ip
female friend	om
male friend	op
female stranger	qm
male stranger	qp

## Genre Suffixes

Genre	Speciality	Ambu Lexicon Suffix
Verb (v)	By animation	-i
Verb (v)	By nature/physics	-e
Verb (v)	Negative	-in/en
Adjective (a)		-o
Adjective (a)	Negative	-on
Noun (n)		-a/u
Noun (n)	Negative	-an/un
Noun (n)	Plural	-as/us
Noun (n)	Plural negative	-ans/uns

Nouns derived from verbs will generally transform from -i to -a, -e to -u.

## \*Ambu to English

	Ambu	English
n	amba	walk, journey
v	ambi	walk
v	amna	meal
n	amnu	food
v	amni	eat
v	amsi	feed
a	anto	tall
n	baku	sentence
a	bibo	all
n	dewa	home
n	kaka	madness
v	kaki	angry, mad
a	kako	mad
n	kuna	dog
v	kuni	bark
a	memo	less
a	momo	more
n	nama	name
v	nami	name
a	namo	named

n	paka	work
v	paki	work
n	pepa	gift
v	pepi	give
n	saba	hello
n	tebu	tree
n	tamu	plant
v	tame	grow
n	teda	interest
a	tedo	interesting
n	tepa	leaf
n	tika	desire, want
v	tiki	want
n	unta	vista, view
v	unti	see
v	wine	fall
a	wino	fallen
n	winu	fall



## English to Ambu

English	Ambu	
all	bibo	a
angry, mad	kaki	v
bark	kuni	v
desire, want	tika	n
dog	kuna	n
eat	amni	v
fall	wine	v
fall	winu	n
fallen	wino	a
gift	pepa	n
give	pepi	v
hello	saba	n
home	dewa	n
interest	teda	n
interesting	tedo	a
leaf	tepa	n
less	memo	a
mad	kako	a
madness	kaka	n
meal	amna	v
more	momo	a

name	nama	n
name	nami	v
named	namo	a
see	unti	v
sentence	baku	n
tall	anto	a
tree	tebu	n
vista, view	unta	n
walk	ambi	v
walk, journey	amba	n
want	tiki	v
work	paka	n
work	paki	v

## \*Proper Nouns

## \*Glossary

Copula

Phonology

Orthography

Loan

Lexicon

IPA

Modal

Online

My email: [phun@pm.me](mailto:phun@pm.me)

More works: [github.com/phunanon/conlangs](https://github.com/phunanon/conlangs)

Conlanging community: [reddit.com/r/conlangs](https://reddit.com/r/conlangs)

## Useful Conlanging Links

Modals	<a href="https://archive.is/8C1cj">archive.is/8C1cj</a>
Transition words	<a href="https://archive.is/whJU0">archive.is/whJU0</a>
Time words (+ way more)	<a href="https://archive.is/8peZo">archive.is/8peZo</a>
Position	<a href="https://archive.is/Xp0t">archive.is/Xp0t</a>
Conjunctions	<a href="https://archive.is/6l1Qg">archive.is/6l1Qg</a>