

# 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. Though, I am not an expert on this, nor has it restricted me more than I am creatively comfortable.

It is *a priori*, meaning its concepts & lexicon are not primarily based upon pre-existing language. Though some Germanic/Italic influences have slipped 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	/ɔ/
u	/u/
q	/ə/

Loan	IPA
j	/j/
r	/ɹ/

Consonant	IPA
m	/m/
n	/n/
t	/t/
k	/k/
g	/g/
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 g 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:

Foreign	Native
y ɨ ɪ ʏ e	i
ø œ ɜ æ	ɛ
ə ɐ ɐ	ə
ɐ ɶ	a
ɑ ʌ ɔ o	ɒ
ʌ ʊ ʋ ʉ	u

Foreign	Native
d tʃ t d c ɟ	t
ɱ	m
ɲ ɳ ɳ N	n
β	b
r R ɾ ɽ ɽ ɽ j ɰ ɱ ɱ ɱ ɱ	r
ɸ ɹ ɹ	ʃ
q ɢ x ɣ ɣ	g
φ β f v ɸ ɸ ɸ	θ
z ɣ z ɣ j	s
ħ ɣ h ɣ h w ɰ	w

## | \*Morphology

CVCV, VCCV

VmnV

CwVV

No more than CC or VV

## | 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 separate 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/he/she	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	English	Glossary	Ambu Copula
past	were/was	[past]	si
present	is/be/are	[pres]	sa
future	will be	[futu]	su

## Suffixes

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

## Tense & Aspect Markers

Tense	Gloss'	Ambu Tense
past	(past-	ni-
present	(pres-	na-
future	(futu-	nu-
ever	(ever-	no-
precedent (forever)	(prec-	ne-

Aspect	Gloss'	Ambu Aspect
neutral	neut)	---
progressive	prog)	m
perfective	perf)	n
prospective	pros)	t
cessative	cess)	k
partitive	part)	g
habitual	habi)	p

Aspects e.g.: eat, am eating, have eaten, beginning to eat, finishing eating, partially eaten, usually eat.



## 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 (far from us)	{3x}	pa
a/an	{idef}	po
the	{def}	pu

## Suffixes

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

## Prepositions

Preposition	Ambu Preposition
because	kwi
of/about	kwe
by	kwa
for	kwo

## Conjunctions

Conjunct'	Ambu Conjunct'	Conjunct'	Ambu Conjunct'
and	ti	nand/exc ept	tin
or	te	nor	ten
but/yet	ta	xor	tnen
so	to		

## 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 & Chronologs

### Spacials

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

#### Travel

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

#### Position

in front <b>ski</b>	above <b>skua</b>	behind <b>ske</b>
adjacent/beside <b>sku</b>	<b>in/into ska</b> out <b>ske</b>	opposite <b>skq</b>
beyond <b>swun</b>	below/under <b>skua</b>	against <b>skqn</b>
on/over <b>spa</b>	along <b>skon</b>	off <b>spo</b>
<b>left spi</b>	middle/between <b>spu</b>	<b>right spe</b>
	among <b>spq</b>	

## Chronologs

Chronologs are glossed as "@chronolog" (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/ago <b>ka</b> whenever <b>kas</b>	since <b>kan</b> then <b>kos</b>
while/during <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/X times X <b>kuc</b>
	by <b>kos</b>	

## Chronospacials

Chonospacials can be treated as spacial or chronolog.

Chronospacial	Glossary	Ambu Chronospacial
at/upon	@at	sik
near/around	@near	sek
far	@far	senk
to	@to	sak
from	@from	sok
before/previous	@before	sank
after, next	@after	sonk
with	@with	suk

## 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 & Units**

**Abstract**

Amount	
all	

- g-
- any/every
- dwi
- much/many/few
- very
- little
- some
- all
- none
- for X

**Precise**

SI Units

## 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

## Evidentials

Evidential	Glossary	Ambu Evidential
Hearsay	%hearsay	wi
Direct Knowledge	%direct	we
Non-visual Sensory	%sensory	wa
Inferred	%inferred	wo
Speculative	%speculation	wu

## \*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	noun spacial(adj) verb spacial(noun) subject spacial(verb)
Chronolog	verb chronolog
Number	
Measurement	
Modal/Condition	
Conjunct	
Evidential	

**\*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.

## Ditransitivity

The *oblique dative* form is used for verbs with two objects. E.g.: He gave the boy a flower -> He gave a flower to the boy; A pepi po tama sak pu wapa.

## \*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 dog(s) is ?who see 1+3 (past)	U 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 sok tebu?
You've grown since I last saw you.	2 grow @since 1 see	E tame kan i unti.
My husband gave me a gift.	1p partner-male give	In ip pepi
He grew the boy a flower.		
Who was Bill seen by in his house?	?who? see Bill in his house (past)	Coo unti Bil ska ap dewa ni?

\*Lexicon

Kinship

Kinship	Ambu Kinship
sibling	a-
parent	u-
child	e-
partner	i-
friend	o-
stranger	q-

Kinship terms are linked together to refer to relations. Starting with the speaker, links move through relations, e.g. mother's mother: **umum**; brother's wife's sibling: **apimak**; female strangers: **qms**.

Gender suffixes are: female, **-m**; male, **-p**; unknown/other, **-k**. Kin is made plural with **-s**. Glossed as 'kinship-gender(s)'.

Colours

Colours are stated through a 3-digit hexadecimal number prefixed with **s-**. Each digit represents amounts in Red, Green, Blue, from 0 being black and F being full brightness of colour. Example: **sititit**, black; **sqcqcqc**, white; **sqcitqc**, purple. Revise Numbers in Features.

## Emotions

Emotion	Ambu Emotion	Emotion	Ambu Emotion
Happy	twi	Fearful	two
Optimistic	twii	Scared	twoi
Peaceful	twie	Anxious	twoe
Accepted	twia	Insecure	twoa
Confident	twio	Rejected	twoo
Proud	twiu	Nervous	twou
Playful	twiq	Angry	twu
Surprised	twe	Mad	twui
Excited	twei	Frustrated	twue
Amazed	twee	Disgusted	twua
Confused	twea	Sceptical	twuo
Startled	tweo	Distant	twuu
Bad	twa	Sad	twq
Tired	twai	Hurt	twqi
Weak	twae	Humiliated	twqe
Stressed	twaa	Guilty	twqa
Busy	twao	Despairing	twqo
Let down	twau	Vulnerable	twqu
Bored	twaq	Lonely	twqq

## Genre Suffixes

Ambu Lexicon is a root of 3 sounds, with a suffix denoting its genre, as listed below:

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	tameness
v	kaki	tame
a	kako	tame
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
v	tici	sing
n	tebu	tree
n	tama	flower
n	tamu	plant
v	tame	grow
v	teki	make aware
a	teko	aware
v	teci	fly
n	teca	bird
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
n	wapa	boy
n	wama	girl



| \*English to Ambu

## I \*Proper Nouns

## \*Glossary

Conjunction

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

Phonetic occurrence	<a href="https://archive.is/33Y9V">archive.is/33Y9V</a>
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/Xxp0t">archive.is/Xxp0t</a>
Conjunctions	<a href="https://archive.is/6L1Qg">archive.is/6L1Qg</a>
Preposition	<a href="https://archive.is/WVGRo">archive.is/WVGRo</a>
Units	<a href="https://is.gd/6nMh8f">is.gd/6nMh8f</a>