

Nkare Tosa: nlealanja jepasakaa tosa.

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# Chapter 1

## Phonology

### 1.1 Vowels

Nkare Tosa has an extremely simple vowel inventory, comprising of 3 vowels, which are:

	Front	Back
Mid	e	o
Open		a

There is backness harmony, where /e/ cannot occur in words with /o/, and vice-versa. /a/ is considered a neutral vowel. All roots have at least one harmonizing vowel, and many affixes have two forms depending on the root's vowels. When two of <a> come next to each other, it is pronounced /a.ʔa/. <ea> is pronounced /e.a/, and <oa> is pronounced /o.a/.

### 1.2 Consonants

Nkare Tosa has a small consonant inventory with 9 consonants, which are:

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
<b>Nasal</b>		n		
<b>Plosive</b>	p	t		k
<b>Fricative</b>		s		
<b>Approximant</b>	w	l	j	
<b>Trill</b>		r		

All sounds are written as their IPA symbols.

### 1.3 Syllable structure

Nkare Tosa has a simple syllable structure,

*NCVC*

# Chapter 2

## Verb Morphology

### 2.1 Tense

Verbs have a relatively simple tense system. Tenses are marked with suffixes, and a prefix is used to mark the action as having been completed. When unmarked, the verb is assumed to be in the infinitive form:

<b>PRF</b>	ra(t)-	<b>PST</b>	-(s)a
<b>PRS</b>	-(p)e -(p)o	<b>FUT</b>	-(k)eja -(k)oja

Table 2.1: Verb tenses

Some examples:

- (2.1) **okala**  
oka -la  
*eat* - 1SG  
“I eat”

- (2.2) **okapola**  
oka -po -la  
*eat* -PRS -1SG  
“I am eating”

- (2.3) **ratokasala**  
 rat - oka - pe - la  
 PRF - *eat* - PST - 1SG  
 “I have finished eating”

- (2.4) **okakojala**  
 oka - koja - la  
*eat* - FUT - 1SG  
 “I will eat”

## 2.2 Negation

Verb negation is marked with a suffix, and agrees with the subject number:

<b>SG</b>	pa(n)-
<b>PL</b>	-(a)pe -(a)pa

Table 2.2: Verb negation

Some examples:

- (2.5) **panokala**  
 pan - oka - la  
 NEG.SG - *eat* - 1SG  
 “I don’t eat”
- (2.6) **okatopa**  
 oka - to - pa  
 NEG.SG - NEG.PL - 1PL  
 “We don’t eat”

## 2.3 Subject Incorporation

All verbs are required to take an affix denoting the person and number of the subject, unless said verb has the agentive, participle, or nominalizing form. If a noun is used for the subject, the third person is used, matching the plurality of the noun. As an addition to these suffixes, if the verb ends in a vowel, it is to be dropped, and then the suffix should be added. For example, the verb *kano* is conjugated as *kanala* in the first-person singular.

<b>1sg</b>	-ala	<b>1pl</b>	-ate -ato
<b>2sg</b>	-ane -ano	<b>2pl</b>	-aje -ajo
<b>3sg</b>	-awe -awo	<b>3pl</b>	-ara

Table 2.3: Person/number verb incorporation

Some examples:

- (2.7) **okato**  
oka - to  
eat - 1PL  
“We eat”

- (2.8) **petate**  
peta - te  
drink - 1PL  
“We drink”

- (2.9) **ratetejara**  
rat- et - eja - ra  
PRF- move - FUT - 3SG  
“They will have moved”

## 2.4 Derivation

Nkare Tosa has a simple derivation system: affixes are applied to the conjugated form to get various forms of it in different parts of speech. The **ADVZ** form turns an action into an adverb, which can be loosely translated as English's "while." A table:

<b>PTCP</b>	-(a)wa	<b>AGT</b>	-(a)se -(a)so
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Table 2.4: Verb Derivation

Some examples for all:

- (2.10) **okaso**  
oka - so  
eat - AGT  
"One who eats"

- (2.11) **elea okapowa**  
elea oka - po - wa  
prson eat - PRS - PTCP  
"Person who is eating"

## 2.5 Converbs

Nkare Tosa has a converb system to specify things such as "and then," "while," etc. The converb system evolved from the **PTCP** form. -(a)wa was applied, then a tense was added to specify meaning. The participle would then be placed in an adverbial position, to signify a meaning. This has now been reanalyzed as a converb system. A table of converb affixes:

"while"	-(a)wapa	"because"	-(a)wasa
"and then"	-(a)wakaa		

Some examples:

- (2.12) **okasaala**                      **potapewapa**  
oka - sa - ala    pota - pe - wapa  
*eat* - PST - 1SG   *drink* - PRS - CVB.*while*  
“I was eating while drinking”
- (2.13) **potapoala**                      **okasawasa**  
poat - pe - ala    oka - sa - wasa  
*drink* - PRS - 1SG   *eat* - PST - CVB.*because*  
“I am drinking because I ate.”



# Chapter 3

## Noun Morphology

### 3.1 Plurality

Nouns take two plural types, singular and plural. Singular is unmarked, and plural is marked by removing word-final vowels, then by adding a suffix:

<b>SG</b>	-	<b>PL</b>	-o -e
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Table 3.1: Plurality

Example:

- (3.1)    **pesape**  
          pesap/a    - e  
          *fruit*     - PL  
          “Multiple fruits”

### 3.2 Definiteness

Nouns can take on affixes which indicate their definiteness. The affixes agree with both animacy and number. The affixes can cause a number of sound changes. The following table shows all affixes:

	<b>Definite</b>	<b>Indefinite</b>
<b>Singular Animate</b>	pan-	wer- wor-
<b>Plural Animate</b>	les- los-	wes- wos-
<b>Singular Inanimate</b>	n-	/
<b>Plural Inanimate</b>	tan-	/

Table 3.2: Noun Definiteness

For all definite prefixes, if the word ends with a vowel, that vowel is replaced with 'a.' If an affix's 'n' come before a plosive, that plosive turns to 'l.' In inanimate definite nouns, when 's' comes between two vowels, it is replaced with 'r.' If a prefix's 'n' comes before a vowel, the nasal becomes 'j.' If a suffix's 'r' comes between two vowels, it turns to 't.'

### 3.3 Noun Cases

Nouns can take on a number of cases which specify its role in the sentence. Restrictions based on animacy exist for what nouns can take on certain cases. The following table shows all cases:

	<b>Animate</b>	<b>Inanimate</b>
<b>Nominative</b>	-Ø	-(o)sa -(e)sa
<b>Accusative</b>		-(o)so -(e)se
<b>Genitive</b>	-(o)kro -(e)kre	-(a)kaa
<b>Dative</b>	-(o)so -(e)se	-(a)nja
<b>Comitative</b>	-(a)tse -(a)tso	-
<b>Instrumental</b>	-	-(a)tje -(a)tjo
<b>Locative</b>		-(a)sea -(a)soa
<b>Supernatural</b>		-(e)kaar -(o)kaar

Table 3.3: Noun Cases

### 3.3.1 Nominative Case

The nominative case is the default case of all animate nouns, and specifies the noun as being the subject. Inanimate nouns as the subject of a sentence must be marked with it. Some examples:

- (3.2)    **pajel**                      **okapowo**  
           paj- el                - Ø        oka - po - wo  
           DEF- *person* - NOM    eat - PRS - 3SG  
           “The person is eating.”

- (3.3)    **nlesasa**                      **potasawo**  
           nlesa                - sa        pota - sa - wo  
           DEF-*berry* - NOM    move - PST - 3SG  
           “The berry moved.”

### 3.3.2 Accusative Case

The accusative case marks the noun as being the object of a sentence, or as the object of an adpositional phrase. It is default on inanimate nouns, but is explicitly marked when it is the referent of an adpositional phrase. Some examples:

- (3.4)    **pajel**                      **okapowo**                      **pese**  
           paj- el                -ø        oka -po -wo    pes -e       -ø  
           DEF- *person* -NOM    eat -PRS -3SG    pes --PL --ACC  
           “The person is eating berries.”

- (3.5)    **pajelese**                      **potasawo**                      **nlespetasa**  
           paj- el                -ese    pota -sa -wo    nlespeta -sa  
           DEF- *person* -ACC    move -PST -3SG    DEF.*tree* -NOM  
           “The tree is moving the person.”