

# A Grammar Of Thunná

ultlang

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## 1 Phonology

### 1.1 Phonological inventory

Consonants		Bilabial	Alveolar		Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
			Non-sibilant	Sibilant				
Nasal		m	n		ɲ <ñ>	ŋ		
Stop / Affricate	Tenuis	p	t	ts̺ <c>	c̺~tʃ̺ <č>	k	q	
	Aspirate	pʰ <ph>	tʰ <th>	ts̺ʰ <ch>	c̺ʰ~tʃ̺ʰ <čh>	kʰ <kh>	qʰ <qh>	ʔ <'>
	Voiced	b	d	dz̺ <ɟ>	ʃ̺~dʒ̺ <ž>	g		
	Implosive	ɓ <bh>	d̪ <dh>					
Fricative	Tenuis	ɸ <f>	ɬ̺ <ś>	s	ʃ̺ <š>	x~h <x>		
	Aspirate			sʰ <sh>	ʃ̺ʰ <šh>			
	Voiced	β <v>	ɮ̺ <ž>	z	ʒ̺ <ž>			
Approximant	Plain	w	r		j <y>	ɰ <h>		
	Lateral		l					

Vowels	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u <u>
Mid	e	ə	o
Open		a	

All vowels can additionally be long, which is indicated with an acute accent in the orthography (/a:/ <á>).

## 2 Morphology

### 2.1 Verbs

Thunná marks verbs both for subject and for the direct object.

- (1) *Ižačha -p.*  
 die 1  
 “I die.”

- (2) *Ižačha -ph -í -qhu.*  
die -1 › 3 -CAUS  
“I kill them.”

For transitive verbs, the intransitive suffix doesn't signify the absence or indefiniteness of the object, but rather reflexivity (or reciprocity for paucal and plural, which are indicated with particles):

- (3) *Ižačha -pə -qhu.*  
die -1 -CAUS  
“I kill myself.”

If the object is unknown or indefinite, the fourth person needs to be used.

- (4) *Ižačha -ph -ó -qhu.*  
die -1 › 4 -CAUS  
“I kill.”

When an indirect object is present, the person marking must always be of the transitive variety, even if it is unclear (in which case, again, the fourth person is used.)

- (5) *Áži -p.*  
speak -1  
“I speak.”, “I am talking.”
- (6) *Áži -ph -í.*  
speak -1 › 3  
“I speak about them.”
- (7) *Áži -ph -ó Thunná =xu.*  
speak -1 › 4 Thunná with  
“I speak (using) Thunná.”

In both intransitive and transitive sentences, the tense of a verb is encoded in the subject suffix. A table of all the suffixes follows:

Intransitive	Distant past	Near past	Present	Future
1	-sp	-m	-p	-f
2	-ht	-n	-t	-s
3	-c	-ñ	-č	-š
4	-q	-ŋ	-ś	-ž

Transitive	PDIS.A	PNEA.A	PRE.A	FUT.A	P.SG	P.DU	P.PL
1	-v-	-pp-	-ph-	-f-	-oə~ə	-o	-oa
2	-sh-	-tt-	-th-	-s-	-u	-ú	-ú
3	-šh-	-čč-	-čh-	-š-	-e	-i	-í
4	-qh-	-w-	-x-	-q-	-ó		

- (8) *Asqali -tt -oə aw?*  
 see -PNEA.2 › 1SG Q  
 “Did you see me?”
- (9) *Izačha -s.*  
 die -FUT.2  
 “You’re going to die.”
- (10) *Áži -šh -ó.*  
 speak -PDIS.4 › 3SG  
 “It has been said.”

## 2.2 Nouns

Most of the morphology of nouns is accomplished using postpositional particles or clitics, such as *n* (LOC) or *xu* (INSTR).

Thunna is split-ergative - it uses NOM-ACC alignment in the present and future and ERG-ABS in both past tenses. These are also marked with particles, which inflect for number.

- (11) *Asqali -čč -e ŋize naŋaq =tá.*  
 see -PNEA.3 › 3SG cat worker ERG.PL  
 “The workers saw a cat.”
- (12) *Asqali -š -e ŋize =hi naŋaq =mín.*  
 see -FUT.3 › 3SG cat ACC.SG worker NOM.PL  
 “The workers will see a cat.”

Particles	ERG ABS	NOM	ACC	
SG	tha	ši	mu	hi
DU	dhá	ží	maə	hoa
PL	tá	son	min	hin

The singular absolutive and accusative particles are often left out.

Most other particles don’t have separate singular, dual and plural forms, so the additional particles *qa* (DU) and *en* (PL) are used after the particle.

- (13) *Xoyi -w -u dhámi =xu =en.*  
 give -PNEA.4 › 2SG spear INSTR PL  
 “You were given some spears.”