

A Grammar Of Thunná

ultlang

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1 Phonology

1.1 Phonological inventory

Consonants		Bilabial	Alveolar		Palatal	Velar	Uvular
			Non-sibilant	Sibilant			
Nasal		m	n		ɲ <ñ>	ŋ	
Stop / Affricate	Tenuis	p	t	ts̥ <c>	c~tʃ̥ <č>	k	q
	Aspirate	pʰ <ph>	tʰ <th>	ts̺ʰ <ch>	cʰ~tʃ̺ʰ <čh>	kʰ <kh>	qʰ <qh>
	Voiced	b	d	d̪z̪ <ɟ>	j~d͡ʒ̪ <ž>	g	
	Implosive	ɓ <bh>	ɗ <dh>				
Fricative	Tenuis	ɸ <f>	ɬ <ś>	s	ʃ <š>	x~h <x>	
	Aspirate			sʰ <sh>	ʃʰ <śh>		
	Voiced	β <v>	ɮ <ž>	z	ʒ <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>).

1.2 Phonotactics

The Thunna syllable follows the structure of (C₁)V(C₂), where C₁ can be any consonant and C₂ prohibits voiced and implosive stops and aspirated consonants.

Additionally, an aspirated and unaspirated plosive cannot border each other – in the orthography, f.e. <apqhi> actually represents /apʰqʰi/ rather than /apqʰi/.

1.3 Allophony

The tenuis stops are realised as /ʔ/ in coda position.

2 Morphology

2.1 Verbs

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

- (1) *Iḡačha -p.*
die 1
“I die.”
- (2) *Iḡačha -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) *Iḡačha -pə -qhu.*
die -1 -CAUS
“I kill myself.”

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

- (4) *Iḡačha -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) *Ižačha -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 ñize naŋaq = tá.*
 see -PNEA.3 › 3SG cat worker ERG.PL
 “The workers saw a cat.”
- (12) *Asqali -š -e ñize = hi naŋaq = min.*
 see -FUT.3 › 3SG cat ACC.SG worker NOM.PL
 “The workers will see a cat.”

Particles	ERG	ABS	NOM	ACC
SG	tha	śi	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.”