

# Anroo Sketch Grammar

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## 1 Introduction

Anroo, also known by its exonym Andronian, is a speedlang constructed for the 5<sup>th</sup> CDN Speedlang Challenge. The requirements for the challenge are the following:

- Harmony of some kind, i.e. some sort of long-distance assimilative process such as vowel harmony or nasal harmony.
- Marginal phonemes, e.g. phonemes that only occur in a small number of words or are only contrastive in certain environments.
- Prenasalization as a feature. Discuss why you analyze it as prenasalization rather than clusters starting with nasals.
- Include some sort of interaction between morphosyntax and information structure, for example topic-comment constructions or movement to mark focus
- Make at least five different aspectual distinctions
- Encode the semantic space of location and spatial relations in a meaningfully different way from English
- Include some number of two-part morphemes such as circumpositions, circumfixes, separable verbs, bipartite/compound verbs, or whatever floats your boat. The criterion to meet is to have some sort of morpheme that can productively have other lexical or inflectional material come between two distinct and separable parts.

This sketch will serve to show that Anroo meets these requirements. It also includes the required translation sentences in the form of 5MOYD sentences 1124, 1134, 1144, 1154, and 1164 and sentences describing images 6, 11, 31, 41, and 71 from the 1992 Topological Relations Picture Series.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Phonology</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Vowels . . . . .	4
2.2	Consonants . . . . .	4
2.3	Phonotactics . . . . .	4
2.4	Morphophonology . . . . .	5
2.4.1	Prenasalization . . . . .	5
2.4.2	Nasal Harmony . . . . .	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Verbs</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Aspect . . . . .	5
3.1.1	Inchoative . . . . .	6
3.1.2	Completive . . . . .	6
3.1.3	Prospective . . . . .	7
3.1.4	Delimitative . . . . .	8
3.1.5	Durative . . . . .	8
3.1.6	Habitual . . . . .	8
3.2	Locality . . . . .	9
3.3	Negation . . . . .	10
3.4	Bipartite Verbs . . . . .	11
3.5	Serialization . . . . .	11
3.5.1	Give Causatives: <b>nra</b> . . . . .	12
<b>4</b>	<b>Clause Structure</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1	Basic Clause Order and Alignment . . . . .	12
4.2	Topicalization . . . . .	13
4.2.1	Topicalization of A and P . . . . .	13
4.2.2	Topicalization of Obliques . . . . .	13
4.2.3	Topicalization of Locatives . . . . .	14
4.2.4	Topicalization of Verbs . . . . .	14
4.3	Negative/Alternative Topic Construction with <b>tro</b> . . . . .	14
4.4	Questions . . . . .	15
4.4.1	Polar Questions . . . . .	15
4.4.2	Open Questions . . . . .	16
<b>5</b>	<b>Noun Phrase</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1	Possession . . . . .	17
<b>6</b>	<b>Nominalization</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Adpositions</b>	<b>19</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Derivational Morphology</b>	<b>20</b>
8.1	Deverbal <l> . . . . .	20
8.2	Verbal Reduplication . . . . .	20
8.3	Diminutive . . . . .	20
<b>9</b>	<b>Lexicon</b>	<b>20</b>
9.1	Conceptual Metaphors . . . . .	20
9.1.1	TIME=TREE . . . . .	20
9.1.2	IMPORTANCE=RICE . . . . .	21
9.2	Wordlist . . . . .	21
<b>10</b>	<b>Sample Anroo Narrative</b>	<b>31</b>

## 2 Phonology

### 2.1 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

- All vowels are written with their IPA value except for /i ə/ <ù è>.
- All vowels may be nasalized. Nasalized vowels are written double, for example /ã/ <aa>. They are pronounced long except before the glottal stop coda.

### 2.2 Consonants

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plain Stop	p	t	tɕ	k	(ʔ)
Prenasalized Stop	<sup>m</sup> b	<sup>n</sup> d	( <sup>n</sup> dʒ)	<sup>ŋ</sup> g	
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Fricative	f v	s z	ɕ ʒ		h
Liquid		r l			
Prenasalized Liquid		<sup>n</sup> d <sup>r</sup> <sup>n</sup> l			
Glide	w		j		

- Consonants are written with IPA except /ʔ tɕ <sup>m</sup>b <sup>n</sup>d <sup>n</sup>dʒ <sup>ŋ</sup>g ɲ ŋ ɕ ʒ <sup>n</sup>d<sup>r</sup> <sup>n</sup>l j/ <ʔ c np nt nc nk ñ g x j nr nl y>.
- Syllabic /m/ is written <m>, and occurs in two morphemes, both very common: **m** *fact*, *thing*, *event*, *matter* and the negative prefix **m**-.
- The nasal /ŋ/ does not occur before /i e/ and the nasal /ɲ/ does not occur before /u o a/ but they both occur before /i ə/.
- The glottal stop occurs word-medially to avoid hiatus, as a coda after nasal vowels, and prothetically on vowel-initial words that begin phrases. As a coda, it can be considered an allophone of any stop and is written as <k>. There is reason to posit word-initial /ʔ/ in some words due to morphophonological reasons discussed later.
- Alveolar stops and fricatives become alveopalatal before /i/.
- /<sup>n</sup>dʒ/ only occurs as a result of prenasalization of a root with /tɕ/; no plain roots contain it.

### 2.3 Phonotactics

A syllable onset may consist of any consonant or any stop or sibilant followed by /r l/. A syllable coda may consist of any oral vowel optionally followed by /r l/ or any nasal vowel optionally followed by /m n ʔ/

## 2.4 Morphophonology

### 2.4.1 Prenasalization

Prenasalization occurs as a result of several morphological processes, most notably the nominalizing clitic, which mutates the first consonant of the nominalized verb phrase. It generally has the effect of prenasalizing stops or liquids and voicing fricatives. The table below shows the effects of the mutation on consonants. Nasals and voiced fricatives are unaffected.

Base	Mutated
p	<sup>m</sup> b
t	<sup>n</sup> d
tʃ	<sup>n</sup> dʒ
k	<sup>n</sup> g
j	ɲ
w	m
h, ʔ	n
f	v
s	z
ʃ	ʒ
r	<sup>n</sup> dʀ
l	<sup>n</sup> l

### 2.4.2 Nasal Harmony

Affixes and clitics agree with their hosts in vowel nasality. For example, the prefix **e-** combines with oral **vo** to make **evo** and with nasal **loom** to make **eeloom**. Most consonants are transparent to this harmony, so you have nasal **eeprii** and oral **enra** although the first has an oral consonant and the second has a nasal consonant. Word-initial nasals (but *not* prenasalized consonants) may nasalize prefixes leading to mismatches like **eenol**. When a word has mixed nasality, for example due to compounding, prefixes agree with the nasality of the first vowel and suffixes with the nasality of the last vowel.

## 3 Verbs

### 3.1 Aspect

Anroo marks several aspects which describe an event's time structure and how that structure relates to the topic time at discussion. Verbs in Anroo may be loosely divided based on their lexical aspect into dynamic, stative, and iterative. Dynamic verbs describe actions or events and are perfective by default. Stative verbs describe states or ongoing conditions, and are imperfective by default. Iterative verbs describe atelic ongoing or repeated punctual actions, such as blinking or tapping. Each class interacts differently with the different aspect markings.

### 3.1.1 Inchoative

The inchoative marks the start of an event. With dynamic and iterative verbs it refers to the beginning of the action or process.

(1) **Luka-ku sonpù iim-zoo mee.**

luka=ku sonpù iim=zo mee  
Lukas=ERG soup eat=INCH just

*'Lukas just started eating soup.'*

With verbs of perception it can imply a sudden observation.

(2) **Nkepe-ku ñùùm vo-zo jè toke mi.**

nkepe=ku ñùùm vo=zo jè toke mi  
child=ERG cat see=INCH be.in tree on.narrow.object

*'The child caught sight of a cat in the tree.'*

With stative verbs, it creates a perfective predicate meaning 'to begin to be in X state,' and may be combined with other aspect markers.

(3) **Pita hir-zo-tol prii-zoo.**

pita hir=zo=tol prii=zo  
Peter be.tired=INCH=PRSP sleep=INCH

*'Peter will get tired and fall asleep.'*

### 3.1.2 Completive

The completive marks that something was true before the topic time. For dynamic verbs, it marks that the action was completed before the topic time and entails culmination.

(4) **Nkepe-ku mù iim-cii.**

nkepe=ku mù iim=ci  
child=ERG rice eat=CMP

*'The child ate/has eaten the rice.'*

With stative verbs, it entails that the state was formerly true, but does not hold at the topic time.

(5) **Po ehir-ci, hoo po eprii-kii.**

po e-hir=ci hoo po e-prii=ki  
1s LCL-be.tired=CMP but 1s LCL-sleep=DEL

*'I was tired, but I slept a bit (so I'm not tired anymore).'*

It can be used as an experiential perfect in the positive to mark a past experience. It cannot be used in the negative to mark that someone has never done something, but rather the adverb **seek** *never before* is used.

(6) **Ntire ro nle ee'iim-cii?**

ntire                    ro            nle e-iim=ci  
fried.dumpling TOP.ACC 2s LCL-eat=CMP

*'Have you ever eaten a ntire dumpling?'*

(7) **Ntire ro po ee'iim seek.**

ntire                    ro            po e-iim    seek  
fried.dumpling TOP.ACC 1s LCL-eat never

*'I've never eaten a ntire dumpling.'*

It is used with locatives of time to express an event after which something else happens. Rather than asserting that the event is before the topic time, this can be thought of as asserting that the topic time is situated after the event.

(8) **Ju kèr-zo-ci mi a jè, ñùùm prii-zoo.**

ju    kèr=zo=ci            mi                    a    jè    ñùùm prii=zo  
sun shine=INCH=CMP at.future.time TOP be.in cat    sleep=INCH

*'After the sun comes up, the cat will go to sleep.'*

### 3.1.3 Prospective

The prospective marks an event which has not yet happened at the topic time.

(9) **Po prii-zoo-toon.**

po prii=zoo=toon  
1s sleep=INCH=PRSP

*'I'm going to fall asleep.'*

It is used with locatives to express an event before which something else happens. Conversely to with the completive aspect, this can be seen as asserting that the topic time is before the event occurs.

(10) **Alesù-ku xi nanar jè mù npa-tol olu.**

alesù=ku xi    na~nar    jè    mù npa=tol    olu  
Alex=ERG thing RDP~fix be.in rice have=PRSP at.past.time

*'Alex fixed it before it mattered.'*

### 3.1.4 Delimitative

The delimitative marks something that happens for only a short amount of time.

(11) **Toto-ki ga, hoo nto a ju-ku mpo kèr.**

toto=ki ga hoo nto a ju=ku mpo kèr  
rain=DEL yesterday but now TOP sun=ERG 1p warm

*'It rained a bit yesterday, but the sun is shining today.'*

With iterative verbs it marks that something only occurred a small number of times, even once.

(12) **Poku tèze npe hepe-ki.**

po=ku tèze npe hepe=ki  
1s=ERG table on.functional.part tap=DEL

*'I tapped the top of the table [once].'*

When used with accomplishment verbs, the delimitative implies that the event did not culminate.

(13) **Mù ro, Kal iim-kii.**

mù ro kal iim=ki  
rice TOP.ACC Carl eat=DEL

*'Carl ate some of the rice.'*

This is due to a scalar implicature relation with the completive.

### 3.1.5 Durative

The durative marks an extended state, often as a background description for another event.

(14) **Ju zermel a, toto-jè**

ju n=sermel a toto=jè  
day NMZ=be.whole TOP rain=DUR

*'All day yesterday it was raining.'*

### 3.1.6 Habitual

Used for habits and general truths, plus completive means the habit no longer holds.



### 3.2 Locality

Anroo has a prefix **e-** which is used when an active participant is considered ‘local,’ either to the speech act itself or to the situation. It is always used when the speaker has an active role in the statement.

(15) **Xi npo eeloom a, poku kù enra vo.**

xi n=po e-loom a po=ku kù e-nra vo  
thing NMZ=1s LCL-have TOP 1s=ERG 2s LCL-give see

*‘I have something to show you.’ [5MOYD 1161]*

Roles other than the subject can count as ‘active,’ in which case the use of the local prefix indicates closer involvement of the speaker, with greater agency, activity, or control.

(16) **Pol-ku po enra vo xù mù.**

pol=ku po e-nra vo xù mù  
NAME=ERG 1s LCL-give see steam rice

*‘Paul showed me how to cook rice (and I cooked along with him).’*

(17) **Pol-ku po nra vo xù mù.**

pol=ku po nra vo xù mù  
NAME=ERG 1s give see steam rice

*‘Paul showed me how to cook rice (and I just watched him).’*

Omitting the local prefix with a first-person subject can mark a strong lack of control.

(18) **Po prii-zoo-toon.**

po prii=zoo=toon  
1s sleep=INCH=PRSP

*‘I’m going to fall asleep.’*

The local prefix can also be used with second person active participants, especially with questions.

(19) **Ntire ro nle ee’iim-cii?**

ntire ro nle e-iim=ci  
fried.dumpling TOP.ACC 2s LCL-eat=CMP

*‘Have you ever eaten ntire dumplings?’*

It used when reporting speech or thoughts that someone else has had about themselves.

(20) **Nkebe-ku po nra klèra nki ehir.**

nkebe=ku po nra klèra nki e-hir  
child=ERG 1s give hear 3s LCL-tired

*'My daughter<sub>i</sub> told me that she<sub>i</sub> was tired.'*

(21) **Ana vo nki entinto-tol.**

ana vo nki e-ntinto=tol  
NAME see 3s LCL-have.fun=PRSP

*'Ana thinks she will have fun.'*

It can also be used when the head of a nominalized clause is an active participant in the clause itself. Often then the subject can be elided.

(22) **Nleku feke ntire ekèr vo.**

nle=ku man n=ntire e-kèr vo  
2s=ERG man NMZ=fried.dumpling LCL-cook see

*'You see the man who cooks fried dumplings.'*

### 3.3 Negation

Verbs may be negated by the negative prefix **m-** which is one of two occurrences of the syllabic nasal.

(23) **Firo jù-ku po mnra core.**

firo n=xù=ku po m-nra core  
greens NMZ=boil=ERG 1s NEG-give be.better

*'I don't like boiled greens.'*

(24) **Ñii ntèze nra mnar ku, po me, Akira re.**

ñii n=tèze nra m-nar ku po me akira re  
person NMZ=chair give NEG-fix TOP.ERG 1s not.be Akira be

*'It is not me but Akira who broke the chair.'* [5MOYD 1144]

### 3.4 Bipartite Verbs

Anroo has a class of bipartite verbs that consist of two parts. Sometimes one of the two parts will also exist as a separate word, for example **hir huu** *to work to the point of exhaustion* contains **hir** *to be tired* as well as **huu** which has no meaning outside of the verb. Others do not, such as **kro lu** *to imagine*, neither part of which occurs alone. Aspect is marked after the first part and when the verb is topicalized, only the first part is copied.

(25) **Po hir-ci huu.**

po hir=ci huu  
1s tire.out=CMP tire.out

*'I have already tired myself out.'*

(26) **Kro a, nleku cixi ncore ekro lu?**

kro a nle=ku cixi n=core e-kro lu  
imagine TOP 2s=ERG leaf NMZ=be.better LCL-imagine

*'Are you imagining a better future?'*

### 3.5 Serialization

Anroo makes use of serial verb constructions (SVCs) in which multiple verbs can be used together as a single predicate. Some SVCs have meanings directly predictable from their components.

(27) **Pol-ku po nra vo xù mù.**

pol=ku po nra vo xù mù  
NAME=ERG 1s give see steam rice

*'Paul showed me how to cook rice (and I just watched him).'*

(28) **Ñèl gatè iim a, nkepe iim azo.**

ñèl n=gatè iim a nkepe iim azo  
way NMZ=termite eat TOP child eat do.so

*'You know how a termite eats, the child eats like that. [5MOYD 1164]*

Other SVCs have lexicalized meanings that are related to, but not entirely predictable from their components.

(29) **Poku nle enra clito loom!**

po=ku nle e-nra clito loom  
1s=ERG 2s LCL-give move.body hold.with.arms

*'I'm hugging you!'*

Generally only the first verb in an SVC is inflected, but any verb may be topicalized from an SVC.

### 3.5.1 Give Causatives: nra

The verb **nra** *to give* has grammaticalized to form causatives meaning either *to make someone do something* or *to allow someone to do something*.

(30) **Xi npo eeloom a, poku kù enra vo.**

xi n=po e-loom a po=ku kù e-nra vo  
thing NMZ=1s LCL-have TOP 1s=ERG 2s LCL-give see

*'I have something to show you.'* [5MOYD 1161]

## 4 Clause Structure

### 4.1 Basic Clause Order and Alignment

The unmarked constituent order in Anroo is SOVX, with the agent of an intransitive verb marked with the ergative clitic **ku** which agrees in nasality with the last syllable of the agent.

(31) **Po prii-zoo-toon.**

po prii=zoo=toon  
1s sleep=INCH=PRSP

*'I'm going to fall asleep.'*

(32) **Poku nle enra clito loom!**

po=ku nle e-nra clito loom  
1s=ERG 2 LCL-give move.body hold.with.arms

*'I'm hugging you!'*

## 4.2 Topicalization

### 4.2.1 Topicalization of A and P

When the agent of a transitive verb is topicalized, it is still marked with **ku**, but there is no nasal harmony and there is a prosodic break between it and the rest of the sentence.

(33) **Ñùùm ku, alii iim-cii.**

ñùùm ku alii iim=ci  
cat TOP.ERG mouse eat=CMP

*'As for the cat, it already ate the mouse.'*

When the patient of a transitive verb is topicalized, it is moved to the left and marked with the accusative topic marker **ro**. In this case, the agent is not marked.

(34) **Ntire ro, nle ee'iim-cii?**

ntire ro nle e-iim=ci  
fried.dumpling TOP.ACC 2s LCL-eat=CMP

*'Have you ever eaten ntire dumplings?'*

(35) **Mù ro, nle iim-kii.**

mù ro nle iim=ki  
rice TOP.ACC 2s eat=DEL

*'You ate some of the rice.'*

### 4.2.2 Topicalization of Obliques

Any constituent can be topicalized. When anything other than the agent or patient of a transitive verb is topicalized, the marker **a** is used. Clauses can often be topicalized to show background information, timing, or conditions for the main clause.

(36) **Ñèl gatè iim a, nkepe iim azo.**

ñèl n=gatè iim a nkepe iim azo  
way NMZ=termite eat TOP child eat do.so

*'You know how a termite eats, the child eats like that. [5MOYD 1164]*

(37) **Xi npo eeloom a, poku kù enra vo.**

xi n=po e-loom a po=ku kù e-nra vo  
thing NMZ=1s LCL-have TOP 1s=ERG 2s LCL-give see

*'I have something to show you.'* [5MOYD 1161]

#### 4.2.3 Topicalization of Locatives

When a location or time is topicalized, the locative verb moves to after the topic marker **a**.

(38) **Ju kèr-zo-ci mi a jè, ñùùm prii-zoo.**

ju kèr=zo=ci mi a jè ñùùm prii=zo  
sun shine=INCH=CMP at.future.time TOP be.in cat sleep=INCH

*'After the sun comes up, the cat will go to sleep.'*

(39) **Ntawo npe a jè, hènpi-ku alii iim, hoo omo nar a jè, ñùùm-kuu iim.**

ntawo npe a jè, hènpi=ku alii iim hoo omo nar a jè  
field in.place TOP be.in snake=ERG mouse eat but house in.container TOP be.in  
ñùùm=ku iim  
cat=ERG eat

*'In the field, snakes eat mice, and in the house, cats eat them.'* [5MOYD 1124]

#### 4.2.4 Topicalization of Verbs

Verbs may be topicalized by copying them with the topic marker **a**. This is especially common in yes/no questions.

(40) **Kro a, nleku cixi ncore ekro lu?**

kro a nle=ku cixi n=core e-kro lu  
imagine TOP 2s=ERG leaf NMZ=be.better LCL-imagine

*'Are you imagining a better future?'*

### 4.3 Negative/Alternative Topic Construction with **tro**

A topicalized phrase with **tro** sets the topic as being everything other than the complement of **tro**.

(41) **Pol vomo a tro, toto-ku tale nra-ci mnar.**

pol v-omo a tro toto=ku tale nra=ci m-nar  
Paul POSS=house TOP without rain=ERG world give=CMP NEG-fix

*'Other than Paul's house, the rain destroyed everything.'*

(42) **Koofa a tro po meeprii.**

koofa a tro po m-e-prii  
bed TOP without 1 NEG-LCL-sleep

*'Without a bed, I don't sleep., 'I only sleep in beds.'*

(43) **Firo a tro, xi npoku iim wo.**

firo a tro xi n=po=ku iim wo  
greens TOP without thing NMZ=1=ERG eat not.have

*'Without cabbage greens, there is nothing that I eat., 'I only eat cabbage greens.'*

The topic does not have to actually be a prepositional phrase introduced by **tro**; agents and patients can be topicalized in this manner as well, in which case they still use the marker **a**, rather than **ku** or **ro**.

(44) **Tobiya a tro, npèlanpè nturi katak.**

Tobiya a tro npèla~npè nturi katak  
Tobias TOP without container~DIM shatter ID:small.pieces

*'Tobias aside, someone broke the bowl., 'Someone other than Tobias broke the bowl.'*

## 4.4 Questions

### 4.4.1 Polar Questions

Polar questions in Anroo can be differentiated from statements by prosody alone. They are pronounced with a rise in pitch peaking at the stressed syllable of the focus (*i.e.* the thing being questioned) and with falling pitch after.

(45) **Ga a, rolo npa?**

ga a rolo npa  
yesterday TOP dog have

*'Were there any dogs yesterday?'*

In sentence 45 the speaker is asking, given the known circumstances of the previous day, were there any *dogs* in particular? The highest pitch of intonation is on the first syllable of **rolo**. When there is no other topic, it is common in questions for the verb to be topicalized.

(46) **Xaa a, nkepe-ku m ncore xaa?**

xaa a nkepe=ku m n=core xaa  
 wish TOP child=ERG event NMZ=be.better wish

*'Could the child have wished for something better?'*

When the focus is the last word in the question, the word **anre** 'or' is added after to allow for the falling intonation marking the question. In sentence 47, the speaker knows there were certain dogs, and is questioning whether they were present *yesterday*. Since **ga** 'yesterday' is the last word, **anre** is added and pronounced with falling intonation.

(47) **Rolo a, npa ga anre?**

rolo a npa ga anre  
 dog TOP have yesterday or

*'Were the dogs there yesterday?'*

#### 4.4.2 Open Questions

Anroo has two primary question words: **me** is used when the listener is asked to select from a closed set that they know all the members of, and **ntaa** is used when they are asked to select from an open set. These can be used with nouns. **Me ñii** 'who, lit. which person' is used to ask for a person from among a known group of people, who the speaker assumes they will know, and **ntaa ñii** 'who, lit. what person' is used to ask for a person more generally, without anticipating that the person is known to the speaker.

Open questions are often phrased by stating the identity of the thing being questioned as the topic and having the comment consist only of the copula and question phrase.

(48) **Ñii viro xù-ci a, re ntaa ñii?**

ñii n=firo xù=ci a re ntaa ñii  
 person NMZ=greens cook=CMP TOP be what person

*'Who is it that cooked these greens?'*

(49) **Iye nle re-jè-ci nki vanroo a, re me?**

iye n=nle re=jè=ci nki v-anroo a re me  
 island NMZ=2 be=DUR=CMP 3 POSS=local TOP be which

*'Which island did you use to live on?', 'The island you used to live on, which is it?'*

When some other topic is present, the question words remain *in situ*.



(50) **Sermel a, nleku ntaa anre ntù-ci?**

sermel a nle=ku ntaa anre ntù=ci  
end TOP 2=ERG what branch pick=CMP

*'What did you decide to do in the end?'*

## 5 Noun Phrase

The noun phrase consists of a noun preceded by determiners, possessors and true adjectives, and followed by nominalized modifiers.

### 5.1 Possession

Possession is marked on the possessee with the prefix **o-** before consonants and **v-** before vowels. The possessor comes before the possessee.

(51) **Toto ceeloo lar hoo, omo onleka mceeloo.**

toto ceeloo lar hoo omo o-nleka m-ceeloo  
rain pour moving.past CNTR house POSS=top NEG-pour

*'The roof does not leak, even if it rains heavily.'* [5MOYD 1134]

## 6 Nominalization

When modifying nouns, predicates may be nominalized by applying the nasal mutation to their first word. When used attributively, there is a loose relation between the predicate and the head. Common semantically light heads used for nominalization include **ñii** *person*, **xi** *thing, object*, **m** *event, time*, and **ñèl** *way, manner*.

(52) **Ñèl gatè iim a, nkepe iim azo.**

ñèl n=gatè iim a nkepe iim azo  
way NMZ=termite eat TOP child eat do.so

*'You know how a termite eats, the child eats like that.'* [5MOYD 1164]

(53) **Ñii ntèze nra mnar ku, po me, Akira re.**

ñii n=tèze nra m-nar ku po me akira re  
person NMZ=chair give NEG-fix TOP.ERG 1s not.be Akira be

*'It is not me but Akira who broke the chair.'* [5MOYD 1144]

(54) **Poku mù nCowakii-kuu xù-ci iim.**

po=ku mù n=cowakii=ku xù=ci iim  
1s=ERG rice NMZ=Joachim=ERG steam=CMP eat

*'I'm eating the rice that Joachim cooked.'* [5MOYD 1154]

(55) **Xi npo eeloom a, poku kù enra vo.**

xi n=po e-loom a po=ku kù e-nra vo  
thing NMZ=1s LCL-have TOP 1s=ERG 2s LCL-give see

*'I have something to show you.'* [5MOYD 1161]

The attributive nominalization marker can also mark appositive nouns.

(56) **Poku Ana npo ocilù vo.**

po=ku ana n=po o-cilù vo  
1=ERG ana NMZ=1 POSS=friend see

*'I saw Ana, a friend of mine.'*

Existential quantification is constructed using the positive existential verb and a nominalization. Negative quantification is constructed similarly but with a negative existential verb. Compare the next two sentences.

(57) **Ñii nkaanta lar faa npa**

ñii n=kaanta lar faa npa  
person NMZ=threshold past return have

*'Someone came home.'* lit. *'There is a person who came home.'*

(58) **Ñii nkaanta lar faa wo**

ñii n=kaanta lar faa wo  
person NMZ=threshold past return not.have

*'Nobody came home.'* lit. *'There is not a person who came home.'*

(59) **Poku Ana npo ocilù vo.**

po=ku ana n=po o-cilù vo  
1=ERG ana NMZ=1 POSS=friend see

*'I saw Ana, a friend of mine.'*

## 7 Adpositions

Spatial relations in Anroo are expressed through a combination of locative verbs and adpositions (usually postpositions). The locational verb and the adpositional phrase come after the main verb.

(60) **Ñùùm ñevo-jè jè tèze heñi**

ñùùm ñevo=jè jè tèze heñi  
cat wait=DUR be.in table under

*'The cat is waiting under the table.'* [1992TRPS 31]

For locational predicates, the locative verb is treated as the main verb of the sentence, and the adpositional phrase is the absolutive argument.

(61) **Kotù-ku lo npe jè.**

kotù=ku lo npe jè  
boat=ERG water in.right.place be.in

*'The boat is in the water.'* [1992TRPS 11]

However, unlike regular absolutives, they are topicalized using the oblique topic marker **a** and the ergative loses its marking.

(62) **Anre so a, cixi jè.**

branch hanging.from TOP leaf be.in  
anre so a cixi jè

*'As for the branch, there are leaves on it.'* [1992TRPS 41]

An interesting pair of postpositions are **npe** 'in the expected or salient part of something' and **kozo** 'outside of the expected or salient part of something'. **Kozo** is not used with typical locational verbs, but rather collocates with the verb **he** 'to be somewhere unexpected.'

(63) **Rolo-ku rolo vomo npe jè.**

rolo=ku rolo v-omo npe jè  
dog=ERG dog POSS=house in.right.place be.in

*'The dog is inside of the doghouse.'* [1992TRPS 71]

(64) **Rolo-ku rolo vomo kozo he.**

rolo=ku rolo v-omo kozo he  
dog=ERG dog POSS=house not.in.right.place be.in.unexpected

*'The dog is out of the doghouse.'* [1992TRPS 06]

## 8 Derivational Morphology

### 8.1 Deverbal <l>

There is an infix <l> which is inserted after the first consonant of a verb to derive a noun for a person or thing who habitually does that verb. If an illegal consonant cluster would be formed, then an epenthetic è is inserted before the l. For vowel-initial words, the prefix l- is used.

Verb	Meaning	Noun	Meaning
azo	to do so	lazo	someone who mimics others
clito	to move one's body	clèlito	someone who moves around a lot
hir	to be tired	hèlir	someone who is often tired
sarke	to lean against something for support	slarke	a sick person

### 8.2 Verbal Reduplication

Verbs may undergo reduplication to give the meaning of repetition or undoing a previous state. If the first syllable has the form CCV(C), then the vowel is copied to break up the cluster giving CVCV(C). Otherwise, the first CV of the word is reduplicated. For vowel-initial words, an epenthetic glottal stop is inserted, so V(C) becomes VʔV(C).

Verb	Meaning	Reduplication	Meaning
nar	to fix	nanar	to fix something again, to repair back to a previous state
xaa	to want	xaaxaa	to change one's mind about what one wants
prii	to sleep	piirii	to fall back asleep
vo	to see	vovo	to see again, to find

### 8.3 Diminutive

To form the diminutive, the first syllable is reduplicated after the end of the word. If the word is of mixed nasality, the reduplicated syllable assimilates in nasality to the final syllable.

Verb	Meaning	Diminutive	Meaning
nkebe	child	nkebenke	small child, baby
alii	mouse	alii'aa	small mouse
ñùùm	cat	ñùùmñùùm	small cat, kitten

## 9 Lexicon

### 9.1 Conceptual Metaphors

#### 9.1.1 TIME=TREE

Anroo people speak of time as though it is a tree with the present situated where the first branch separates from the trunk. Future events are 'perched on branches' and past events are 'leaning against the trunk.' The first of something is 'at the roots' and the last of it is 'at the leaves.' A person's 'tree' is their fate. To make a decision is to 'choose branch.'

### 9.1.2 IMPORTANCE=RICE

As rice is a staple for the Anroo people, it is symbolic of importance. ‘To have rice’ is to matter and ‘to lack rice’ is not to matter. If you ‘see no rice’ you are wasting time. The crux of a matter is ‘the thing’s rice.’

## 9.2 Wordlist

### A

**a** *part.* topic marker for obliques

**aan** *n.* possibility, the quality of being possible

**aca** *n.* a place where people live, a town, a settlement

**kotù aca** *n.* a port *lit.* ‘boat town’

**alel** *n.* the action of waking up

**alel clito** *vb.* to wake up

**alel npa** *vb.* to be awake, to be wakeful

**alii** *n.* a small rodent like a rat or mouse, a mischievous child

**amaa** *vb.* to die of natural causes, to peter out, to be unseasoned (of a dish)

**anre** *n.* a branch, a choice, a course of action, *part.* disjunction, or, particle used to separate multiple choices

**anroo** *n.* neighbor, local, autochthon, the Anroo language

**ara** *vb.* to suffer, to feel pain, *n.* pain, suffering

**nra ara** *svc.* to hurt someone, to beat someone

**vu ara** *svc.* to insult someone, to offend someone

**'ase** *n.* friend

**'axo** *vb.* to transport goods, to send, to carry goods

**'elaxo** *n.* a cart for transporting goods

**azo** *vb.* to do so, to do something like that often forms SVCs meaning “to X like that”

### C

**caak** *n.* prepared fermented sauces bought at markets

**calkèk** *n.* an elite corps of an army, highly

trained soldiers

**ceeloo** *vb.* to pour or out of a container, to leak, (intransitive, of a stream) to flow quickly, (intransitive, of a person) to bleed

**cenagoo** *n.* foreigners, strangers, mainlanders, people from outside of the Gawoda archipelago

**cexo** *vb.* to provide for children, to promise, to ensure something is where it needs to be

**ci (cii)** *part.* completive marker

**ciinta** *n.* iron

**cika** *vb.* to cut something that’s under tensile stress such that it springs or pulls apart, to diffuse a tense situation between people

**cilù** *n.* life force believed to give one strength and vigor

**cilù ohepe** *n.* heartbeat, pulse

**cixi** *n.* leaves of a tree, *metaph.* the last or final piece of something, the future

**clito** *vb.* to move your body in a certain way, to do something by moving your body

**loom clito** *svc.* to hug affectionately, *lit.* ‘hold.in.arms move.body’

**vo clito** *svc.* to open your eyes, *lit.* ‘see move.body’

**cok** *n.* amount, quantity, how much of something

**coka** *n.* an act that goes against a promise or agreement

**cooru** *vb.* to bend something, to turn (to a direction), to round a corner

**core** *vb.* to be better than the current state, *inch.* to improve

**nra core** *svc.* to make someone happy, to please someone

**cu** *part.* focus particle emphasizing expanded extent, even

**cuha** *vb.* to be far away (from), to be distant,

*adv.* far, across, away

**cùl** *vb.* to go, especially to somewhere expected, to happen

## E

**efo** *n.* a spiced stew, a curry

**ego** *n.* a person's legs

**nra ego** *vb.* to flee, to run away, to escape, to 'leg it'

**el** *part.* such as, for example, including

**ele** *n.* harbor, hub

**enla** *n.* gold, goldwork, a common name

**enol** *vb.* to answer, to respond, to do an action in response to something

**eruumtuum** *ideo.* ideophone for random scribbles on a page, people running around helter-skelter

**eseu** *n.* the hinterlands under control of a particular city or citystate, the lands or countryside of a nation

**exèkemexèke** *ideo.* doing something in an overly complicated way

## È

**ènpàrènpa** *ideo.* ideophone for bobbing up and down in the waves, floating but not still

## F

**faa** *vb.* to return, to go back, to go home

**fawo** *n.* canoe, small open-top boat for recreation or fishing

**firo** *n.* greens of *Brassica rapa* used as food

**fo** *part.* a particle used to clarify what something is, give examples, or introduce an incidental, nonrestrictive attributive

**fùl** *n.* the act of closing your eyes

## G

**ga** *adv.* yesterday, the day before the time under discussion

**ga** *part.* topic particle indicating addition, too, extra information

**gatè** *n.* termite, an annoying child

**nra gatè** *idiom* to curse someone

**gèl** *n.* footsteps, footprints

**gèl ntaica** *vb.* to take a walk, to go for a stroll

**gèmane** *vb.* to steer or direct, to teach a physical skill, such as sports, dance, or combat

**go** *part.* discourse particle marking that something is expected to have happened, or is common sense

**goo kra** *bipartite vb.* to obtain something through hard work, to accomplish a goal after struggle

**gor** *n.* a game, a fun time, a session or event of something relaxing (in compounds), used as a cognate object with **zeego** when there isn't a particular game being played

**goreem** *vb.* to balance, to rest on the edge of something, to just barely succeed at doing something

**goreem troha** *svc.* to fail to do something, to miss the mark

**gorel** *n.* respect, treatment of others with honor

**gulenlee** *ideo.* ideophone for clouds hanging in the sky or around mountains, emphasizing peace or beauty of weather

## H

**ha** *adj.* big, tall, wide-reaching, well-known, long (of time)

**hak** *part.* all, every

**hal** *adj.* brightly colored, bright (of a flame), sharp (of an edge)

**halce** *n.* larger boat with a deck and covered space

**mane ohalce** *n.* a boat, a boat as part of a

floating village

**hanra** *adj.* dark colored, black, dark-skinned, unlit, peaceful, still

**harnu** *vb.* to create an opening meant for putting things in, such as digging a hole to sow seeds, making a hole in food to stuff it with something, clearing space in a box to put things in

**hèlarnu** *n.* a container or vessel for transportation or storage of goods

**hau** *vb.* to be upright, to stretch vertically, to reach up

**haxe** *n.* a book

**he** *vb.* to be somewhere (wrongly), to come from somewhere (wrongly), to not be in the salient or expected place, (collocates with the adposition *kozo*)

**hee tu** *bpt. vb.* for something known to confuse someone, especially used when the speaker is admitting that they should not have been confused by something

**hepe** *vb.* to tap or knock on something repeatedly, to play a percussion instrument, *del.* to tap something once

**hepepep** *ideo.* ideophone for a bunch of long things that are all about the same size

**henlehuri** *ideo.* a lot of something, overflowing with something, something all over the place

**heñi** *adp.* underneath, obscured by

**hèka** *n.* volcanic mountain highlands characterized by exposed lava flows

**hènpèrè** *ideo.* hurtling motion, momentum, continuing motion

**hili** *vb.* to wait in line, to form a line, to be patient, to organize, to put things away, to put things in their place, *anticaus.* to get put away, to get sent home from school, to get kicked out, to get banned

**hir** *vb.* to be tired, *inch.* to get tired

**hir huun** *bpt. vb.* to do something to the point of exhaustion, to exert oneself tiringly

**hirihere** *vb.* to go for a walk for one's own amusement, to hike, to wander

**hiyiyi** *ideo.* ideophone for being so excited you

can't sit still

**hojè** *adj.* characterized by a high or overwhelming flow rate

**hojè inlo** *n.* rapids, rushing unnavigable water, whitewater

**hojè nelsaa** *n.* a wound that gushes blood

**hojè ñèlo** *n.* a river with very fast current, but that's still navigable

**hojè ñii** *n.* a talkative person

**hojè ora** *n.* overwork, tasks that keep piling on

**hojè sita npa** *vb.* to be windy out

**troha hojè toto** *vb.* to get drenched, to get flooded

**xù hojè** *vb.* for a pot to boil over

**hontu** *vb.* to give in to something, to be eroded by something, to not withstand something, to find something unbearable

**hoo** *part.* marks contrast between two phrases

**hoonre** *n.* an upright plucked string instrument like a bass

**hu** *part.* discourse particle marking reported speech

**huxunru** *ideo.* ideophone for a beautiful ocean, with lightly rolling waves but no whitecaps

**hù** *n.* eggs as a food item

**hùù** *adj.* pleasant smelling, fragrant, *vb.* to smell good, to have a certain (good) smell

**hùùrùùk** *ideo.* ideophone for carrying something heavy or cumbersome

## I

**iceemee** *n.* a long-term partner, especially with whom one is raising children, a long-term political ally, a twin city or twin island

**ico** *n.* value of a good or service in money or through bartering, price

**'iki** *n.* oil, fat, grease

**npixo o'iki** *n.* pork fat used for cooking, lard

**iltè** *part.* and so (conjunction showing that the second phrase is a result of the first)

**imee** *n.* dried noodles  
**inlo** *n.* flowing water that is too shallow to be navigable, a creek  
**'ixu** *vb.* to get sick, to be sick, to sicken, to make sick, to give allergies (esp. respiratory diseases), *n.* respiratory illness or symptoms  
**iye** *n.* an island, semantically fairly vague and often used for any sort of discrete thing surrounded by a different thing

## J

**jè** *vb.* to be at or in a place (collocates with locative adpositions)  
**joori** *n.* kind, type, cultivar (of plants), ethnicity or nationality (of people)  
**ju** *n.* the sun

## K

**ka** *part.* a sentence-final particle for commands and requests  
**kaanta** *n.* a sand bank or sandy beach, the threshold of a house  
**kacèra** *ideo.* ideophone for surprise, being startled  
**kalpi** *n.* a kind of shrimp or prawn often farmed for food  
**kare** *vb. intr.* to be a blessing for someone, *tr.* to be thankful for, to be grateful to, *adp.* thanks to, because of (positive connotation)  
**karekare** *interj.* thank you (used when someone has been helpful or generous, used for gifts and services, but not for complements, also used when something good happens that wasn't guaranteed, like English 'oh thank God')  
**karil** *n.* a fermented milk beverage believed to have medicinal properties (think kefir or Yakult)  
**kasol** *vb.* to flourish, to grow well, to be bountiful, to be healthy, *n.* good health  
**kaxùnta** *ideo.* ideophone for a rough sea, with surf and whitecaps

**kelo** *n.* the right to do something, permission to do something

**kelo npa** *vb.* to be allowed to do something, may, (permissive) can  
**kelor** *vb.* to cut with a blade, to wage war, to fight, to chop *n.* large knife, machete, sword  
**klelor** *n.* soldier, warrior  
**kerege** *ideo.* ideophone for being rushed at, being charged at, coming under a rapidly approaching deadline  
**kèr** *vb.* to shine, to be bright, to light up a space, to warm something up, to cook food with direct heat (including roasting and frying), to be sharp or severe (of pain), to be spicy (of food)  
**ki (kii)** *part.* delimitative aspect marker  
**kixi** *vb.* to tell a story, to write a story, to set something in stone  
**klèra** *vb.* to hear, to catch the sound of something

**nra klèra** *svc.* to tell someone something  
**kro lu** *bpt. vb.* to imagine, to consider  
**kotù** *n.* a trading boat, a boat meant to bring goods between places  
**kozo** *adp.* in the wrong place, not in the salient or expected place (collocates with the locative verb *he*)  
**koofa** *n.* a raised mat for sleeping on, often used as metonymy for the home  
**koronto** *ideo.* waking up suddenly, getting woken up by something  
**ku** *part.* ergative marker when cliticized to A, topic marker for A when not cliticized  
**kù** *prn.* second person singular pronoun

## L

**la** *n.* place, side, commonly used with relative clauses  
**lar** *adp.* past, moving past something, in spite of something, even though something is, used to mark the object of comparison in comparative constructions  
**leem ko** *bpt. vb.* to grab something solid in your hands, to seize, to grasp



**lico** *n.* tooth, teeth, grip of teeth  
**lico clito** *vb.* to bite something  
**lico nra** *vb.* to punish somebody, to chastise somebody  
**lo** *n.* a body of water, water in the context of the ocean, rivers, or lakes  
**ñèlo** *n.* navigable flowing water, such as a river  
**loo** *part.* sentence-final particle stating that something is possible or is an opportunity for the listener, used with declarative statements with second person subjects as a light imperative  
**loom** *vb.* to hold, to have in one's possession  
**loom ntù** *svc.* to persevere, to keep going, to survive, to hang in there  
**lorjè** *n.* early morning, after the first light but before leaving home, breakfast  
**lukaga** *n.* traditional decorations hung around the house, made to evoke nature, something nice but not necessary like 'the icing on the cake'  
**lukaga zil** *vb.* to make the finishing touches, to adorn, to do something extra

## M

**m** *n.* an event, on occasion, a fact, a time, a thing, generic noun often used as a relative clause head  
**maila** *n.* an established way of doing something, often with a negative connotation, bad habit, dogma  
**manaa** *n.* first time doing something  
**me** *vb.* to not be, negative copula used with noun predicates  
**me** *part.* question word: which one (of a known set)  
**mee** *part.* used with the prospective to indicate that something is just about to happen and used with the completive to indicate that something has just happened  
**mege** *adv.* tomorrow, the day after the day under consideration, *le lendemain*

**mekùta** *n.* solstice, day when the Earth is tilted furthest away from or closest to the sun  
**hal mekùta** *n.* summer solstice *lit.* 'bright solstice'  
**hanra mekùta** *n.* winter solstice *lit.* 'dark solstice'  
**mè** *part.* negative complementizer  
**mi** *adv.* sitting or perched on something long, at a future time  
**moonko** *n.* a gift, a present, an offering  
**hojè moonko** *n.* a sacrificial offering  
**moso** *adj.* smelling otherwise rotten or fetid, *vb.* to smell **moso**  
**moso ntor hùù** *idiom* to have the good smell of being rotten, said of pungent fermented foods  
**mù** *n.* cooked rice, *metaph.* importance, the crux of an issue  
**mùltù** *ideo.* fumbling around looking for something

## N

**nar** *vb.* to fix or repair something broken  
**nra mnar** *svc.* to break something human-made  
**troha mnar** *svc.* to be broken (of something human-made)  
**nar** *adv.* in a container or building, in a fluid, out of a total (used to form fractions)  
**nelsaa** *n.* an injury from cutting or scratching that breaks the skin  
**neltè** *vb.* to swing or wobble back and forth from a fixed point (as a spring from a low point or as a pendant from a high point), to dance or revel drunkenly  
**nkamo** *vb.* to worship something, to see something as sacred, to see something as holy  
**nke** *vb.* to be born, to give birth to someone  
**nkepe** *n.* 's own children, an animal's own offspring  
**nkemee** *vb.* to pull yourself somewhere with your arms, to crawl on the ground  
**nki** *prn.* third person pronoun

**nkoo** *vb.* to press down, to push down on something, to squash something

**nkoo sunaa** *svc.* to prepare sweet potatoes, cassava or plantain by mashing

**nlai** *vb.* to stay, to remain, to be still, to not move

**ntau nlai** *svc.* to arrive and stay somewhere

**nle** *prn.* second person pronoun

**nleka** *n.* tree canopy, roof, ceiling, lid of a basket

**nol** *vb.* to try to do something, to do something on purpose, forms SVCs with sensory verbs meaning 'look at, listen to' etc.

**noo** *ideo.* mooing, cow noises, *n.* cow noises

**nook** *n.* head

**nook hili** *vb.* to rest

**noolkaa** *n.* waves, wake, consequences, trace

**noolkaa ntaica** *vb.* to leave a wake, to leave behind a trail, to cause consequences

**npa** *vb.* to have, for there to be something

**npamaga** *ideo.* speaking for someone else, trying to pass of your thoughts as someone else's, speaking over someone else

**npe** *adp.* in an expected or salient part of something, in a place

**npina** *n.* usefulness, activity, energy

**npina wo** *vb.* to be useless, to be lazy, to be wiped out

**npixo** *n.* domestic pig, pork

**npuya** *adj.* smelling roasted or browned (of food), it's considered good in Anroo cooking to get this flavor in a soup so stock is often made with (remains of) roasted or grilled meat and roasted vegetables, *vb.* to smell **npuya**

**nra** *vb.* to give to someone, to let someone do something

**ntaa** *prn.* question word: what (open-ended answer)

**ntaica** *vb.* to set down, to leave behind, to disperse, to break up with someone, to spread someone's ashes

**ntama** *n.* a story, a tale, an explanation

**ntau** *vb.* to make something move by striking it, to hit, to bump into, to hit a body part

**ntau** *n.* an inheritance, an heirloom

**ntau ntaica** *vb.* to leave an inheritance behind

**soo ye ntau** *vb.* to inherit, to take as an inheritance

**ntawo** *n.* an open field, not used for agriculture

**ntero** *n.* an archipelago, a friend group or clique

**nteronte** *n.* an island when seen as part of an archipelago

**nto** *adv.* now (at the time of speech)

**ntor** *n.* nose, odor, smell, fragrance

**pontor** *n.* speaker's nose

**nturi** *vb.* to break something rigid and brittle, to snap something, by extension to prepare dried ingredients for cooking

**ntù** *vb.* to pick, to select, to choose

**anre ntù** *vb.* to make a decision, to choose to do something

**ñèl ntù** *vb.* to take a road, to follow a path

**nuuho** *n.* knowledge, information

**nuuk** *n.* top, cover (used in expressions)

**nuuk zil** *vb.* to cover something, to protect something

## Ñ

**ñevo** *vb.* to wait for something, to expect something (used with the completive, this implies that the thing you were waiting for occurred)

**ñèl (obl. gu)** *n.* way, manner, path

**ñii** *n.* a person

**ñii** *vb.* to be called something, to be named something, to be pronounced (of a word), to claim or allege, often collocates with *vu* 'to say.'

**ñiiñèl** *n.* the collective heritage of an ethnic, religious, or other cultural group including, history, customs, beliefs, and manners particular to them

**ñiiñiiñii** *ideo.* throngs or crowds of people

**ñùri** *n.* a batch, all of a person's siblings, sometimes including cousins of the same age

**ñùùm** *n.* cat, *vb.* to be fast, to be nimble

## O

**o** *part.* and (for nominal conjunction)

**olo** *n.* floor, ground in a built structure, platform

**mane volo** *n.* pontoon, wharf, floating platform anchored near the shore or in a sheltered area

**olo** *n.* eyes, sense of sight, \*metaph.\* opinions, thoughts about something

**polo** *n.* the speaker's eyes or sense of sight

**olu** *adp.* against or near a vertical pole or surface, at a time in the present or past

**omo** *n.* a building where people live, house, home

**ontu** *vb.* to make something move

**ntau ontu** *svc.* to make something move by hitting it

**wil ontu** *svc.* to make something move by pulling on it

**vu ontu** *svc.* to tell someone to move, to order someone around

**onuuk** *adp.* above, on top of, before (postposition, collocates with **jè**)

**oojaa** *adj.* smelling spiced or sour, applied to aromatics like lemongrass, ginger, galangal, and allium as well as citrus, pineapple, and some spices like black pepper and coriander, *vb.* to smell **oojaa**

**oojaa ntor yùnyù** *idiom* to have the bad smell of spice/sourness, said of overproof alcohol

**oomenènkè** *ideo.* ideophone for waking up naturally or gradually rather than being woken up by something

**ora** *n.* work, daily acts done as part of work, *vb.* to do work, to serve as something, to be for something

**ora alel** *n.* daily life, emphasizing the repetitive aspects

**'ori** *n.* a market stall, a hawker stall, *vb.* to sell at a stall, to hawk

**'èlori** *n.* salesperson at a market, hawker

**ozu** *adj.* bad, not conforming to expectations

## P

**panraa** *n.* dishes, especially large ceremonial dishes

**parmi** *adj.* smelling sweet, fruity, or floral, *vb.* to smell **parmi**

**penre** *vb.* to shoot

**pexè** *n.* uncooked grain, especially uncooked rice

**pezè** *vb.* to outlast, to endure, to pass a trial

**plezè** *n.* elder, one who has endured

**po** *prn.* first person singular pronoun

**prii** *vb.* to sleep, *inch.* to fall asleep, *n.* sleep

**priixii** *vb.* to sleep somewhere, to spend the night somewhere, to spend the night at someone's house

## R

**raak** *n.* dry, crunchy, often fried toppings eaten over other dishes, especially when adding crunch to soft foods like porridge or mashed starches (examples: crispy bug larvae, chips, fried fish skins, fried shallot, peanuts and cashews) *vb.* to crunch, to be crunchy

**ral** *n.* face, self, identity, *prn.* self, oneself

**ral ntaica** *vb.* to get lost

**rama** *n.* a jump, a hop

**rama clito** *idiom* to jump, to make a jump, to take a jump

**re** *vb.* to be, copula used for noun predicates

**reek** *vb.* to remain, to be left over, to be the rest, to leave something behind

**nreek** *idiom* after noun "not even," negative polarity item

**riya** *n.* knife with a serrated edge, saw, scalloped clamshell

**ro** *part.* topic marker for P

**rolo** *n.* dog

**rùlùlù** *ideo.* ideophone for not being able to see because it's hazy, murky, foggy, or smoky, feeling hazy or groggy in the morning

## S

**saa** *part.* three

**sai** *part.* discourse particle showing insistence or correction

**sapi** *n.* a uniformed brigade, a platoon, a group of soldiers or guards under common leadership

**sarke** *vb.* to lean against something, when used of humans usually implying that it's for support, to be sick

**slarke** *n.* someone sick or unwell

**sermel** *vb.* to complete, to finish, to be whole, to be all of something

**selkeltel** *ideo.* ideophone for multitasking, being busy, doing many things at once or in close succession, running errands

**sèkèta** *ideo.* hard things falling and scattering

**simu** *n.* an art or craft, something created for enjoyment, *vb.* to create art, to be skillful at something

**sita** *n.* wind, sky, weather, air

**so** *adp.* hanging from something

**sonpù** *n.* soup, stew (without rice or noodles)

**sor** *vb.* to be monstrous, to be horrendous, to be terrible

**soo** *vb.* to take something, used in commands to mark personal interest of the speaker

**gèl soo** to follow someone

**sumiya** *n.* the color blue

**sunaa** *vb.* to spread a paste or viscous liquid, to paint something, to stick things together

**sùnrù** *ideo.* large lumbering movement, slow movement of a large animal or person

**sùsa** *n.* a spirit that is not troubled, not bothered by or bothering humans

**ye sùsu** *idiom* carefree, careless, without heeding other things in the world (can be positive or negative in context)

## T

**taho** *vb.* to reflect, to reverse, to talk back at someone/give a comeback to something

**tèlaho** *n.* reflection

**tale** *n.* one's sense of one's environment, *metaph.* one's worldview, one's sense of the world, *Weltanschauung* if you will

**tamè** *vb.* to visit a place, to visit a person's house, to go see somewhere

**taso** *n.* rope, cord, link

**taso zil** *vb.* to tie

**taxik** *n.* a hereditary or military leader of a large kingdom or empire, usually used to describe foreign powers

**tee** *vb.* to examine something, to look repeatedly, *del.* to take a look at something

**teka** *n.* the action of moving something back and forth, *vb.* to move something else back and forth

**teka clito** *vb.* to move oneself or a body part back and forth

**tel** *n.* accuracy, punctuality, tendency to be on time and within specification

**tèze** *n.* furniture with legs, such as tables and chairs

**tiriri** *ideo.* something shiny catching one's eye, noticing an attractive person

**to** *part.* also, too, as well

**to** *part.* two, two of something

**togo** *n.* place for bulk storage of a material, such as a cistern, reservoir, or silo, *vb.* to store something

**toke** *n.* tree, *metaph.* fate

**tol** *vb.* to be near something, *inch.* to approach something (collocates with locative adpositions)

**tol (toon)** *part.* prospective marker

**took** *vb.* to go somewhere unexpected, to leave somewhere, to go somewhere else, to go to the wrong part of something (collocates with **kozo**)

**tor** *n.* mountain

**toto** *vb.* to rain, *n.* a rainstorm, rainfall

**troha toto** *svc.* to get rained on

**towoon** *vb.* to hang from something without moving (collocates with the preposition **so**), to be limp, to be relaxed, *inch.* to relax

**triyè** *vb.* to take something against the possessor's will or without their consent

**troha** *vb.* to fall, used as an auxiliary in form-

ing passives, especially adversative passives, to pass (of time)

**trù** *n.* someone who shares some quality with another person, for example having the same, age, name, or profession as someone (often used in compounds)

**ñii otrù** *n.* someone with the same name, to cayo

**ñèl otrù** *n.* someone who acts similarly, has a similar mindset, enjoys similar things

**ora otrù** *n.* colleague, person who does the same work

**aca otrù** *n.* someone with the same hometown or ancestral town as someone

**turlutu** *ideo.* ideophone for music, especially upbeat or dancing music

## U

**'uvaxa** to outrank someone, to be high-ranking, to be a best-seller, **~je** to be outranked, to be a runt, to lag behind

## V

**vao** *n.* fish, especially live fish

**veenkara** *ideo.* ideophone for forgetting something, forgetfulness, clueless

**troha veenkara** *vb.* to be forgotten, to fall into obscurity

**vel** *n.* adult man

**vètu** *n.* words, speech, utterances, talk

**vo** *vb.* to see, to believe *inch.* to discover, to notice

**nra vo** *svc.* to show someone something

**vovo** *vb.* to see again, to find

**vonorovo** *ideo.* ideophone for official announcements, decrees, declarations

**ye vonorovo gu** *idiom* arrogantly, boastfully, brashly

**vu** *vb.* to say, used for commands requesting a spoken response

## W

**waam** *vb.* to drink water, to soak/sop up liquid, to believe something (possibly falsely, *c.f.* buy in 'I told him a lie and he totally bought it')

**weeniim** *n.* any sort of food from the sea, including fish, shellfish, and seaweed

**weyoo** *adj.* smelling sulfurous like a hot spring or rotten eggs, smelling bad of human body odor, *vb.* to smell **weyoo**

**wil** *vb.* to pull, to apply tensile force

**wo** *vb.* to not have, for there not to be something

## X

**xaa** *vb.* to wish for something, to desire something, *part.* used to introduce purposes or goals

**xaaxaa** *vb.* to change one's mind

**xèlaa** *n.* romantic partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, 'one who desires'

**xaaxaa** *n.* a snack of rice crackers with dried seaweed

**xal** *part.* eight, eight of something

**xetri** *n.* seed, reason, cause

**xexi** *n.* a brewed alcoholic beverage

**xi** *n.* physical thing

**ximi** *n.* physical unrest, especially upset stomach

**nra ximi** *vb.* to make someone sick

**xiyeri** *ideo.* ideophone for bright light overwhelming your eyes, especially when they're not properly adjusted, like when stepping out of a bright room or seeing a fire at night

**xo** *adp.* with, using a tool

**xù** *vb.* to cook food by boiling

## Y

**yaira** *n.* noon, midday (esp. the two hour period centered on noon), associated with energy

**yalèè** *n.* belief about something that one wishes not to be true

**ye** *adp.* with, marking a manner  
**yelka** *n.* livestock, animals kept for food  
**yo** *vb.* to be meant for something, to be useful, to have a purpose  
**yo** *part.* one, one of something  
**yook** *ideo.* the sound of something large hitting the ground after being thrown, thud, thump, thunk  
**yor** *part.* and then (phrasal conjunction showing sequence)  
**yùnto** *vb.* to be near something or somewhere (can collocate with locative adpositions)  
**yùyùù** *adj.* foul smelling, stinking, *vb.* to smell bad, to stink, to have a certain (bad) smell

## Z

**zago** *n.* belly, part of your abdomen between your ribs and hips including your back except

for your spine  
**zeego** *vb.* to play a game (not super competitively), to flirt with a person  
**zleego** *n.* someone one is dating casually  
**zil** *vb.* to attach something, to add something on, to put something extra somewhere  
**ziya** *n.* surroundings, environment, *adp.* around, encircling  
**zo (zoo)** *part.* inchoative marker  
**zorne** *n.* a sauce, especially one made at home at the moment you're cooking, rather than beforehand  
**zùra** *n.* a sideways strummed or picked string instrument, like a zither or dulcimer  
**re hoonra o zùra** *vb.* to go well together, to go together like bass and zither

## 10 Sample Anroo Narrative

(1) **Po ekici-tol manaa ntero noxèlaa re vanroo etamè.**

po e-kici-tol                    manaa    n=ntero                    n=o-xèlaa                    re v-anroo  
 1s LCL-tell.story=PRSP first.time NMZ=archipelago NMZ=POSS=partner be POSS=local  
 e-tamè  
 LCL-travel.to

*'I'll tell you about the first time I visited the islands where my girlfriend is from.'*

(2) **Po oxèlaa-kuu ral ntaica-jè ye mailu.**

po o-xèlaa=ku                    ral ntaica=jè                    veenkara    ye    maila-u  
 1s POSS=partner=ERG self leave.behind=DUR ID:forgetting with bad.habit-OBL

*'My girlfriend always gets lost.'*

(3) **Vaca npe a jè hoo, nkiku ñèl vovor.**

v-acá            npe a    jè            hoo            nki=ku ñèl    vovo-r  
 POSS=town in TOP be.in-RA however 3=ERG path find-RA

*'But when we're in her hometown, she navigates.'*

(4) **Po etroha-ci sarke, kotù aca vefo wo ha.**

po e-troha=ci    sarke kotù aca    v-efo            wo    ha  
 1s LCL-fall=CMP lean boat town POSS=stew have DP

*'I had gotten sick, Port Sickness<sup>1</sup> or something.'*

(5) **Iim-cii olu a jè, npo eexaar-zoo omo npe ecùl xaa nook ehili.**

iim=ci    olu            a    jè            npo e-xaa-r=zo                    omo npe e-cùl    xaa  
 eat=CMP at.past.time TOP be.in-RA 1p LCL-want-RA=INCH home in LCL-go so.that  
 nook e-hili  
 head LCL-put

*'After lunch, we decided to go home to rest.'*

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<sup>1</sup>**Kotù aca vefo** 'boat town stew' refers to getting sick when arriving in a new place because of being exposed to unfamiliar diseases.

(6) **M nki sarke to troha vo.**

m n=nki sarke to troha vo  
fact NMZ=3 lean too fall see

*'It turned out<sup>2</sup> she was sick too.'*

(7) **Halce nki vur omo npe fan ro, npo evovor, iltè ehili-zo.**

halce n=nki vu-r omo npe fan ro npo e-vovo-ra iltè  
boat NMZ=3 say-RA house in return TOP.ACC 1p LCL-find-RA and.so  
e-hili=zo  
LCL-line.up=INCH

*'We found the boat that she said went home, so we got in line.'*

(8) **Po vu, 'Hee tu... Xetri ncùl vico hojè...'**

po vu hee tu xetri n=cùl v-ico hojè  
1s say confuse reason NMZ=go POSS=price overwhelming

*'Weird...' I said, 'Wonder why the price is so high...<sup>3</sup>'*

(9) **Halce-ku hoo ele took ga.**

halce=ku hoo ele took ga  
boat=ERG however harbor leave DP

*'Anyway, the boat headed out as expected.<sup>4</sup>'*

(10) **Yor cooru ga. Hokok. Took omo kozo.**

yor cooru ga hokok took omo kozo  
and.then turn DP square leave home not.in.right.place

*'And of course it turned. 90 degrees. Away from home.'*

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<sup>2</sup>**M...troha vo** 'the fact...got seen' is an idiom for 'to turn out to be true, to be found out.'

<sup>3</sup>Questions are often formed by topicalizing the thing being asked about and following it with a comment meaning 'what is it?' Why-questions are often constructed using the word **xetri** 'reason' and a relative clause. Even without the comment, it's understood as the beginning of a question. It's common informally to muse about things by dropping the comment.

<sup>4</sup>**Ga** is a discourse particle marking that the speaker had assumed something would be true and expects the listener to as well.



(11) **‘Omu a tro, npoku ntaa la npe ecùl-jè?’**

omo-u a tro npo=ku ntaa la npe e-cùl=jè  
home-OBL TOP without 1p=ERG what place in LCL-go=DUR

*‘If we’re not going home,<sup>5</sup> then where are we going?’*

(12) **Nki taho, ‘Re me Tiimto Iye.’**

nki taho re me tiim-to iye  
3 reply be not.be south-fork island

*‘She replied, ‘Maybe it’s Tiimto Island.’*

(13) **Tiimto Iye lar ecùl.**

tiim-to iye lar e-cùl  
south-fork island past LCL-go

*‘We passed Tiimto Island.’*

(14) **‘Yor Ha’iye Tor a, re me.’**

yor ha-iye tor a re me  
and.so big-island mountain TOP be not.be

*‘Maybe it’s Ha’iye Tor, then.’*

(15) **Ha’iye Tor lar ecùl.**

ha-iye tor lar e-cùl  
big-island mountain past LCL-go

*‘We passed Ha’iye Tor.’*

(16) **Ni logepè troha npo lar.**

ni logepè troha npo lar  
two quarter<sup>6</sup> fall 1p past

*‘An hour passed.’*

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<sup>5</sup>Topicalizing a phrase with **tro** carries the meaning of ‘other than that, if not that, since that isn’t the case.’

(17) **Kotù-ku iye npe tol-zo, yor mane volo so zil.**

kotù=ku iye npe tol-zo yor mane volo so zil  
boat=ERG island at be.near=INCH and.then pontoon hanging.from attach

*‘The boat came up to an island and was moored.’*

(18) **Troha klèra ñii Hepep Iye.**

troha klèra ñii hepep iye  
fall hear call ID:long.things island

*‘We learned it was called Hepep Island.’*

(19) **Lo-ku npo enra-cii ximi kaxùnta.**

lo=ku npo e-nra-=cii ximi kaxùnta  
body.of.water=ERG 1p LCL-give=CMP stomach.unrest ID:rough.seas

*‘The rough seas had made us sicker.’*

(20) **Npoku kotù entaica sùnru ntau ñiiñiiñii.**

npoku kotù e-ntaica sùnru ntau ñiiñiiñii  
1p=ERG boat LCL-leave ID:lumbering bump ID:crowd

*‘We lumbered off the boat into a throng of people.’*

(21) **‘Iye npe a jè, npoku nèl enolra soo loo.’**

iye npe a jè npo=ku nèl e-nol-ra soo loo  
island in TOP be.in 1p=ERG path LCL-try-RA take DP

*‘As long as we’re on the island, we might as well explore.’<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup>People in the Southern Archipelago divide the day into 12 ‘hours’ (two hours long) which are subdivided into four ‘quarters’ (thirty minutes long) which are in turn subdivided into 24 ‘minutes’ (actually 75 seconds long but who’s counting). The Anroo words for each of these are loaned from Mwanele, for example **logepè** ‘quarter’ is loaned from **lojep**.

<sup>7</sup>The expression **nèl nol soo** ‘to explore’ translates literally as ‘to try to get a path’, which is important to getting the joke in the next sentence.

(22) **'Nèl onuuk a jè, cleloo loo!**

nèl onuuk a jè c<l>eloo loo  
path above TOP be.in <AGT>flow DP

*'Before we find a path, how about a toilet!'*

(23) **Gèl ntaica xaa iye vo-zo.**

gèl ntaica xaa iye vo=zò  
footprints leave so.that island see=INCH

*'We walked around a bit to see the island.'*

(24) **Npoku waam nra kasol ntù soo plezè anroo.**

npò=ku waam n=nra kasol ntù soo plezè anroo  
1p=ERG drink NMZ=give health choose take elder local

*'We bought refreshing drinks from an old local.'*

(25) **Kare-kare xèlaa-kuu ece npa anroo vu!**

kare~kare xèlaa=ku ece npa anroo vu  
thank~thank partner=ERG knowledge have local speak

*'Good thing my girlfriend speaks the local dialect!'*

(26) **Npo towoon yùnto lo npe, iltè hùù sita-ku hak ximi soo.**

npò towoon yùnto lo npe iltè hùù sita=ku hak ximi soo  
1p relax be.near sea in and.so good.smelling air=ERG all stomach.unrest take

*'We relaxed by the sea and the fresh air made us both feel better.'*

(27) **Kozotook re me hak xi npo cexo.**

kozotook re me hak xi n=npò cexo  
mistake be not.be all thing NMZ=1p provide.for

*'Maybe that mistake was all we needed.'*