

Hava

A MatzahLang for Miacomet Speedlang #9

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Phonology

Phonemes

Consonants			
p	t~k <t>	q <k>	
	t'~k' <c>	q' <q>	
f	s	χ <h>	
v~m <v~m>	ɹ~n <r~n>		
Vowels			
Front		Back	
i	ĩ	u	ũ
e	ẽ	o	õ
a	ã		

Phonotactics

/v/ and /ɹ/ are nasalized directly preceding a nasal vowel into [m] and [n].

eg. /vi/ [vi] “flowers”

/vĩ/ [mĩ] “day”

/t/ and /t'/ are [k] and [k'] following a syllable with a phonetic velar or labial consonant.

eg. /ti/ [ti] “girl”

/qiti/ [qiti] “cat”

/piti/ [piki] “baby”

Whenever a high vowel /i/, /u/, /ĩ/, or /ũ/ directly follows an uvular consonant /q/, /q'/, or /χ/, the vowel lowers to [ɪ], [ʊ], [ĩ], or [õ], respectively.

/qiti/ [qiti] “cat”

Words can only have either front or back vowels. When consonantal root templates or affixes are applied, the vowels shift to the appropriate class of the root. /a/ and /ã/ are neutral, and can be found in words of either class.

eg. *mĩ* + *cẽ* -> *mĩcẽ* “the days”

mũ + *cẽ* -> *mũcõ* “the dogs”

Syllables are CV, with a required consonant followed by a required vowel. Vowel hiatus and consonant clusters are not allowed. Word finally, an optional coda (C) is allowed.

All words require two syllables minimum. Sometimes, the underlying form of a root is only one syllable, in which case the root is reduplicated when no affixation is present; if a coda is present during said reduplication, the coda of the first syllable is dropped.

eg. $\sqrt{mĩ} \rightarrow mĩmĩ$ “day”
 $\sqrt{mĩ} + cẽ \rightarrow mĩcẽ$ “the days”

Hava features nasal metathesis. When a suffix contains a nasal vowel, and the vowel in the syllable preceding the suffix is not nasal, the nasality is transferred, with the preceding vowel nasalizing and the suffix losing its nasality. This metathesis does not apply to verbal root caps that contain a nasal vowel.

eg. $kĩti$ “cat” + $cẽ \rightarrow kĩĩcẽ$ “the cats”

Grammar

Nouns

		Singular	Dual	Plural
Definite	Class I	-∅	-(c)ẽ	
	Class II	-(c)ẽ	-∅	-(c)ẽ
	Class III	-(c)ẽ		-∅
Indefinite		-∅		

Every noun belongs to one of three classes, which then determine how said noun declines.

Class I consists of animate, sentient beings such as humans and animals. It also includes weather and natural phenomena.

eg. *kiti* “cat”
miĩ “sun”

An **Animatizer** suffix *-(t)i* can be attached onto an inanimate noun, either Class II or Class III, to derive an animate Class I noun.

eg. *ki* “paws” + *ti* -> *kiti* “cat”

Class II consists of both animate beings and inanimate objects. Most nouns in this class typically come in pairs, such as body parts and articles of clothing.

eg. *samõ* “eyes”

Class III features inanimate objects, as well as intangible concepts and ideas. This class also includes terms for groups.

eg. *ki* “paws”

Nouns act differently depending on definiteness:

When **indefinite**, nouns do not decline whatsoever; all indefinite nouns, regardless of class, consist solely of the root. Nouns are used indefinitely when the identity of the noun is unclear or unknown, when making generalized observations about a nonspecific population, or when introducing a new noun.

eg. *kiti tapõ*
cat jump
“A cat jumps” / “Cats jump”

When **definite**, however, nouns decline for number in a manner appropriate to their class. Nouns are used definitely when the noun has been previously introduced, or when the noun is already known about by all Speech Act Participants. Nouns are definite when they are specific, familiar, and unique.

Definite nouns decline for number differently depending on their noun class. Hava utilizes an inverse number system; every noun has an inherent number, and the inverse marker *-(c)ẽ* — the suffix is *-ẽ* following a consonant, and *-cẽ* following a vowel — is suffixed onto the noun to indicate when the number isn’t said inherent value. Class I nouns are inherently singular, Class II nouns are inherently dual, and Class III nouns are inherently plural.

eg. *kiti tapō*
 cat jump
 “The cat jumps up”

eg. *kitĩ-ce tapō*
 cat-INV jump
 “The cats jump up”

vs.
 eg. *vi vĩriv*
 flower bloom
 “The flowers bloom”

eg. *vĩ-ce vĩriv*
 flower-INV bloom
 “The flower blooms”

Additionally, a **Verbalizer** suffix *-(n)ĩv* can be attached onto a noun, which derives a verb from said noun; typically, the verb carries a semantic meaning similar to the noun, albeit not always.

eg. *hava* “language” + *nĩv* -> *hamãruv* “to talk”
kiti “cat” + *nĩv* -> *kitĩriv* “to purr”

Nouns are not morphologically marked for their syntactic or semantic role in a sentence.

Pronouns

Pronouns are words used in substitution for nouns. Hava features only two pronouns.

The Speech Act Participant, or SAP, pronoun *hehe* refers to any humans involved in the conversation. This includes the speaker, the listener, and any groups these two entities belong to.

eg. *hehe tapō*
 SAP jump
 “I jump” / “You jump”

The Non Speech Act Participant, or NSAP, pronoun *cece* refers to any noun not involved in the conversation, such as outside third parties and topics of the conversation.

eg. *cece tapō*
 NSAP jump
 “They jump”

Symmetrical Voice and Constituent Order

In **Intransitive Sentences**, the sole argument of the clause goes before the verb. All adjuncts of the verb follow the verb; pronouns tend to be closer to the verb than Class I nouns, which tend to be closer than Class II nouns, which tend to be closer than Class II nouns. The verb is unmarked for Symmetrical Voice.

eg. *kiti tap-oq-ō*
 cat jump-PST-cap
 “The cat jumped” (Syntax Test #15)

eg. *kiti tap-oq-ō tup-ē*
 cat jump-PST-cap table-INV
 “The cat jumped onto the table” (Syntax Test #16)

Thus the word order for a given intransitive clause can be summarized as follows.

S - Verb - Adjuncts

In **Transitive Sentences**, however, things are far more complicated. Any of the constituents connected to the verb, can be placed before the verb, becoming the subject. If the subject is animate — Class I nouns, Class II animate nouns, the SAP pronoun, and the NSAP pronoun when it has an animate referent — the semantic role of the subject is then marked via suffix on the verb, as explained in the *Symmetrical Voice* section of the *Verbs* chapter below; when the subject is inanimate, the verb is unmarked for SV. This is demonstrated in the sample sentences given below.

eg. *hehe cōruv-ak kara co*
 SAP buy-AV shoes money
 “I buy the shoes with money”

eg. *co cōruv hehe kara*
 money buy SAP shoes
 “With money, I buy the shoes”

As can be seen in the example sentences above, if the subject is one of the two core arguments of the verb, either A or O, the other core argument directly follows the verb; all adjuncts then follow the core argument. If the subject is not one of the two core arguments of the verb, then the A directly follows the verb, followed by the O, and then any non-subject adjuncts follow the O. Thus, word order for a given clause can be summarized as follows, with any constituent going in its respective slot following the verb unless it is the subject.

Subject - Verb - A - O - Adjuncts

When selecting which voice to use for a given verb in an independent clause, the semantics and pragmatics of each constituent is considered.

In **Short Discourse**, when the conversation, statement, or writing is brief, selecting the appropriate voice for an independent clause is fairly easy. A noun is more likely to be the subject of a sentence depending on its importance; the most important noun in a clause is almost always the subject. Definite nouns, nouns that would take the Agent Voice, nouns which are the topic, or what’s being discussed in the sentence, and nouns of a high noun class — Class I nouns are higher than Class II nouns, which are higher than Class III nouns, are considered more important. Therefore, the definite, Class I noun *kitīce* “the cats” is far more important than the indefinite, Class III nouns *qav* “some dirt”, and as such would be more likely to be the subject.

In **Long Discourse**, when the conversation, statement, or writing is long, or when the sentence runs on for a multitude of clauses, selecting the appropriate voice for a given clause is more complex. In the first independent clause of a section of discourse where the topic or Agent of the discourse can be found, said noun is the subject. In all subsequent independent verbs, however, that noun is backgrounded, and often omitted, being left to context, with the new information being the subject instead. This new information of each clause, or the focus, is oftentimes the Undergoer of the clause. Whenever the Agent or the topic of discourse changes, then the new Agent or topic is the subject of the first independent clause, before returning to the pattern of the focus being the subject.

eg. *ti~ti qipir-ak piti kiti varat hehe tāmin-emēc vi~vi*

girl~RED grab-AV egg cat push SAP give-BV flower~RED
 “The girl grabs the egg, the cat is pushed (by her), and I’m given the flowers (by her)”

Verbs

All verbal roots end with a consonant. Additionally, some verbs have an obligatory cap suffix, which attaches onto the end of the verb, following all other suffixes; said cap suffixes are always *-V(C)*.

The verbal paradigm is demonstrated as follows, with slots for three possible types of suffixes.

Root - Tense, Aspect, and Mood - Time of Day - Voice - Cap Suffix

Tense, Aspect, and Mood

Tense, Aspect, and Mood, or TAM, expresses the temporal circumstances of the occurrence, as well as the speaker’s attitude and opinion towards it. There are four TAMs in Hava: Future, Present, Past, and Pluperfect.

The Future Tense, marked with the suffix *-ip*, marks an event which has not yet happened, but is expected to happen in the future. This form is also referred to as the Subjunctive, as it is commonly used in dependent clauses for present events which haven’t actually happened, instead being used to express states of unreality such as wishes, emotions, possibilities, judgements, opinions, and obligations.

eg. *kiti tap-up-ō*
 cat jump-FUT-cap
 “The cat will jump”

eg. *mĩ mĩnĩv-ip*
 sun shine-FUT
 “The sun will shine” (Syntax Test #4)

The Present Tense, which is unmarked, locates a situation in the present time, stating that the occurrence is happening now. This form is also referred to as the Habitual, as it is used for occurrences that happen repeatedly, habitually, or customarily, as well as for making generic claims or generalized observations about the world.

eg. *kiti tapō*
 cat jump
 “The cat jumps” / “The cat is jumping”

eg. *mĩ mĩnĩv*
 sun shine
 “The sun shines” / “The sun is shining” (Syntax Test #1, #2)

The Past Tense, marked with the suffix *-eq*, places an occurrence in the past, expressing that it already occurred prior to the conversation.

eg. *kiti tap-oq-ō*
 cat jump-PST-cap
 “The cat jumped” (Syntax Test #15)

eg. *mĩ mĩnĩv-eq*
 sun shine-PST
 “The sun shone” (Syntax Test #3)

The Pluperfect Tense, marked with the suffix *-enãq*, is most commonly used in an independent clause in conjunction with a second clause, which is in the past tense. The Pluperfect expresses that the occurrence took place prior to the second verb in the past tense, and oftentimes had an effect on said second clause. When there's only one clause in the sentence, this form is often referred to as the Remote Past, as it expresses that the occurrence took place even further in the past than the addressee would have assumed otherwise.

- eg. *kiti tap-onãq-õ*
 cat jump-PLU-cap
 “The cat jumped a while ago”
- eg. *mĩ mĩnĩv-enãq*
 sun shine-PLU
 “The sun shone a while ago”

Time of Day

Far simpler than TAM are the Time of Day, or ToD, markers. These suffixes simply state at what time the occurrence is happening; they do not express information regarding the occurrence, but rather reflect the environment in which the discourse is occurring. There are four ToDs as well: Morning, Afternoon, Evening, and Night.

The Morning Time of Day, marked with the suffix *-av*, states that it is currently morning, typically between sunrise and midday, although if the speaker awoke before sunrise, some dialects include the period of time between awakening and sunrise as morning as well.

- eg. *kiti tap-av-õ*
 cat jump-MORN-cap
 “Right now it is morning, and the cat jumps”

The Afternoon Time of Day, marked with the suffix *-ĩs*, states that it is currently the afternoon, typically between midday and the start of sunset, although if the speaker ended work or school prior to sunset, some dialects don't include the period following the end of work as afternoon.

- eg. *kiti tãp-us-õ*
 cat jump-AFT-cap
 “Right now it is afternoon, and the cat jumps”

The Evening Time of Day, which is unmarked, states that it is currently the evening, typically from the start of sunset to dusk, when light from the sun is no longer visible in the sky, although if the speaker ended work prior to sunset, some dialects include the period from the end of work to sunset as evening as well.

- eg. *kiti tapõ*
 cat jump
 “Right now it is evening, and the cat jumps”

The Night Time of Day, marked with the suffix *-ef*, states that it is currently nighttime, typically from dusk to sunrise, although if the speaker awoke before sunrise, some dialects don't include the period following awakening as nighttime.

- eg. *kiti tap-ef-õ*
 cat jump-NGT-cap
 “Right now it is night, and the cat jumps”

Symmetrical Voice

As explained in the *Symmetrical Voice and Constituent Order* section above, Symmetrical Voice, or SV, markers express the semantic role of the subject. SV is only marked when the subject is animate; this includes Class I nouns, Class II animate nouns, the SAP pronoun, and the NSAP pronoun when it has an animate referent. There are five voices: Actor, Undergoer, Beneficiary, Comitative, and Lative.

The Actor SV, marked with the suffix *-ak*, expresses that the subject is the semantic agent of the verb; they are the doer of the verb, who deliberately performs the action. A transitive verb only has an Actor when the occurrence was volitional, happening intentionally and on purpose. The causer of a causative construction takes the Actor Voice when the subject. Additionally, forces and natural causes, which mindlessly perform the action, despite being always nonvolitional, take the Actor SV.

- eg. *hehe var-ak-at cece*
SAP hit-AV-cap NSAP
“I hit him (on purpose)”
- eg. *sive-cẽ var-ak-at qav*
rain-INV hit-AV-cap ground
“The rains hit the ground”

The Undergoer SV, which is unmarked, states that the subject is the semantic patient or theme of the verb; they are the participant of a situation upon whom an action is carried out. Furthermore, experiencers, which nonvolitionally receive sensory or emotional input, including desires and wishes, are Undergoers. Causees of a causative construction take the Undergoer Voice.

- eg. *cece var-∅-at hehe*
NSAP hit-UV-cap SAP
“He is hit by me”
- eg. *hehe samõnĩv-∅ sive-cẽ*
SAP see-UV rain-INV
“I see the rains”

The Beneficiary SV, mared with the suffix *-emẽc* expresses that the subject is the semantic beneficiary or recipient of the verb. They are the reason for which the agent carried out the verb; the verb was for their benefit. Additionally, if the undergoer of the verb is being given, sent, or otherwise transferred by the agent, the beneficiary is whoever is receiving the undergoer.

- eg. *hehe tãmin-emẽc cece co*
SAP give-BV NSAP money
“To me, he gives the money”
- eg. *hehe var-omõc-at cece hehe*
SAP hit-BV-cap NSAP SAP
“For me, he hit you”

The Comitative SV, marked with the suffix *-iv*, denotes accompaniment, stating that the agent was either with the subject at the time of the verb or that the subject assisted the agent in the carrying out of the verb; the subject is the companion to the agent in the verb. Additionally, because accompaniment implies physical proximity, the Comitative SV also is used for locations, stating that the agent was at the same location as the subject.

- eg. *hehe tãmin-iv cece co*
SAP give-CV NSAP money
“Me and he give the money” / “Where I am, he gives the money”

The Lative SV, marked with the suffix *-ĩrev*, denotes motion towards the subject; it states that the agent of the verb moved towards, to, onto, into, or near the subject, either as the main action or during the duration of the verb.

- eg. *hehe vār-urov-at cece hehe*
 SAP push-LV-cap NSAP SAP
 “Into me, he pushed you”

Causative Voice

The Causative Voice is a valency-increasing operation only applicable to intransitive verbs, which demotes the sole argument of the verb to the semantic role of causee and introduces a new argument, the causer. The causer causes the causee to do or be something; they force the causee’s involvement in the occurrence.

Verbs in the Causative Voice are transitive, and act as such. They take Symmetrical Voice; any constituent of these clauses can be promoted to subject, including the causer, which takes the Actor Voice, and the causee, which takes the Undergoer Voice. Furthermore, they syntactically behave as transitive verbs, with the causer taking positions reserved for the A, and likewise the causee taking positions reserved for the O.

A clause can be placed into the Causative Voice by placing the particle *māta* before the verb.

- eg. *hehe māta tap-ak-ō kiti*
 SAP CAUS jump-AV-cap cat
 “I made the cat jump”
- eg. *kiti māta tapō hehe*
 cat CAUS jump SAP
 “The cat was forced to jump by me”

Interrogatives and Negatives

Verbs in Hava have an additional form, the **Incompletive Mood**, which primarily serves for negation and interrogation. The Incompletive Mood is formed by the disfixation, or dropping, of the last phoneme of the word.

The Incompletive Mood is used for sentential negation, which asserts that something is not the case, and that the occurrence expressed via the verb didn’t happen. In negated sentences, rules for SV apply as standard for independent clauses.

- eg. *mĩ mĩnĩv*
 sun shine
 “The sun shines” / “The sun is shining” (Syntax Test #1, #2)
- vs.
- eg. *mĩ mĩnĩ><*
 sun shine>INC<
 “The sun doesn’t shine” / “The sun isn’t shining”

The Incompletive Mood is also used for interrogatives, which are used to ask questions. Polar questions ask whether or not something is the case, inviting a yes-no answer in response. In polar questions, SV applies as standard for independent clauses.

eg. *fasi sor-oq-umõ*
man leave-PST-cap
“The man left”

vs.

eg. *fasi sor-oq-um><*
man leave-PST-cap>INC<
“Did the man leave?” (Syntax Text #54)

Variable questions, on the other hand, admit indefinitely many possible answers, and ask the addressee to fill in the respective context. These questions leave a certain noun phrase unspecified, and invite an answer which specifies what said noun phrase is. The information in question is denoted using the **Interrogative Pronoun** *mõmõ*. In transitive sentences, this pronoun is always the subject. Otherwise, the role of the pronoun is left to context.

eg. *hehe cõruv-ak kara co*
SAP buy-AV shoes money
“You bought the shoes with money”

vs.

eg. *mõmõ cõruv-a>< kara co*
INT buy-AV>INC< shoes money
“Who bought the shoes with money?”

vs.

eg. *mõmõ cõru>< hehe co*
INT buy>INC< SAP money
“What did you buy with money?”

vs.

eg. *mõmõ cõru>< hehe kara*
INT buy>INC< SAP shoes
“With what did you buy the shoes”

Multiclausal Constructions

A **Multiclausal Construction** is any sentence with multiple verbs. There are multiple types of multiclausal constructions, depending on the independence of each verb and their relationship to one another.

In **Clausal Chaining**, each verb phrase is completely independent — it possesses all required arguments and can stand on its own as a sentence. Each verb phrase is then juxtaposed together, often in chronological or cause-effect order.

eg. *ti~ti qipir-ak piti kiti varat hehe tãmin-emẽc vi~vi*
girl~RED grab-AV egg cat push SAP give-BV flower~RED
“The girl grabs the egg, the cat is pushed (by her), and I’m given the flowers (by her)”

In **Relative Clauses**, a subordinate, relative clause modifies a noun present in the main, matrix clause. One of the constituents of the relative clause is the same as the noun being modified; this noun, if the relative verb is intransitive, must be the sole argument, and if the relative verb is transitive, must be the subject. All noun phrases containing a relative clause consist of the main noun, followed by the relativizer particle *suru*, and then the relative clause, with the shared noun omitted from the relative clause.

- eg. *titi [suru tap-oq-ō] qipir-ak piti*
 girl [REL jump-PST-cap] grab-AV egg
 “The girl who jumped grabs the egg”
- eg. *titi [suru tãmin-eq-emêc hehe vi~vi] qipir-ak piti*
 girl [REL give-PST-BV SAP flower~RED] grab-AV egg
 “The girl who was given the flowers by me grabs the egg”

Adjectival verbs, verbs that express a state or status, typically serve as the predicate of a clause. However, when an attributive relationship between the adjectival verb and the noun it modifies is desired, and when there’s another, more superordinate verb in the sentence, the adjectival verb is often placed in a relative clause.

- eg. *mĩ pa~pas*
 sun be_bright~RED
 “The sun is bright”
- vs.
- eg. *mĩ [suru pa~pas] mĩnĩv*
 sun [REL be_brought~RED] shine
 “The bright sun shines” (Syntax Test #9)

In **Content Clauses**, the subordinate, content clause serves as the O of the transitive main verb, which typically express reporting, cognition, perception, wishes and desires, and emotions. The content clause can never be the subject of the main clause, and as such always follows the verb, in the respective spot designated for the O.

The content clause can share an argument with the main clause, in which case said argument is the subject of both clauses and is omitted from the subordinate clause, or no arguments can be shared, in which case the subject of each clause is up to the speaker as per typical rules.

- eg. *hehe cin-eq-∅-i [tap-oq-ō]*
 SAP want-PST-UV-cap [jump-PST-cap]
 “I wanted to jump”
- vs.
- eg. *hehe cin-eq-∅-i [cece tap-oq-ō]*
 SAP want-PST-UV-cap [NSAP jump-PST-cap]
 “I wanted them to jump”

If the main verb is in the Past or Pluperfect tenses, or if the verb expresses an event which definitely occurred without doubt, then the subordinate verb’s tense will match the tense of the main verb.

- eg. *hehe cin-eq-∅-i [cece tap-oq-ō]*
 SAP want-PST-UV-cap [NSAP jump-PST-cap]
 “I wanted them to jump”

eg. *hehe for-ak [cece tapõ]*
 SAP know-AV [NSAP jump]
 “I know that they jump”

If the main verb is in the Present or Future tense, however, and if said verb expresses events that haven't actually happened, including states of unreality such as wishes, emotions, possibilities, judgements, opinions, and obligations, then the content verb always takes the future tense.

eg. *hehe cini [tap-up-õ]*
 SAP want [jump-FUT-cap]
 “I want to jump”

eg. *hehe cini [cece tap-up-õ]*
 SAP want [NSAP jump-PST-cap]
 “I want them to jump”

Lexicon

Cin -i

1. (v.trans.) to want, to desire (something)

Cece

1. (pro.) non-speech act participant pronoun

Co

1. (n.III) money, currency

Cõruv

1. (v.trans) to buy (something)

Fasi

1. (n.I) boy, man

For

1. (v.trans.) to know (something, someone)

Hamãruv

1. (v.intrans.) to speak, to talk

Hava

1. (n.III) language, conversation

Havatu

1. (n.I) speaker

Hehe

1. (pro.) speech act participant pronoun

Kara

1. (n.II) shoes

Ki

1. (n.III) paw

Kiti

1. (n.I) cat

Kiřriv

1. (v.intrans) to purr

Mãta

1. (part.) causative particle

Mĩ

1. (n.I) sun
2. (n.I) day, morning

Mĩnĩv

1. (v.intrans) to shine

Mõmõ

1. (pro.) interrogative pronoun

Mũ

1. (n.I) dog

Mũnũv

1. (v.intrans.) to bark, to yell, to scream

Pas

1. (v.intrans.) to be bright

Pi

1. (n.III) youth

Piti

1. (n.I) baby, child
2. (n.I) egg

Pitīriv

1. (v.intrans.) to be born

Qav

1. (n.III) ground, earth, dirt

Qipir

1. (v.trans.) to seize, to grab (something)

Samō

1. (n.II) eye

Samōnūv

1. (v.trans.) to see, to look at

Sive

1. (n.I) rain

Sor -umō

Suru

1. (part.) relativizer

Tap -ō

1. (v.intrans.) to jump, to jump up

Tāmin

1. (v.trans.) to give, to lend, to donate

Ti

1. (n.I) girl, woman

Tup

1. (n.III) table

Var -at

1. (v.trans.) to hit, to push (someone)
2. (v.trans.) to bump into, to fall onto (something)

Vi

1. (n.III) flower

Vīriv

1. (v.intrans.) to bloom, to flourish