

CDN Speedlang 5 Sketch

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November 2019

Dedicated to Mareck, long may she nyoom

1 Introduction

Anroo, also known by its exonym Andronian, is a speedlang constructed for the 5th 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.

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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	^m b	ⁿ d	(ⁿ dʒ)	^ŋ g	
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
Fricative	f v	s z	ɕ ʒ		h
Liquid		r l			
Prenasalized Liquid		ⁿ d ^r ⁿ l			
Glide	w		j		

- Consonants are written with IPA except /ʔ tɕ ^mb ⁿd ⁿdʒ ^ŋg ɲ ŋ ɕ ʒ ⁿd^r ⁿl 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/.
- /ⁿdʒ/ 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	^m b
t	ⁿ d
tʃ	ⁿ dʒ
k	ⁿ g
j	ɲ
w	m
h, ʔ	n
f	v
s	z
ʃ	ʒ
r	ⁿ dʀ
l	ⁿ 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.'

3.2 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 daughter₁ told me that she₁ 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.

(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?'

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.

(41) **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*.

(42) **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]

(43) **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]

(44) **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]

(45) **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]

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.

(46) **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.

(47) **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 absolutes, they are topicalized using the oblique topic marker **a** and the ergative loses its marking.

(48) **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.'

(49) **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]

(50) **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 *part.* topic marker for obliques

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

anre *n.* a branch, a choice, a course of action

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

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

vo ara *svc.* to insult someone, to offend someone
azo *vb.* to do so, to do something like that often forms SVCs meaning "to X like that"
ceeloo *vb.* to pour or out of a container, to leak, (intransitive, of a stream) to flow quickly, (intransitive, of a person) to bleed
ci (cii) *part.* completive marker
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'
coka *n.* an act that goes against a promise or agreement
core *vb.* to be better than the current state, *inch.* to improve
nra core *svc.* to make someone happy, to please someone
firo *n.* greens of *Brassica rapa* used as food
fùl *n.* the act of closing your eyes
ga *adv.* yesterday, the day before the time under discussion
gatè *n.* termite
nra gatè *idiom* to curse someone
gii *vb.* to be called something, to be named something, to be pronounced (of a word), often collocates with *vo* 'to say.'
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*)
hepe *vb.* to tap or knock on something repeatedly, to play a percussion instrument, *del.* to tap something once
heñi *adp.* underneath, obscured by
hir *vb.* to be tired, *inch.* to get tired
hir huun *vb.* to do something to the point of exhaustion, to exert oneself tiringly
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
jè *vb.* to be at or in a place (collocates with locative adpositions)
ju *n.* the sun
ka *part.* a sentence-final particle for commands and requests
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)
ki (kii) *part.* delimitative aspect marker
klèra *vb.* to hear, to catch the sound of something
nra klèra *svc.* to tell someone something
kro lu *bipartite 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*)
ku *part.* ergative marker when cliticized to A, topic marker for A when not cliticized
kù *prn.* second person singular pronoun

lar *adp.* past, moving past something, in spite of something, even though something is
lo *n.* a body of water, water in the context of the ocean, rivers, or lakes
loom *vb.* to hold, to have in one's possession
m *n.* an event, on occasion, a fact, a time, a thing, generic noun often used as a relative clause head
me *vb.* to not be, negative copula used with noun predicates
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
mi *adp.* sitting or perched on something long, at a future time
mù *n.* cooked rice, *metaph.* importance, the crux of an issue
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 *adp.* in a container or building, in a fluid
nelsaa *n.* an injury from cutting or scratching that breaks the skin
nke *vb.* to be born, to give birth to someone
 nkebe *n.* one'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
nle *prn.* second person pronoun
nleka *n.* tree canopy, roof, ceiling, lid of a basket
nra *vb.* to give to someone, to let someone do something
ntawo *n.* an open field, not used for agriculture
nto *adv.* now (at the time of speech)
npa *vb.* to have, for there to be something
npe *adp.* in an expected or salient part of something, in a place
ñevo *vb.* to wait for something, to expect something (used with the completive, this implies that the thing you were waiting for occurred)
ñèl *vb.* way, manner, path
ñii *n.* a person
ñùùm *n.* cat, *vb.* to be fast, to be nimble
po *prn.* first person singular pronoun
prii *vb.* to sleep, *inch.* to fall asleep, *n.* sleep
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
re *vb.* to be, copula used for noun predicates
ro *part.* topic marker for P
rolo *n.* dog
sarke *vb.* to lean against something, when used of humans usually implying that it's for support
 slarke *n.* someone sick or unwell
sermel *vb.* to complete, to finish, to be whole, to be all of something
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

tee *vb.* to examine something, to look repeatedly, *del.* to take a look at something
tale *n.* one's sense of one's environment, *metaph.* one's worldview, one's sense of the world, *Weltanschauung* if you will
tèze *n.* furniture with legs, such as tables and chairs
toke *n.* tree, *metaph.* fate
tol *vb.* to be near something, *inch.* to approach something (collocates with locative adpositions)
tol (toon) *part.* prospective marker
toto *vb.* to rain, *n.* a rainstorm, rainfall
troha toto *svc.* to get rained on
triyè *vb.* to take something against the possessor's will or without their consent
troha *vb.* to fall, used as an auxiliary in forming passives, especially adversative passives
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
wo *vb.* to not have, for there not to be something
xaa *vb.* to wish for something, to desire something, *part.* used to introduce purposes or goals
xaaxaa *vb.* to change one's mind
xi *n.* physical thing
xù *vb.* to cook food by boiling
yo *vb.* to be meant for something, to be useful
yùnto *vb.* to be near something or somewhere (can collocate with locative adpositions)
zago *n.* belly, part of your abdomen between your ribs and hips including your back except for your spine
zo (zoo) *part.* inchoative marker