

## NA'VI INFLECTIONS

TARONYU: RICHARD LITTAUER

This is made as a small guide to the inflections. The material is lifted directly off of my dictionary, so some typographical errors that might occur may come from there. As far as formatting goes, **Bold** indicates Na'vi word. *Italics* indicate English definition. Underline indicates stress in the IPA, but more importantly indicates where the inflection is within the sample sentences. Plain text indicates grammatical categorisation: parentheses indicate further notes. <x> represents an infix, where *t<1><2>ar<3>on* are the positions. - and + indicates that an affix or adposition can fall on either side, but is marked towards the usual attested side. I haven't marked the infixes in the examples with <>, because I think that you ought to be able to find them yourself, and seeing as how they are listed anyway.

### Abbreviations:

- = morpheme boundary	<> = infix morpheme	inter. = interrogative
+ = leniting morpheme boundary	' = ejective [in IPA]	lit. = literally
	adp. = adpositional affix	

I have sourced every word as best as I could. This sourcing is placed in a subscript after the IPA transcription (don't worry if you don't know IPA), and tells where I, or the source from which I received a word, initially got their word from Frommer. In order of validity, from most to least:

- F = Frommer himself.
- W = Wikipedia (which has received Frommer's blessing)
- T = Taronyu
- D = words not derived by Taronyu.

You may not like the lists in here, because I use technical terms. It is important, however, that you come to grips with terms like these, in order to fully understand how to use them. Running out of the med-lab and into the field of **kxener** like Jake is not an option for those who want to learn language - it's a lot harder than running. I have attempted to explain the terms I use here, but this isn't just a guide. It's more of a worksheet: take the time to read it over until it is not only understood, but **kolame**.

## 1. VERB INFIXES

Verbs change their form based on their meaning. There are five tenses, or places in time when a verb will occur: past *did*, recent past *just did*, present *do*, imminent future *will do soon*, and future *will do*. These do not equate directly into English, as you may have noticed. Tense inflection, or change, is marked between the first consonant or consonant cluster and vowel of the second syllable to the end - this is much easier than it sounds, and will make sense, when you look at some verb examples.

Verbs also change depending on how the speaker feels about the action of the verb going on. There are two views: good, called laudative, and bad, called pejorative. The infix (as the inflection is called, when it goes inside a word) is placed between the first consonant or cluster and the vowel of the last syllable. Look below for some examples.

Verbs inflect for aspect. Aspect indicates, as far as we know currently about Na'vi grammar, one of three things. In plain aspect, nothing is marked and nothing is indicated. In perfective aspect, an action is indicated as being completed, but this doesn't mean that it has to be in the past (although, from an English standpoint, this seems so.) The point is more that the verb is not-ongoing, but very temporal. In imperfective aspect, a verb is the opposite, it is going on continuously. There are examples below.

Finally, verbs inflect for two other things in Na'vi. Subjunctive is where we would normally use an infinitive, or a *to love* form. Think about a verb being used in a clause: that's subjunctive (from the Latin word *sub iungere* - under joining). And participial means that the verb takes the place of an adjective. This is different from adding an *le*, as you might be used to, as the verb is still a verb, syntactically. It's a bit complicated, and I wouldn't worry about it, because what we have on that is only conjecture due to lack of evidence anyway.

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|--|--|
| <am>: [am] <sub>W</sub> past tense verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe tamaron.</b> <i>I hunted.</i>   | <irm>: [irm] <sub>W</sub> imperfective recent past tense verbal infix in position 2, derived from <b>im</b> + <b>er</b> : <b>Oe tirmaron.</b> <i>I was just hunting.</i> |
| <äng>: [æŋ] <sub>W</sub> pejorative affect verbal infix in position 3: <b>Oe tarängon.</b> <i>I hunted (ugh!).</i>   | <iv>: [iv] <sub>W</sub> subjunctive mood verbal infix in position 2: <b>Nga kame futa oe tivaron.</b> <i>You see that I hunt</i>   |
| <arm>: [arm] <sub>W</sub> imperfective past tense verbal infix in position 2, derived from <b>am</b> + <b>er</b> : <b>Oe tarmaron.</b> <i>I was hunting.</i> | <iy>: [ij] <sub>W</sub> immediate future tense verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe tiyaron.</b> <i>I am about to hunt.</i>   |
| <ay>: [aj] <sub>W</sub> future tense verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe tayaron.</b> <i>I will hunt.</i>  | <ol>: [ol] <sub>W</sub> perfective aspect verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe tolaron.</b> <i>I hunted (finished action).</i>  |
| <ei>: [ei] <sub>F</sub> laudative affect verbal infix in position 3: <b>Oe tareion.</b> <i>I hunt (hooray!).</i>   | <us>: [us] <sub>W</sub> participle verbal infix in position 1: <b>Oe tusaron tute lu.</b> <i>I am a hunting person.</i> (Not sure) <sub>T</sub>                          |
| <er>: [er] <sub>D</sub> imperfective aspect verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe teraron.</b> <i>I am hunting.</i>  |  |
| <im>: [im] <sub>W</sub> recent past verbal infix in position 2: <b>Oe timaron.</b> <i>I just hunted.</i>   |  |

## 2. NOUN INFLECTIONS

Nouns inflect for a variety of reasons. The most obvious and evident is for syntactic function: that is, what the noun is doing in the sentence. This is called case. Nominative case deals with the subject of a verb, the one who is causing the verb to do what it does. Ergative case is a lot like this, but slightly different, as the verb needs to be acting on a direct object, which is in the Accusative case. So, for example, *I love* does not have anyone, in this sentence, who is being loved, so *I* takes the nominative case. However, in *I love Pandora*, *Pandora* is being affected by the verb that *I* is enacting, so *I* takes an Ergative inflection, and *Pandora* takes an Accusative. Dative indicates an indirect object, which is more removed: *I give hope to Pandora* - here, *hope* is in the accusative, but *Pandora* is certainly affected, so it takes the Dative. Genitive case deals with possession, or attributiveness - so, in *my kxener my* would go in the Genitive. A good way to translate this case is often *of the*, as in **Na'vi-yä ikran**, where the *ikran* is *of the Na'vi*. Vocative case means only that the speaker is addressing the listener directly: a prefix, or word before the noun, goes in front of the name being used, even if that name is just something like *brother*.

Topical case confuses some people. This can be used on any word, over-riding any previous suffix (or inflection that goes on the end of a word), to mark that the speaker wants the listener to really notice that noun, as it is the one that the sentence or story is about. It's used mainly when a subject is first introduced, but can change whenever the speaker feels that the focus of the story or sentence is moving to a different noun.

Plurality is also marked, both for dual plurals, meaning pairs, like in **menari**, and for plural nouns, of up to an infinite amount of similar things. For some words, an adposition, meaning that it can go on either the front or the back of a word, is used to show interrogativeness, meaning making that word a question. Thus **krr** *time* becomes **krrpe** *when?*. Two other things should be noted: clusivity can be noted, for pronouns mainly. This means that the speaker wishes to include the hearer, or exclude the hearer, when he used a pronoun. Think of it as the difference in speaking when telling a story to someone: You can use *we* to mean someone you were with earlier, or *we* to mean you and the listener. Finally, some nouns can take a suffix to show whether the noun is male or female. This isn't like Latin gender, which often is confusing and variable, but literally means if a *Na'vi*, for instance, is a dude or a dudette.

Finally, it must be noted that some case endings change depending on the ending of the word they are attached to. If the word ends in a vowel, they often have a different form than if it ends in a consonant. Normally, a consonant ending means a vowel starts the case ending, and vice versa. Such changes are called allomorphs, as they change depending on the nature of the morpheme (but don't worry about the technical terminology, it can get confusing.)

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|---|---|
| <b>-ä:</b> [æ] <sub>W</sub> genitive suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of <b>yä</b> ): <b>Oel yom ikran-ä yerikit</b> . <i>I eat the ikran's yerik.</i> | <b>ay+:</b> [aj] <sub>F</sub> plural adp. for nouns: <b>Ay-oe taron</b> . <i>We hunt.</i>                     |
| <b>-an:</b> [an] <sub>W</sub> masculine suffix for certain nouns: <b>Oe tute-an lu</b> . <i>I am a male dude.</i>   | <b>-e:</b> [ɛ] <sub>F</sub> feminine suffix for certain nouns: <b>Oe tut-e ke lu</b> . <i>I am not a girl</i> |
|   | <b>-il:</b> [il] <sub>W</sub> ergative case suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of              |

- l): **Ikran-il taron yerikit.** *The ikran hunts the yerik.*
- iri: [ɾi] <sub>W</sub> topical suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of **ri**): **Ikran-iri taron yerikit.** *The ikran hunts a yerik.*
- it: [it] <sub>W</sub> accusative suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of **ti**): **Oel taron yerik-it.** *I hunt the yerik.*
- l: [l] <sub>W</sub> ergative case adp. for nouns ending in a vowel: **Oe-l taron yerikit.** *I hunt the yerik.*
- ma: [ma] <sub>F</sub> adp. vocative marker: **Ma tsmukan, kaltxi!** *Yo brother, hello!*
- me+: [mɛ] <sub>W</sub> dual adp. for nouns: **Oe new me+nari.** *I want eyes.*
- ng: [ŋ] <sub>W</sub> clusivity adp. for pronouns: **Ayoe-ng taron.** *We all hunt.*
- pe+: [pɛ] <sub>W</sub> affix inter. marker *what*: **pe+hrr nga tayaron.** *What time will you hunt?*
- ri: [ɾi] <sub>F</sub> topical adp. for nouns ending with a vowel: **Oe-ri taron yerikit.** *I hunt the yerik.*
- ru: [ɾu] <sub>W</sub> dative adp. for nouns: **Oel kx-enerit nga-ru ting.** *I give fruit to you.*
- t: [t] <sub>W</sub> accusative suffix for nouns ending in a vowel (allomorph of **ti**): **Oe-l tïrey-t tslam.** *I understand life.*
- ti: [ti] <sub>W</sub> accusative adp. for nouns: **Nga-ti taron torukil.** *The toruk hunts you.*
- yä: [jæ] <sub>W</sub> genitive suffix for nouns ending in a vowel (allomorph of **ä**): **Oel yom oe-yä yerikit.** *I eat my yerik.*

### 3. OTHER

A few other things happen in Na'vi. Adjectives, for instance, always go right next to the noun, either on the left or right side, and they put a marker between themselves and the noun to show that they are connected. Also, many words can be changed into other words, just as in English (think of all of the endings that change the part of speech of the *anti-dis-est-abl-ish-ment-arian-ism*.) And once you understand this, there isn't much left to learn. I've not included words that are included more in compound words than as functions that can be put on any word, so the list of inflections is actually relatively small, and can be mastered in a matter of days.

- a-: [a] <sub>F</sub> adjectival attributive marker: **Oel ikranit a-ean tswon.** *I fly the blue ikran.*
- le-: [lɛ] <sub>F</sub> adjective deriving affix: **Poan le-hrrap lu.** *He is dangerous.*
- nì-: [ni] <sub>W</sub> adverbial deriving affix: **Oe nì-Na'vi plltxe.** *I speak na'vi-ly. (Like a Na'vi.)*
- \*sä-: [sæ] <sub>T</sub> instrumental noun deriving affix: **Oel aysä-numet nume.** *I teach the teachings.*
- si: [si] <sub>W</sub> postpositional verb deriving affix: **Oe kelku si.** *I live. (lit. I home make.)*
- tì-: [ti] <sub>W</sub> noun deriving affix: **Tì-ngay siltan lu.** *The truth is good.*
- tu: [tu] <sub>T</sub> direct object noun deriving affix: **Oe taron-tu lu.** *I am prey.*
- yu: [ju] <sub>W</sub> nominative agent noun deriving affix: **Oe ska'a-yu ke lu.** *I am not a destroyer.*

#### 4. ENGLISH SHORT-HAND TERMS LIST

Here is a list of the short-hand notation often used in trilinear glosses on the Forums. Feel free to refer to it as you go along.

- ACC:** -t. *W* accusative suffix for nouns ending in a vowel (allomorph of **ti**)  
**ACC:** -ti. *W* accusative adp. for nouns.  
**ACC:** -it. *W* accusative suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of **ti**)  
**ADJ M.:** -a-. *F* adjectival attributive marker.  
**ADJ:** le-. *F* adjective deriving affix.  
**ADV:** nì-. *W* adverbial deriving affix.  
**AGENT N:** -yu. *W* nominative agent noun deriving affix.  
**CLU:** -ng. *W* clusivity adp. for pronouns.  
**DAT:** -ru. *W* dative adp. for nouns.  
**DUAL:** me+. *W* dual adp. for nouns.  
**ERG:** -il. *W* ergative case suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of -l)  
**ERG:** -l. *W* ergative case adp. for nouns ending in a vowel.  
**FEM:** -e. *F* feminine suffix for certain nouns.  
**FUT:** <ay>. *W* future tense verbal infix in position 2.  
**GEN:** -ä. *W* genitive suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of **yä**)  
**GEN:** -yä. *W* genitive suffix for nouns ending in a vowel (allomorph of **ä**)  
**IMM. FUT:** <iy>. *W* immediate future tense verbal infix in position 2.  
**IMPF:** <er>. *D* imperfective aspect verbal infix in position 2.  
**IMPF. PAST:** <arm>. *W* imperfective past tense verbal infix in position 2.  
**IMPF. REC. PAST:** <irm>. *W* imperfective recent past tense verbal infix in position 2.  
**INST:** \*sä-. *T* instrumental noun deriving affix.  
**INTER:** pe+. *W* affix inter. marker *what*.  
**LAUD:** <ei>. *F* laudative affect verbal infix in position 3.  
**MASC:** -an. *W* masculine suffix for certain nouns.  
**N:** tì-. *W* noun deriving affix.  
**OBJ:** -tu. *T* direct object noun deriving affix.  
**PART:** <us>. *W* participle verbal infix in position 1.  
**PAST:** <am>. *W* past tense verbal infix in position 2.  
**PEJ:** <äng>. *W* pejorative affect verbal infix in position 3.  
**PERF:** <ol>. *W* perfective aspect verbal infix in position 2.  
**PLU:** ay+. *F* plural adp. for nouns.  
**REC. PAST:** <im>. *W* recent past verbal infix in position 2.  
**SUBJ:** <iv>. *W* subjunctive mood verbal infix in position 2.  
**TOP:** -iri. *W* topical suffix for nouns ending in a consonant (allomorph of **ri**)  
**TOP:** -ri. *F* topical adp. for nouns ending with a vowel.  
**V:** si. *W* postpositional verb deriving affix.  
**VOC:** ma. *F* adp. vocative marker.