Descriptive Grammar of Latropeth

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1) Sound System and Orthography

Phonemes

Latropeth has seventeen consonant phonemes and five vowel phonemes. Consonants include eight plosives, two fricatives, three nasals and three liquids. Vowels include two high front unrounded vowels, two high back rounded vowels and a low vowel. As much as possible the orthographic symbols used for a Latin alphabet transcription of the language directly correspond to the IPA phoneme symbols where they are available on the conventional computer keyboard. Due to this not being the case for the three retroflex consonants and the glottal stop the orthographic symbols used for these sounds; $q$, $v$, $r$ and $x$ respectively bear little resemblance to their values in English. See next page for the inventory.
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

**Consonants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phonetic description</th>
<th>IPA symbol</th>
<th>Orthographic symbol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plosives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless bilabial</td>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless dental</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless velar</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiced bilabial</td>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiced dental</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless retroflex</td>
<td>/ʈ/</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiced retroflex</td>
<td>/ɖ/</td>
<td>q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless glottal</td>
<td>/ʔ/</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

Fricatives
voiceless labiodental \(/f/\) \(f\)

voiceless alveolar \(/s/\) \(s\)

voiceless glottal \(/h/\) \(h\)

Nasals and Liquids
bilabial nasal \(/m/\) \(m\)

dental nasal \(/n/\) \(n\)

retroflex nasal \(/\eta/\) \(v\)

lateral approximant \(/l/\) \(l\)

palatal approximant \(/j/\) \(j\)

labiovelar approximant \(/w/\) \(w\)
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

Some notes on consonants

Voiceless plosives /p/, /t/, /k/ and /ʈ/ are non-aspirated in Latropeth (unlike syllable initial /p/, /t/, /k/ in English). As such they are closer to /p/, /t/ and /k/ in French/Spanish etc.

The /t/ phoneme is more dental than alveolar in Latropeth.

Allophones

Allophone variation in Latropeth is restricted to one case; dental stop consonants palatalize prior to front vowel phonemes /i/ and /e/

eg

/kade/ > [kaɻe] “rough”
/pitenijojis/ > [piɻenijojis] “he/she goes”
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

Vowels

Latropeth vowel grid

\begin{align*}
\text{i} & \quad \text{u} \\
\text{e} & \quad \text{o} \\
\text{a} & \quad \\
\end{align*}

Some notes on vowels
With respect to the five vowel phonemes;

\( /i/ \) is high front unrounded like \( ee \) in \( seed \)

\( /e/ \) is mid high front unrounded and close to cardinal vowel
two. It resembles the vowel sound in \( weight \) as pronounced in
a Northern British accent.
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

/æ/ is the low vowel in Latropeth. As a low back vowel it is pronounced like a in father.

/o/ and /u/ are the mid high and high back rounded vowels respectively.

The orthographic symbols for vowels match the IPA symbols though a can also be written as a. The vowels are pure and short in polysyllabic morphemes and pure and longer in monosyllabic morphemes. They do not dipthongize or centralize.

Consonant epenthesis where vowel combinations occur

Where vowels occur together at the junction of morphemes a semivowel is epenthesised in between though it is not written. The semivowel employed varies between [j] and [w].

eg

amufo-ikijis > [amufo-Wikijis]

“I see it”
1) Sound System and Orthography continued

Stress and Syllable Structure

Systematic stress is generally equilateral across the syllables of words with each syllable being short apart from morphemes with monosyllabic roots where the vowel is slightly elongated in most cases. The elongation is the vestige of a historical additional syllable. Reduced stress and truncation is encountered with the very common grammatical verb affixes that cross reference nouns in the complex verb form.

 eg

jemō (‘je’mo) “spear”
- vowel short and equilateral stress on each syllable

ba (‘ba:) “drape”
- elongated vowel in morpheme of one syllable.

amufoikijis (‘a ‘mu fo ‘i ‘ki ‘jis) “I see it”
- stress is reduced for the grammatical affix fo in the verb complex here.
2) Syntax

Basic word order is Verb – Subject – Object – (VSO) but where the object specifies a location or movement towards or away from a location it precedes the subject and the word order is then VOS. The subject can be fronted with emem/’em preceding the verb and marking the shift.

A broader overview of the order of constituents and phrase structure follows along with illustrative examples;

Sentence
V/S/O (VP / NP / NP) – standard sentence constituent order

VP Structure
Verb / Adverb / (subject) / object

Given the VSO word order the VP wraps around the subject

(! the direct object is often preceded with kaja/kaj’ if it denotes an animate entity)

eg
sentence with standard VSO word order

\textit{piatawujis nakum nufam}

\begin{tabular}{llllll}
pi & a & taw & jis & nakum & nufam \\
sub & obj & eat & general & man & cycad bread \\
nclass3 & nclass8 & \\
\end{tabular}

“The man eats the cycad bread”
2) Syntax continued

VOS word order due to object containing locative information

*natenijojis dasu kuhi*

na – te – nijo – jis dasu kuhi

na  te  nijo  jis dasu kuhi

sub  obj  go  general  tree  racoon

“the racoon goes to the tree”

fronted subject with *emem* preceding verb

*nakum emem piatawujis nufam*

nakum  emem  pi  –  a  –  tawu  –  jis  nufam

man  fronting  sub  obj  eat  general  cycad bread

“the man eats the cycad bread”
2) Syntax continued

Footnote: *emem* is usually contracted to *em’* in everyday speech

clause with adverb

*piteikijis buwe nakum kuma*

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & \text{te} & \text{iki} & \text{jis} & \text{buwe} & \text{nakum} & \text{kuma} \\
\text{sub} & \text{obj} & \text{see} & \text{general} & \text{quiet} & \text{man} & \text{mountain} \\
\text{nclass}3 & \text{nclass}2 & \\
\end{array}
\]

“the man looked at the mountain quietly”

with an animate object preceded by *kaja*

*pifaikijis nakum kaja iku*

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & \text{fa} & \text{iki} & \text{jis} & \text{nakum} & \text{kaja} & \text{iku} \\
\text{sub} & \text{obj} & \text{see} & \text{general} & \text{man} & \text{animate} & \text{duck} \\
\text{nclass}3 & \text{nclass}7 & \\
\end{array}
\]

“the man sees the duck”
2) Syntax continued

NP Structure
Noun / Adjective / Quantifier / Demonstrative

eg

xuku fapaja ampaja vahes

xuku - fa – paja ampaja vahes
frog adjective big three that

“those three big frogs”
3) Morphology

Agglutinating morphology occurs by way of grammatical prefixes and suffixes in the complex verb forms of Latropeth and to a much lesser extent with agreement markers on adjectives used attributively in the noun phrase. Compound nouns and compound verb stems can employ multiple morphemes as a derivational device.
Outside of the above instances the morphology of Latropeth is simpler and many morphemes appear in isolation in a clause.

eg

grammatical morphemes in a verb form

\textit{piamawlasasujanajis balum tifa ema boje}

\begin{tabular}{cccccccc}
  \textit{pi} & \textit{a} & \textit{maw} & \textit{lasa} & \textit{suja} & \textit{na} & \textit{jis} & \textit{balum} & \textit{tifa} & \textit{ema} & \textit{boje} \\
  sub & obj & negation & want/desire & give & indirect obj & general & boy & pine nuts & indirect object & squirrel \\
  nclass3 & nclass5 & & (verb stem) & nclass5 & & & & & & \\
\end{tabular}

“the boy does not want to give the squirrel pine nuts”
3) **Morphology continued**

adjectives used attributively in a noun phrase with noun referencing prefix

*nojem  * **nwom**

nojem  **na - wom**

- deer
- adjective
- fast

"the fast deer"

derivational use of morphemes – verb stem

*mulasakihijis*

**mu - lasa - kihi - jis**

- speak
- want/desire
- detail
- general

"ask/enquire"
### 4) Parts of Speech - Nouns

#### i) Noun Classes

Nouns in Latropeth are classified grammatically into 10 noun classes. The noun classes are reflected in common affixes that cross reference the nouns of the clause within the Latropeth verb form and in adjective declination. The same affixes are used derivationally in certain other forms. The classification system is largely based on logical and cultural categories.

The 10 noun classes are listed below along with the affixes associated with each noun class;

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<tr>
<th>Noun Class</th>
<th>Prefix/Suffix</th>
<th>Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td><em>da-</em></td>
<td>tangible objects, layouts which are slender, smooth or hard to contain. eg <em>lobe</em> &quot;sand&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td><em>te-</em></td>
<td>tangible objects, structures which are angular or large. eg <em>jahi</em> &quot;home / hut&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4) Parts of Speech - Nouns continued

Class 3  
\( \text{pi}\)-  
human. eg \textit{wuhum} "person"

Class 4  
\( \text{la}\)-  
Lahu class animal. eg \textit{jasa} "wolf"

Class 5  
\( \text{na}\)-  
Wunim class animal. eg \textit{nojem} "deer"

Class 6  
\( \text{ja}\)-  
Ijas class animal. eg \textit{tuku} "salmon"

Class 7  
\( \text{fa}\)-  
Paku/Kuwe/Kula class animals. eg \textit{iku} "duck"  
also gods/spirits/spiritual forces/celestial bodies  
conditions/remedies/medicine man/elders  
geological and meteorological occurrences  
/ancestors/some expressions  
referring to time cycles

Class 8  
\( \text{a}\)-  
plants, funghi and their edible products  
eg. \textit{nuqa} "mushroom"

Class 9  
\( \text{ni}\)-  
tool, implement or utensil.  
eg. \textit{xuha} "axe / mallet"
5) Parts of Speech - Nouns continued

Class 10 \textit{fo-} miscellaneous; generic class for nouns that do not fit elsewhere.
\textit{eg. siwe} "facial accessory"

Footnote: In spoken Latropeth classes 1 and 2 as verb affixes are in the process of merging to the class 2 form \textit{te} – which is frowned upon by some older speakers.

Footnote: The direct object of a verb of motion (which denotes the destination of the movement) is always cross referenced with \textit{te} in written and spoken Latropeth regardless of the noun class of the object. \textit{te} occurs in the verb even if the destination of movement is not explicitly stated in the clause.

\textbf{ii) Basic Nouns and Compound Nouns}
Basic nouns are composed of one morpheme which is usually two syllables but can be one;

\textit{eg}

\textit{niju} “water”
4) Parts of Speech - Nouns continued

Complex nouns are formed by combining morphemes in various ways.

eg

noun + verb root

**tifakohe**
tifa - kohe
seed - proliferate

“**cycad**”

verb + adjective

**sujapaja**
suja - paja
give/present - big

“**show/presentation**”
4) Parts of Speech - Nouns continued

noun + adjective

*mupaja*

mu - paja

speech big

“public speech”

compound verb + verb + adjective

*mukasumlasakawim*

[mu - kasum ] - lasa - kawim

speak clear want content

compound verb

“explain/clarify”

“greeting”
4) Parts of Speech - Nouns continued

compound verb + verb + verb

**mukasumlasatenijo**

[mu - kasum ] - lasa - tenijo  

speak          clear want go

compound verb  
“explain/clarify”

“farewell”

phrasal noun

**teha naveje**

teha na - weje  
antler attrib sharp

prefix nclass5

“danger”  (literally: “sharp antler”)


iii) Nominalization
Verbs and adjectives can freely be nominalized. They generally retain the same form as nouns but without the verbal/adjectival morphology

eg

*baqiniju*  
“swimming”  
from the verb *baqinijis* “swim”

*weje*  
“sharpness”  
from the adjective *weje* “sharp”

If the nominalized form is more of an abstract noun the suffix – *sawu* is sometimes incorporated into the nominalized form.

eg

*(iki)itimsawu* “sadness”  
from the adjective *(iki)itim* “sad”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs

The Latropeth verb form incorporates many grammatical affixes. These include noun class agreement prefixes and suffixes that cross reference the subject/object/indirect object of the clause and include markers of negation, aspect, voice, mood and volition. The basic skeleton of the Latropeth verb form follows. Note that a verb in real use would not usually incorporate all these markers together;

i) Verb form Components
1) subject noun class prefix  2) direct object noun class prefix if applicable  3) passive voice prefix if applicable  4) negation marker maw if applicable  5) irrealis (subjunctive) prefix lasa if applicable  6) volition/non volition prefix dasi/mafa if applicable 7) VERB ROOT  8) **indirect object noun class suffix if applicable  9) spatial/temporal marker if applicable  10) general non perfective suffix jis OR perfective suffix ema . OR imperative/reverent suffix kaja

Footnote: The reflexive is conveyed by an adverb nija in Latropeth and is not marked on the verb. Personal pronouns in Latropeth appear as prefixes which take the place of subject/object/indirect object noun class prefixes on the verb as noted above but with an altered configuration where all three prefixes appear together preceding the verb root in the order subject – indirect object – object (for more details on this see the section further below on personal pronouns ).
6) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

The subject/object prefixes and the indirect object suffix on the verb have forms that cross reference the respective nouns of the clause by noun class (refer to the section on nouns above for a list of the 10 noun classes and the associated affix forms). The affixes are the same regardless of the syntactic position that the cross referenced noun assumes in the clause. It is only the position of the affixes in the verb complex that indicates whether they refer to the subject, object or indirect object of the clause.

eg

intransitive clause with only subject marker present on the verb

*pwiwajis balum*

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{pi} & \text{wa} & \text{jis} \\
\text{sub} & \text{sit} & \text{general} \\
\text{nclass3} & & \text{boy}
\end{array}
\]

“the boy sits”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

transitive clause with subject and object prefixes on the verb

**piatawujis balum tiha**

\[ \text{pi} - \text{a} - \text{tawu} - \text{jis} \quad \text{balum} \quad \text{tiha} \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sub</th>
<th>obj</th>
<th>eat</th>
<th>general</th>
<th>boy</th>
<th>pine nuts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>nclass8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“the boy eats the pine nuts”

clause including direct and indirect objects where the indirect object is cross referenced with suffix following the verb root

**piasujanajis nakum tiha ema boje**

\[ \text{pi} - \text{a} - \text{suja} - \text{na} - \text{jis} \quad \text{nakum} \quad \text{tiha} \quad \text{ema} \quad \text{boje} \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sub</th>
<th>obj</th>
<th>give</th>
<th>ind. obj</th>
<th>general</th>
<th>man</th>
<th>pine nuts</th>
<th>indirect</th>
<th>squirrel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>nclass8</td>
<td>nclass5</td>
<td>nclass5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“the man gives the squirre pine nuts”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

Footnote. It is noted that strictly speaking within the clause the NP *boje* is a prepositional object and not an indirect object.

**ii) Dissimilations with Certain Combinations of Noun Class Prefixes on the Verb**

When two noun class prefixes appear together on a verb they may be subject to a dissimilation process that causes the second prefix to change form;

**Dissimilation to *fu* of the same prefix duplicated**

If the two noun class prefixes on the verb are the same then the prefix dissimilates to *fu* the second time it is used;

*eg*

\[\text{pifuikijis kusu (kaja) tuji}\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pi</th>
<th>fu</th>
<th>iki</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>kusu</th>
<th>(kaja)</th>
<th>tuji</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>sub</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>animate</td>
<td>woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>dissim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>direct object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“the girl sees the woman”

* *Pipiikijis kusu kaja tuji* is ungrammatical.*
Dissimilation to *te* of second prefix where two labio-velar prefixes occur together
(there are two such prefixes; *fo-* for noun class 10 and *fa-* for noun class 7)
If the two noun class prefixes on the verb are any combination from noun class 10 and noun class 7
the above dissimilation of the second prefix to *te* occurs which overrules the *fu* dissimilation rule
mentioned previously;

eg

*fatepaweskaja jika (kaja) Wunim*

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{fa} & \rightarrow & \text{te} & \rightarrow & \text{pawes} & \rightarrow \\
\text{sub} & \text{obj} & \text{praise} & \text{kaja} & \text{jika} & \text{(kaja)} \\
\text{nclass7} & \text{nclass7} & \text{reverent} & \text{medicine} & \text{man} & \text{Wunim} \\
\text{dissm} & & \text{mood} & & & \\
\end{array}
\]

“the medicine man praises/extols Wunim (the Earth God)”

* *fafapaweskaja jika kaja Wunim* is ungrammatical
* *fafupaweskaja jika kaja Wunim* is ungrammatical
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

Dissimilation to yi of the second prefix where the subject prefix is labio-velar (noun class 10 fa or noun class 7 fo) and the object prefix is noun class 3 prefix pi

The above dissimilation occurs where the prefix combination expected would be fapi or fopi. Due to the dissimilation rule the correct forms are respectively fayi and foyi.

iii) Negation

The clause is negated with mawi/maw-

The free-standing form mawi is usually used in isolation to negate a proposition that is clear from earlier context. As such it is very like no in English. The variation mawikala is also used in the same way.

To produce a clause that is negated the contracted form maw- occurs as a prefix directly before the verb root in the verb complex;
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

basic clause **without** negation

*piaikijis kusu dasu*

\[\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & \text{a} & \text{iki} & \text{jis} & \text{kusu} & \text{dasu} \\
\text{sub} & \text{sub} & \text{see} & \text{general} & \text{girl} & \text{tree} \\
\text{nclass3} & \text{nclass8} \\
\end{array}\]

“the girl sees the tree”

clause **with** negation

*piamawikijis kusu dasu*

\[\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & \text{a} & \text{maw} & \text{iki} & \text{jis} & \text{kusu} & \text{dasu} \\
\text{sub} & \text{sub} & \text{negation} & \text{see} & \text{general} & \text{girl} & \text{tree} \\
\text{nclass3} & \text{nclass8} \\
\end{array}\]

“the girl does NOT see the tree”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

*maw*- can be prefixed to other components in the clause or to other isolated elements to focus negation on the given element;

eg

*mawamuaikijis dasu*

```
maw – amu – a – iki - jis dasu
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>negation</th>
<th>Sub</th>
<th>Obj</th>
<th>see</th>
<th>general</th>
<th>tree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Pers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>nclass8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I (specifically) did not see the tree”

*mawnakum / mawi nakum*

```
maw - nakum
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>negation</th>
<th>warrior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

“not the man”
iv) Basic and Compound Verbs

Basic verbs have a verb root composed of one morpheme.

**eg**

*posa - (jis)*  
“hit”

Compound verbs have a verb root composed of multiple morphemes. There are numerous variations.

**verb + direct object noun**

*baqinijujis*  
*baqi - niju - (jis)*  
jump - water  
“swim”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

verb + verb

fojenijojis

foje - nijo - (jis)
grasp  go

“bring”

verb + adjective

ikiwejejis

iki - weje - (jis)
see  sharp

“concentrate”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

noun + adjective

*punimjimujis*
punim  -  jimu  -  (jis)
face    good

“look good/be appealing”

verb + verb + noun

*mulasakihijis*
mu    -    lasa    -    kihi    -    (jis)
speak  want  detail

“enquire”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

derivational prefix + verb

mafapuhijis
mafa - pahi - (jis)
non volitional plummet/cascade

“fall down from”

v) Clause Chaining

Clause chain verbs such as the below can be constructed if the multiple verbs are intransitive or refer to the same direct object
Otherwise separate clauses are required.
In spoken/informal Latropeth where separate clauses are required if the subject is the same then the subject prefix is usually omitted from the verb in the second clause as in the second example below.
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

multiple verbs in a clause chain with the same direct object

**pewatunilutuemafojebahojis atujimu jemo**

```
pewatu - ni - lutuema - fojebaho - jis atujimu jemo
  Hortative   Obj   find        store        general polite request spear
  + Sub       nclss9
  2nd Pers    Sing
```

“could you please find and store the spear”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

multiple verbs with different objects requiring separate clauses

*pewatunilutuemajis atujimu jemo,
tenijopasamjis pipala*

pewatu - ni - lutuema - jis atujimu jemo,
Hortative Obj find general polite request spear
+ Sub
2nd Pers
Sing

te - nijo - pasam - jis pipala
Obj go around general camp

“could you please find the spear and return to the camp”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

vi) Aspect and Validation Markers on the Verb

Verbs usually take an aspect suffix which appears at the end of the verb complex. The suffix most commonly encountered is *jis* which is very frequent and can be thought of as a neutral verb ending. It’s defined as the *general non-perfective indicative suffix* contracted to *general* in the interlinear glosses used here. Generally speaking if one of the other more specified suffixes clarified below does not occur than the suffix defaults to *jis*.

There are no tenses as such in Latropeth verb forms. The context clarifies whether reference is made to a past, present or future event. When making reference to the future the irrealis prefix *lasa* is generally included in the verb due to the future being hypothetical. Make note that the English glosses throughout this text are randomly given as present or past in English if the context does not imply a particular tense.

The perfective aspect suffix *ema* (pronounced [jemə]) conveys completion of the action of the verb. This can be equivalent to both the standard perfect and the past perfect in European languages (ie *I have eaten* vs. *I had eaten*) depending on the context.

Increasingly in spoken Latropeth *baho* (an abbreviated form of *baho tajam* “now”) is attached to the end of the verb complex in place of *jis* and in this use is becoming like a general indicative suffix.
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

general verb suffix *jis* used with reference to the present

*lanaikijis kuhi (kaja) wata*

la – na – iki – *jis* kuhi (kaja) wata
sub obj see general raccoon spider

“The raccoon sees the spider”

*jis* used with reference to the past

*lanaikijis kunim kuhi (kaja) wata*

la – na – iki – *jis* kunim kuhi (kaja) wata
sub obj see general yesterday raccoon spider

“the raccoon saw the spider yesterday”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

jis used with reference to the future
and incorporating the irrealis prefix lasa on the verb

lanalasaikijis  kuhi (kaja) wata

la – na – **lasa** -  iki – **jis**    kuhi (kaja)  wata
sub   obj   irrealis  see  general  raccoon  spider
nclass4  nclass5

“the raccoon will see the spider”

the perfective suffix ema conveying completion of the action of the verb

lnaikiema  kuhi (kaja) wata

la – na –  **iki** – **ema**    kuhi (kaja) wata
sub   obj  see  perfective  man  spider
nclass4  nclass5

“the raccoon has seen the spider”
5) *Parts of Speech - Verbs continued*

Another suffix *kaja* is encountered in the same position as *jis/ema* at the end of the verb. This suffix is more of a mood than an aspect marker. It is used in the second person as an abrupt imperative marker and in the first and third person in utterances conveying humbleness or respect towards deities/spirits or dutiful obedience (referred to as the *reverent mood*).

**eg**

*kaja* used in the second person as an abrupt imperative
- see section below on the imperative mood for more on imperatives

**atutenijokaja**

```
atu - te - nijo - kaja
sub    obj  go   imperative
2nd    nclass2 mo  mood
Pers    Sing
```

“go away !”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

*Kaja* used in the third person conveying religious devotion – reverent mood

*pifapawes kaja nakum (kaja) Paku*

Pi – fa – pawes – kaja  
sub  obj  praise  reverent

nakum (kaja) Paku  
natum  (kaja)  Sun God

“The warrior praises/extols Paku (the Sun God)”

vii) Volition and Non-Volition Markers on the Verb; 
*dasi and mafa*

The verbal prefixes *dasi* and *mafa* convey volition and non-volition respectively and are employed in a range of contexts.

*dasi* (volitional) is often incorporated into passives where the agent is not animate (usually it is expressed as an instrument) but there is animate (usually human) agency behind the action. *dasi* is not generally used in standard clauses as volition is inherent in the action of the verb. In such cases to include the *dasi* prefix emphasizes the sense of purposeful intention on the part of the subject towards the action of the verb. *dasi* also occurs in some forms as a derivational prefix
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

typical use of dasi in a passive where there is human/animate agency behind the action but the agent is expressed explicitly as an instrument - see section on the passive voice for more on how passives work in Latropeth.

atajumdasilekujis nafum emem/nikutajis roweje

“the cycad bread is being cut with a sharp stone”
5) *Parts of Speech - Verbs continued*

use of *dasi* in a standard clause emphasizing the sense of purposeful intention on the part of the subject towards the action of the verb

*pinidasifoqijis nakum jemo*

```
Pi - ni - dasi - foqi - jis  nakum  jemo
sub  obj  volition  throw  general  man  spear
nclass3  nclass9
```

“the man threw the spear stridently/forcefully etc”

forms incorporating *dasi* as a derivational prefix

*dasiikijis* - “stare”
*dasipalabowa* - “clearing”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

use of *mafa* (non volitional prefix) is flexible as a grammatical prefix and in some forms appears as a derivational prefix.

*eg*

basic clause **without mafa**

**pidafoseni jolumjis tike niju**

*pi – da - fosenijolum - jis tike niju*

sub obj make-go-out general mother water

*nclass3 nclass1*

"mother poured out the water"

clause **with mafa** used as a grammatical prefix

**pidamafa faseni jolumjis tike niju**

*pi – da - mafa - fosenijolum - jis tike niju*

sub obj **non-volitional** make-go-out general mother water

*nclass3 nclass1*

"mother poured out the water unintentionally/spilt the water"
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

forms incorporating *mafa* as a derivational prefix

*mafapuhijis* - “fall down from”

*mafanijojis* - “go the wrong way / become lost”

viii) The Irrealis Marker *lasa* on the Verb

Used as a basic verb *lasa* expresses a desire for something and is equivalent to English *want*. As a grammatical device *lasa* is used in a range of irrealis (subjunctive) contexts where the proposition expressed is not a direct reality but relates to a future or hypothetical event, an intention, a conditional, an intended purpose etc.
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

as a basic verb

naalasajis  boje  tifa  vahes

na  –  a  –  lasa  –  jis  boje  tifa  vahes
sub  obj  want  general  squirrel  pine nut  that
nclass5  nclass8

“the squirrel wants that pine nut ”

as grammatical irrealis verb prefix expressing a future event

pilalasaikijis  nakum (kaja)  wata
pi  –  la  –  lasa  –  iki  –  jis  nakum (kaja)  wata
sub  obj  irrealis  see  general  man  spider
nclass3  nclass4

“the man will see the spider”
expressing intention

*pitelasanijojis punim nasu kusu*

pi – te – *lasa* - nijo – jis  punim  nasu  kusu

sub  obj  irrealis  go  general  front  river  girl

“*The girl intends to go to the river*”

expressing intended purpose of an activity

*pinifoqijis tuja foseemakaqu bowa vahes luwa niju,*
*pijalasafoseemajis naju*

pi – ni – *foqi* – jis  tuja  foseemakaqu  bowa vahes

sub  obj  throw/cast  general  father  fish  trap  movement

luwa niju,  pi – *ja* – *lasa* – foseema – jis  naju

in  water  sub  obj  irrealis  catch/trap  general  fish

“*father cast the fishing net into the water to catch fish*”
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

ix) Expressing Existence; The static verbform fonajis

To express the existence of something the invariable verbform fonajis is used. This is the equivalent to the English there is/there are;

eg

fonajis bowa tayam dasu

fonajis bowa tajam dasu
“there exists” here tree

“There is a tree here”

x) Verbal Adjectives (Participles)

Participles are formed by placing the verb root after the noun as an attributive with the verb morphology removed but with a noun class cross-reference prefix attached to agree with the noun being qualified as with a typical adjective used attributively;
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

nojem  najalum

deer  na - jalum  

die  noun  agreement

“the dying deer”

participle formed from the verb jalumjis “die”

xi) Verbal Adverbs (Gerunds)
Gerunds are formed with emem used as a conjunction and the gerund following in the form of a full clause
5) Parts of Speech - Verbs continued

eg

\textit{pitenijopasomjis} \textit{pipala} \textit{nakum} \textit{emem} \textit{pimurahujis}

\textit{pi} – \textit{te} – \textit{nijopasom} – \textit{jis} \textit{pipala} \textit{nakum}

\textit{emem} \textit{pimurahujis}

\textit{sub obj return general camp man}

\textit{introducing shout gerund}

"the man returned to the camp shouting"
6) Parts of Speech – Adjectives

i) Adjectives in the predicate can be considered stative verbs as they take full verb morphology. Used attributively they take only a noun class prefix (from the same set of 10 prefixes used on the verb) which cross references the noun being qualified. In Latropeth adjectives follow the noun.

eg

adjectives used attributively

dasu apaja

dasu  a -  paja
  tree  nclass8  big
    noun
    agreement

“the big tree”
6) Parts of Speech - Adjectives continued

Multiple adjectives used attributively in a chain describing a noun are not all declined with a noun class agreement prefix, rather the first and the last adjectives in the chain only are prefixed

eg

kede lapaja kuxa lalesam

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>la</th>
<th>pajā</th>
<th>kuxa</th>
<th>la</th>
<th>lesam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bear</td>
<td>nclass4 big/large</td>
<td>fat</td>
<td>nclass4 brown</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

“the large fat brown bear”
6) Parts of Speech - Adjectives continued

adjective in the predicate

*lakawujis*  *fawo*

*la* - *kawu* – *jis*  *fawo*

sub small general fox

“the fox is small”

Multiple adjectives used in the predicate describing the same noun appear in a linear sequence often with *kaja* occurring before the last adjective in sequence.

eg

*lapajakuxakajalesamjis*  *kede*

*la* - *paja* – *kuxa* - *kaja* - *lesam* - *jis*  *kede*

sub big fat brown general bear

“the bear is big, fat and brown”
ii) Comparison of Adjectives (with *taje* and *ku*)
and the Superlative (with *emem kuma*)

Latropeth does not have comparative and superlative adjective forms like English but conveys these concepts in phrasal constructions; To convey a comparative begin with a stative verb (adjectival predicate) clause in place of the English *X is Yer* and follow this with a clause using *ikijis* “see” in place of the English …*than Z*

*eg*

*tekawujis dasu, ikijis (kaja) nakum*

*tekawujis dasu, ikijis (kaja) nakum*

small tree see man

“the tree is smaller than the man”
6) Parts of Speech - Adjectives continued

The superlative *most* is conveyed with *emem kuma* (literally “on the mountain”)

**eg**

*tekawujis emem kuma dasu tajam*

small superlative tree this

“this is the smallest tree”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs

i) Adverbs in Latropeth follow the verb and generally precede the subject and where present direct and indirect and prepositional objects. Adverbs derived from adjectives have no specific derivational morphology marking them as adverbs but are marked by their lack of prefixes that would be affixed to the adjective form.

eg

\textit{pinifoqijis wom nakum jemo}

pi – ni - foqi – jis \textbf{wom} nakum jemo

\texttt{nclass3 nclass9}

sub obj throw general \textit{fast} man spear

“the man threw the spear fast”
(cf. \textit{nakum piwom} “fast man”)
ii) Common Adverb Set

A common set of adverbs are extensively and systematically used in Latropeth. These cover among other things the functions covered in European languages by modal verbs and subordinate conjunctions. The Common Adverb Set is described here divided into several categories;

The Potential Adverb Matrix (ability/possibility/probability/necessity/obligation)

The most extensive category covers such concepts as English modal verbs *can / should / must*. The “potential” adverbs of Latropeth have four forms based on function/mood; positive, negative, irrealis and interrogative and each has three degrees; low, neutral and high. At a higher level the “potential” adverb set can be categorized into possibility of action, probability of action and necessity/obligation of action with reference to aptitude/morality/external circumstances/personal actuation and situational practicality. The forms are presented in the below matrices;
### 7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

#### 1) Possibility

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### 7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>lavukawu</td>
<td>mwlavukawu</td>
<td>lasulavukawu</td>
<td>kajulavukawu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>lavu</td>
<td>mwlavu</td>
<td>lasulavu</td>
<td>kajulavu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>lavupaja</td>
<td>mwlavupaja</td>
<td>lasulavupaja</td>
<td>kajulavupaja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Situational</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>wutakawa</td>
<td>mawutakawa</td>
<td>lasuwutakawa</td>
<td>kajuwutakawu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>wuta</td>
<td>mawuta</td>
<td>lasuwuta</td>
<td>kajuwuta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>wutapaja</td>
<td>mawutapaja</td>
<td>lasuwutapaja</td>
<td>kajuwutapaja</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

eg

mawdasa – possibility/aptitude/neutral degree/negative

pitetasujis mawdasa nakum tayam jahi

pi – te – tasu – jis mawdasa nakum tajam jahi
sub obj build general poss/apt/neudeg/neg man this hut
nclass3 nclass2

“This man is not able to build the hut”
“This man can’t build the hut”

pahusukawu – possibility/morality/low degree/positive

pifosujapijis pahusukawu nakum (kaja) tiwu

pi – fo – suja – pi - jis pahusukawu nakum (kaja) tiwu
sub obj tell indir.obj general poss/mor/lowdegr/pos man animate obj. friend
nclass3 nclass10 nclass3

“morally speaking the man would be able to at least to some extent tell his friend”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

*tisepaja* – possibility/external circumstances/high degree/positive

*pitenijojis tisepaja punim nasu kusu*

\[pi - te - nijo - jis \ tisepaja \ punim \ nasu \ kusu\]

- sub - go - general - poss/ext.circ./highdegr/pos - front - river - girl
- nclass3 nclass2

“things are such that the girl could definitely go to the river”

*lasukuja* – possibility/situational practicality/neutral degree/irrealis - (in this example irrealis due to future reference)

*pinilutuemajis lasukuja balum jemo*

\[pi - ni - lutuema - jis \ lasukuja \ balum \ jemo\]

- sub - find - general - poss/sit.prac./neudegr/irr - girl - boy - spear
- nclass3 nclass9

“from a practical viewpoint the boy will be able to find the spear”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

mawlatupaja – probability/morality/high degree/negative

Pifuposajis mawlatupaja nakum (kaja) nakum piajus

Pi – fu – posa – jis mawlatupaja nakum (kaja) nakum pi - ajus
sub obj hit/strike general prob/mor/highdeg/neg man animate man nclass3 sick
dissm direct object noun agreement

“on moral grounds the man is certainly not going to strike that sick man”

kajuxamekawu – probability/personal actuation/low degree/interrogative

naafojejis kajuxamekawu boje asawu

na – a – foje - jis kajuxamekawu boje asawu
sub obj fetch/take general prob/pers.act./lowdegr/interr squirrel food
nclass5 nclass8

“is there a small chance that the squirrel could take the food?”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

kupa – obligation/aptitude/neutral degree/positive

atufofosejis kupa

atu – fo – fose - jis kupa
sub obj do general oblig/aptitude/neudegr/positive
2nd nclass10 Pers Sing

“you must/need to do this as you can”

mawuvepaja – obligation/morality/high degree/negative

Pifumifojis mawuvepaja nakum (kaja) sa tiwu

pi – fu – mifo - jis mawuvepaja nakum (kaja) satiwu
sub obj help general oblig/morality/highdegr/negative man inanimate obj. enemy
nclass3 nclass3 dissim

“morally the man must certainly not assist his enemy”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

iii) Clause Relational Adverbs
Clause relational adverbs in Latropeth cover the work of subordinate conjunctions in European languages but are classified as adverbs morpho-syntactically. They convey a relationship between the present clause in which they sit and an adjacent clause in a complex sentence. The main clause relations conveyed are causal, concessive, conditional, temporal and spatial. The first three are straight forward in use. The latter two are part of a related system of forms derived from the set of Latropeth demonstrative pronouns.

Two Clauses with Causal Relationship
Causal relationships are conveyed with *nijo taju*
The causal component is conveyed in the second clause.

eg

\[ \text{naajusjis nojem, naatawujis nijo taju niju axele} \]

na – ajus – jis nojem, na - a - tawu - jis
sub sick general deer sub obj drink (consume) general
nclass5 nclass4 nclass8

\[ \text{nijo taju niju a - xele} \]
causal clause rel water nclass8 bitter/spoilt
adverb noun agreement

“the deer is sick because it drank some bad water”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Two Clauses with Concessive Relationship

Concessive clause relationships are conveyed with *mawikaja*

**eg**

*naatawujis nojem niju axele, namawajusjis mawikaja*

```
na - a - tawu - jis nojem niju a - xele,
sub   obj    drink (consume)   general deer water nclass8 bitter/spoilt
nclass5 nclass8 noun         agreement

na - maw - ajus - jis mawikaja
sub    negation    sick    general    concessive
nclass5
```

“the deer drank some bad water but it is not sick”
“although the deer drank bad water, it is not sick”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Two Clauses with Conditional Relationship

Conditional clause relationships are conveyed with
(pewa) kawi /( pewa) xosu (literally “right hand” / “left hand” )
The clause containing (pewa) kawi conveys the condition that determines the outcome conveyed by
the clause containing (pewa) xosu. The verb form in the clause with pewa (xosu) often incorporates
the irrealis prefix lasa. pewa kawi in a simple one clause sentence conveys the concept “it depends
on ……”

eg

naatawujis pewa kawi nojem niju axele,
nalasaajusjis pewa xosu

na - a - tawu - jis pewa kawi nojem
sub obj drink(consume) general hand right deer
nclass5 nclass
( = determiner of outcome )

niju a - xele, na – lasa - ajus – jis pewa xosu
water nclass8 bitter/spoilt sub irrealis sick general hand left
noun nclass5 (=outcome)

“if the deer drinks the bad water, it will be sick”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Clauses with Temporal/Spatial Relationship

Temporal and Spatial clause relationship adverbs are formed with *baho* “time” and *bowa* “place” affixed to demonstrative pronoun forms. The below grid shows the forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstrative Pronoun</th>
<th>Temporal Clause Relation</th>
<th>Spatial Clause Relation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bava “that” (distant)</td>
<td>bahobava “after some time”</td>
<td>bowabava “well further on from”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bese “that” (over there)</td>
<td>bahobese “after/later”</td>
<td>bowabese “further on from”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vahes “that”</td>
<td>baho vahes “straight after”</td>
<td>bowavahes “just ahead of/after”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tajam “this”</td>
<td>baho tajam “now”</td>
<td>bowa tajam “at the same place where”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maju “that” (behind/unseen)</td>
<td>bahomaju “just before”</td>
<td>bowamaju “just behind”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lekam “that back there” (behind/unseen)</td>
<td>baho lekam “before”</td>
<td>bowa lekam “further back from”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeva “that” (far back/unseen”)</td>
<td>bahojeva “some time before”</td>
<td>bowajeva “well further back from”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Temporal and spatial clause relationship adverbs appear in what corresponds to the main clause in English! In Latropeth there are essentially two independent clauses

**English pattern;** She came back, before her friends left
**Latropeth pattern;** She came back beforehand. Her friends left

eg

temporal clause relational adverbs

*pitenijo, baho lekam punim nasu tuji, pitenijopasomjis pipala*

```
pi - te - nijo - jis baho lekam punim nasu tuji
sub   obj  go general before front river woman
```
```
pi - te - nijopasom - jis pipala
sub   obj       return general camp
```

“the woman went to the river before she returned to the camp”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

**pinatawujis nakum mawu boje, pijofosenamjis baho vahes**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pi} &- \text{na} - \text{tawu} - \text{jis} \quad \text{baho vahes} \quad \text{nakum mawu boje}, \\
& \text{sub} \quad \text{obj} \quad \text{eat (consume)} \quad \text{general} \quad \text{straight after} \quad \text{man} \quad \text{meat} \quad \text{squirrel} \\
\text{pi} &- \text{na} - \text{fosenam} - \text{jis} \\
& \text{sub} \quad \text{obj} \quad \text{cook} \quad \text{general} \\
\end{align*}
\]

“the man ate the squirrel meat straight after he cooked it”

spatial clause relational adverbs

**pinalutuema**is bowa bava balum (kaja) boje,  **pinaikijis**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pi} &- \text{na} - \text{lutuema} - \text{jis} \quad \text{bowa bava balum (kaja) boje}, \\
& \text{sub} \quad \text{obj} \quad \text{find} \quad \text{general} \quad \text{well further on} \quad \text{boy} \quad \text{squirrel} \\
\text{pi} &- \text{na} - \text{iki} - \text{jis} \\
& \text{sub} \quad \text{obj} \quad \text{see} \quad \text{general} \\
\end{align*}
\]

“the boy found the squirrel well further on from where he had seen it ”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Use of *taje* with Embedded Clauses Governed by a Verb

Where an embedded clause is governed by the verb itself, Latropeth uses the clause relational adverb *taje* in the embedded clause at least in formal contexts. In the example below the verb *sujais* “tell” often governs an embedded clause as it does in English;

*eg*

**Pifosujapijis nakum ema tiwu, atemafanijoposabowajis taje dasu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pi</th>
<th>fo</th>
<th>suja</th>
<th>pi</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>nakum</th>
<th>ema</th>
<th>tiwu,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>obj</td>
<td>tell</td>
<td>indirect</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>indirect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>te</th>
<th>mafanijoposabowa</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>taje</th>
<th>dasu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>nclass8</td>
<td>obj</td>
<td>fall (crash to ground)</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>clause</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| nclass2 | | nclass10 | | relational adverb |

“The man told his friend that the tree fell (crashed to the ground).”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

iv) Further Adverbs of the Common Adverb Set;

degree/importance/positive and negative emphasis
paju – to a great extent/excessive/to a sufficient extent
jimu – positive emphasis
mawa – negative emphasis
kawe – importance
xiwu – unimportance / inconsequentiality / negligibility

ey

piamubalutuemajis jimu nakum kiqu

pi – amuba – lutuema – jis jimu nakum kiqu

sub nclass3 obj 1st find general positive emphasis man numerous

“they all found us which is good ”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

*piatawujis  paju  balum  kuhu  nojem*

pi – a – tawu – jis  paju  balum  kuhu  nojem
sub obj drink (consume) general excessive/boy blood deer

nclass3 nclass8

(depending on the context)

“the boy drank too much deer blood ”
“the boy drank/has drunk enough deer blood ”

habituality/aspect/context of action

*pasu* – generic / habitual
*always/still* – sawunijoba
*never* – sawumawnijo
*pawa* – no longer/change of situation
*lekukuxa* – imminent action “about to”
*foje* – progressive/continuous “keep on doing”
*fojeposa* – iterative “keep doing again and again”
*nija* - reflexive
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

eg

naatawujis pawa nojem niju

na - a - tawu - jis pawa nojem niju
sub obj drink (consume) general no longer deer water

nclass5 nclass8

“the deer is no longer drinking the water”
“the deer has stopped drinking the water”

emotion /hortation/detachment/ skepticism

pewa – hortation /encouragement
towa – disbelief or skepticism on the part of the speaker
muiki – reported speech /relaying from other source
niwim – fear or trepidation
nisa – amazement
saqi – misfortune; “unfortunate”
mafa – in vein
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

ey

*piamubatajuis niwim nakum kiqu*

pi – amuba – taju – jis **niwim** nakum kiqu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sub</th>
<th>obj</th>
<th>hear</th>
<th>general</th>
<th>fear</th>
<th>man</th>
<th>numerous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nclass3</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“they hear us I fear”

*amubakajatuatawujis pewa asawu*

amubakajatu – a – taju – jis **pewa** asawu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sub</th>
<th>obj</th>
<th>eat</th>
<th>general</th>
<th>hortative</th>
<th>food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>nclass8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plur</td>
<td>incl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“let’s eat (some food)”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Footnote: Alternatively pewa often appears as a prefix pewa-/pew- on the verb complex which is often reduced in informal spoken discourse to wa-/w-. Both of these variations are illustrated here;

pewamubakajatuatajujis  asawu

wamubakajatuatajujis  asawu

“let’s eat (some food)”
v) Common Pronoun + Verb Nucleus Adverbs
In conversational Latroth a set of adverbs with a form based on a personal pronoun + verb nucleus are commonly used. These forms can also be used in isolation based on the context;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pronoun + iki</td>
<td>(eg amuiki, atuiki)</td>
<td>“belief/uncertainty” used in a similar fashion to I think/think so in conversational English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pronoun + jimu</td>
<td>(eg amujimu, atujimu)</td>
<td>“agreement/approval”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pronoun + lasa</td>
<td>(eg amulasa, atulasa)</td>
<td>“want/desire”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pronoun + kaja</td>
<td>(eg amukaja, atukaja)</td>
<td>“additional”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

Footnote: *atu* is also incorporated in constructions conveying politeness. See section on the imperative mood further below

eg

*pitenijojis amuiki nijo punim nasu*

pi – te – nijo – jis amuiki nijo punim nasu
sub obj go general belief/uncertainty movement face river

“I think he/she went to the river”

*natenijojis amulasa nijo punim nasu nojem*

na – te – nijo – jis amulasa nijo punim nasu nojem
sub obj go general want movement face river deer

“I want the deer to go to the river”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

use in isolation

amuiki
“I think so”

atukaja
“you too/you as well”

Interrogative Forms of Pronoun + Verb Nucleus Adverbs

All these adverb forms have equivalent interrogative forms with the prefix kaj(a)-;

kaj(a) + pronoun + iki (eg kajatuiki)
kaj (a) + pronoun + jimu (eg kajatujimu)
kaj (a) + pronoun + lasa (eg kajatulasa)
Kaj (a) + pronoun + kaja (eg kajatukaja)
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

eg

pi te nijo jis kajatuiki nijo punim nasu

pi - te - nijo - jis kajatuiki nijo punim nasu
sub obj go general belief/uncertainty movement face river

Vert
nclass3 nclass2

interrogative form

“do you think that he/she went to the river”

vi) Clarifying Ambiguous Meaning with kutaje

Where sentences have adverbial components or are otherwise complex ambiguity can arise;

pi fa iki jis tumi paku tuji nos

pi - fa - iki - jis tumi paku tuji nus
sub obj see general outside woman rain

nclass3 nclass7

“We the woman sees the rain outside”
7) Parts of Speech - Adverbs continued

This can be interpreted as the woman being inside seeing the rain outside or as the woman outside seeing the rain. Association to the adverbial can be shown in these cases with the use of the special preposition (historically an adverb) *kutaje* preceding the relevant noun;

**eg**

*pifaikijis tumi paku kutaje tuji nus*

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & - & \text{fa} & - & \text{iki} & - & \text{jis} & \text{tumi} & \text{paku} & \text{kutaje} & \text{tuji} & \text{nus} \\
\text{sub} & & \text{obj} & & \text{see} & & \text{general} & & \text{outside} & & \text{association} & & \text{woman} & & \text{rain} \\
\text{nclass3} & & \text{nclass7} & & & & & & & & \text{to adverbial} \\
\end{array}
\]

“The woman outside sees the rain”

**cf.**

*pifaikijis tumi paku tuji kutaje nus*

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{pi} & - & \text{fa} & - & \text{iki} & - & \text{jis} & \text{tumi} & \text{paku} & \text{tuji} & \text{kutaje} & \text{nus} \\
\text{sub} & & \text{obj} & & \text{see} & & \text{general} & & \text{outside} & & \text{woman} & & \text{association} & & \text{rain} \\
\text{nclass3} & & \text{nclass7} & & & & & & & & \text{to adverbial} \\
\end{array}
\]

“The woman sees the rain (which is) outside”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers

i) Personal Pronominal Verb Prefixes

Personal pronouns appear as verb prefixes in Latropeth. These prefixes cross reference the relevant persons and like noun class prefixes appear in positions relevant to each other which depend on whether the protagonist is subject, object or indirect object. Where there is a subject and object but no indirect object present in the clause the prefix order is subject – object (as with noun class verbal prefixes). When an indirect object is present all three prefixes for subject, direct object and indirect object appear together preceding the verb root and in the order subject – indirect object – object. As noted earlier this is different to the order of verb affixes where full noun forms are present in the clause in which case the indirect object affix is placed after the verb nucleus.

There are only specific forms for first and second person pronouns. For the third person the relevant noun class prefix is used depending on the noun class of the corresponding noun.

First person plural includes both an inclusive (“we all”) form and a non inclusive (“we not including you”) form though increasingly in spoken Latropeth the morphologically simpler non inclusive form is being used to cover both;
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

First person

- singular: amu(-)
- plural inclusive: amubakajatu(-)
- plural non inclusive: amuba(-)

Second person

- singular: atu
- plural: atuba

eg

amunaikijis boje

amu - na - iki - jis boje

sub  obj  see  general  squirrel

1st  nclass5
Pers  Sing

“I see the squirrel”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

naamuikijis  boje

na – amu – iki – jis boje
sub         obj    see    general    squirrel
nclass5 1st Pers Sing

“The squirrel sees me”

ii) Compound Personal Pronoun Prefixes

When two personal pronominal verb prefixes are combined together (as would occur for example where both the subject and object are both personal pronouns) then a special compound form is used. In a clause where subject, direct object and indirect object are all personal pronoun prefixes the third prefix (for the direct object) is unaltered;

amatu - Subject is first person singular and object/indirect object is second person singular.
* Amuatu is ungrammatical
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

**atamu-**  Subject is second person singular and object/indirect object is first person singular.
* Atuamu is ungrammatical

**amatuba-**  Subject is first person singular and object/indirect object is second person plural.
* Amuatuba is ungrammatical

**atamuba-**  Subject is second person singular and object/indirect object is first person plural exclusive (us not including you)
* Atuamuba is ungrammatical.

**atamukatu-**  Subject is second person singular and object / indirect object is first person plural inclusive (we including you)
* Atuamubakalatu- is ungrammatical

**amubatu-**  Subject is first person plural exclusive (we not including you) and object/indirect object
is second person singular
* Amubaatu is ungrammatical
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

**amububa**- Subject is first person plural exclusive (we not including you) and object/indirect object is second person plural.
*Amubaatuba* is ungrammatical

**amukatu**- Subject is first person plural inclusive (we including you) and object / indirect object is second person singular.
*Amubakalatuatu* is ungrammatical

**amukatuba**- Subject is first person plural inclusive (we including you) and object/indirect object is second person plural.
*Amubakalatuatuba* is ungrammatical

**atubamu**- Subject is second person plural and object/indirect object is first person singular.
*Atubaamu* is ungrammatical

**atububa**- Subject is second person plural and object/indirect object is first person plural exclusive
*Atubaamuba* is ungrammatical
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

*Atubamukatu*- Subject is second person plural and object/indirect object is first person plural inclusive (us including you)

* Atubaamubakalatu is ungrammatical

eg

*Amatuikijis*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>amatu</th>
<th>iki</th>
<th>jis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compound</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verb prefix</td>
<td>sub 1st pers sing</td>
<td>obj 2nd pers sing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I see you”

*Atamuikijis*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>atamu</th>
<th>iki</th>
<th>jis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>compound</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verb prefix</td>
<td>sub 2nd pers sing</td>
<td>obj 1st pers sing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“You see me”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

atubamuikijis

atubamu - iki - jis
compound see general
verb prefix
sub 2nd pers plural
obj 1st pers singular

“You (plural) see me”

amukatuikijis

amukatu - iki - jis
compound see general
verb prefix
sub 1st pers plural (incl)
obj 2nd pers singular

“We (including you) see you”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

In the following example there is an indirect object personal pronoun included. The subject – indirect object – object arrangement noted above is illustrated. In this case the compound form denotes the combination of subject and indirect object;

amatufosujais

amatu - fo - suja - jis
compound direct object tell general
verb prefix nclass7
sub 1st pers singular
obj 2nd pers singular
(indirect object in this case)

“I tell you it ”
iii) Possessives in Latropeth

Alienable and Inalienable Possession
Technically possession is indicated by placing the NP referring to the possessor after the NP referring to what is possessed. Inalienable possession usually includes the preposition *ku* before the possessor NP and with respect to kin and body parts this is obligatory.

eg

alienable possession

*asawu tuji*

“The woman’s food”

inalienable possession

*pewa ku tuji*

“The woman’s hand”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

Pronominal Possessives

The personal pronoun prefixes are placed after a noun phrase in isolation or preceded by ku as per the same pattern for non pronominal possession. As noted above there are no third person pronouns, however *ku* is often used in isolation after an NP to make a connective anaphoric reference back to a third person possessor. This use is seen in reference to both alienable and inalienable possession

*eg*

*kejimfoje amuba*
“our bowl”

*tuja ku amu*
“my father”

*jemo ku*
“his/her spear”
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

Clausal

the verb *fujajis* “own” is used for alienable possession
the verb *kujis* “have” is generally used for inalienable possession

eg

*amupikujis nijotise nasu (kaja) tiwu*

sub                  obj       association    general        across              river
1st               nclass3 Pers           Sing

“I have a friend across the river”
iv) Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns are common in Latropeth. There are six demonstrative pronouns corresponding to six frames of reference relative to the speaker. These were shown above in the section on temporal and spatial clause relational adverbs which are based on the pronoun forms.

- **bava** “that (distant)“
- **bese** “that (over there”)
- **vahes** “that”
- **tajam** “this”
- **maju** “that (behind/unseen)”
- **lekam** “that (back there behind/unseen)”
- **jeva** “that (far back/unseen)”

8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

eg

akajapajjis wom dasu tajam

a - kajapajjis - jis wom dasu tajam

sub grow general fast tree this

“this tree is growing fast”

v) Numbers

Latropeth has a base 5 numbering system. The numbers for one to four are based on contractions of the words for the thumb and first three fingers (eg ifamkawu thumb > amkawu one ). The number 5 and multiples of 5 up to 160 are based on terms for elder males across the extended matrilinage system. More broadly these terms represent divisions in a cosmological matrix which is believed to govern the dynamics and interrelationships of everything in the universe. Numbers which are not multiples of 5 or which are greater than 160 are formed with combinations of the existing terms. Specific very large numbers are not generally required by this neolithic culture. Ordinals are formed by preceding the numeral with posa.
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

Latropeth Numerals 1-4

amkawu one from ifamkawu “thumb”
amfoje two from ifamfoje “index finger”
ampaja three from ifampaja “middle finger”
amkupaja four from ifamkupaja “ring finger”

Latropeth Numerals – multiples of 5 from 5 to 160

amdiju five amduna sixty
amminu ten amfilu thirty
amvale fifteen amkuse forty
ammakum twenty amkuse forty
ammakum twenty five ammujwa thirty five
ammakum thirty amnxupa fifty
amnakum twenty five amnafam twenty five
amnafam thirty amkupaja forty five
amfilu thirty amkupaja fifty five
amvale fifteen amkifaya forty five
amvala sixty amkifa seventy five
amfilu thirty amkifa seventy five
amnakah one hundred & twenty
amfilu thirty amnakah one hundred & thirty
amkofe one hundred & thirty
ammanke one hundred & thirty five
amfilu thirty amtohim one hundred & forty
amfilu thirty amtohim one hundred & forty five
amfilu thirty amtakala one hundred & fifty
amfilu thirty amtaka one hundred & fifty five
amfilu thirty amtaka one hundred & sixty
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

To form numbers between 4 and 160 which are not multiples of 5 first give the term for the highest multiple of 5 reached and add the relevant term for 1/2/3/4

eg

36 is *amjiwa* (thirty five) + *amkawu* (one)

*amjiwa amkawu* “35”

43 - *amkuse ampaja*
27 – *amnafam amfoje*
19 – *amvale amkupaja*

To form numbers above 160 up to 320 start with *amtaja* “160” and then add the difference using the same building blocks as would be used up to 160.

eg

174 (=160 + 14) – *amtaja amminu amkupaja*
8) Parts of Speech – Pronouns/Possessives/Numbers continued

For 320 and further numbers that involve successive multiples of 160 duplicate amtaja “160” as necessary

eg

863 (160 + 160 + 160 + 160 + 160 + 63) – \textit{amtaja amtaja amtaja amtaja amtaja amduna ampaja}

In sentences place the numeral whether cardinal or ordinal (with posa as noted above) after the noun. If there is no noun present precede the number with \textit{kiqu}. If there are demonstratives/adjectives or both place the numeral after an adjective and before a demonstrative. \textit{kiqu} will often be incorporated and occurs before the number or before the demonstrative if there is one.

eg

\textit{nojem amnafam amkawu} “26 deer”

\textit{kiqu amnakum} “20”

\textit{nakum posa amfoje} “the second man”

\textit{dasu apaja amdiju kiqu tajam/dasu apaja kiqu amdiju tajam} – “these 5 big trees”
9) Parts of Speech – Prepositions

Prepositions are a distinct lexical class in Latropeth and are used to specify the spatial/conceptual relationship between two NPs or between a VP and an NP (forming an adverbial). Many of the prepositions are derived from terms for body parts as is common in languages generally.

A list of the common prepositions follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Basic Meaning</th>
<th>Prepositional Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>punim</td>
<td>“face”</td>
<td>“in front of/facing/by the edge of”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(conceptual) “in regards to”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emem</td>
<td>“head”</td>
<td>“above/on (a horizontal surface)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tumi</td>
<td>“foot”</td>
<td>“below/under”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuju</td>
<td>“stomach/abdomen”</td>
<td>“inside/within/in”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(an enclosed structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luwa</td>
<td>“eye”</td>
<td>“in (a liquid)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“by/from” (with respect to source)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9) Parts of Speech – Prepositions continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Basic Meaning</th>
<th>Prepositional Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ku</td>
<td>“side/flank”</td>
<td>“next to/beside/on (a vertical surface)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>latam</td>
<td>“back”</td>
<td>“behind”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pasam</td>
<td>“enclosure/perimeter”</td>
<td>“around/surrounding”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nijotise</td>
<td>“go + trail”</td>
<td>“across”( often combined with <em>emem</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ema</td>
<td>“stop”</td>
<td>“up to/as far as”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(conceptual) “by X time”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“towards”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ikis</td>
<td>“attract/lure”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lum</td>
<td>“eject/excrete”</td>
<td>“away from”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kijeluwa</td>
<td>“point” + “eye”</td>
<td>“between”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wuhum</td>
<td>“person”</td>
<td>(commutative) “with (a person)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maka</td>
<td>“due consideration”</td>
<td>“for (benefactive)”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9) Parts of Speech – Prepositions continued

eg

amunadasiikijis punim dasu boje

amu – na – dasiiki - jis punim dasu boje
Sub Obj watch general in front of tree squirrel
1st nclass5
Pers Sing

“I watch the squirrel in front of the tree”

piwajis ku dasu nakum

pi – wa - jis ku dasu nakum
Sub Obj sit general beside tree man
nclass3

“the man sits beside/by the tree”
9) Parts of Speech – Prepositions continued

Pitebaqinijujis nijotise (emem) nasu kusu

pi – te - baqiniju - jis nijotise (emem) nasu kusu

Sub obj swim general across river girl

“the girl swims across the river”

Prepositional forms can also appear as a verb nucleus to form a predicate that conveys a location.

eg

apunimjis dasu

a – punim - jis dasu

Sub front general tree

“the tree is at the front ”
9) Parts of Speech – Prepositions continued

The relationships conveyed by some common English prepositions are covered by other structures in Latropeth. In the example below the use of *with* in English as an instrumental preposition is covered by a clause in Latropeth with the verb *nikutajis* (“use”). This requires a separate clause;

eg

*Pinaposamalumjis nakum (kaja) nojem, pinikutajis jemo*

```
pi – na – posamalum - jis nakum (kaja) nojem,
  Sub   Obj       kill   general   man    deer
  nclass3  nclass5

   pi – ni – kuta - jis jemo
Sub   Obj       use   general  spear
nclass3  nclass9
```

“the man killed the deer with a spear”
10) Passive Voice

There are three types of passive voice in Latropeth with each conveyed by specific verb prefixes;

1) The **perfective / stative passive** *(the book is sold out)* is indicated with *suha*

2) The **dynamic passive** *(the book is being sold)* is indicated with *tajum*

3) The **inceptive passive** *(The book begins to be sold)* is indicated with *posa*.

The passive is very flexible in Latropeth where objects, indirect objects, obliques and locatives can all be passivised, making up for a lack of flexibility in Latropeth relative clause formation. When the subject of the passive is derived from a syntactic argument which is not the direct object in the equivalent non passive clause a specific verb suffix is also added (generally the prepositional form of the equivalent active clause) and placed after the verb nucleus and before and mood/aspect suffix. The agent of the passive when expressed occurs in a prepositional phrase introduced with *emem*. A direct object not passivised but appearing in a passive clause is preceded by *pewa* and an indirect object by *ema.*
10) Parts of Speech – Passive Voice continued

eg
agentless dynamic passive - direct object passivised

atajumtawujis mawu

```
a – tajum - tawu – jis mawu
sub dynamic eat general meat
```

“the meat is being eaten”

perfective/stative passive with agent – direct object passivized

asuhatawujis mawu emem nakum

```
a – suha - tawu – jis mawu emem nakum
sub stative eat general meat agent man
nclass8 passive
```

“the meat is/has been eaten by the man”
10) Parts of Speech – Passive Voice continued

agentless inceptive passive – direct object passivized

*aposatawujis mawu*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>posa</th>
<th>tawu</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>mawu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>inceptive</td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>meat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“the meat starts to be eaten”

agentless dynamic passive – indirect object passivized

*natajumsujaemajis nojem pewa tawu*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>na</th>
<th>tajum</th>
<th>suja</th>
<th>ema</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>nojem</th>
<th>pewa</th>
<th>tawu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>dynamic</td>
<td>give</td>
<td>passivised</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>deer</td>
<td>direct object</td>
<td>food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nclass5</td>
<td>passive</td>
<td>indirect object</td>
<td>reference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“the deer is being given food”
10) Parts of Speech – Passive Voice continued

inceptive passive with agent – oblique passivized

niposalekukutajis roweje pewa nufam emem nakum

ni sub - posa inceptive - leku cut - kuta - jis general roweje agent - pewa direct object nufam cycad bread

emem agent nakum
man

“the sharp stone starts to be cut the cycad bread with by the man”

agentless perfective/stative passive – locative passivized

tesuhatawukujjis jahi

te sub - suha stative - tawu eat - kuju - jis general jahi house / hut pewa direct object nufam cycad bread ema indirect object nakum man

“the hut has been given the man cycad bread in ”
11) Interrogative Mood

Polar questions are formed in Latropeth by preceding the equivalent indicative clause with *kaja*. Non polar questions are formed with *kaja* placed at the end of the clause along with extra information referring to place / time / manner etc. which equate to the concepts referred to by English *where, when, how* etc. With non polar interrogatives kaja can additionally be placed at the beginning of the clause pre-empting that the clause to follow will be an interrogative. The additional clause initial *kaja* for non polar interrogatives is always omitted if the clause is embedded. In terms of pronunciation *kaja* in everyday speech is often truncated to one syllable *kaj’*

**Interrogative Forms in Isolation**

- temporal
  - **kaja baho** (*kaja* + “time”) *when ?*

- locative
  - **kaja bowa** (*kaja* + “place”) *where ?*

- motion away from speaker
  - **kaja nijo bowa** (*kaja* + “go” + “place”) *where to ?*
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

motion towards speaker
**kaja lum bowa** \((kaja + “from” + “place”)\) *where from?*

person
**kaja wuhum** \((kaja + “person”)\) *who?*

substantive
**kaja fosawu** \((kaja + “thing”)\) *what (thing)?*

progressive
**kaja nijo** \((kaja + “go”)\) *what (event/action)?*

causative
**kaja nijo taju** \((kaja + “go” + “start/initiate”)\) *why?*

manner
**kaja feju** \((kaja + “colour/detail”)\) *how/in what way?*

means
**kaja iki fose** \((kaja + “see” + “do”)\) *how/by what means?*
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

specification
**kaja + X** (where X is generally a noun/NP) **which?**

degree
**kaja paju + X** (where X is a predicate adjective) **how + adjective?**
  (where X is a verb phrase or adverbial) **to what degree?**

eg

polar interrogative

**kaja lafuikijis kumu (kaja) wata?**

```
kaja   la  –  fu  –  iki  –  jis   kumu (kaja)   wata ?
Interrog  sub  obj  see  general  fly  animate object  spider
nclass4   nclass4  dissim
```

“does / did the fly see the spider?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

temporal interrogative

(kaja) lafuikijis kumu kaja wata kaja baho?

(kaja) la – fu – iki – jis kumu (kaja) wata kaja baho?

“when did the fly see the spider?”

locative interrogative

(kaja) lafuikijis kumu (kaja) wata kaja bowa?

(kaja) la – fu – iki – jis kumu (kaja) wata kaja bowa

“where did the fly see the spider?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

interrogative relating to motion away from speaker

(kaja) latebaqijis kumu kaja nijo bowa?

(kaja) la – te – baqi – jis kumu kaja nijo bowa

“where is the fly flying to?”

interrogative relating to motion towards speaker

(kaja) latebaqijis kumu kaja lum bowa?

(kaja) la – te – baqi – jis kumu kaja lum bowa

“where is the fly flying from?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

substantive interrogative

(kaja) lafoikijis kumu kaja fosawu?

(kaja) la – fo – iki – jis kumu kaja fosawu?

"what does/did the fly see?"

progressive interrogative

(kaja) lafosejis kumu kaja nijo?

(kaja) la – foe – jis kumu kaja nijo?

"what is the fly doing?"
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

causative interrogative

**kajatu** _fo_ _fose_ _jis_ _tajam_ **kaja nijo taju?**

(or alternatively **atufofosejis tajam kaja nijo taju?**)

**Interrog** _obj_ _do_ _general_ _this_ **interrog** _causative_  

+ 2nd _nclass10_  
_Pers_  
_Sing sub_

“why did you do this/that?”

manner interrogative

**(kaja) latebaqijis kumu kaja feju?**

**(kaja) – la – te - baqi – jis kumu** **kaja feju?**

**Interrog** _sub_ _obj_ _fly_ _general_ _fly_ **interrog** _manner/demeanour_

+ 4th _nclass4_  
+ 2nd _nclass2_  

“how/in what way is the fly flying?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

means interrogative

(kaja)  laalutuemajis kumu asawu  kaja iki fose ?

Interrog  sub   obj find general fly food interrog means

“how/by what means did the fly find the food?”

specification interrogative

(kaja)  laalutuem’ema kumu asawu  kaja kumu ?

Interrog  sub   obj find perfective fly food interrog fly specification

“which fly has found the food?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

interrogative of degree

(kaja) lapajajis kumu tajam kaja paju ?

kaja – la – paja – jis kumu tajam kaja paju ?
Interrog sub big general fly this interrog degree

“how big is this fly?”

kaja naatawujis nojem kaja paju taja ?

kaja – na – a – tawu – jis nojem kaja paju taja ?
Interrog sub obj eat general deer interrog degree fast

“how fast is the deer eating ?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

Where *kaja* is used at the beginning of the interrogative clause and there are personal pronoun single or combined prefixes on the verb then *kaja* is truncated to *kaj* and is prefixed directly onto the verb complex.

**eg**

(kaja + atu → kajatu)

*kajatu*fo*fose* *tajam* *kaja* *nijo* *taju* ?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kajatu</th>
<th>– fo – fose – jis tajam kaja nijo taju ?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interrog + sub</td>
<td>obj do general this interrog causative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2st</td>
<td>nclass10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pers</td>
<td>Sing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“why did you do this/that?”
Interrogatives involving Potential Adverbs and Pronoun+Verb Nucleus Adverbs

Potential adverbs (see the potential adverb set above) and pronoun + verb nucleus adverbs (see above) have their own interrogative forms which are simply substituted in the clause for their non-interrogative equivalent to convert them to the interrogative mood.

**eg**

interrogative potential adverb

*laafojejis kajuxamekawu boje asawu*

sub | obj | fetch/take | general | prob/pers.act./lowdegr/interr | squirrel | food
nclass4 | nclass8

“is there a small chance that the squirrel could take the food?”
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

interrogative pronoun+verb nucleus adverb

*pite*nijojis *kajatuiki* *nijo* *punim* *nasu* ?

pi – te – nijo – jis *kajatuiki* nijo punim nasu

sub obj go general belief/uncertainty movement face river

“do you think that he/she went to the river”

**Embedded Interrogatives**

Syntactically embedded questions in complex sentences take the same form as standard interrogatives except that *kaja* never appears at the beginning of the embedded clause. The embedded clause tends to come after the main clause. When it does appear preposed before the main clause the embedded clause is usually preceded by *emem* and the main clause is often followed by the phrase *kaja tajam* which is an anaphoric reference back to the embedded question.
11) Parts of Speech – Interrogative Mood continued

eg

embedded substantive interrogative clause following the main clause - (most common form)

*amufomawfujajis, lafoikijis kumu kaja fosawu.*

antu - fo - maw - fuja - jis,
sub obj negative know general
1st pers nclass10 singular

la - fo - iki - jis kumu kaja fosawu
sub obj see general fly interrog thing
nclass4 nclass10

“I don’t know what the fly saw”

embedded substantive interrogative clause preceding the main clause with *emem*

*emem lafoikijis kumu kaja fosawu, amufomawfujajis (kaja tajam)*

*emem* la - fo - iki - jis kumu kaja fosawu
preposed sub obj see general fly interrog thing
emb.interr. nclass4 nclass10

amu - fo - maw - fuja - jis (kaja tajam)
sub obj negative know general anaph. ref back to embedded question
1st pers nclass10 singular

“what the fly was I don’t know”
12) Additional Uses of the Particle *kaja*

*Kaja* has many uses beyond forming interrogatives. The use being employed depends on its syntactic position and or semantic/pragmatic context. Following is a list of further common uses of *kaja*;

an adverb meaning “also” when following a verb directly

**eg**

*ammuwisujis kaja jila*

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Amu} & a & \text{wisu} & \text{jis} & \text{kaja} & \text{jila} \\
\text{Sub} & \text{obj} & \text{taste} & \text{general} & \text{also} & \text{salt} \\
\text{1st} & \text{nclass8} & \\
\text{Pers} & \text{sing} \\
\end{array}
\]

“I (can) also taste the salt”
12) Additional Uses of the particle kaja continued

forming abrupt imperatives when attached to the end of a verb in the second person and replacing the aspect marker *jis* - see section on the imperative mood

**eg**

*atu – te – nijo – kaja* *(bowa vahes)*

“Go Away!”

implying mindful obedience in an official context or deference/submission in a religious context when attached to the end of a verb in the first or third person and replacing the aspect marker *jis*

**eg**

*amufomifokaja*

*amu – fo – mifo – kaja*

Sub  obj  administer  with mindful obedience

1st  nclass7

Sing

“I will attend to the official matters (as you request)”
12) Additional Uses of the particle kaja continued

a separator to help distinguish constituents in a list of more than one of the same grammatical category

eg

larahukalakusejojis kede
la – rahu - **kaja** - kusejo – jis kede
Sub loud separator close general bear

“the bear was loud and close”

appearing before a direct object NP which is animate

eg

pifutajujis nakum kaja tuji.

pi – fu – taju – jis nakum **kaja** tuji
Sub obj hear general man (animate direct object) warrior

“the man hears the warrior ”
12) Additional Uses of the particle kaja continued

as a hortative interjection attached to the end of the verb root with no subject/object prefixes and in isolation

eg

*Posakaja* “let’s begin !”
*Tawukaja* “let’s eat !”

duplicated with a temporal reference “every”

eg

*kaja baho kaja baho* “every day”
13) Imperative Mood

True imperatives in Latropeth are formed with a second person singular or plural personal pronoun prefix on the verb and by attaching \textit{-kaja} as a suffix following the verb root and in place of the aspect/validation marker \textit{jis/ema}. True imperatives are abrupt in tone and generally only used in a situation where there is marked social or religious asymmetry in the status between speakers;

eg

\textbf{atutenijokaja (bowa vahes) !}

\begin{tabular}{llll}
sub & obj & go & imperative \\
2\textsuperscript{nd} pers & nclass2 & & movement away from speaker \\
\end{tabular}

“Go away !”

\textbf{atubaafojekaja jane !}

\begin{tabular}{llll}
sub & obj & fetch & imperative \\
2\textsuperscript{nd} pers & nclass8 & & juniper berry \\
plural & & & \\
\end{tabular}

“(you all) fetch the juniper berries !”
13) Imperative Mood continued

In most cases a hortative construction with the adverb pewa or related verb prefix pew-/wa- is used instead of a true imperative. Pewa/pew-/wa- was covered above in the section on the Latropeth Common Adverb Set.

eg

with hortative adverb pewa from common adverb set

atubaafojejis pewa jane !
sub a obj fetch general hortative juniper berry
2nd pers nclass8 plural

“(you all) fetch the apples !”
“could you all fetch the apples.”
13) Imperative Mood continued

with hortative verb prefix wa- variant

\textit{watunifojejis jemo!}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{watu - ni - foje – jis jemo!} \\
  \text{hortative + obj fetch general spear}
\end{itemize}

"fetch the spear!"
"could you fetch the spear!"

Footnote: The same hortative construction with \textit{pewa/pew-} is used with the adverb \textit{atujimu} to form polite requests. Where the freestanding adverb \textit{pewa} is used it follows \textit{atujimu} following the verb.

\textbf{eg}

\textit{atufojejis atujimu pewa jane!}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{atu - a - foje – jis \textit{atujimu} pewa jane!} \\
  \text{sub obj fetch general polite request hortative apple}
\end{itemize}

"could you please fetch the juniper berries?"
14) Relative Clauses

Latropeth uses a pronoun anaphor strategy for relative clauses. The relative clause follows the main clause directly and incorporates a pronoun that makes an anaphoric reference back to the head noun in the main clause. In the relative clause the pronoun appears in the same position syntactically as the equivalent noun would in a standard clause. The pronouns employed in relative clauses come from a commonly used set of eight pronouns not yet introduced which are formed from the relevant noun class prefix + sawu. The pronoun used corresponds to the noun class of the head noun in the main clause;

**Pronouns used in relative clauses**

- **noun class 1** - dasawu
- **noun class 2** - tesawu
- **noun class 3** - pisawu
- **noun class 4** - lasawu
- **noun class 5** - nasawu
- **noun class 6** - jasawu
- **noun class 7** - fasawu
- **noun class 8** - asawu
- **noun class 9** - nisawu
- **noun class 10** - fosawu
14) Relative Clauses continued

Only subject and object positions can be relativised in Latropeth. Where English relativises non direct objects, obliques etc, Latropeth uses the flexible passive voice to derive a subject for these positions which can then be relativised.

eg

with subject relativised

amupiikijis maro, faatawujis fasawu sowalekam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>amu</th>
<th>fa</th>
<th>iki</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>maro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>obj</td>
<td>see</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>elder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>nclass7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fa</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>tawu</th>
<th>jis</th>
<th>fasawu</th>
<th>sowalekam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>obj</td>
<td>eat</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>pronoun</td>
<td>supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nclass7</td>
<td>nclass8</td>
<td></td>
<td>reference</td>
<td>to head noun</td>
<td>in main clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>nclass7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I see the elder who is eating supper”
14) Relative Clauses continued

with object relativised

*amuaikijis nijumawu, faatawujis maro asawu*

amuaikijis nijumawu, faatawujis maro asawu

“I see the soup which the elder is drinking”
14) Relative Clauses continued

with relativised subject derived from indirect object through passive

\[ \textit{pinaikijis tuji (kaja) nojem, natajumsujaemajis nasawu pewa niju emem nakum} \]

\[
\begin{array}{llllllll}
\text{Pi} & \text{na} & \text{iki} & \text{jis} & \text{tuji (kaja)} & \text{nojem,} \\
\text{sub} & \text{obj} & \text{see} & \text{general} & \text{woman} & \text{animal} \\
\text{nclass3} & \text{nclass5} & \\
\text{na} & \text{tajum} & \text{suja} & \text{ema} & \text{jis} & \text{nasawu} & \text{pewa} & \text{niju} \\
\text{sub} & \text{dynamic} & \text{give} & \text{passive} & \text{general} & \text{pronoun} & \text{direct object} & \text{water} \\
\text{nclass5} & \text{passive} & \text{of indirect} & \text{object} & \text{reference to} & \text{head noun in} & \text{to follow} & \text{main clause nclass5} \\
\text{emem nakum.} \\
\text{agent man} \\
\end{array}
\]

“the woman sees the deer to which the water is being given by the man”
14) Relative Clauses continued

with relativised subject derived from locative through passive

*amutenijojis punim nasu, natesuhanijokujis dasawu emem nojem*

```
amu – te - nijo – jis punim nasu ,
sub  obj  go general face river

na – te - suha - nijo - kuju - jis
sub  obj  stative go passive of general
nclass5 nclass2 passive oblique object (locative)

dasawu  emem  nojem
pronoun reference  agent  deer
```

“I go to the river which is gone to by the deer”
14) Relative Clauses continued

Sometimes for emphasis or clarification the head noun is explicitly repeated in the relative clause followed by the demonstrative determiner *vahes* “that” appearing at the end of the relative clause.

eg

*amuaikijis nijumawu, piatawujis nakum asawu nijusawu vahes.*

amu – a - iki – jis nijumawu,

sub obj see general soup

1st nclass8 pers sing

pi – a - tawu - jis nakum asawu nijusawu vahes.

sub obj eat general man pronoun soup that

nclass3 nclass8

“I see the soup which the man drinks”
(literally “I see the soup which the man drinks that soup”)
15) Causative Constructions

Causative constructions are formed by prefixing *fose* “make / do” onto the verb complex. The same structure is used as a permissive “let/allow”.

The following chart shows the relationship between how the subject in an intransitive, transitive or multitransitive clause changes syntactic position as a causee when causation is added to the proposition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non Causative: Intransitive / Transitive / Multitransative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causative:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15) Causative Constructions continued

eg

causee is intransitive subject in the non causative clause

*nasuhajis nojem* “the deer stands”

causee is direct object in equivalent causative clause

*pinafosesuhajis nakum (kaja) nojem*

pi – na - **fose** – **suha** - jis nakum (kaja) nojem

sub  obj  causative  stand  general  man  animal

“the man makes / lets the deer stand”
15) Causative Constructions continued

causee is transitive subject in **non causative** clause

*nadatawujis nojem niju* “the animal drinks the water”

causee is indirect object in **equivalent causative** clause

*pidafosetawunajis nakum niju ema nojem*

pi - da - **fose** - tawu - na - jis nakum niju ema **nojem**

sub nclass3 obj **causative** drink indirect obj nclass5 general man water indirect object deer

“This man makes / lets the animal drink the water”
15) Causative Constructions continued

causee was multitransitive subject in non causative clause

**piasujanajis balum tifa ema boje**

“the boy gives the squirrel pine nuts”

causee is oblique with *emem* in equivalent causative clause

**piafoosesujanajis nakum tifa ema boje emem balum**

pi – a - fose - suja – na - jis nakum

sub nclass3 obj nclass8 causative give indirect obj general man

**tifa ema boje emem balum**

pine nuts indirect squirrel agent boy

“the man makes / lets the boy give the squirrel an apple”
16) Temporal Orientation

Reference to time in Latropeth in terms of instance, duration and habitual occurrence traverses different parts of speech and different constructions. It also includes cultural divisions of time such as the 5 day week. The below terms and phrases can in most cases be used as adverbs or noun phrases.

**General**
sometimes – *bahokawu*
soon – *bahoiki*
always – *sawunijoba*
ever – *sawumawnijo*
generally/usually - *pasu*
today – *dasabahotayam*
tomorrow - *kinu*
the day after tomorrow – *kikinu*
in 3 days – *ema dasa ‘fampaja*
yesterday – *kunim*
day – *dasabaho*
night – *kuji*
the day before yesterday – *kukunim*
3 days ago – *tumi dasa ‘fampaja*
this morning – *kinu baho tajam*
16) Temporal Orientation continued

this evening/night – *kuji baho tajam*
tomorrow morning – *kinu emem kinu*
tommorow evening / night – *kinu emem kuji*
in 3 days in the morning – *ema dasa ‘fampaja emem kinu*
yesterday morning – *kunim emem kinu*
yesterday evening / night – *kunim emem kuji*
3 days ago in the evening/night – *tumi dasa ‘fampaja emem kuji*
sporadically/occasionally (every now and then) *kaja baho kaja baho*
every day – *kaja dasa kaja dasa*
every night – *kaja kuji kaja kuji*
now – *bahotajam*
before – *bahotumi*
afterwards - *bahobese*
meanwhile – *baho(nijo)duwe*
a long time ago – *tumijeva*
later - *bahobese*
in a while – *(ema) bahobese*
in a long while / time / much later – *(ema) bahobava*
(at) dawn – *bahokajakinu*
(at) dusk – *bahokajakuji*
daytime (general) – *bahodasa*
nighttime (general) – *bahokuji*
midday (roughly middle of the day) – *bahokijeluwa*
year – *qavi (fapaja)*
16) Temporal Orientation continued

latropeth Week -qavi fakawu (fapewi)
for a day – bahonijodasa
for a night -bahonijokuji
for a short time – bahonijokawu
for a long time – bahonijopaja
all day – bahonijodasa paju
all night – bahonijokuji paju
some of the day – bahonijodasa kawu
some of the night -bahonijokuji kawu
some of the time – bahonijo kawu
most of the time – bahoemem/ememkuma
once – bahoamkawu
twice – bahoamfoje
first (time) – bahoposaamkawu
second (time) – bahoposaamfoje
next time – posalekukuxa
last time (previous) -bahoposatumi
16) Temporal Orientation continued

eg

**amutenijo**is  bah**o  kuji  jahi**

amu – te – nijo - jis baho kuji jahi

Sub  Obj  go  general  at night  hut

1st  nclass2
Pers
Sing

“I walked to the hut at night ”

**kajafakusejo**jis  bah**o  kuji  ?**

kaja – fa – kusejo - jis baho kuji

Interrogative  Sub  close  general  night

nclass8

“is the night close? ”
16) Temporal Orientation continued

eg

**amutenijojis  kaja  dasa  kaja  dasa  jahi**

amu – te – nijo - jis  kaja dasa  kaja dasa  jahi
Sub  Obj  go  general  every  day  hut
1st  nclass2
Pers
Sing

“I walk to the hut every day ”

**pitenijojis  sawunijoba  kusu  vahes  jahi.**

pi – te – nijo - jis  sawunijoba  kusu  vahes  jahi
Sub  Obj  go  general  always  girl  that  hut
nclass3  nclass2

“that girl always goes to the hut ”
16) Temporal Orientation continued

Cultural

**Yulang week (5 day cycle)**
5 day cycle – qavikawu
month cycle – qavikula
year cycle - qavipaja
day 1 - *baho falutulom posaamkawu*
day 2 - *baho falutulom posaamfoje*
day 3 – *baho famifo*
day 4 - *baho famina*
day 5 - *baho fadipaja*
summer solstice – *baho pakubaje*
winter solstice – *baho fayitajumpasamjis Paku lukum*

eg

**amutenijojis baho falutulom posaamfoje jahi**
amu – te – nijo - jis baho falututom posaamfoje jahi
Sub Obj go general Hunt Day Two hut
1st nclass2
Pers Sing

“I walked to the hut on Hunt Day Two ”
16) *Temporal Orientation continued*

**Clausal**
(for details on temporal orientation between clauses see section on temporal clause relational adverbs above)

e.g.

temporal clause relational adverb

*pitenijojis  baho lekam punim nasu tuji, pitenijopasomjis  pipala*

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pi} & - \text{te} - \text{nijo} - \text{jis} & \text{baho lekam} & \text{punim} & \text{nasu} & \text{tuji} \\
\text{sub} & \quad \text{obj} & \quad \text{go} & \quad \text{general} & \quad \text{before} & \quad \text{front} & \quad \text{river} & \quad \text{woman} \\
\text{nclass3} & \quad \text{nclass2} \\
\text{pi} & - \text{te} - \text{nijopasom} - \text{jis} & \text{pipala} \\
\text{sub} & \quad \text{obj} & \quad \text{return} & \quad \text{general} & \quad \text{camp} \\
\text{nclass3} & \quad \text{nclass2}
\end{align*}
\]

“the woman went to the river before she returned to the camp”
17) Spatial/Directional Orientation

Simple spatial deixis can be conveyed with the demonstrative pronoun forms described on the section above on pronouns;

(bowa -) tajam / vahes / bese / bava / maju / lekam / jeva

eg

*naatawu* jis nojem vahes

na – a – tawu - jis nojem vahes
Sub Obj eat general deer that
Nclass5 nclass8

“that deer is eating ”

*nafojesuhajis* bowa tajam xaki

na – fojesuha – jis bowa tajam nojem
Sub is located general here frog
Nclass5

“the deer is here ”
17) *Spatial/Directional continued*

**Spatial/Directional orientation with reference to verbs of motion**

A prepositional object such as would be required with various English verbs of motion eg. *go to the shop* does not occur in Latropeth as verbs of motion are always transitive with the direct object conveying the destination of the movement.

The destination of movement is not always explicitly stated in an NP but the verb still takes the prefix *te* implying a direct object.

**eg**

*amutelalujis jahi*

amu – te – lalu - jis jahi

Sub 1st Pers
Obj nclass2 Sing
run general hut

“I ran to the hut”
17) *Spatial/Directional continued*

In contrast if an NP specifies location rather than destination of movement with respect to a verb of motion than it appears in a prepositional phrase with *emem / em’*. Yet the *te* direct object prefix still appears on the verb.

*eg*

*atutetumijis  emem  jahi*

atu  –  te  –  tumi  –  jis  emem  jahi

Sub  2nd  Obj  walk  general  in/on  the hut

“you are walking in (within the confines of) the hut ”
17) Spatial/Directional continued

Adverbial spatial references are often added to a clause involving a verb of motion. This includes references that specify whether movement is towards or away from the speaker as follows;

*bowa vahes nijo* + object (specifying destination)
conveys movement away from speaker

*bowa tajam nijo* + object (specifying destination)
conveys movement towards the speaker

The verb *nijo* for example can translate as “go” or “come” and in the examples below the adverbial information clarifies the orientation of the movement.

*eg*

*pitenijojis  bowa vahes nijo punim nasu balum*

\[
\text{pi} \quad \text{te} \quad \text{nijo} \quad \text{jis} \quad \text{bowa vahes nijo} \quad \text{punim} \quad \text{nasu} \quad \text{balum}
\]

Sub  Obj  go  general  movement away from speaker  front  river  boy

“the boy goes to the river ”
17) Spatial/Directional continued

cf.

**pitenijojis bowa tajam nijo punim nasu balum**

pi – te – nijo – jis  **bowa tajam nijo**  punim  nasu  balum
Sub  Obj  go  general  movement towards speaker  front  river  boy

nclass3  nclass2

“the boy comes to the river”