

Tshophu7u wè7nàdzedziła

Gizi jèdzu7u na77ajàbàzi ğu7ajàbàzi tsa pàtògù7u me7 łaġoguġà7àzèh pławòbòwo.
Zèmadzedzideji tshophu7i phà dzedzibàgowo jezi dzùnugijèbàgizi.

Gizi dzedzibàgizi: “Dzełaġoguġoku dzèseġi7ajedzizi. Dzełaġa7 zitsa phitàmazèzè7ajedzitsa.
Nà7àzèh ta jezi dzijijezine.”

7àzì7i jezi zijèbègizi, 7àzèh tsah khakhòbòwo: “Nałaġa7 zitsa phitatsa mazèzè7ajatsòpùġi?
Dzè7àzèh na jezi dzijizitshòpùġi? Mu7u! No7u 7iġo7u nolkuzi dzedziła7 dzedzilzizitshe jezi
tłuphegizitshei7ihmo7u! Tłuphiłzìzìne jezi7u 7i, ta jezi dzedzijèzìne.”

Tsophu7i gizi dzedzibàgizi: “To7u 7iġo7u nolkuzi dzedziła7 dzedzijìzìne jezi tłuphijèzìne7u!”

7àzì7i gizi dzedzibàgizi: “Zijejòwòni7ihma.”

Tsophu7i gizi dzedzibàgizi: “Dzelah na7àzèh tsa sa jezi7u 7i, dzedzijèzìno7u! Ta ġigizi
dzedzu7oguzitshe?”

7àzì7i gizi dzedzibàgizi: “Dzigizi dzedzu7ogujo7ùzìne!” Mu besògù7u me7 tsophu7u 7oġùbłùxah
besàbàgeta. Zedzotsu besàbàgeta, zuwo jèdzi7u dzipho7u phà 7òdzùnùbłùxah thòbùbàta.

(Guwe7i gizi dzedzibòwezi jezi dze7 tłuphèbòwezi) tsophu7i gizi dzedzibàgizi: “Dzizi
duġànòbukheġi?”

The story of the deer

A beautiful woman was going along a road above and beyond a river. Then a deceitful deer
decided to speak to her.

He said: “Listen! You are beautiful like a dance. Your eyes are like two small moons. I choose
you as a wife.”

She heard this and laughed: “Are my eyes like two small moons? Would you choose me as your
wife? Yes indeed! You can't say just three words that are part of my name. If you can, then I'll
decide to speak to you / to say X to you / say that (i.e. “yes”) to you.”

The deer said: “I / I'll say three words that are part of your name.”

She said: "I don't hear you."

The deer said: "If we are to be spouses, then I / I'll speak indeed. How will you answer?"

She said: "I / I'll answer thus." Then she completely cut the deer's belly with a knife. She cut quickly, then his body fell into the river water.

The deer (still being able to speak) said: "Does this situation make you happy?"

Grammar

The following was intended to be a short grammar, including only what the reader would need to read the relay text. Although it does include only that information relevant to the relay text, it's got a bit longer than I hoped: I apologise for this. In an attempt to keep the length of the grammar down, I haven't included any conjugation/declension tables or anything: all relevant affixes are simply listed in the lexicon. If you have any trouble with it (especially with morphophonology! Which I always find particularly opaque when working with an unfamiliar language) then please do email me and I'll give you a hand. While the grammar and lexicon here only include what you'll need for the text, the full grammar and lexicon are available online through the Akana site (or you can email me and I'll find and send you a more up-to-date copy).

Phonology

The consonant inventory of PCW is: /p p^h b t t^h d k k^h g ʔ ts ts^h dz ʈ s z x ɣ h m n ɲ w ʎ ʟ j/. These are written < p ph b t th d k kh g ʔ ts tsh dz ʈ s z x ɣ h m n ɲ w ʎ l ʟ j > . The vowel inventory of PCW is: /i e ø o u/. These are written < i e a o u > . Vowels are low tone or high tone; low tone vowels are marked with a grave.

Morphophonology

The vowel of a syllable undergoes i-affection if it comes through affixation to precede a /j/ or a syllable containing an /i/. The vowel of a syllable undergoes u-affection if it comes through affixation to precede a /w/ or a syllable containing an /u/. /u/ is not affected by i- or u-affection. These processes are not recursive, but can apply sequentially to the same vowel. They are also actually lexically triggered: a few morphemes have a phonological form that you'd expect to trigger these processes but don't.

	i-affected	u-affected
--	-------------------	-------------------

i	(i)	u
e	i	o
a	e	o
o	e	(o)

A high-tone vowel that comes through affixation to precede a nasal consonant becomes low-tone. A high-tone vowel that comes through affixation to precede a syllable containing a low-tone vowel becomes low tone.

A coronal consonant (or /ʎ/) which comes through affixation (or through u-affection of /ɐ/) to precede one of /o u/ is backed to become velar. Voicing and MoA are preserved with the exceptions of /dz ʎ/ which become /g x/. /ʎ/ becomes /ʎ/.

Nouns

Nouns are marked for case (absolutive, ergative, construct), number (singular, plural) and gender (animate, inanimate) using a synthetic suffix. These suffixes are listed in the lexicon. The absolutive and ergative cases behave as expected (one point worth noting is that *both* objects of a ditransitive verb take the absolutive case); the construct case marks possessive nouns and the objects of adpositions.

Nouns are inalienably possessed (marked i.p. in the lexicon) or alienably possessable (marked n. in the lexicon). The former group take grammatically required prefixes showing the gender (animate or inanimate), person (first, second or third) and number (singular or plural) of the possessor. *Possessive* (as opposed to possessed) nouns take the construct case and precede the possessed noun.

Nouns also take various other lexical prefixes with adjectival meanings. Numerals are nouns but can also appear preceding and modifying another noun, within the NP; in this case they agree with the head noun by taking a classifier suffix (see below) but do not take any gender/case/number marking.

Pronouns

Personal pronouns exist for first and second person referents, marking case, number and person; the relevant forms of these are listed in the lexicon. A distributive number exists for personal pronouns in addition to the singular and plural: this emphasises the distinctness or differentness of multiple referents.

Phoric-demonstrative pronouns are pronouns with a stem made up of one or both of a phoric

morpheme and a demonstrative morpheme, plus a classifier suffix and a case-number-gender suffix. The case-number-gender suffixes for these pronouns are the same as those found on full nouns. There are ten classifier suffixes (I-X); those which occur in the text are listed in the lexicon along with their meaning. These pronouns agree in number, gender and classifier with their antecedent.

Verbs

Verbs take required suffixes marking evidentiality (direct, visual sensory, non-visual sensory, inferred, assumed, reported/hearsay), agreement with the absolutive argument and agreement with the ergative argument for transitive verbs. Evidential suffixes are listed in the lexicon.

Agreement with first and second person arguments distinguishes case (absolutive, ergative) and person. Agreement with third person arguments distinguishes only classifier (and uses the same classifier suffixes as found on pronouns, as described above). Where two arguments are present, where both are third person, the ergative suffixes precedes the absolutive suffix; otherwise the absolutive suffix comes closer to the verb stem.

Verbs also take various other suffixes (miratives, discourse particles, etc. - some of these also occur as unbound morphemes) which typically occur finally, but can sometimes occur closer to the verb stem, directly following the evidential.

Adpositions

Most adpositions are postpositions – prepositions are marked as such in the lexicon. The noun objects of adpositions take construct case.

Main clauses

VPs are head-final and ergative arguments typically precede the VP, giving a word order of (E)AV. The DO of a ditransitive verb comes closer to the verb than the IO.

Non-verbal predicates

Adpositional predicates are formed by suffixing a verbalising suffix -7aja to the adposition.

Nominal predicates can be formed by juxtaposing two nouns marked for absolutive case. They can also be formed with the verbalising suffix mentioned above; this construction has the meaning “is like X” rather than “is X”.

Complement clauses

Complement clauses are formed as main clauses but are headed by an anaphoric pronoun taking the intangible classifier: *ja-zi-* (this pronoun follows the verb). Some verbs of thinking, doing, being able, speaking, etc. can take a complement clause as an object, in which case the anaphoric

pronoun takes the absolutive case; some adpositions (such as *7i*, 'if') can take a complement clause object, in which case the anaphoric pronoun takes the construct case.

Relative clauses

One of the arguments of a relative clause is a cataphoric pronoun (*gi-*) agreeing with the antecedant for classifier and number but marked for tense on the basis of its role within the relative clause. It is otherwise formed as a main clause. The relative clause then precedes the noun it modifies.

Coordination

Coordinating particles, in addition to some other sentential particles, are enclitic to the first element of the clause: most commonly to the absolutive NP or the ergative NP where one is present. The effect of this is that they follow the first phrase of the clause. Also relevant in this text is the coordinating conjunction *tša*, 'and', which can conjoin any two or more phrases of the same type; it follows the final item of the list to be coordinated.

Glossed version

A beautiful woman was going along a road above and beyond a river.

gizi jèdzu7u na77ajàbàzi ġu7ajàbàzi tša

gi + zi + Ø jèdzi + 7u na7 + 7aja + bà + zi ġu + 7aja + bà + zi tša

cataph + X + abs-sn-in river + con-sn-in above + verbaliser + hearsay + X

beyond + verbaliser + hearsay + X and

pàtògù7u me7 łağoguğà7àzèh pławòbòwo.

pàtògù + 7u me7 łağo-guğa + 7àzè + h pławo + bà + wo

road + con-sn-in along beautiful + woman + abs-sn-an walk + hearsay + IX

Then a deceitful deer decided to speak to her.

zèmadzedzidejitshophu7i phà dzedzìbàgowo jezi dzùnugijèbàgizi.

zèma-dzedzi-deji + tshophu + 7i phà dzedzi + bà + ge + wo ja + zi + Ø dzùnu-gije + bà + ge + zi

deceitful-person + deer + erg-sn-an then say + hearsay + erg-sn + IX ana + X + abs-sn-in

decide + hearsay + erg-sn + X

He said: "Listen! You are beautiful like a dance. Your eyes are like two small moons. I choose you as a wife."

gizi dzedzìbàgizi:

gi-zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:

cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn + X:

“dzełağogugòku dzèseği7ajedzizi.

dze + łağo-guğo-ku + Ø dzèsa-ği + 7aja + dzi + zi

2-sn-an + beauty + abs-sn-in dance + verbaliser + visual_sensory + X

dzełağa7 zitsa phitàmazèzè7ajedzitsa.

dze + łağa + 7 zi + tsa phita + mazèzè + 7aja + dzi + tsa

2-sn-an + eye + abs-pl-in two + VII small + moon + verbaliser + visual_sensory + VII

nà7àzèh ta jezi dzijjezine.”

na + 7àzè + h ta ja + zi + Ø dzije + ja + zi + ne

1-sn-an + wife + abs-sn-an 2-abs-sn ana + X + abs-sn-in want + direct + X + 1-erg

She heard this and laughed: “Are my eyes like two small moons? Would you choose me as your wife?”

7àzì7i jezi zijèbàgizi, 7àzèh tsah khakhòbòwo:

7àzè + 7i ja + zi + Ø zija + bà + ge + zi 7àzè + h tsah khakho + bà + wo

woman + erg-sn-an ana + X + abs-sn-in hear + hearsay + erg-sn + X woman + abs-sn-an and laugh + hearsay + IX

“nałağa7 zitsa phitamazèzè7ajatsòpùği?”

na + łağa + 7 zi + tsa phita + mazèzè + 7aja + tsa + pù + ği

1-sn-an + eye + abs-pl-in two + VII

small + moon + verbaliser + hearsay + VII + dubitative + interrogative

dzè7àzèh na jezi dzijizitshòpùği?

dze + 7àzè + h na ja + zi + Ø dzije + zi + tshe + pù + ği

2-sn-an + wife + abs-sn-an 1-abs-sn ana + X + abs-sn-in want + X + 2-sn-erg + dubitative + interrogative

Yes indeed! You can't say just three words that are part of my name. If you can, then I'll decide to speak to you / to say X to you.”

mu7u!

mu-7u

no7u 7ìjo7u nolkuzi dzedziła7 dzedziłzizitshe
no7u 7ìje + 7u nolku + zi dzedzi-ła + 7 dzedzi + łzi + zi + tshe
1-sn-con name + con-sn-in three + X word + abs-pl-in say + nonvisual_sensory + X + 2-sn-erg

jezi tɕuphegizitshei7ihmo7u!
ja + zi + Ø tɕuphe + ge + zi + tshe + 7ihma + 7u
ana + X + abs-sn-in be_able + assumed + X + 2-erg-sn + neg + surety

tɕuphiłzìzìne jezi7u 7i,
tɕuphe + łzi + zi + ne ja + zi + 7u 7i
be_able + nonvisual_sensory + X + 2-erg-sn ana + X + con if

ta jezi dzedzijèzìne.
ta ja + zi + Ø dzedzi + ja + zi + ne
2-abs-sn ana + X + abs-sn-in say + direct + X + 1-erg-sn

The deer said: “I / I'll say three words that are part of your name.”

tsophu7i gizi dzedzìbàgizi:
tsophu + 7i gi-zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:
deer + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn-an + X

“to7u 7ìjo7u nolkuzi dzedziła7 dzedzijèzìne
to7u 7ìje + 7u nolku + zi dzedzi-ła + 7 dzedzi + je + zi + ne
2-sn-con name + con-sn-in three + X word + abs-pl-in say + direct + X + 1-sn-erg

jezi tɕuphijèzìne7u!”
ja + zi + Ø tɕuphe + ja + zi + ne + 7u
ana + X + abs-sn-in be_able + direct + X + 1-erg-sn + surety

She said: “I don't hear you.”

7àzì7i gizi dzedzìbàgizi:
7àzè + 7i gi-zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:
woman + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn-an + X

“zijjòwòni7ihma.”
zija + ja + wo + ne + 7ihma

hear + direct + IX + 1-erg-sn + neg

The deer said: “If we are to be spouses, then I / I'll speak indeed. How will you answer?”

tsophu7i gizi dzedzibàgizi:

tsophu + 7i gi-zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:

deer + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn-an + X

“dzel'ah na7àzèh tsa sa jezi7u 7i,

dze + ɫa + h na + 7àzè + h tsa sa ja-zi-7u 7i

2-sn-an + husband + abs-sn-an 1-sn-an + wife + abs-sn-an and 1-abs-dist ana-X-con if

dzedzijèzino7u!

dzedzi + ja + zi + ne + 7u

speak + direct + X + 1-erg-sn + surety

ta ġigizi dzedzu7oguzitshe?”

ta ġi + gi + zi + Ø dzedzu-7ogu + zi + tshe

2-abs-sn interrogative + cata + X + abs-sn-in reply + X + 2-erg-sn

She said: “I / I'll answer thus.”

7àzì7i gizi dzedzibàgizi:

7àzè + 7i gi-zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:

woman + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn-an + X

“dzigizi dzedzu7ogujo7ùzine!”

dze + gi + zi + Ø dzedzu-7ogu + ja + 7u + zi + ne

this + cata + X + abs reply + direct + X + 1-erg-sn

Then she completely cut the deer's belly with a knife. She cut quickly, then his body fell into the river water.

mu besògù7u me7 tsophu7u 7oğùbfùxah besàbàgeta.

mu besògù + 7u me7 tsophu + 7u 7e + ġù-bfùxa + h besa + bà + ge + ta.

completely knife + con-sn-in using deer + con-sn-an 3-sn + belly + abs-sn-an

cut + hearsay + 3-erg-s + VI

zedzotsu besàbàgeta,

zedzotsu besa + bà + ge + ta
quickly cut + hearsay + 3-erg-sn + VI

zuwo jèdzi7u dzipho7u phà 7òdzùnùb'fùxah thòbùbàta.
zuwo jèdzi + 7u dziphe + 7u then 7e + dzùnù-b'fùxa + h thòbu + bà + ta
into river + con-sn-in water + cn-sn-an 3-sn + body + abs-sn-an fall + hearsay + VI

The deer (still being able to speak) said: “Does this situation cause you joy?”

(guwe7i gizi dzedzibòwezi jezi dze7 t'fuphèbòwezi) tsophu7i gizi dzedzìbàgizi:
(gi + wo + 7i gi + zi + Ø dzedzi + bà + wo + zi ja + zi + Ø dze7 t'fuphe + bà + wo + zi) tsophu + 7i gi-
zi-Ø dzedzi + bà + ge + zi:

(cata + IX + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in speak + hearsay + IX + X ana + X + abs-sn-in yet
be_able + hearsay + IX + X) deer + erg-sn-an cata + X + abs-sn-in say + hearsay + erg-sn-an + X

“dzizi duğà-nòbukheği?”

dze + zi + Ø duğà-nòbu + tshe + ġi
this + X + abs-sn-in like + 2-erg-sn + interrogative

Lexicon

Abbreviations

- adv. adverb
con. conjunction
dis. discourse particle
d.t. ditransitive verb
i.p.a. animate inalienably possessed noun
i.p.i. inanimate inalienably possessed noun
i.t. intransitive verb
m.t. monotransitive verb
n.a. animate alienably possessable noun
n.i. inanimate alienably possessable noun
p.p. adposition
pre. prefix
pro. pronoun
suf. suffix

Morpheme	Type	Gloss
----------	------	-------

-7	suf.	(plural absolutive case, inanimate)
-7aja	suf.	(verbaliser added to adpositions in adpositional predicate sentences; verbaliser added to nominals to form stative verbs meaning “is like X”)
-7i	suf.	(singular ergative case, animate)
-7ihma	suf.	(negative)
-7u	suf.	(singular construct case, animate or inanimate)
-7u	suf.	(verbal suffix indicating surety or emphasis)
-bà	suf.	(hearsay evidential)
-dzi	suf.	(visual sensory evidential)
-ge	suf.	(verb agreement with singular 3rd person animate ergative argument)
-ge	suf.	(assumed evidential)
-ǵi	suf.	(forms interrogatives)
-h	suf.	(singular absolutive case, animate)
-ja	suf.	(direct evidential)
-fzi	suf.	(non-visual sensory evidential)
-ne	suf.	(verb agreement with first person singular ergative argument)
-Ø	suf.	(singular absolutive case, inanimate)
-pù	suf.	(dubitative)
-ta	suf.	(noun classifier VI – non-human/non-speaking animates)
-tshe	suf.	(verb agreement with second person singular ergative argument)
-wo	suf.	(noun classifier IX – beings capable of speech)
-zi	suf.	(noun classifier X – unbounded planes and abstractions)
7àma	p.p.	with, using

7àzè-	n.a.	woman
7àzè-	i.p.a.	wife
7i	p.p.	if (takes subordinate clause headed by an anaphoric pronoun in the construct case as complement)
7ije-	n.i.	name
besa-	m.t.	cut
besògù-	n.i.	blade, sharp edge, knife
duğà-nòbu-	m.t.	like, be made happy by, be joyous at
dze-	pre.	(second person animate singular possessive)
dze-	pro.	this (visible, near the speaker)
dze7	dis.	however; still, yet
dzedzi-	d.t.	speak, say
dzedzi-ła-	n.i.	word, utterance
dzedzu-7ogu-	d.t.	reply
dzèse-ği-	n.i.	dance
dzije-	m.t.	want
dzùnù-bfùxa-	i.p.a.	body
dzùnu-gije-	m.t.	decide
gi-	pro.	(cataphoric pronoun)
ği-	pre.	(prefixed to a cataphoric pronoun forms wh-interrogatives)
ğu	p.p.	outside, beyond
ğù-bfùxa-	i.p.a.	belly; skin
ja-	pro.	(anaphoric pronoun)
jèdzi-	n.i.	river
khakho	i.t.	laugh
fa-	i.p.a.	husband
łağa-	i.p.	eye
łağo-guğa-	pre.	beautiful, pretty

łaǵo-guǵo-ku-	i.p.i.	beauty, prettiness, handsomeness
mazèzè-	n.i.	moon
me7	p.p.	by means of, along, using
mu	adv.	completely
mu-7u	interjection	yes indeed, quite
na	pro.	(first person singular absolutive pronoun)
na-	pre.	(first person singular possessive)
na7	p.p.	above
no7u	pro.	(first person singular construct case pronoun)
nolku	n.i.	three
pàtògù-	n.i.	road, path
phà	dis.	then, next, and
phita-	n.i.	small, weak
plawo-	v.i.	walk
sa	pro.	(first person distributive absolutive pronoun)
ta	pro.	(second person singular absolutive pronoun)
thòbu-	i.t.	fall
tłuphe-	m.t.	find, discover; be able (with complement clause)
tša	con.	and
tsah	dis.	and, also
tshophu-	n.a.	deer
wè7nà-dzedzi-ła-	n.i.	story, history
zedzotsu	adv.	quickly
zèma-dzedzi-	i.t.	deceive, lie, be deceitful
zèma-dzedzi-deji-	n.a.	liar, deceitful person
zi-	n.i.	two

zija-	m.t.	hear
zuwo	p.p.	into, through, into the middle of (note that unlike most adpositions, this is a preposition)