Arai's Orthography • **Sepinaj**
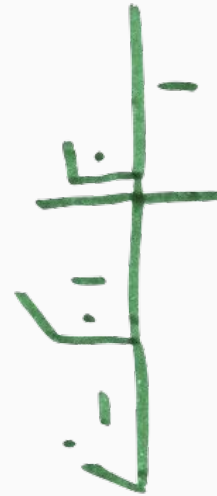
The Writing System of the Children of the Forest

The Children of the Forest:

- Are humanoid
- Are nature-loving
- Used to inhabit all of Westeros
- Wield obsidian weapons into battle
- Have some sort of magic
- Revere weirwoods and ravens as deities

Features of the Script

- No writing surface other than trees
- Written with obsidian shards
- Script is angular
- Written top-to-bottom
- Script is compact and has ligatures
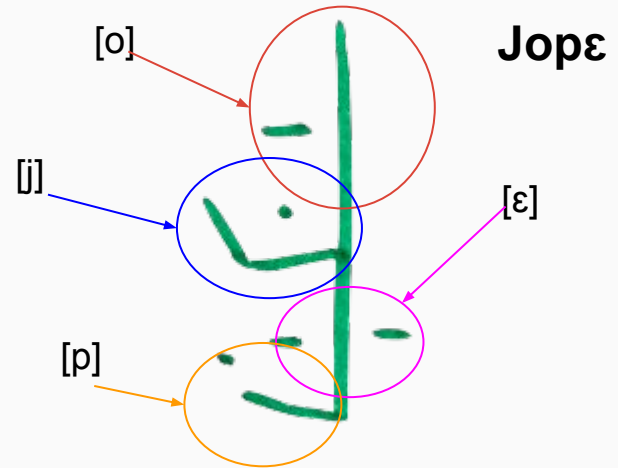- Reverse abugida

Reverse Abugida

Reverse abugida -- an abugida in which the vowel is the base instead of the consonant. Consonants are not thought of as the base of the word, and are added on as little tails in Arai's system.

How to build syllables

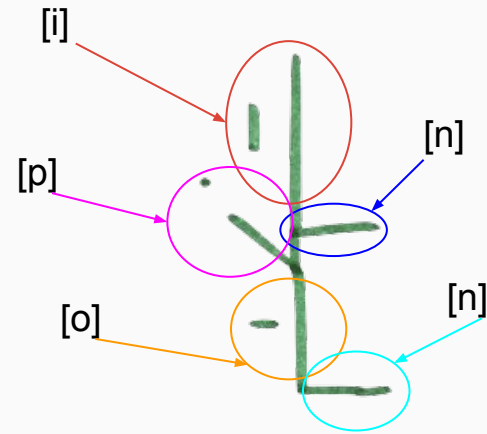Syllable -- written bottom-to-top,

Word -- written top-to-bottom

Arm.ABS

[o]

[j]

[p]

[ε]

Jopε

Spelling

Words change

Spelling - not so much

Last spelling reform - 10,000 years ago

Historical spelling

Nino *Raven.DAT*

[i]

[p]

[n]

[o]

[n]

The Vowels:
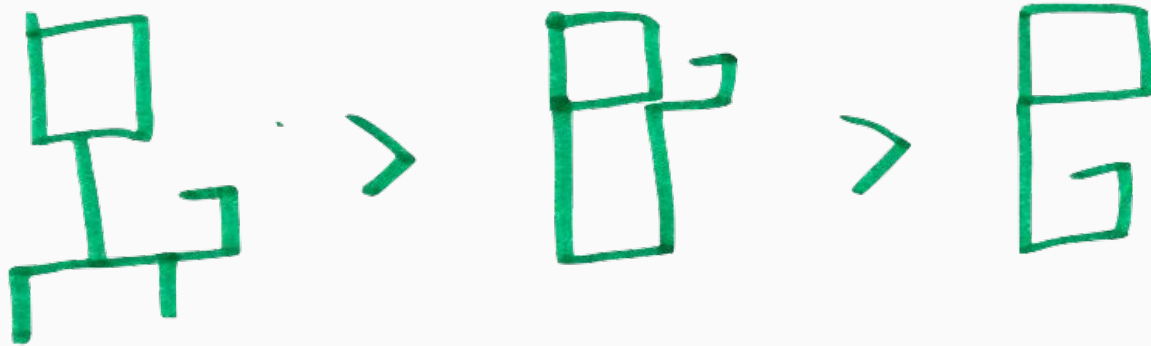

[a]   [i]   [e]   [o]   [u]   [ɛ]   [ɔ]

Ligatures

26 different ligatures, standing in for common pronouns, words such as yes/no, fire, water, and snow, and sacred words, such as weirwood.
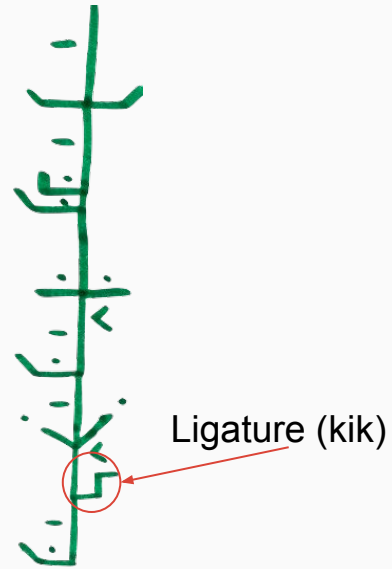

Evolution of the first person ligature

Example of a Ligature in a Phrase
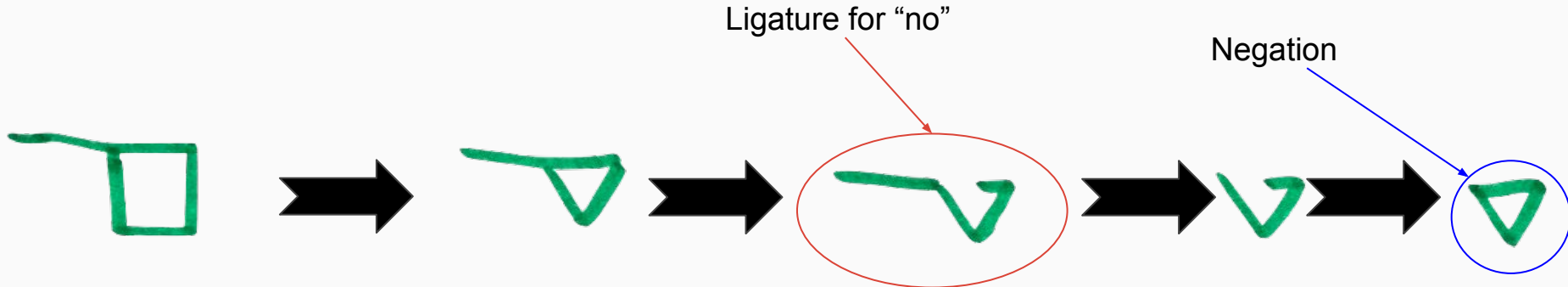
Soforaj okoj kikoj?

Remember.Q.2SG leg.ACC that.ACC

The determinative pronoun "that" is a ligature

Ligature (kik)

Negation

Negation comes from the ligature for no, which in turn came from a picture of an ax. It can be placed anywhere in a sentence.
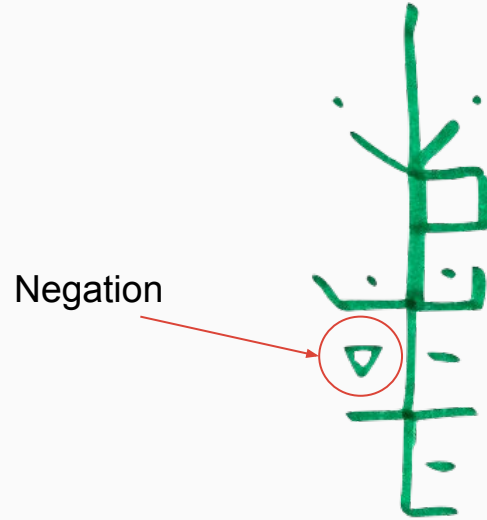
Ligature for "no"

Negation

Example of Negation in a Sentence

Written as **Kaug dɛn nuloj**
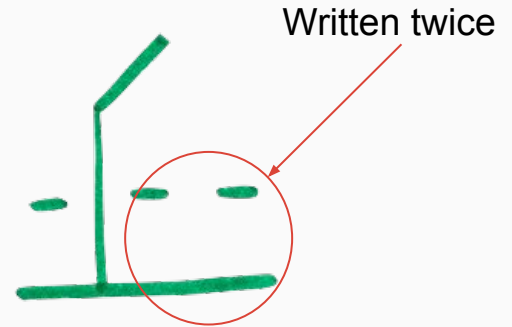
Read as **Kaʔu dɛ̃ nuloj**

Be.NEG 3SG mouse.ACC

Negation

Reduplication

Arai has reduplication as past tense.

The reduplication scheme came from

the shortening of the reduplicated syllable

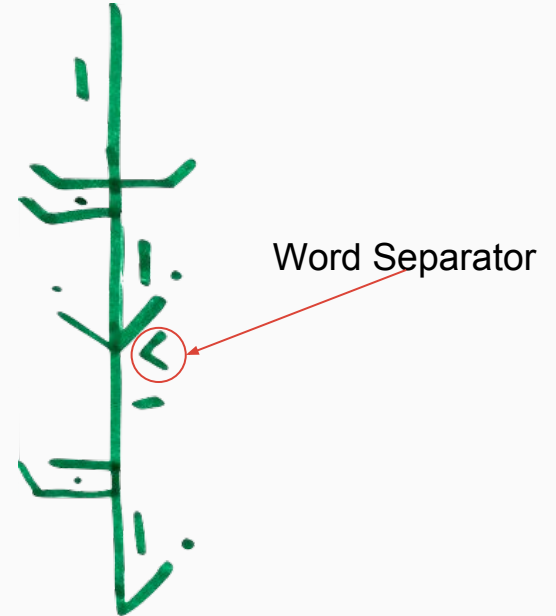and is written sideways or part of the

character is written twice.

Written twice

Lɛdɛ (flew)

Word Separation

The script tries to conserve space

Written as little sideways caron

Sɫgej mudej

Cave.GEN green.GEN

Word Separator

How the Script Evolved

- Carved script -- almost no change (historical spelling)
- Exceptions:
    - Ligatures simplified
    - Reduplication merged to base character
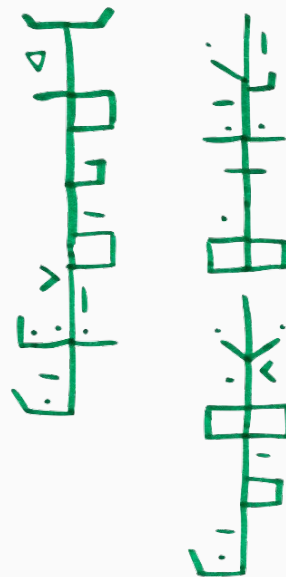
Example Text

Samugeʔaj vredoj. Poredʒnɛbɨ,

ka dɛbɨ naʔoj.

Like.NEG.1SG.INT fish.ACC

[Be alive].HYP(-and).3PL be 3PL good.ACC

I really do not like fish. However,

if they are alive, they are pretty good.

Questions?