

# Naath Language Overview

By Rachel Bahr

A black outline of a butterfly is centered on a solid pink background. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing a symmetrical shape with a scalloped outer edge. The word "Background" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the middle of the butterfly's body.

Background



ନବୀନ ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର ଯୁଗର



Naath is known to the ancients as “The Isle of the Butterflies” and its inhabitants are known as the “Peaceful People” because of their belief in extreme pacifism. They believe in one god called “The Lord of Harmony” and revere butterflies as his messengers who protect the island.

ନାଥ ଦ୍ଵୀପର ଲୋକମାନେ ପ୍ରକୃତି ସହିତ ଯେଉଁ ଧର୍ମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତି ତାହା ହେଉଛି ପ୍ରକୃତି ଧର୍ମ ।



# Phonology

# Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	(Pre)Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	p/b	t̪/d̪			k/g	
Fricatives	f/v	θ/ð	s/z			h
Nasals	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
Approximants		ɭ	ɾ/r	j	w	

**\*କମଳାକୃଷ୍ଣ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର କୁମାର ସିଂହଙ୍କ ମୃତ୍ୟୁର ପଛରେ ଥିବା ରାଜନୀତି**

# Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i, i:		u, u:
Close-mid			
Open-mid	ɛ, ɛ:		ɔ, ɔ:
Open		a, a:	

**\*କମଳାକୃଷ୍ଣ ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀଙ୍କ ଦେଶସେବା**

## Sound Changes

$$r > r / \_ \# , \# \_$$
 $r > r$ 

CC>C (same consonant)

VV>V: (same vowel)

p, t, k, s, f, θ > b, d, g, z, v, ð/[open]V\_[open-mid/close]V or /[open-mid]V\_[close]V

Ex:  $a\bar{t}\epsilon > a\bar{d}\epsilon$  but  $\epsilon\bar{t}a$  does not change

 $\varepsilon_i > e_i$  $i > I/N_*$ 

$\eta > a\eta/\#\_$

V: > V if not first long vowel

✱କମଳାକାନ୍ତକବି ଯକମଳାକାନ୍ତକବିଋଷଭୂଷଣଭୂଷଣ



# Stress

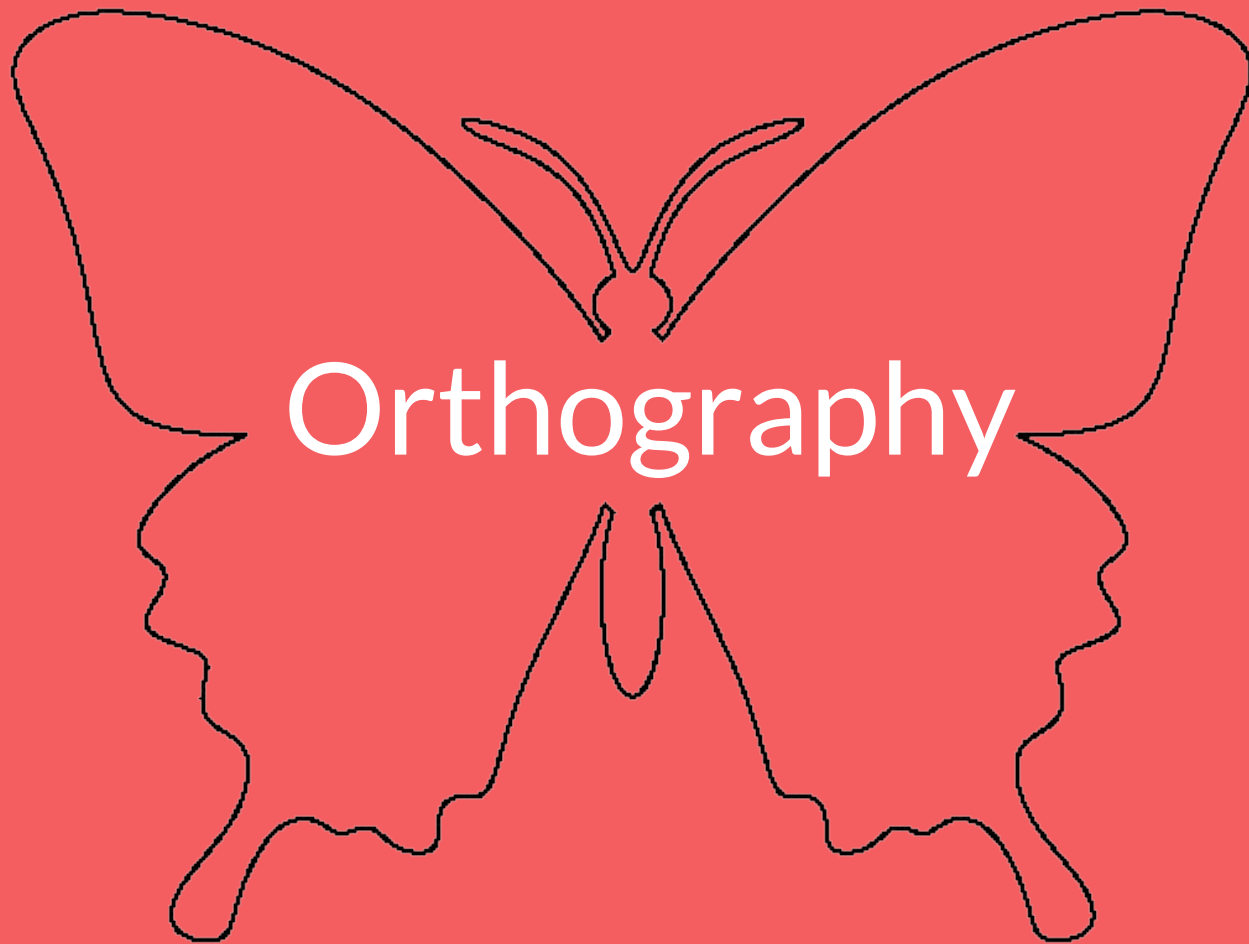
If a word contains a long vowel, that syllable is automatically stressed

Otherwise:

# C#=ultimate

V#=penultimate

[illegible]

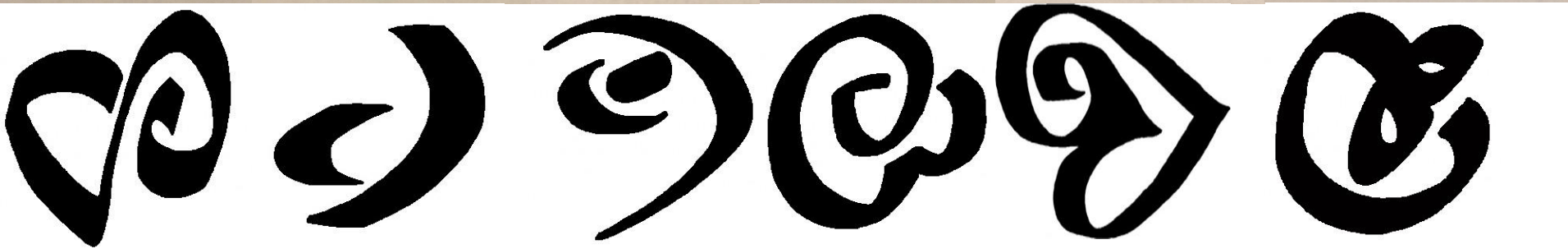


Orthography

# The glyphs

The environment of Naath is very well-suited for insect life and they are an important part of their culture, so their letters evolved from the different kinds of bugs (and some plants) around the island.

**✱କମଳାକୃଷ୍ଣ ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କବିଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଓକଲ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଏସ୍‌ଆର୍‌ଏସ୍‌**





/p/

/b/

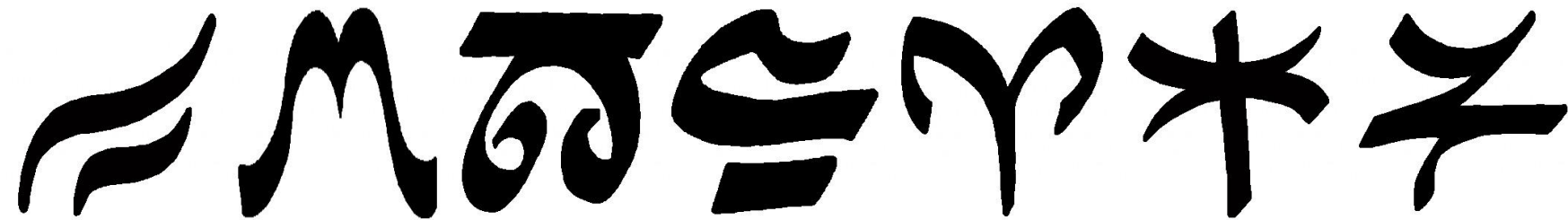
/t/, /d/

/k/, /g/

/f/, /v/

/θ/, /ð/

/s/, /z/



/h/

/m/

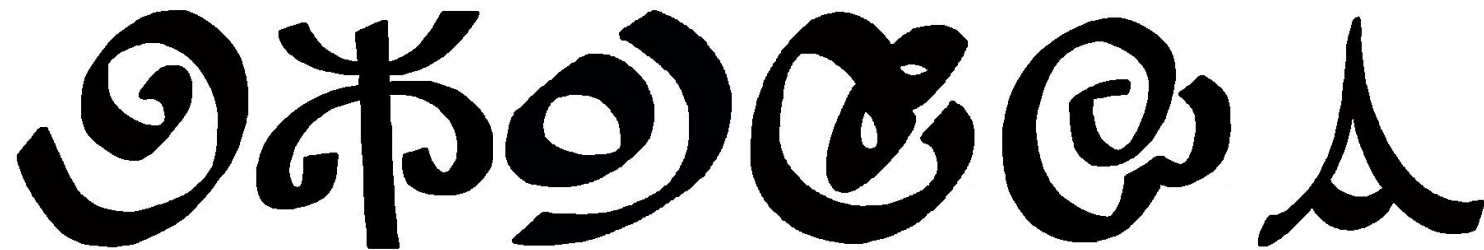
/n/

/ɲ/

/ŋ/

/l/

/ɾ/, /r/



/j/

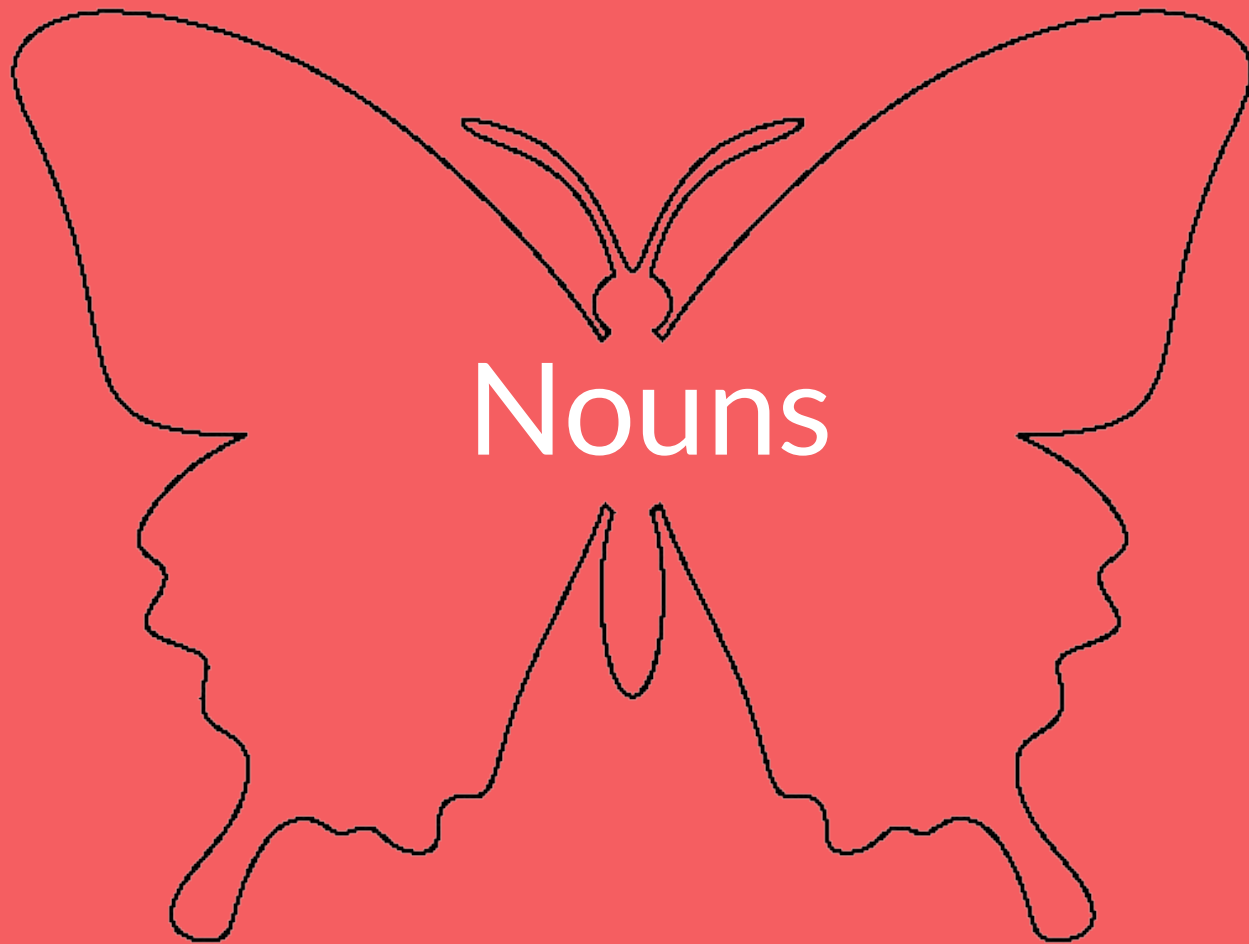
/i/

/u/, /w/

/ɛ/, /e/

/ɔ/

/a/



Nouns

## Number/gender

## Nominal Number: singular, dual, trial, and plural

Gender: animate/inanimate and masculine/feminine/neuter

-Inanimate nouns are automatically neuter

root+number+animacy+gender

**\*କମଳାକୃଷ୍ଣ ଯଶସୀନୀ କୁମାରୀଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗରେ**

# Suffixes

# Animate

# Inanimate

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Neuter
Singular	ɭɔp	ɭap	ɭpa	sɽpa
Dual	ɭɔɽ	ɭaɽ	ɭɽɛ	sɽɛ
Trial	ɭɔk	ɭak	ɭkɔ	sɽkɔ
Plural	ɭɔm	ɭam	ɭmɛ	sɽmɛ
No number	ɭɔ	ɭa	ɭɛ	sɽ

[illegible]





Verbs

# Copula

## Two different verbs for “to be”: su and iju

## Nominal Predicates use iju

Adjectival Predicates can use either *sum* or *iju*, depending on context. Things that are permanent use *iju*, and things that aren't permanent use *su*

## Locative Predicates use su

[illegible]

# Argument Agreement

1st person: naria (self) > narja > nj > nj > n

2nd person: tau (you) > t

3rd person: lua (other) > l

Plurals are marked by long vowels, and dual and trial are both realized as plural

Masculine: ɔɔ (man) > ɔ

Feminine: ama (woman) > a

Neuter usually takes a zero morpheme but a lot of the endings would be awkward without a vowel, so it takes the other low vowel, /ɛ/

# TAM

# TENSE

Present:  $m\epsilon r i \epsilon$  (now)  $> m\epsilon r > m\epsilon > m$

Past: t<sub>1</sub>ɔ (before) > t<sub>1</sub>ɔ > t<sub>1</sub>

Future:  $n\epsilon ni$  (after)  $> n\epsilon n\epsilon > n\epsilon$

## ASPECT: perfect/imperfect

MODALITY/AUGMENTS: indicative, subjunctive, imperative/obligative



Syntax

## Question words

The word for “what” is “ha” (like “huh?”) and the other words evolved from that.

“When” came from “what time” (ha+kɔwu>hakwu)

“where” “what place” (ha+t̪ɛku>hat̪ku)

“why” “what for” (ha+nεθa>hanθa)

“how” “what+make/do” (ha+muha>hamuh)

The stress is on the first syllable, /ha/, when the word is being used as a question word, and is on the ultimate syllable when it is not (for example “When is he coming?” versus “I’ll eat when I’m hungry.”) /ha/ can mean “what” or “that” and is pronounced the same.



## Sample sentences

Basic: **ᱫᱟᱜᱽᱨᱤ ᱦᱚᱱᱚᱛ ᱥᱤᱝᱵᱷᱩᱢ ᱠᱚ**  
ks.ki.'lɔt hɔ.hɔ.'sɔt ru.fu.'lɔ'

၁၀.ki.'l̥t̥bɔ.bɔ.'sɔt̥ru.fu.'l̥:

/bears-AN MASC DU cute-MASC DU sneeze-PRES 3PL/

S Adj V

“The cute bears (two, male) sneeze”

[illegible]

## Sample sentences

Y/N question: ስዊቱ ለጋራ ጉዞ ለሚሄድ ሰው

‘fə.lə tɔŋ.ʼɔstɔpa fɛŋ.u.ʼnɛ.du

ጋራ ጉዞ

/to market go-FUT2 MASC/

“Will you (male) go to the market?” (Literally “To the market will you (male) go?”)

ታላቁ ሰው ለጋራ ጉዞ ለሚሄድ ሰው ለሚሄድ ሰው



## Sample sentences

Negation: 

'han.θa ni bi.rim.'la:

/why no sleep-PRES 3PL FEM/

“Why don’t they (the girls) sleep?”

**✱କମଳାକୃଷ୍ଣ ଚକ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କବିଚନ୍ଦ୍ରୋଦୟନାଥଶରମ**

A black outline of a butterfly is centered on a solid pink background. The butterfly's wings are spread wide, with a simple, elegant line drawing style. The forewings are at the top, and the hindwings are at the bottom, both featuring a slightly wavy, scalloped edge. The body is a simple vertical line with two small antennae at the top.

Questions?