

True Tongue



Morphosyntax
Fatima Cacho

Children of the Forest

- **non-human race**
 - The giants called them *woh dak nag gram* (little squirrel people)
 - large ears, large gold and green eyes slitted like a cat
- **ability to cast spells**
- **deep connection to the land**
 - They call themselves *those who sing the song of earth*
- **believed to be able to communicate with ravens**

Gender System

- **TON - Things Of Nature**

- [ʃitsil] - *bird*

- To further support the idea that the Children can communicate with ravens, the marker for things of nature stems from the word meaning bird...hmm...coincidence?

- [ʃitsimɔtɛ] - *fish*

- [ʃitsimona] - *air*

- **TFN - Things From Nature**

- [ket^hil] - *person/individual*

- The Children are not human, but when they came in contact with humans they needed words in order to describe them

- [ket^hitʃumɛ] - *woman*

- [ket^hip^hiŋa] - *table*

Word Order

SOV

Subject-Object-Verb

Intransitive Sentences

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fa tfok^{hu}

I sleep

* * * * *

fa	tfok ^{hu}
1sg.(NOM)	sleep

Intransitive Sentences

ket^hise jufua tamone but^hi

The tall man fell quickly

* * * * *

ket ^h ise	jufua	ta.mone	but ^h i
man.(NOM)	tall	PST.fall	quickly

Intransitive Sentences

ket^hiset^hosa ſitsinεnεma namip^hu

The man's cows will sneeze

* * * * *

ket ^h ise.t ^h osa	ſitsinεnεma	na.mip ^h u
man.GEN	cows.(NOM)	FUT.sneeze

Transitive Sentences

Transitive Sentences

to fitsinεmaba nametsu

You will see the cow.

* * * * *

to
you.(NOM)

fitsinεma.ba
cow.ACC

na.metsu
FUT.see

Transitive Sentences

ʃitsinɛnɛma fafaBa tʰɔme

The cows love us

* * * * *

ʃitsinɛnɛma
cows.(NOM)

fafa.Ba
1pl.ACC

tʰɔme
love.(PRS)

Transitive Sentences

ket^hiset^hosa jitsinεma fafaBa tafot^ho but^hi

The man's cow quickly grabbed us.

* * * * *

ket^hise.t^hosa
man.GEN

jitsinεma
cow.(NOM)

fafa.Ba
1pl.ACC

ta.fot^ho
PST.grab

but^hi
quickly

Valency Changing

Passive

Active

ʃitsinɛma ʃitsisaba tamɛk^he

The cow broke the twig

ʃitsinɛma

ʃitsisa.ba

ta.mɛk^he

cow.(NOM)

twig.ACC

PST.break

* * * * *

Passive

ʃitsisa ʃitsinɛmat^hosa me tamɛk^he

The twig was broken by the cow

ʃitsisa

ʃitsisnɛma.t^hosa

me

ta.mɛk^he

twig.(NOM)

cow.GEN

is

PST.break

Causative

fa ket^hiseβa tʃope ʃitsimɔteβa tapefu

I made the man eat the fish.

* * * * *

fa
1sg.(NOM)

ket^hise.βa
man.ACC

tʃope
eat

ʃitsimɔte.βa
fish.ACC

ta.pefu
PST.make

Questions

Polar Question

Statement

k^hetipi fɪtsimɔtɛvɑ tɑtʃopɛ

He/she/it ate the fish

k^hetipi
3sg.(NOM)

fɪtsimɔtɛ.vɑ
fish.ACC

tɑ.tʃopɛ?
PST.eat

* * * * *

Polar Question

na k^hetipi fɪtsimɔtɛvɑ tʃopɛ?

Did he/she/it eat the fish?

na
Y/N

k^hetipi
3sg.(NOM)

fɪtsimɔtɛ.vɑ
fish.ACC

tɑ.tʃopɛ
PST.eat

* [nal] → [na]
Yes → Y/N

WH-Questions: Subject

ni pa.moŋε but^{hi}?

What fell quickly?

* * * * *

ni
what

pa.moŋε
PST.fall

but^{hi}
quickly

*[nih] → [ni]

WH-Questions: Object

niba to pametsu?

What did you see?

* * * * *

ni.ba	to	pa.metsu
what.ACC	you	PST.see

Relative Clauses

Relative Clauses: Subject

ket^hise ni pamone fitsimote.ba patjope

The man who fell ate the fish

* * * * *

ket ^h ise	ni	pa.mone	fitsimote.ba	pa.tjope
man.(NOM)	what	PST.fell	fish.ACC	PST.eat

Relative Clauses: Object

ket^hise ſitsmɔteβa ni patʃe pamoŋe

The man ate the fish that is red

* * * * *

ket ^h ise	ſitsmɔte.βa	ni	patʃe	pa.moŋe
man.(NOM)	fish.ACC	what	red	PST.eat

Negation

Negation

Positive

fa ʃitsimɔtɛβa patʃopɛ

I ate the fish

fa
1sg.(NOM)

ʃitsimɔtɛ.βa
fish.ACC

pa.tʃopɛ
PST.eat

* * * * *

Negative

fa ʃitsimɔtɛβa patʃopɛ p^{hi}

I didn't eat the fish

fa
1sg.(NOM)

ʃitsimɔtɛ.βa
fish.ACC

pa.tʃopɛ p^{hi}
PST.eat NEG

* [p^{hi}l] → [p^{hi}]
to lack → NEG

time!