NOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

- NAATH -

Sample Nouns (all nouns are V-final)

- Person (gender neutral) = nɛ.vɛ

- Dragon = d̥ra.ka:.ni

- Butterfly = na:.wi

- Rock = ki.ga:.nɛ

- Ship = pu.ba:.na

- Water = li.ka

- Sun = θɛ.si

Basics

- Nominal number = singular and plural (no distinction between 2, 3, etc)

  - Reduplication

- Nominal gender = water (/a/) , earth (/ɛ/ and /ɔ/), and sky (/i/ and /u/)

  - Vowel height

- Nominal case = Nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, instrumental

  - Doesn't interact with number or gender

Nominal Number

singular	d̥ra.ka:.ni	θa.ri.jɛ.su
two Ns	d̥ra.ka:.ni.ni	θa.ri.jɛ.su.su
three Ns	d̥ra.ka:.ni.ni	θa.ri.jɛ.su.su
plural Ns	d̥ra.ka:.ni.ni	θa.ri.jɛ.su.su

Nominal Case

- Nominative comes from word base

- Accusative case marker = /-ʒi/

    - From "to give" [aː.ʒib]

- Genitive case marker = /-t̪ɔ/

    - From "hand" [mɛː.t̪ɔ]

- Dative case marker = /-ʒa/

    - From "to fall" [aː.ʒak]

- Instrumental case marker = /-hu/

    - From "thing" [hu.ma]

Case Examples

- Accusative

    - d̪ɹa.ka:.ni+a:.ʒib → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.ʒib → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.ʒi

- Genitive

    - d̪ɹa.ka:.ni+mɛ:.t̪ɔ → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.mɛ.t̪ɔ → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.mt̪ɔ → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.t̪t̪ɔ → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.t̪ɔ

- Dative

    - d̪ɹa.ka:.ni+a:.ʒak → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.ʒak → d̪ɹa.ka:.nɛ.ʒa

- Instrumental

    - d̪ɹa.ka:.ni+hu.ma → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.hu.m → d̪ɹa.ka:.ni.hu

Nominal Gender

- Etymologies of the genders comes from the lexical sources and the vowels they end in, but uses the final vowel height of those words.

    - Water in Naathi ends in /a/ from [li.ka]

    - Earth ends in /ɛ/ from [tʃa.ga.ɾɛ]

    - Sky ends in /u/ from [hu.vɛ.nu].

    - This parallels their height in nature! Water (the ocean) is the lowest, earth (land) is in the middle, and the highest in nature is the sky!

Gender Examples

- Water:
    - Ocean = li.wɛ:.ʈa̱
    - Ship = pu.ba:.na
    - Fish = hɛ.fa

- Earth:
    - Rock = ki.ga:.nɛ
    - Dog = ba.ʃu.nɛ
    - Rat = gu:.ŋɔ

- Sky:
    - Sun = θɛ.si
    - Dragon = d̪ra.ka:.ni
    - Cocoon = na:.wɛ.dʒu

Modifiers (N–MOD)

- Demonstrative modifiers:
    - That = ka.lV (V matches the gender of the noun it refers to and is [+back] if it applies)
        - So "that dragon" = d̪ɾa.ka:.ni ka.'lu
        - Versus "that dog" = ba.ʃu.nɛ ka.'lɔ
        - Versus "that fish" = hɛ.fa ka.'la
    - This = ka.lV (V matches the gender of the noun it refers to and is [+front] if it applies)
        - So "this dragon" = d̪ɾa.ka:.ni 'ka.li
        - Versus "this dog" = ba.ʃu.nɛ 'ka.lɛ
        - Versus "this fish" = hɛ.fa 'ka.la (stress is key here since there's no front or back low Vs)
- Adjectival modifiers: (adjectives end in fricatives)
    - Blue = li.t̪a.iθ
    - Big = pa.bɔʃ
    - Small = pa.bis
    - Happy = na:.rmeʒ