

Plain text

Melù jè tav, rakra jè walkairù yamme jè mu neemsàme jè cir yàm e.
Ba, àle va jomkù jè tamzùl e jè guào e.
Ctùlu va àle jè to rùg e jè ui “L’onhosàr, elà ènokim va tèler emsà jè bu iwrìm e jè na ào e w’e” si vav e.
Ctùlu seu jè “L’yancù jè viv ilal e” si vav e.
Rakra jè te va ctulwè jè vav e iwrìm bahà e.
“Wanui” si rakra jè kiu ctùlu jè vav e. “Sehò na puyà u?”
Ctùlu jè ui rakra-we jè vav e. “Leho tèler emsà jè puyà e.”
“Mm” si rakra jè kiu alpàd e. “L’tèler jè sa anlilan te yam e”. Ni parà e.
Puyo jè ecà parawrim e.
“Ju” si rakra jè kiu vav e. “L’tèler jè sa yam e. Sihà oyo jè ba guaora e mu.”
Ctùlu jè ui “Aa, va siharà jè vil e tao...” si vav e.
Seurù jè hazav e: “L’oère ao idà e”
Walkairù yamme jè parawrim zuliz mu e:
“L’tèler jè ka ào e. Tèler jè to nejbème hua jè guaora e.”
Ctùlu jè ui walkairù-we yam-me jè “Se la iltri malan nà jè mìl kurà u?” si vav e.
Walkairù yamme jè vav e: “Se va tao juyà u?”
“Paa” si rakra jè kiu vav e.
“Se va kalpèwe la jè iwrìm e tao iltri malan jè laòn co e.”
Può ni parà e.

Text with marked morpheme boundaries

Mel-ù jè tav, rakra jè walkairù yam-me jè mu ne-emsà-me jè cir yàm e.
Ba, àle va jomkù jè tamzùl e jè guào e.
Ctùlu va àle jè to rùg e jè ui “L’onhosàr, elà ènokim va tèler emsà jè bu iwrìm e jè na ào e w’e” si vav e.
Ctùlu seu jè “L’yanc-ù jè viv ilal e” si vav e.
Rakra jè te va ctul-wè jè vav e iwrìm bahà e.
“Wanui” si rakra jè kiu ctùlu jè vav e. “Sehò na puyà u?”
Ctùlu jè ui rakra-we jè vav e. “Leho tèler emsà jè puyà e.”
“Mm” si rakra jè kiu alpàd e. “L’tèler jè sa anlilan te yam e” Ni parà e.
Puyo jè ecà parawrim e.
“Ju” si rakra jè kiu vav e. “L’tèler jè sa yam e. Sihà oyo jè ba guaora e mu.”
Ctùlu jè ui “Aa, va siha-rà jè vil e tao...” si vav e.
Seu-rù jè hazav e: “L’oère ao idà e”
Walkairù yam-me jè parawrim zuliz mu e:
“L’tèler jè ka ào e. Tèler jè to ne-jbè-me hua jè guaora e.”
Ctùlu jè ui walkairù-we yam-me jè “Se la iltri malan nà jè mìl kurà u?” si vav e.
Walkairù yam-me jè vav e: “Se va tao juyà u?”
“Paa” si rakra jè kiu vav e.

“Se va kalpè-we la jë iwrim e tao iltri malan jë laòn co e.”

Può ni parà e.

Grammar notes

Nalnuàntir’s grammar is based on a LIFO-stack. The first word that is uttered is the last one that gets parsed, whereas the last word uttered is the first word parsed. As a result of this, this language uses postpositions and is verb-final. The language is strongly isolating but has several derivational affixes and some quasi-case endings.

For an example of how LIFO-stacks work: The sentence "The man throws the red ball" would look like this on a stack:

man	the	ball	red	the	throw
					throw
		ball	ball red	ball red the	ball red the
man	man the	man the	man the	man the	man the

Items on the stack can be swapped, duplicated etc.

Tense is optional. since this story takes place in the past, the past tense is not marked explicitly in the verbs. Every verb in this text is in past tense.

Articles and Quantifiers:

There is only one article, and it is completely generic. It is vague about specificity and number. If a number is used with a noun, its meaning depends on where that number is placed:

kem jë = a person, the person, persons

kem ui jë = one person

kem jë ui = one of the persons

(“kem” means “person”, “ui” means “one”, “jë” is the generic article)

As can be seen, number is left to context when no quantifier is present.

Verbs and thematic roles

Verbs in this language are predicates whose (at most three) arguments are defined by their thematic roles. There are three thematic roles observable in Nalnuàntir:

1. Agent (A): The doer of an action
2. Patient (P): the victim, the thing directly affected by an action, also experiencer role
3. Focus (F): beneficiary, theme, goal, direction

The verb "to give", for instance, is defined as «A gives P to F».

In the glossary, arity of predicates is indicated as v/n, where n is the number of arguments the verb can take.

The thematic roles can be marked on nouns, but only must be marked when the arguments appear in a different order or when some arguments are omitted.

A never gets marked, P gets a **-ra** ending, and F gets a **-we** ending.

Derivational affixes

-me turns words into adjectives

-u, -ru (after vowels) turns words into nouns

-n, -an (after vowels): turns verb into argumentless noun, sometimes similar to an infinitive or gerund

Adjectives and adverbs

Adjectives go between noun and article. In fact, everything that comes between a noun and its article is understood to specify that noun in some way. The same is true for everything that comes between a verb and the sentence ender **e**.

Adjectives can be put after verbs to function as adverbs.

Actual adverbs are often placed after the first argument has been uttered, but despite that, they modify the entire sentence.

Relative clauses

Relative clauses work in a way similar to adjectives. They are attributes that come after the noun they specify (but before the article). Every relative clause must have an empty slot. The empty slot is then understood to be the same as the head of the relative clause.

Postpositions

Postpositions always take exactly one item. This item can be a noun or a sentence. It is also possible for a postposition to take an “empty” argument when that argument is a sentence: **va <postposition>**. The sentence itself has been omitted, and the only way to know that it is indeed a sentence is the **va**, which marks the beginning of a sentence, while the postposition immediately closes it again. The semantics of such a construction is context-dependent, but the omitted sentence is usually understood to be one that was recently uttered, usually the previous one.

One last note:

The grave accents in the text are just stress markings that can be ignored. The glossary lists the words without the accents.

The one letter in light blue should be ignored. It's just an epenthetic consonant and has no impact whatsoever.

Glossary

Nalnuàntir	English	Notes
aa		interjection: here: feelings of longing and melancholy
ale	path	n
alpad	A answers with text F	v/2
anlil	A explores, looks around in place F	v/2
ao	P is F	copula, v/2
ba	there, in that place	adverb
ba		
baha	close, near	adj
bu	from	postposition
cir	across, over	postposition
co	certainly, for sure, indeed	added to verb to express certainty
ctulu	worm	n
e	end sentence	takes sentence and turns it into a single item on the stack
eca	after	postposition
ela	thing	n
emsa	mountain	n
enokim	mysterious	adj
gua	F exists	v/1
guaora	F seems to be there	v/1
hazav	A sighs	v/1
hua	many	adj
ida	could	potential
ilal	never	adverb
iltri	plateau, plane	n
iwrim	A comes to F	v/2
jbe	tree	n
jë	a, the	generic article
jomku	stone	n
ju	good	adjective
juya	P is happy	v/1
ka	at	postposition
kalpe	wing	n
kiu		swaps last two items on the stack
kura	can	marks ability on the verb
la, l'	I, me	1ps pronoun, unmarked
laon	A reaches F	v/2
leho	we	pronoun
malan	high	adj
mel	long	adj
mil	A carries/brings P to F	v/3
mm		interjection signaling understanding
mu	and	joins the last two items on the stack of the same type
na	what	pronoun, unmarked
ne ___ me	a group of ___, a bunch of ____	circumfix
ni	so, thus, like that	adverb

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oere	unhappy	adj
onhosar	A asks himself/herself F	v/2
oyo	broad, wide	adj
paa		interjection: Bah!
para	A goes to F, A leaves to F	v/2
parawrim	A returns to F	v/2
puo	they	pronoun
puya	A (group) discuss/talk about topic F	v/2
puyo	time	n
rakra	raven	n
rug	A lives at F	v/2
sa	to	postposition
se	you (sg)	pronoun
seho	you (pl)	pronoun
seu	different, other, another	adj
si		marks end of a quote, end of speech
siha	river	n
tamzul	P is made of F	v/2
tao	under circumstances/conditions, if	postposition
tav	before, ago	postposition
te	to, for, for purpose, in order to	postposition
teler	peak, summit	n
to	near	postposition
u		ends sentence and turns it into a question
ui	one	number, quantifier
va		delimits sentences, marks beginning of a sentence. often elidable
vav	A says to F text P	v/3
vil	A sees F	v/2
viv	A sees F	v/2
walkairu	mole	n
wanui	hello	standard greeting
yam	A flies in medium P	v/2
yanc	similar, alike	adj
zuliz	A shouts	v/1