

# States and Scales in Talmit

## 4th Language Creation Conference

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# general overview

parts of speech in Talmit:

- ▶ *nouns*
- ▶ *states* {
  - one-sided continuous scale
  - doublets
  - two-sided continuous scale
- ▶ *verbs* {
  - events
  - actions

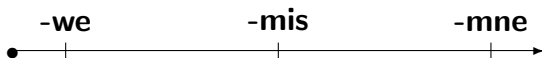
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→ states include: emotion, colour, shape and form, spatial position, possession, ongoing action, inaction, ...

# one-sided continuous scale



→ Grammaticalized quantification instead of metaphors like 'high numbers', 'big trouble', 'strong wind':

- ▶ **-mne**: high value/intensity
- ▶ **-we**: low value/intensity
- ▶ **-mis**: sufficient value/intensity

# one-sided continuous scale

For example, **tra** 'size, volume', **twi** 'degree of speed':

- ▶ **trámne** 'large', **twímne** 'fast'
- ▶ **tráwe** 'small', **twíwe** 'slow'
- ▶ **trámis** 'sufficiently large', **twímis** 'sufficiently fast'

# one-sided continuous scale

Emphasis by reduplicating the suffix as a prefix:

- ▶ **mnetrámne** 'very large', **mnetwímne** 'very fast'
- ▶ **wetráwe** 'very small', **wetwíwe** 'very slow'
- ▶ **mistrámis** 'sufficiently large, by all means', **mistwímis** 'sufficiently fast, by all means'

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Addition of **-t** to **-mne**, **-we** adds the notion of an extreme value:

- ▶ **trámnet** 'largest', **twímnet** 'fastest'
- ▶ **tráwet** 'smallest', **twíwet** 'slowest'

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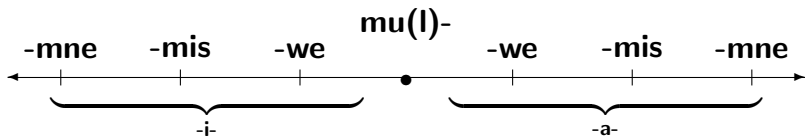


For example, **hal** 'state of being alive/dead', **dlon** 'state of being awake/asleep':

- ▶ **aχál** 'alive', **dalón** 'awake'
- ▶ **iχál** 'dead', **dilón** 'asleep'

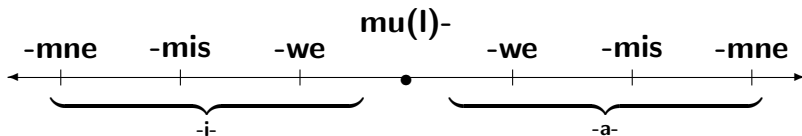
## two-sided continuous scale

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For example, **prus** 'vertical position':

- ▶ **parús** 'position above', **pirús** 'position above'
- ▶ **parúsne** 'high above', **pirúsne** 'deep below'
- ▶ **parúswe** 'slightly above', **pirúswe** 'slightly below'
- ▶ **mulprus** 'on the ground'

## mass nouns

Mass nouns are measured like states, e.g. **pjal** 'water':

- ▶ **pjálne** 'much water'
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The natural scale does not need to be volume, e.g. **pláxe**:

- ▶ **pláxa** 'warm water'
- ▶ **pláxu** 'cold water'

# body parts

Left-right and up-down are the natural scales for dual body parts, e.g. **króze** 'wing', **péple** 'lip':

- ▶ **karóze** 'right wing', **kiróze** 'left wing'
- ▶ **pépla** 'upper lip', **pépli** 'lower lip'

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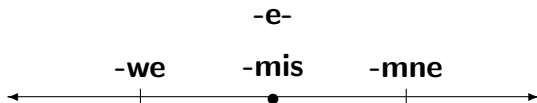
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Superposition of the vowels yields a dvandva compound:

- ▶ **pairús** 'both above and below', **aiχál** 'both dead and alive'
- ▶ **kairóze** 'both wings', **péplai** 'both lips' (dual)

# relative scale

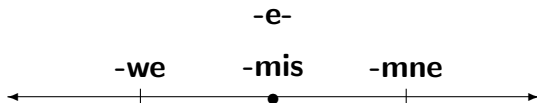
Relative scale by using **-e-** instead of **-a-** or **-i-**:





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For example:

- ▶ **perúsne** 'higher than'
- ▶ **perúsmis** 'on the same level as'
- ▶ **perúswe** 'lower than'

## glimpse of grammar

The postposition **nójo** indicates being in a state (compare English 'be in fear', 'be in jeopardy' etc.):

- ▶ **aχál-nójo** 'in a state of being alive'
- ▶ **hékar-nójo** 'in the capacity of a writer'

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The postposition **mére** indicates changing into a state. Using a destative verb instead of **mére** indicates a volitional, controlled action:

- ▶ state: **pirús-mére**  $\approx$  'fall'
- ▶ verb: **spirússun**  $\approx$  'descend'

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**Dirókwet-blettepáu-mére** '[It] will [change] into a future state of pain [which is] irreversible for an extremely short time'

= 'It's going to hurt just a little bit'

**Adérnet**  
The End