An Outline of the Grammar of Yešqūr

Based on ***Fasåltira Xafiår Ifyešquåraq***, (or, *The Warped Mirror of Yešqūr*)

"Guaranteed to be exactly wrong"

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EARLY DRAFT!

- This is intended as a background sketch for a constructed language, designed as an illustration of a linguistic hypothetical. It's by no means a full grammar (yet).
    - Some sections not filled in yet, particularly clause-combination.
    - Needs major consistency checks – phono rule application, morphosyntax in example sentences, etc.
    - Needs tons more example sentences.
    - Lexicon is currently minimal; have only started using derivational morphology on roots and "smoothing" forms toward naturalness.

| **Input actively invited** |

Table of Contents

A. Background

A.1. Author's Introduction

The development of this constructed language (artlang, or in this case, possibly schticklang) primarily represents an attempt to provide background detail for a potentially-amusing linguistic hypothetical: a language whose users have, out of a desire/need to talk ***about*** *it in a way that renders it as complex as possible, collapsed centuries of historical and dialectal change into what they firmly insist is a synchronic description. Imagine, for example that you are making regulations about the route to be taken by a modern tour group in England that is following a route based on Chaucer's Caunterbury Tales. Now imagine insisting that the regulations must be in Chaucer's version of Middle English – not because it is regarded as an older form, but because those forms obviously represent the required "Anglopilgrimageal Mode" of the various words involved (and since Chaucer's C.T. are regarded as accepted texts, any form in them must by definition be valid).*

In this hypothetical case, any form used anywhere in the corpus of "accepted texts" is by definition correct ***now****, so the job of the grammarian is to delineate the no doubt extremely lengthy list of contextual features that specify when it is to be used. A given pronoun, for example, may "appear as" dozens or even a hundred forms, some identical to other pronouns (if in documents from areas/periods in which mergers occurred), and so the grammar would need a gigantic vector of contextual features specifying when it is realized as one form rather than another. Of course, a wide-range historical treatment of normal language change would do something similar (given funding, and staff, and…),*[1] *but the difference here is that the community has, as part of its ideology, has adopted the pretense that* ***language change never happened and variation doesn't exist****. Since correct language is eternal, time and place can't matter – only "content" can.*

No one would be able to master such a language (which would resemble a real language much in the way that Victorian grand balls resembled hanging out and having fun with friends), although specific people could become experts at specific parts of it defined by specific configurations of factors. In our hypothetical, these people are bureaucrats*, and have no reason whatsoever to view the attendant job security as a bad thing. Laws and trade agreements can only be enacted if they are in "proper" language, and that means needing an entire phalanx of specialist clerks. Clerks with* titles*. You're not going to be suggesting any changes to skink-import tariffs unless you've cleared the proposal with the Grand Master Skink-Import-Tariff-Regulation Copyeditor. And of course, if*

[1] Collapsing historical change into a satirical synchronic account has, of course, been done before; cf. Chomsky and Halle's *The Sound Pattern of English*. It must be admitted, however, that it maintained a better pretense of seriousness.

politicians or the locals are proving obstreperous, it's truly amazing how many draft revisions legislation turns out to need.

It's what those in government service call a "Win-Win [Type 47a, Revised]."

Of course, one does need a 'rough draft' form of the language in these cases – something that the bureaucrats can all learn as a baseline (particularly given that all actual real modern forms of the language would have diverged from any of the "proper" forms as to have almost no mutual intelligibility with it). That baseline form has to be usable, but not necessarily in speech; it just has to be the kind of thing one can piece together on an impressive set of notes. There can be a regional creole form of it to actually speak in offices when needed.[2] *But – crucially – that general written form has to be recognized as* ***wrong****. Because if it ever became regarded as acceptable, then there might be pressure to adopt it as a new standard – and there went the jobs. Fortunately, anything resembling a body that controls language policy in this society would also be made up of bureaucrats, so everyone's safe.*

Thus, it is the form that doesn't *get used in any regulations whatsoever, and – unlike any given random form, which a non-specialist has to regard as* potentially *correct in some context (after all, 'yun' might really show up as 'xrevaktik' in some odd legislative context) – users can rest safe in the knowledge that whatever they say will always be just wrong enough.*

Here, then, is a grammar of Yešqūr, with Yešqūr being a recognized faulty way of pronouncing the name of the "real" language (the name of which changes markedly depending on its legislative milieu in a very large and complex number of ways that you'd need to hire at least seven clerks to pin down for you in any specific modern context).

A.2. Disclaimers

- As should be readily obvious, this is entirely a work of fiction, although it lacks much of a plot structure and has very little overt characterization except for that involved in the emotional development of the nominalized finite clause, which ends up with a much richer appreciation of the complexity of the human condition (albeit in ways that the reader might not initially notice). That's postmodernism for you.

- Rather than incorporating fundamentally innovative linguistic structures, Yešqūr aims to incorporate extant linguistic (and conlinguistic) strategies but deploy them in innovatively tiresome ways (occasionally involving indexing by fictional-mythopoeic goats, as that's pretty much the one thing the author is fairly sure has

[2] In reality, of course, they'll speak the local language(s) with a ton of borrowed expressions used in ways very different from anything like even what goes in the draft forms.

not been done before).[3] The evidential system is clearly reminiscent of parts of Ithkuil, but without any of the actual logic; the case system is what would happen if someone decided that if one case system was good, two should be even better[4]; and the color terms are trying to take Vancean specificity, remove the interesting parts, and wreak tedium with it. Any originality probably lies in some of the semantic domain-associations (and, hopefully, the premise, but a premise doesn't make a grammar).

- Readers desiring a critical, scholarly route to constructing the text should, at this point fill in Bakhtin, bricolage, random gratuitous mentions of Delouze and Žižek, multiple strained and strainéd extensions of "interrogate" and "limnality," and – for that unexpected soupçon of classicism – references to Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite. Then, contact the author, who really wants to see how the reader has done that and who can then pretend to have intended every bit of it.

A.3. Historical Background

Yešqūr, as an administrative language used across a wide area, has its origins in the Yeširiq Expansion of the late 13th century, following some decades after the Great Catastrophe of 1216[5] – a process which, history officially tells us, was all accomplished by the redoubtable Tyasiq of the Twenty Goats, who united Dzaskyenu mercenaries and Vea steppe nomads to conquer the northern Itatha city-states before going on to use all of those to conquer the Mhaevanni Interpretation and then using troops from all of *those* areas to conquer the remainder of the southern Itatha states. Attendant upon all this were many signs, portents, acts of valor, rumors of plots, and exciting stories about goat-wrought havoc.[6]

Archaeology, as well as fragments of preserved *non*-Yeširiq documents, tells us a rather different story (one involving a more gradual process with altogether more bribery and backstabbing), but in any even the result was a large, sprawling empire made up of disparate language groups loosely controlled by an initially not-very-material-culture-advanced mountain folk who had much rather hire administrators than become them, especially when there were spoils to enjoy and suddenly-vacated lowland estates to occupy. The administrators (of which there ended up being many, in the traditional way of things) all learned Yeširiq as second language, and inevitably created regional varieties of it; over time, the native Yeširiq did too, as they spent as much of their time as possible away from the imperial capital, where the emperor might be wont to make them do

[3] But Googled for anyway, just to check. So far, so good.

[4] There *are* attested natural languages with double case-marking and/or parallel grammatical-role and spatial cases, but they tend to keep it at tasteful levels.

[5] All dates used are to be interpreted as "After the traditional date of the founding of Tathet."

[6] The latter being somewhat more believable than might be expected due to the existence of the Yešar breed of goats, which stand a meter and a half tall at the shoulder, have pack-behavior instincts, and will readily kill potentially-competitive large herbivores (including vegetarians, which partially explains the lack of Mhaevenni monasteries in the Yeš).

things, or, out of boredom or (as time went on) inbreeding-induced mental instability, have them killed. There weren't an awful lot of them to start with, anyway, and despite their traditions of isolation, most noticed within a few generations that outmarriage was the better part of health. After six centuries of this kind of thing, there was more of a loose federation of states than an empire; any use of a mutually-intelligible form of Yeširiq had ceased even among those that regarded themselves as Yeširiq.

This was the stage upon which Karqwan I appeared – one of those historical figures who deduces that the best possible way to impose a totally unparalleled level of authority is to adopt the pretense that doing so is a return to the golden ages of the past. Like Tyasiq, he took advantage of a period of turmoil (civil wars among the states); unlike Tyasiq, he had to contend with a reduced but still-extant imperial bureaucracy that would definitely not stand in his way, but would nevertheless be quite willing (in a plausibly deniable fashion) to ensure that some possible candidates for "his way" were more readily doable than others. Karqwan, as a political move, made the mistake of announcing that he would demonstrate the mandate of the gods by enforcing the early-empire *Code of Tyasiq VII*, a lengthy document containing a number of injunctions, one of which was to "use a pure and correct Yeširqa in all documents, as has been done up until my father's time, when young people, out of ignorance and sloth, began to ignore it." He then made a much more severe mistake by indicating that he planned to drastically streamline the bureaucracy and, incidentally, remove some barriers preventing offices from being used as patronage rewards. The bureaucracy noticed.

Tyasiq VII had reigned three hundred years after Tyasiq of the Twenty Goats, and the "pure Yeširqa" reflected in all those "correct documents" was a giant mix of forms, in terms of both regional variation and diachronic change. Most clauses of his *Code*, moreover, had never actually been enforced in any real way, although later imperial literature had made much stock of firmly adopting the stance that they had been. The language clause, in particular, was the merest fiction, as no one had ever *defined* "pure Yeširqa." Karqwan I had probably not given it much thought, really; it was a matter of political positioning, and he soon found most of his time taken up with attempting to manage the (even to him unexpected) amount of hostility his attempts at centralization provoked.

When some bright spark[7] noticed that Karqwan's very public declarations about the *Code* could, under a set of particular interpretations, give the bureaucracy some really impressive job security while staving off any staff reduction whatsoever, events moved rather rapidly. The trick lay in giving Karqwan what he had asked for – good and hard. Of *course* pure Yeširqa had to be preserved! Of *course* Early Empire legislation was entirely correct and, in fact, driven by both the will of the gods and by the beauty of its language! True, some critics could, via the application of two minutes devoted effort turning pages in basic court annals, point out what appeared to be dramatic differences in

[7] In the subculture of the imperial bureaucracy, whoever proposed this has become known as "Redacted the Great," and is venerated as a sort of tutelary spirit. Her/his actual identity was never made public (hence the name) because of the probably-correct intuition that Karqwan was not quite shrewd enough not to hold a grudge.

what that pure Yeširqa *was* from record to record, but, why, that was just an illusion! It was all the same, pure Yeširqa, because the appropriate word-forms for any legislative statement were, obviously, the ones that had been used! They were all correct statements, after all; the Emperor had pointed that out himself. And by his decree, well, if they *weren't* correct, than centuries of precedent would be undone and trade agreements would be nullified and the economy would collapse. So, obviously no one could believe they weren't correct. Alas, pure Yeširqa wasn't documented as well as it should have been, but certainly with funding and the right attention to the maintenance of offices devoted to ensuring the use of the really, truly pure form of the language, it all *could* be. And knowing that was going to happen, obviously, would allow the bureaucracy to devote its full effort to Karqwan's laudable attempts to restore order, etc. etc. etc.

Karqwan was probably not amused, but he was shrewd, and his years spent bribing generals in one way or another to gain enough power for his "reform" movement at least gave him a good mental model of what was going on. He went along with the pretense, and the bureaucracy, in turn, made a point of being very cooperative for the duration of Karqwan's reign.

The *Official Grammar of Pure and Correct Yeširqa,* as of 2106, comprises four hundred and fifty-six volumes.[8] Appendices, unfortunately, are still under development.

[8] Thanks to the invention of extremely thin paper.

B. Phonetics and Phonology

Note: This section makes use of both IPA phonetic notation and a more abstract Romanized phonemic spelling system (the native Yešqūr orthography is a abugida combined with ideographic signs, and hence has a rather steep learning curve).

Overview: Syllable structure allows for limited initial clusters, for vowel-initial syllables, and for single coda consonants. For consonants, Yešqūr uses four major points of articulation – labial, alveolar (dental in some dialects), and two dorsal series – one palatal and one "back" varying between velar and uvular depending on environment and dialect. The phonemic distinction between the palatals and the dorsovelars consonants is, in some cases, distinguishable mainly from differential effects elsewhere in the syllable, and the [+palatal] or [-palatal] feature operates at the syllable level (second-member cluster and coda consonants cannot have a value different from the initial onset consonant). The vowel system comprises five phonemes, with one being essentially an unmarked "none of the above" vowel that is realized as a central lax phone.

B.1. Syllable Structure

The basic formula for a Yešqūr syllable is (C(C))V(V)(C), thus allowing vowel-initial syllables, closed syllables, and syllable-initial clusters. However, several phonotactic constraints operate to reduce the total number of options available (see Table 1, below)

B.2. Timing and segment length:

While absolute length of vowels and nasals carries meaning in the language, it is a allophonic result of a sequence of two identical segments or of "spreading" of a segment in certain contexts when it comes immediately before the null vowel. Thus (despite the title of the grammar), /uu/ will be used instead of /u:/, etc.; it is effectively a diphthong with no shift. Unlike English, Yešqūr does not accelerate or decelerate syllables so as to even out intervals between stresses; instead, timing is based on syllable weight:

Light:	C, CV, CCV, CVC
Medium:	CCVC
Heavy:	C(C)VVC; also *any* w/evidential clitic

Syllable types very loosely pattern with word classes: function words in closed categories (e.g. pronouns) in their base forms are typically monosyllabic and light. Nominal roots are typically disyllabic, with the first syllable most often being medium or light, while

verb roots are typically disyllabic with a heavy first syllable. A number of very high-frequency verbs, however, depart from this pattern.

Table 1: Syllable-structure Constraints	
Core sonority:	In initial clusters, the second element has to be greater in sonority than the first, with the two levels of sonority being 0 for obstruents and 1 for liquids, glides, and nasals. **NOTE:** This constraint is apparently blocked in the case of evidential clitics, which are phonologically anomalous in multiple ways.
Single stop:	Only one of the two members of a cluster can have the feature [+stop]. The major effect of this constraint is to prevent nasals from occurring as the second member of a cluster unless the initial member is a fricative. **NOTE:** Also blocked in evidential clitics.
Palatal harmony:	There cannot be both a phonemically palatal and a phonemically dorsovelar segment in the same syllable. In essence, palatalization is a feature of the syllable, not the segment, and dorsovelars are distinctively [-palatal]. Bilabials, alveolars, and vowels are simply have no [+/-palatal] feature. **NOTE:** This is strong enough to block resyllabification in cases where shifting the syllable would violate agreement.

B.3. Stress

Yešqūr makes use of both a lexical stress-assignment pattern for nouns and verbs and secondary "default" pattern. The lexical pattern places primary stress on the initial syllable of the **stem**[9]; the secondary pattern assigns stresses to penultimate syllables in a word and then moves leftward assigning secondary stress to alternating syllables if the word is of three or more syllables. In the *absence* of a lexically-assigned primary stress, the default pattern manifests as primary stress; if the word already has a lexically-assigned primary stress, however, it manifests as secondary. "Light" function words frequently have no stress in rapid speech.

[9] In verbs, this acts as one of the markers differentiating derivational prepositional prefixes from those that are simply incorporated as adverbial elements.

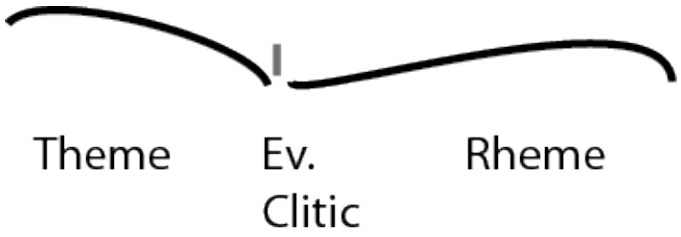
yaa.šik
L/ . x

yaa.ši.kå.ru
L/. x. \ . x

u.yaa.ši.kå.ru
x. L/ . x. \ . x

B.4. Intonation

Intonation is a major marker of clause boundaries and information structure in Yešqūr, but not a major marker of major clause type (declarative vs. interrogative, etc.). Typical initial clause intonation is shown below; the overall intonation contour is heavily linked to Theme/Rheme structure. In the absence of an overtly topicalized element, the intonation "peak" associated with the first part of the sentence immediately follows the evidential clitic instead of preceding it; such sentences have lower peaks overall, and are usually backgrounded relative to clauses that have topicalized elements.



A sudden "rise" in intonation is thus a primary marker of clause boundary in the language. Questions and commands use the same intonation contour.

B.5. Phoneme Inventory

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Dorso-Velar
Obstruents	Plosives	p	t	c	q
	Fricatives	f	s	ʃ	x
Resonants	Nasals	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
	Liquids			ʎ	ɬ
	Trills		r		
	Semivowels			y	w
Note: The velarization of /ɬ/ positions it as dorso-velar phonemically					

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	ə	u
Mid			ɔ
Open	a		

Phonemic Features:

		Consonantal	Syllabic	Stop	Continuant	Nasal	Bilabial	Palatal	Front	High	Round	Lateral
p	Stops	+	-	+	-	-	+	0	0	0	0	0
t		+	-	+	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
c		+	-	+	-	-	-	+	0	0	0	0
q		+	-	+	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
f	Fricatives	+	-	-	-	-	+	0	0	0	0	0
s		+	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
ʃ		+	-	-	-	-	-	+	0	0	0	0
x		+	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
m	Nasals	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
n		+	0	+	+	+	-	0	0	0	0	0
ɲ		+	0	+	+	+	-	+	0	0	0	0
ŋ		+	0	+	+	+	-	-	0	0	0	0
ɬ	Liquids	+	0	-	+	-	-	-	0	0	0	+
ʎ		+	0	-	+	-	-	+	0	0	0	+
r		+	0	-	+	-	-	0	0	0	0	-
w	Semivowels	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	0	0	+	0
y		+	-	-	+	-	-	+	0	0	-	0
i	Vowels	-	+	0	+	-	-	0	+	+	-	0
ə		-	+	0	+	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
a		-	+	0	+	-	-	0	0	-	-	0
u		-	+	0	+	-	-	0	0	+	+	0
ɔ		-	+	0	+	-	-	0	0	-	+	0

B.6. Allophonic Variation

B.6.1. Consonantal

B.6.1.1. Obstruent Voicing:

Single obstruents become voiced ***word-internally*** when between two voiced segments.

B.6.1.2. Resonant Devoicing:

Nasals, liquids, and semivowels become devoiced when in a cluster with a voiceless obstruent. Because of resyllabification, this normally only occurs when the resonant is in a syllable-initial cluster not following an open syllable in the same word (…C.CL…), as otherwise Obstruent Voicing (above) eliminates the conditions for it.

B.6.1.3. Affrication:

The initial cluster sequence /cy/ is realized as [č]

B.6.1.4. /X/ Assimilation

The phoneme /x/ is frequently realized as an [h] (if syllable-initial in a syllable without primary stress) or simply as devoicing of a following nasal, liquid, or glide. <exact rule needed>

B.6.2. Vocalic

B.6.2.1. Palatalization:

Vowels move frontwards and upwards when following a palatal consonant (/a, u, ɔ, ə / → [æ, y, œ, ɨ])

B.6.2.2. Lowering

Velar obstruents lower following close vowels to mid (/i, u/ → [e, o]).

B.6.3. Glottalization

Under glottalization, (a) stop consonants become ejectives, (b) fricatives become ejectives and/or affricates, and vowels are pharyngealized and followed by an epenthetic glottal stop.

C. Orthography

C.1.Romanization

While the following Romanization system is not used natively by speakers of Yešqūr (of course), the reader can rest assured that it *is* used in every major reference work on the language.

Letter	Range of phonetic values (IPA)	Phoneme / Notes
a	a, æ	a
å	ɔ, œ	ɔ
e	ə, ɨ, ɜ	ə (letter chosen mainly for convenience in typing)
i	i, e, ɛ	i
u	u, ʊ, o, y	u
w	w, ʍ	w
y	j, ç	j
p	p, b	p
t	t, d	t
k	c, ɟ, k, g	c
q	k, q, g, G	k
f	f, v	f
s	s, z	s
š	ʃ, ʒ	ʃ
x	x, X, h	x
ł	l	l
l	ʎ	ʎ
r	r	r
m	m	m
n	n	n
ñ	ɲ	ɲ
ṅ	ŋ	ŋ
An apostrophe (‘) marks glotallization; under normal circumstances, this will only occur once per finite clause (in practice, usually once per clause-complex)		

Examples

Romanization	kåsis	apuriti	sraqułu
Phonemic	cɔsis	apuriti	sraqułu
Phonetic	`cœzis	a`buridi	‘sraɢolu
Gloss	‘strange’ (stem)	‘leaping-skink’ (acc.)	‘farmer’ (dat.)

C.2.Tarxanat Script

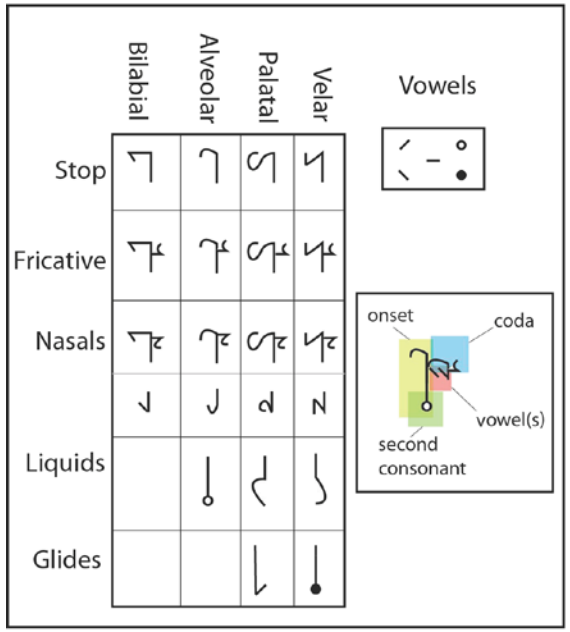
Records from before the Expansion provide no documentary evidence for a written Yešqūr script; archaeological studies from the mountains themselves have found a rich tradition of petroglyphs, but likewise no evidence of carved symbols of a linguistic nature. During the Expansion, the Yešqūr apparently borrowed (or were provided with), the Vea syllabary, itself based on the Itatha writing system (hence the Yešqūr name, which is derived from a mispronunciation of *Tathanatra*) which they adapted to deal with Yešqūr's consonant clusters and coda segments. However, with the conquest of the most of the Itatha city-states, the Empire inherited the full Itatha scribal tradition with its extensive use of ideographs. Later scribes tended to use ideographs instead of the most-frequent phonetic sequences when possible, with the result being the current system – a script that uses ideographs for many grammatical markers and functors, for a number of traditional Itatha place names and historical figures, and also as determinants with some spellings, but otherwise is an abugida. Readers familiar with hieroglyphics or later cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia will doubtless find this a familiar situation (as well people familiar with written Japanese).

Taarxanat was originally designed to be written with brushes or charcoal. While the number signs illustrated in the overview on the next page look slightly like cuneiform, the "wedges" do not represent pressed-in marks – the number system simply uses some triangular marks (the early written forms used arrows to indicate the position of the sun at different times of day). "EC" refers to an evidential clitic.

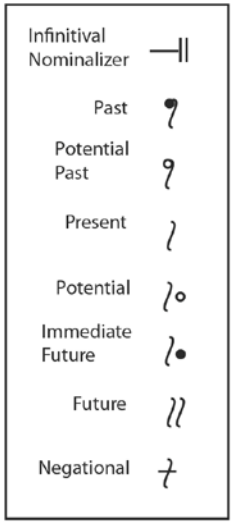
In running Tarxanat text, text-sequences corresponding to basic rhetorical moves can be picked out fairly easily by scanning for the clitic "circles"; similarly, as case-marking vowels are written in elevated (for primary cases) or dropped (for construct cases) positions, one can scan fairly quickly for major complements to a verb.

(farašutåi tarxanaåt)

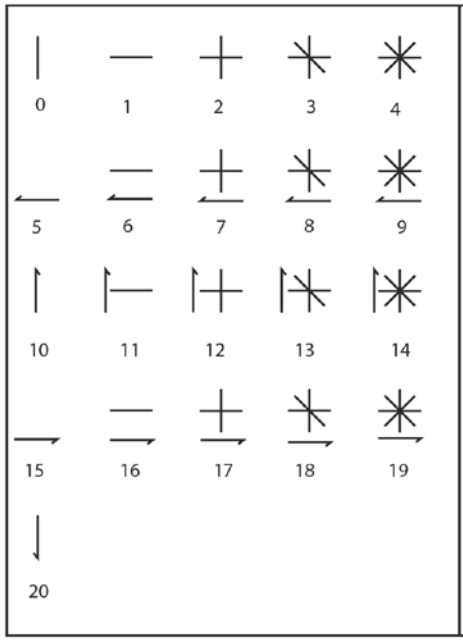
Tarxanat Script Overview



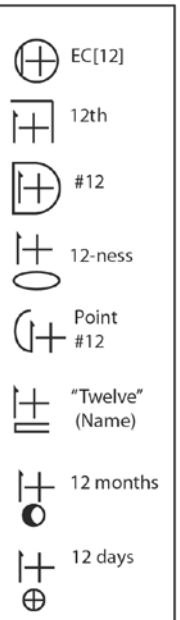
Verbal TAM Signs

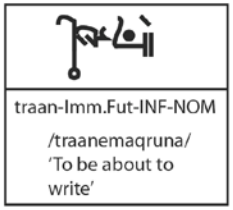


Numerals

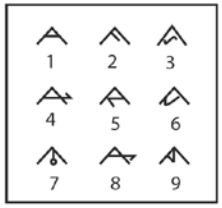


Examples with determinants



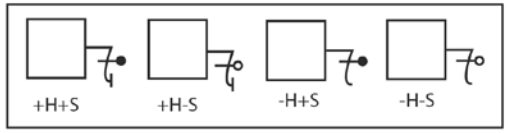


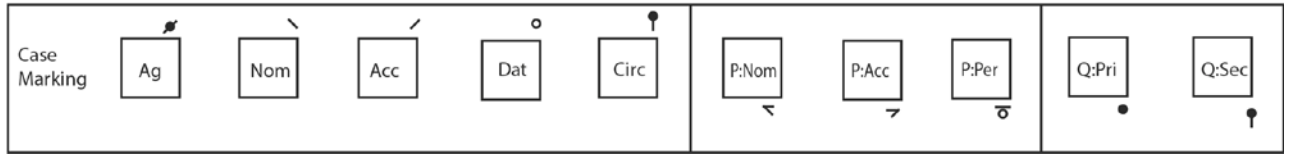
Noun Class Prefixes



Number

Third-person pronominal clitics





D. Morphology

Overview: Yešqūr is positioned between inflected and agglutinative types, having a fair number of affixes that are uncomplicatedly added to words, but also a fair number that are portmanteau realizations of multiple categories. The basic system of lexical categories is not particularly complex, having only four major categories. However, several kinds of morphological marking manifest in rather complex ways; case, for example, is realized by suffixes in the "primary case" system, but infixes in the "secondary" (or "internalized" system), and noun-class markers have different shapes depending on the grammatical relations the words they mark bear.

D.1. Major Lexical Categories

Major class	Major characteristic(s)	Subclasses	Subclass characteristics
Nominals	Can bear both case and noun-class markers.	Nouns	Inherent noun class; occur freq. with both primary and construct case suffixes.
		Adjectives and Nominal Adverbs	Inherent noun class; normally occur with construct case suffixes except under very specific conditions.
		Quantifiers	Heritable noun class; non-cliticizable.
		Pronouns	Heritable noun class; cliticizable
Prepositions	Can bear noun-class markers but not case.		Heritable noun class under very specific conditions.
Verbs	Can bear TAM-markers.	Finite	Obligatorily bears TAM-marking; can't bear case.
		Infinitive	Can bear TAM-marking; also bears case.
Particles	Cannot bear inflectional affixes	Base Adverb	May be morphologically complex.
		Connectives	Monomorphemic
		Evidential clitics	Bear glottalization feature
Formal Ululations	No true segmental structure		Describable only in terms of intonation contour and pitch.

D.2. Nominals

Overview: The general morphological formula for nominals is as follows:

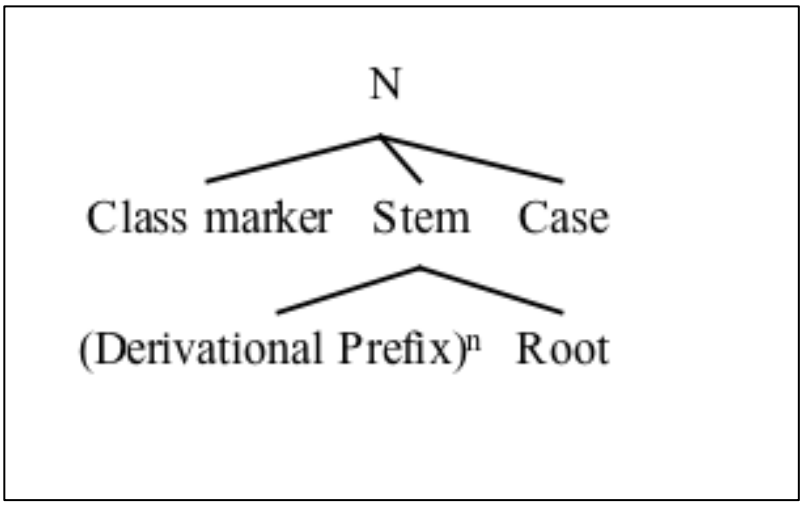


Figure 1: Basic Noun Structure

D.2.1. Class and Number

While the official versions of the language (apparently) have an extremely large number of nominal class prefixes, the simplified form in common use typically utilizes nine. As is usual with such systems, the assignment of nominals to classes is not fully predictable; there some clear semantic features to each class, but the items *in* that class may easily not bear all of those features.

Number is marked via portmanteau realization on the class marker, although the language also makes extensive use of an array of quantifiers with no inherent noun class that pattern with reduced forms of the class markers. Base forms of these quantifiers are used when there is no reason to stress number and no potential for problematic ambiguity, e.g. *sunåi pariat* 'a set of weapons' (no indication of how many) vs. *asanåi pariat* 'one set of weapons' vs. *sunåi åpariat* 'a set of many weapons' vs. *åsunåi åpariat* 'multiple sets of many weapons'.

Rather unusually, the language uses different bases for counting for different noun classes; this manifests primarily in Yešqūr mathematics and number terminology, however, and the quantities referenced by Number A and Number B prefixes have different meaning when the terms are combined with quantifiers than when they are not. That is, in the absence of a counting term, the prefixes have 'absolute' reference, while with counting terms the reference is relative to the base number of the class. For example, the unwary learner might think that *kyana siqariat* means something like "ten baboons" or even "ten versions of one baboon", as *{kyan}* can mean 'ten' elsewhere, *si-* is the class marker used with single instances of Class 4 nouns, and *siqariat* is in the partitive nominative (hence, "ten of (single baboon)" or, more precisely "a ten made up of single

baboons"). In fact, however, it actually refers to twenty baboons. *Kyan* refers to one counting level "up", so can mean anything from "five" to "twenty" depending on noun class; the expression is actually referring to "[an instance of one counting-level up for whatever Class of noun is in its scope] of [individual baboon]," and since Class 4 nouns are officially base 20, one level up means 'twenty' in this case. *Kyana siiqariat* refers to forty baboons, since each "item" of the twenty is a mating pair. Without the numeral, on the other hand, a group of baboons of any number over two could be referred to as a *siåqarata*. Thus, the famous *Xwara Kyaån Siqariut* liquor of Parakis is named so as to provide the customer with ample warning.[10]

Full-form class prefixes occur on nominals which are serving as heads of major constituent NPs in finite clauses, whereas the ***reduced*** forms are used with construct case forms within the NP and with the heads of NPs in non-finite clauses.[11] While the "Number A" forms always signify fewer items or less quantity than do the "Number B" forms, their exact meanings vary by noun class. The "Distributed" forms frequently simply indicate "lots", but do so via the sense that the items are distributed over an area; with quantities, this simply conveys that there is a large volume.

D.2.2. Nominal Derivational Prefixes

While class prefixes in do some of the work in Yešqūr that derivational affixes do in other languages, there is also a highly varied set of additional formatives, some more productive than others. The following list is intended only as illustrative, not exhaustive. In all cases, the derivational prefix must occur closer to the stem than does the class marker.

Table 2: Common Nominal Derivational Prefixes		
tai-	p	potentive – 'greater'; indicates that the stem represents something with unusual import. May be related to Dzaskyenu *taivok*, an honorific that is now obsolete.
tumi-	p	Reductive – indicates small size, but no implications as to importance, affection.
swar-	p	'countenance'; perhaps a qualitive nominalizer. Forms characteristic-based names.
nan-	p	'-less', 'without'
fit-	n	Forms a number of mineral and metal names when linked to a descriptive root (e.g. *fitsumkat*, {fit-} + *sumkat* 'rosy, red/orange' → 'copper'). Some attached

[10] ['room-NOM Count.one.up-Q:Prim baboon-P:Periph], or "room of the sort characterized by a set of twenty baboons" – a reference to a famous story in which a thief attempting to break into a scholar's house inadvertently enters a zoological enclosure in which the scholar houses a rather large troop of baboons, who react rather predictably to a midnight invasion of their territory.

[11] Encountering a reduced form thus signifies that the nominal one is encountering is in some way "not in the main line" of the sentence. While the construct cases also accomplish this, the distinction in the class markers provides an "up front" cue which presumably helps with processing – or at least did in older forms of the language, since ease of processing is certainly not a desideratum in the modern version.

		roots are not found elsewhere, however, and their origins are obscure.
su-	n	Used in wide range of titles for administrative personnel; may be related to Vea *supaitaa*, 'others' baggage'
xru-	n	General nominalizer; may be related to Vea *huruwo*, 'thing'
ri-	n	Chrononym formative. Productive in some areas.
ne-	p	'-ish'/'-like'
siku-	p	Diminutive – indicates positive valence in addition to small size.
pri-	p	Agentive/instrumental nominalizer. Mainly used in legal terms/contexts.
quṅ-	n	abstractive – forms abstract nouns from more concrete ones
tlu-	p	Patientive nominalizer. Mainly used in legal terms/contexts.

Table 3: Class / Number System

Class	Full			Reduced	Base	Some example semantic sets
	Num. A	Num. B	Distributed			
1	e- (1)	u- (2+)	å- (lots)	ø-	10	many non-quadruped animal species (including humans); vehicles; fungi excluding those that are red or orange; diseases producing rashes or blemishes.
2	a- (1-2)	ai- (2+)	åi- (lots)	ø-	10	tools; occupations; many fashioned trade goods; root vegetables; weather phenomena; metalinguistic terms for phrases and sentences; shiny, dense minerals, including raw metals.
3	ki- (handful)	ši- (> handful)	wå- (lots everywhere)	ø-	5	solid substances from which things are fashioned (not easily conceptualizable as occurring in discrete units); diseases producing fever but no rashes or blemishes; spaces and regions(rooms, pits, nation-states, etc.); large boulders of colors other than grey to black.
4	si- (1)	sii- (mating pair)	siå- (set/herd)	(e)s-	20	quadrupeds excluding reptiles, pigs, and goats; most furniture items; buildings, institutions; non-aqueous desserts.
5	ta- (some)	tu- (lots)	tå- (huge amounts)	(e)t-	9	liquids; bodies of water; roughly horizontal landscape features that cover areas (e.g. forest, desert); flexible containers; distinctive-smelling rocks, woods, and cheeses; red and orange fungi.
6	qa- (1-3)	qu- (4+)	quu- (swarm)	aq-	12	arthropods; fish; groups of people characterized by moving in formation (incl. Mhaevanni in general); rigid containers; trees; non-shiny minerals in the green-blue range.
7	tåru- (1)	sita- (2-8)	faa- (9+)	ip-	20[12]	Goats and goat-related material goods; event nouns referring to valorous actions, umbrellas, afflictions resulting from injury, spices; formal ululations.
8	fa- (1)	afu- (2+)	ifa- (lots)	if-	7	Mountains and other vertical landscape features; reptiles and pigs; abstract nouns referring to patterns, languages.
9	mu- (1)	ma- (2+)	mu- (vague or collective)	am-	12	Many abstract nouns; herbaceous vegetation; noises

[12] While one would think that the fact Class 4 and Class 7 nominals both use 20 as a base number and both refer frequently to animals would indicate that they are alternates of one noun class, Yešqūr grammarians are quite insistent that they do not; the usual explanation is that Class 7 uses a *different* 20 and that Class 4's 20 is related to two 10s, while class 7's is related to five 4s. A similar argument is made about Class 1 and 2's use of 10, and 6 and 9's use of 12. "*Which* 10 does 5 * 4 equal?" is a perfectly good Y. question.

D.2.3. Case Marking on Nominals

Yešqūr cases make a primary distinction between (a) grammatical roles that major finite-clause elements can serve in, versus (b) roles that are "off to the side" of the former – e.g. modifying finite-clause elements, or serving in non-finite clauses. Yešqūr grammatical tradition discusses clauses via a metaphor with *yirtak* 'major valley/gorge' vs. *sirnan* 'side valley/ravine'; it is as if modifiers and non-finite-clause-internal elements are at right angles to the main direction of the clause. The case system interlocks rather heavily with notions of transitivity and participant role, but cannot be entirely treated as a semantic system as case interacts with constituent position (and the language has, predictably, developed formulaic uses that *a posteriori* are easily linkable to semantic notions, but not fully determined by them; see E.3).

D.2.3.1. Primary Case

These markers are used on nominals standing as head of a nominal phrase acting as a finite clause constituent, including quantifiers. They are suffixival.

- *Agentive* is used for volitional agents of actions which cause a change in something else; it is only marked for fully transitive clauses (*Ergative* is inappropriate here because of the extra volitional element and because the system also has nominative and accusative).

- *Nominative* is used for non-volitional subjects of transitives and all subjects of intransitives, some complements of sortal verbs (which are roughly analogous to copulars).

- *Accusative* is used for objects of transitives *if they are affected by the action, etc. denoted by the verb* (COMP1).

- *Dative* is used for objects of transitives *if they are not appreciably affected by the action, etc. denoted by the verb* (COMP2 or ADJUNCT, usually the former). Of course, "not appreciably affected" is based on culture-internal judgements, which produces a certain amount of circularity here.

- *Circumstantial* is used for more "peripheral" roles, such as location, time, purpose, etc. (COMP2 or ADJUNCT; the former being limited primarily to certain verb constructions.

D.2.3.2. Construct Cases[13]

These are used on nominals which modify or complement other nominals; somewhat similar to *genitive* in some languages, but with additional (though limited) abilities to "agree" with the head noun's primary case. Construct cases are infixival, occurring immediately before the final consonant of the stem.

> A *Partitive* construct case indicates that the nominal it is attached to is in some way a **member of a set** denoted by the nominal being modified or complemented (quantifier expressions being a very common example, e.g. *srå*i *pariat* 'a set of weapon(s)').
>
> A *Qualitive* construct case indicates that the nominal it is attached to is to be interpreted in some way as a **quality** characterizing the noun modified or complemented, e.g. *sunåi pariåt*, 'a weapon-like or martial set (of items).

The construct cases make fewer distinctions than the Primary system, but modifiers and complements are required to agree with the Primary of the head within the limits imposed (*sunåi pariåt / suna pariåt / suni pariit / sunu pariut / sunuqå pariut).* Nominals being used as sortal complements can take *both* Primary and Construct case, e.g. *Tusarikat'p ukyaimetares låtuåpa* '(I have been verifiably informed that) Tusarik was being stupid', with *låtuåpa* being *låtup* 'idiot(ic), heptagonal' + *-å-* 'Qualitive:Primary' + *-a* 'Nominative'.

Pronouns and quantifiers in more formal versions of the language frequently have fused, irregular forms, but the general case pattern is as follows:

Table 4: Case Markers

Primary		Construct			
		Partitive		Qualitive	
Agentive	-åi	Nominative	-a-	Primary	-å-
Nominative	-a				
Accusative	-i	Accusative	-i-		
Dative	-u	Peripheral	-u-	Secondary	-å_(ł)åq
Circumstantial	-(ł)uqå[14]				

[13] Those familiar with Semitic languages may at this point be wondering why the term 'construct' is used, since in Semitic it marks the head noun, not modifiers. Picking a word with problematic existing connotations, however, is exactly the kind of thing a good Yešqūr grammarian would do. If people can just guess what it means, there's no way to get job security out of being one of the people who *knows* what it means. Thus, the most opaque translation of Yešqūr is, typically the most culturally authentic one. This grammar is attempting to strike a balance between authenticity and readability.

[14] Epenthetic /ł/ occurs only when its absence would result in a violation of palatal harmony.

D.2.4. Adjectives and Nominal Adverbs

Strictly speaking, there is no separate class of adjectives in Yešqūr; instead, there are simply nominals which typically occur only with construct qualitive case marking. Similarly, a nominal referring to time, place, etc. used in the Circumstantial case can fill the Adjunct2 slot(s) in a sentence, and a bare nominal stem can fill the Adjunct1 slot (although in many cases this might best be treated as an instance of noun incorporation – the author is using the Adjunct1 interpretation primarily because in cases in which the verb has a pronominal subject clitic, it intervenes between the verb and the bare nominal stem, making a noun-incorporation argument less persuasive).

D.2.5. Pronominal forms

D.2.5.1. Personal Pronouns

"Personal" here is being used loosely, as Yešqūr makes use of a range of indefinite forms that, for convenience, are being included in this category. In full personal pronominal forms, Yešqūr makes a distinction between inclusive and exclusive for first and second person, and in third-person forms there is are dual distinctions between human vs. non-human and specific vs. indefinite. The forms listed in Table 5.1 below are the ***full forms***, which are usable as independent words with noun class prefixes and case marking, e.g. *aråsi*, 'Class2:A-it-ACC'. Table 5.2 presents the ***clitic forms***, which are usable as enclitics to verbs (e.g. *ipaasunemanet*, 'IMPERF-comb.hair-IMMFUT-1Ai', 'I am preparing to comb my hair") and prepositions (e.g. *aqelres* 'away from it/them (Class 2)'. For the most part, these are simply phonological reductions of the full forms, occasioned by the loss of potential for bearing primary stress, but the reduction eliminates some distinctions (e.g. between *rås* and *ris*), and the second-person B inclusive/exclusive distinction is leveled even though pure reduction would have maintained it.

Table 5.1: Personal Pronominals (Full Forms)

			A		B & Dist.	
Person	Specificity	Human	Inc	Exc	Inc	Exc
1	Specific	+	nut	nun	mut	mun
2		+	yun	yin	yum	yis
3		+	rås		ris	
		-	lut			
	Non-Specific	+	waq			
		+/-	laq			

Table 5.2: Personal Pronominals (Clitic Forms)

			A		B & Dist.	
Person	Specificity	Human	Inc	Exc	Inc	Exc
1	Specific	+	net	nen	met	men
2		+	yen		yes	
3		+	res			
		-	let			
	Non-Specific	+	weq			
		+/-	leq			

D.2.5.2. Deictic and generic pronouns

Yešqūr uses other pronominal forms, including deictics, fairly often as "container nouns" – i.e. acting as a kind of place-holder that can be filled in via an infinitival or full clause. These are especially common in the construction of the equivalent of relative clauses.

Table 6: Other Pronominals

Full	Clitic	
kip	-kep	this – as deictic or referring to proximal old-information item
qip	-qup	that (yonder) – as deictic or referring to distal old-information item
qås	-qes	'stuff'
nif	-nef	'idea' – refers to any claim, hypothesis, etc.; proposition as proposition, not words
nifuk	-nefik	'statement' – refers only to verbiage
łis	-łes	'question as cognitive state'
łisuk	-łesik	'question as verbiage'
mur	-mer	'concept' – no possible truth value; e.g. "speed of departure" not "he departed rapidly"

D.2.6. Quantifiers

This category is constituted purely formally; it's being *called* "quantifiers" simply because most of what would be quantifiers in other languages translate into this class. Like other nominals, quantifiers can bear case marking; unlike other nominals, but like prepositions, they lack inherent noun class but can, under some circumstances, bear the class marking of the head of the nominal phrase under their scope. Except for their lack of noun class and lack of clitic forms, they are quite similar to pronominals, and like generic pronominals are often used to form the equivalent of relative clauses.

Table 7: Common Quantifiers

Quantifier	Approx. meaning
tur	all (totality; e.g. “all ___ everywhere”)
pek	all (in specific context; e.g. “all ___ here”).
sun	set (non-volitional, non-interlocking)
twan	set, group (volitional, non-interlocking)
tur	‘coherency’ – interlocking set of components, system, body
rån	‘equivalency’ – set in equivalent measurement relation
xåł	‘mensurancy – set in differential measurement relation
šuq	‘similancy’ – set in allegorical or metaphorical relation
mir	some
yam	any (totality)
xrun	any (in specific context)
pif	none (totality)
lif	none (in specific context)

D.2.6.1. Numerals

A somewhat annoying variety of counting systems is used in proper forms of the language. For absolute basic counting, however, the reader can assume that the following can be relied on to be fully understood and usefully wrong. Historically, they are based on the first syllable of the names of each of Tyasiq’s goats.

1. swa
2. wa
3. wå[15]
4. tu
5. pa
6. fňa
7. kyu
8. srå
9. ke
10. ru
11. xna
12. na
13. sni
14. nan
15. li
16. mu
17. ya
18. qła
19. pya

[15] “Swaawawåt” is frequently used as a slang term meaning ‘to count’.

20. ta

Relative counting terms – e.g. "one counting-level up, two counting-levels up" etc. – are, of course, different; the first four are as follows:

One up:	kyan
Two up:	qwån
Three up:	fwan
Four up:	twif

D.2.6.2. Interrogative, Relative, and Indefinite clitics

Any of the non-specific pronominals, including deictics and generic forms, along with quantifiers, may be used with the clitic markers {-pa} '?' or {-qu} '-ever', e.g. *letapa* 'someone+NOM+?' = 'who (nom.)?'; *letaqu* 'whoever'; these are derived from the full forms *yuupa* and *yuuqa*.

Waqpaa'u	*uyaašikåru*	*siwufuti*
Person+NOM+?+EC[18]	IMPERF+toss+PAST	c4r+marmot+ACC
S/T	V	Comp1
Who was/were tossing marmots?		

These markers are being analyzed as clitics rather than as suffixes because (a) they follow case marking, and (b) they can also be affixed to prepositions and verbs as well.

D.3. Prepositions

In some ways, prepositions in Yešqūr act like nominals, but (crucially) they cannot receive case marking. They do not appear to *confer* case marking as much as in some traditional case-marking languages, as that the case of the NP after them is determined more by the syntactic construction being used than by the choice of preposition. **Independent** forms are used as separate words followed by nominal phrases, while **Dependent** forms are prefixival, used to derive verb stems or attached to pronominals.

The most common use of a PP in Yešqūr is as a Comp2 or Adjunct2, with the case of the nominal following the preposition being largely determined by clausal syntax rather than by the preposition itself (Adjunct2s are almost always Circumstantial, while Comp2s are typically Dative, with or without an additional construct case). PPs serving as Comp1, and PPs with pronominal objects, trigger "inheritance" of noun class by the preposition, and Comp1 uses always involve the object of the preposition using construct partitive case. Table 8, below, outlines the possibilities; all examples use *yit* 'in opposition to' and the Class 4 root *qarit* 'baboon' or the pronoun *let* '3.non-human.specific'.

Table 8: Overview of marking patterns in PPs				
Before Full SP	Comp2 or Adjunct	Finite	P + $_{R}N_{primary}$	yit esqaritu
		Nonfinite	P + $_{R}N_{partitive}$	yit esqariut
	Comp1	Finite	$_{F}$P + $_{R}N_{partitive}$	siyit esqariut
		Nonfinite	$_{R}$P + $_{R}N_{partitive}$	esyit esqariut
Before pronominal	Comp2 or Adjunct	Finite	$_{F}$P.Pro$_{primary}$	sityeletu
		Nonfinite	$_{R}$P.Pro$_{partitive}$	estyeleut
	Comp1	Finite	$_{F}$P.Pro$_{partitive}$	sityeleut
		Nonfinite	$_{F}$P.Pro$_{partitive}$	estyeleut
As Adjunct 1				yit

Table 9: Common Prepositions

Rough semantic domain	Concrete		Abstract	
	Indep.	Dep.	Indep.	Dep.
towards, aimed at	fras	-fr(e)-	ku(r)	-kr(e)-
for the purpose of[16]			tu(r)	-tr(e)-
by means of			rin	-r(e)-
associated with (quite general)			xåṅ	xṅå-
for the benefit of, with good intent towards	sån	-sn(e)-	fmir	-fme(r)-
in opposition to, with ill intent towards	yit-	-ty(e)-	fwax	-fwa-
between, among (but not connecting)	tus	-tus-	sir	-sre-
in, at, on, within	sum	-sm(e)-	an(e)	-n(e)-
circling, around, enveloping, greater than	yufut	-yuft(e)-	sil	-sl(e)-
following (linearly), along, equal to	kanet	-ket(e)-	sumpek	-sup(e)k(e)-
back-and-forth, connecting	swim	-sw(e)-	muruf	-qr(e)-
away, escaping, avoiding, less than	rital-	-tl(e)-	fitus	-ift(e)-

Yešqūr prepositions fall into two major semantic classes, ***concrete*** and ***abstract***. The difference between them seems vaguely analogous to that between Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman food terminology, in that the concrete class is more often used in reference to everyday phenomena, particularly actual spatial relations, while the abstract class is used more often in reference to relationships in legal, scholarly, artistic, etc. contexts. For example, a crowd that is completely surrounding a well would be described as *yufut tarfiku*, while a speaker who is trying to express the idea that 'man-made accesses to water' subsumes 'well' as a subcategory might say *sil tarfiku* instead; the first is a statement about physical location, the second is metaphorical (and likely to occur more often in legal or philosophical contexts).

One of the stock figures of Yešqūr popular stage performance is the *kaarfuṅqrun***,** a sort of combination rural bumpkin and Mrs. Malaprop, who attempts to pass him/herself off as highly educated simply by substituting abstract prepositions for concrete ones. S/he

[16] Readers wondering why the "absent" concrete prepositions aren't simply placed at the beginning or end of the chart (rather than making an off-center gap) have probably not dealt overmuch with real bureaucracies.

almost invariably encounters a philosopher at some point so that escalating misperceptions can result.[17]

D.4. Verbs

The general formula for verbs in Yešqūr is as follows:

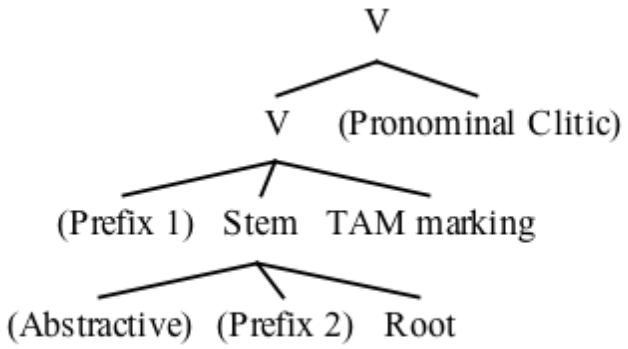


Figure 2: Basic Verb Structure

As might be expected from the array of information that can be marked on nominals, verbs are comparatively simple in Y; the only major inflectional category is marked on a set of forms that are portmanteau realizations of a blend of tense, aspect, and mood elements. There are a number of derivational prefixes, however; these tend to group in two "layers", with the innermost being non-productive (this pattern probably reflects historical development). While linguists would analyze these derived stems into multiple morphemes, most Yešqūr users appear to learn them as single unanalyzed units, only noticing later (if at all) that relations can be detected among them.

D.4.1. Class 1 Verb Derivational Prefixes

These are a set of prefixes that, for the most part, are productive in modern Yešqūr and used flexibly enough that speakers demonstrate consciousness of them as fully separable elements. They are never *grammatically* obligatory; although several have aspectual meaning, the language itself does not systematically mandate marking of aspect (some historical imperfectives and perfectives, however, have similar prefixes encoded in their stems, particularly the abstractives and those with causative class 2 prefixes). In short, aspect in Yešqūr can be regarded as a lexical issue.

[17] Or literary critical theory; in the better plays, it is difficult to tell.

Many class 1 derivational prefixes are identical to concrete prepositions, although with denotations not limited to non-abstract contexts. Table 10, below, lists forms ***other*** than prepositional ones (for which see Table 9).

i-	'perfective' – bounded event, finished action
u-	imperfective – non-bounded event, activity, habit
kyu-	in an inefficient or annoying matter (based on root for the number seven)
futi-	while in official capacity
fya-	surprisingly, suddenly

<more to be added>

D.4.2. Abstractive Formatives

The prefixes {-(e)su-}, {-(e)qa(r)-}, and {-(e)fa-} serve to derive verbs that denote some abstract activity related to the meaning of the root. The first two morphemes, {-(e)su-} and {-(e)qa(r)-}, are fully productive and is frequently used as desubstantival verbalizers; the former creates inherently (semantically) imperfective stems and the latter perfective. The {-(e)f(a)-} prefix is not productive, and has no effect on inherent aspect; it does, however, serve to separate "fused" instances of prepositional forms being used as Prefix 2 from predictable, productive Prefix 1 uses of similar-seeming forms. As assignment of primary stress also can also serve this function (since primary stress goes on the first syllable of the stem, and Class 2 but not Class 1 verbal derivational prefixes are part of the stem), one cannot predict that {-(e)f(a)-} will occur between every Class 2 and faux-duplicate Class 1 prefix. Forms taking {-(e)f(a)-} are listed as such in the lexicon (q.v.).

D.4.3. Class 2 Verb Derivational Prefixes

Other than for causatives, prefixes in this category are rarely fully productive, and some of them appear to preserve forms that are extinct except in very particularly legislative contexts. Many are prepositional forms that are fused with archaic one-syllable verb stems; modern users of the language frequently show now evidence that they are aware of such stems being morphologically complex.

Table 11: Common non-prepositional class 2 verb prefixes	
lu-	causative 1 (quasi-imperfective)
li-	causative 2 (quasi-perfective)
pru-	inceptive
fri-	iterative
pi-	Denominal verbalizer

D.4.4. TAM markers

The system of evidential clitics (see D.7) interacts heavily with these affixes, as a Dubitative evidential (for example) renders the Potential tense even less "real".

Table 12: Tense/Aspect/Mood markers

Suffix	Category	Notes
- åru	Past	
- ana	Potential Past	sense is roughly "could have, but no longer"
- eta	Present	
- ena	Potential	expresses ability
- ema	Immediate Future	"is preparing to…"
- isa	Future	
- uwi	Negational	"always never does"

D.4.5. Additional verbal pronominal clitics

There are only four pronominal clitics that are confined to use only with verbs; for the more general clitics, see D.2.5.

Table 13: Reflexive and reciprocal verbal clitic pronoun forms

	A	B+
Reflexive	-sye	-sya[18]
Reciprocal	-qwe	-qwa

D.4.6. Infinitival Forms

The term "infinitival" here is being used rather loosely as an alternative to 'gerundive' or 'participial', etc.; none of the labels quite fit. The Yešqūr forms in question are nominalized to a greater extent than are full clauses that are introduced by complementizers and lack a full evidential. There are two forms in this category, both formed by addition of the suffix {-(e)qru(n)} to a verbal stem or a tense-marked verb form. Application of {-(e)qru(n)} to produces a form similar to an English infinitive

[18] Any connection between this morpheme and one in an actual living language is doubtless the result of one of those random correspondences to which languages are prone. Doubtless.

without complements, and such words are frequently used with Class 9 prefixes as abstract nouns, e.g. *mukaarutqrun*, 'to evade'. However, in some cases there is an even further-nominalized version in which the initial vowel of the verb root is shortened to create a nominal stem that has the canonical phonological shape for nominal, e.g. *mukarut* 'evasion'. These forms are typically created by analogy, not by a fully productive process, although in the *accepted* language there are productive versions involved in, for example, discussions of tariff changes resulting from contagious afflictions of sloths.

Nominalizing a tensed verb with {-(e)qru(n)}allows retention of time-differentiation, and the resulting form is the head of an nominalized predicate that can then be used as a complement or adjunct. Complements *inside* the nominalized predicate never receive full-form noun class prefixes, and, in shorter infinitivals not referring to an actual event, are frequently used with construct case, e.g. *kaarutåruqrun aqxmaefiin* 'having evaded Mhaevenni'.

D.5. Base Adverbs

This category comprises a range of lexical items that can occur only in Adjunct1 or Adjunct2 slots and which cannot bear either case or tense; examples include the standard clausal negative ***qri,*** frequentatives such as ***sarek*** 'frequently' and ***frokek*** 'again', and some of the stance markers such as ***kråyå*** 'youch!'. They co-occur with a closed set of derivational morphemes, such as {ru-}, an intensifier. Bare substantival and verbal stems, however, could be argued to be in this category as well.

D.6. Connectives

These are monomorphemic items acting as conjunctions and clause-relation indicators of different types. For the sake of convenience, the author is including in the same category words that combine phrase-level units and words that indicate clause-level relations, although the Yešqūr phrasal conjunctive *fa*, for example, cannot – unlike the English 'and' – be used to connect clauses.

Administrative stance markers (all initial)

Qår	'Here's a violation of subordinate committee precedent'
Sefef	'Here's a violation of superordinate committee precedent'
Nuqur	'The following may not seem relevant, but bear with me'
Iip	'As a friendly amendment,…"
Arek	'This part shouldn't be interrupted with side motions'
Yain	'Here's a doubtless-minor difficulty with the previous"
Kaa	'Oh, *sorry*, but to get us back on track…"
Fruw	'I am *cough* saying this as the senior official here.'
Yuq	'This next bit is friendly, although you might not guess that.'
Ifta	'Here's something that sounds great but is non-actionable!'

Efar	'Regrettably, the following tabled motion must be untabled'
Uur	'Here's a bluntly worded version we'll have to rewrite…"
Raiku	'For you less-experienced personnel…"
Sraif	'I know we all have better things to do, but…"
Kiku	'I'm required to say this next bit; I'm not owning it, mind you'
Frualu	'Some might think this next bit is payback. Heh. Heh.'
Airu	'This part has to go through or *somebody's* toast'
Anixu	'I'm not quite…sure…what the previous was, but here goes'

Logical connectives

fa	'and' (no implication of causation); clausal only.
šåṅ	'and'; phrasal only
quṅ	'or' (exclusive)
påqu	'thus, therefore, consequently'

<more to be inserted>

D.7. Evidential Clitics

Few characteristics of Yešqūr demonstrate so obvious an artificial status as the evidential clitic system. Based on examination of older trade accounts, it seems reasonable to assume that at the time of the Expansion, most dialects of the language were informally using an assortment of words to indicate evidentiality, but the symmetry of the current system – and its convenient arrangement into a 5 X 4 matrix – are almost positively the work of the early bureaucrats (and if that weren't enough, the fact that some of the markers appear to be reduced forms of Dzaskyenu adverbs and Vea verbs is a bit of a giveaway).

The numeric arrangement of the forms has the added benefit of allowing scribes to simply write a number (with a determinative mark to indicate its status as a non-number) instead of using normal orthography for the sounds, a point of particular interest in that these clitics are phonologically anomalous (and in most "correct" versions of the language, pronounced quite differently). In glossing, the author has adopted a similar strategy, so a code like "EC[2]" can serve as a shorthand for "EC:FactPers." As with other 4x5/20 systems in this language, the items are traditionally associated with the Five Elements,[19] the Four Landforms,[20] and the Twenty Noble Goats of Tyasiq. The scribes frequently memorize the cells via the names of the goats, leading to some rather odd allusions and symbolism in Yešqūr texts. In most bureaucracies, for example, rules

[19] Approximately: Solid, Liquid, Gaseous, Subtle, and Edible (the other four are conceptualized as inherently inedible, so "air" is not gaseous, and "porridge" is neither solid nor liquid; both are, instead, primarily edible, with the former being admixed with gaseous and the latter being admixed with both liquid and solid). It should be noted that "element" here is perhaps a bad translation; in Yešqūr philosophy, the five are considered more as metaphysical "locations" relative to which any particular item or substance can be farther or nearer. Ice is closer to Solid and farther from Liquid than is water, for example.

[20] Lofty mountains, hills and lower mountains, plains and farmland, and swamp/ocean.

committees are not known as "catapult panels," nor do people immediately associate miners with high-mountain gasses.

It is particularly difficult to translate the meaning of these affixes directly (particularly since the mood affix of the verb in a clause interacts with these); the chart below uses entire phrases to attempt to convey the sense of the clitic. To construct the base form of the affix, simply use the row consonant first and the column consonant second (trying to use the first of the pair of column consonants without creating a cluster with "uphill" sonority), and then drop glottalization on it. For example, the Conditional Institutional is {k'p}.

There is one additional evidential clitic, {-p'}, which is not "mapped" in the traditional grid because it marks *lack* of change; it is somewhat similar to "no change" markers in switch-reference systems. Even as a "null" evidential, however, it does signify that the clause so marked is an independent rhetorical move. A two clause-sequence in which both have evidentials constitutes a sequence of two major speech acts; a sequence in which only the first has an evidential is a single speech act with two clauses realizing it.

Pronunciation Note: While some of the *correct* forms of Yešqūr maintain use of the evidentials with their full glottalization features, there are a number of alternate pronunciations that, if we weren't afraid of being fined by the Office of Grammar, we'd say were organic developments away from the highly artificial constraints of this one. One of the most common tricks, one related to early legislation of Vea social contracts in cities, uses what is known as the Vean Swerve.[21] It converts each clitic into a two-syllable word with nasalized /o/ as the nucleus of each syllable. Hence, {***-t'k}*** becomes ***tõgõ***, which acts like an independent word. Most spoken Yešqūr in offices uses the VS or other strategies for ease of pronunciation, even though more senior bureaucrats typically are required to learn to pronounced the full glottalized forms for use in the legislative contexts that require them. Yešqūr is there to be the *wrong* form, so few can object to small changes as long as they don't lead one into accidently using the *right* form. VS ***is*** the right form within very particular circumstances, but few offices nowadays are dealing with situations in which a Vea tribal unit is attempting to propose a particular type of group marriage, with specific conjugal and horse-trading implications, to an Itatha city-state.[22]

The other major strategy for rendering the evidentials more easily pronounceable is to draw on the fact that they're associated with numbers (albeit ones with odd associations). Speakers can simply use the initial sequence *tarutai* (based on the class 7 prefix and

[21] The Yešqūr tendency to view things as metaphorically localized results in descriptions portraying contingent states as regions in an imaginary space. Hence instead of "when this list of fifty-two variables lines up to produce exactly *this* sequence of values, use *this* form of the word X," Yešqūr grammarians think of it as "when you get to *this* spot, the outcropping of X looks like *this*." A single change can thus indicate that you're heading in a particular "direction"; it's all vectors, really. *Swerve* is the closest translation of the term that Yešqūr grammarians use, which is *twaaqyarqrun*. It is amazing that they have been able to apply this metaphor for centuries without acknowledging that much of the variation in forms has to do with *actual* space.

[22] Although inhabitants of the city of Korhaneth still tell stories about that one time in the 14th century.

honorific found on the caprinyms) plus the shortened numeral form (q.v.) of the caprinym itself, hence *tarutaiwa* for EC[2]. While following this strategy should logically result in taking much longer to indicate the evidential category – and create all sorts of opportunity for ambiguity, since the word will sound like a nominal – in reality it usually takes less time than working oneself up to say the EC in its full form, and speakers use intonation to mark the boundaries so as to eliminate ambiguity. This is called the Sifimu Swerve, after the small-child pronunciation of *sifmuq* ‘primary school’. As legislation has never been passed delivered in full small-child naming mode, it is safely wrong.

Table 14: Evidential Clitics (with their traditionally associated caprinyms (tarutaixwaqir))

		(Reality/Peak) Universal	(Self/Hill) Personal	(Authority/Plains) Institutional	(Them/Sea) Propagational
		f/r	t/l	p/w	k/y
Factive (Solid)	t	[1] It is a matter of certain fact that… (Used only for foundational axioms and traditional gnomic statements)	[2] I am confident that… (Used quite often to indicate that the speaker has confidence in the information, but can't quote references verbatim. Also, **Y/N questions** with interrogative particle and potential mood).	[3] It is verified that…. (If Yešqūr Wikipedia existed, entry authors would try to get away with using this one whenever possible).	[4] Rumour has it that… (According to /r/Worldnews…)
		Tarutai-Swarxaluk 'ironface'	**Tarutai-Waqtum** 'leaper'	**Tarutai-Wåryax** 'thunderer'	**Tarutai-Turusatat** 'hillstrayer'
Conditional (Liquid)	k	[5] If <preceding> were not true, impossible result ____ would exist.	[6] I think it's reasonable to deduce that if <preceding>, then ____.	[7] Providing <Preceding> is officially accepted, _____.	[8] Yeah, I've heard that ____ can happen when <preceding> happens.
		Tarutai-Paftip 'feuder'	**Tarutai-Fṅaqsul** 'darter'	**Tarutai-Kyufip** 'catapult'	**Tarutai-Sråtwun** 'bolter'
Hypothetical (Gaseous)	f	[9] It necessarily follows that… '	[10] What if we imagine that…	[11] We might conceivably alter the rules so that…	[12] Oh here's a wild idea….
		Tarutai-Kešap 'miner'	**Tarutai-Rumux** 'grazer'	**Tarutai-Xnaten** 'effective fury'	**Tarutai-Narɬur** 'trickster'
Dubitative (Subtle)	a	[13] In*conceivable*!	[14] Could it be? (also, **validation questions**).	[15] Okay, now that just can't be right.	[16] Oh yeah, *that's* the ticket.
		Tarutai-Sniłat 'spewful'	**Tarutai-Nankušutis** 'threadless'	**Tarutai-Liqus** 'mourner'	**Tarutai-Mumtarafåx** 'bellowthwart'
External (Edible)	u	[17] There is no physically possible way to escape the fact that you must do ____.	[18] Sorry, but could I bother you to ____? (also, **content questions** with nouns or pronouns marked with the interrogative clitic).	[19] You're required to _____.	[20] Don't look at me; I'm just the messenger here.
		Tarutai-Yanmif 'oracle'	**Tarutai-Qłayiš** 'the maw'	**Tarutai-Pyatwon** 'avalanche'	**Tarutai-Kalir** 'grace'

D.8. Formal Ululations

Perhaps because of the need to clearly demarcate portions of an exchange that "count" as official productions of correctly-worded language, bureaucrats using Yešqūr have evolved a set of paralinguistic signs to bracket portions of spoken production. For example, the commonly-encountered Ululation of Legislative Intent marks the beginning of the official reading of a corrected draft; if the speaker decides s/he has read it correctly, s/he can then mark its endpoint with the Expression of Hopeful Closing (which is basically a kind of "eh?!" with rising intonation while the arms are spread, the hands are held facing mostly towards the speaker, and a kind of pointing gesture is performed). A different Expression is used immediately upon the speaker's noticing of what s/he regards as a mistake. The exact intonation contour and pitch characteristics of a Ululation varies, of course, dependent on legislative context. In writing, they are indicated via ideographs.

E. Syntax

Yešqūr is basically a VSO language, but it makes extensive use of topicalization, and so appears to be at least halfway toward becoming a "Verb-Second" language. Subjects, complements, and referential adjuncts can be topicalized, in which case the evidential marker is an enclitic to the last word of the topicalized constituent; in the *absence* of topicalization, the evidential is a proclitic to the verb. Some adjuncts can occur in both "Adjunct2" and "Adjunct3" slots, so can occur pre-verbally in the Theme *or* as linking elements; in these cases, the position of the evidential allows disambiguation (if it's an enclitic to the adjunct, the adjunct is an Adjunct2 acting as the Topic, but if the evidential is a proclitic to the verb, the adjunct is acting as an Adjunct3).

E.1.Structure of the Simple Clause

Figure 1, below, gives a very general overview of major syntactic slots.

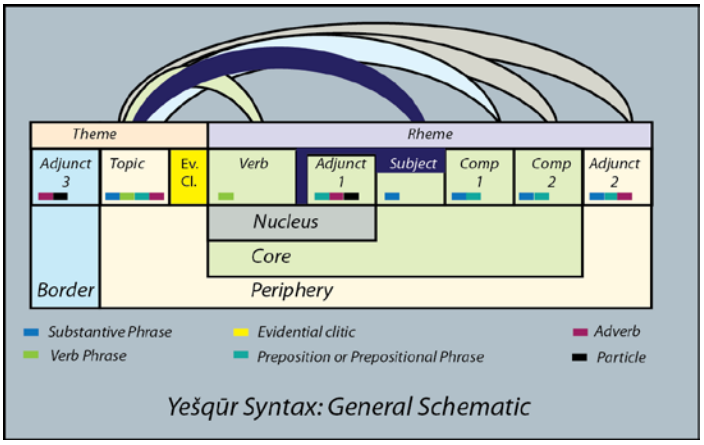


Figure 2: General Clausal Syntax

E.1.1. Subject

Subjects in Yešqūr are defined on the basis of the following criteria:

- Agentive or nominative case marking.
- Appearance before non-subject complements and adjuncts, excepting those that are topicalized.
- Obligatory signification: representation by pronominal clitic on verb in absence of overt subject or known subject (i.e. indefinite 3rd person clitic).
- Higher frequency of topicalization – in some ~~dialects~~ legislative contexts, this has become obligatory enough in initial main clauses to move the language toward SVO basic word order.

E.1.2. Comp1

Comp1 elements are distinguished from Comp2 by the absence of a resumptive pronoun under topicalization and by obligatory preposition-initial full class marking when the Comp1 is realized by a PP (something that occurs infrequently except with copulars, with verbs of motion, or due to use of the prepositions as subordinators) and the verb to which it is a complement is finite. The majority of Comp1s are NPs in the accusative or dative case, or quotative constructions in the dative.

t'teråišetanen	*qayarfiki*	*sum*	*aqšisasu*
EC[2]+eat+PAST+I.EX	C6+crayfish	on/at	c3r+restaurant+DAT
VS	Comp1	Adjunct2	

I ate some crayfish at the restaurant

t'tyainetalet	*asum*	*fruṅiaq*
EC[2]+be.loc/t+PAST+NSIPro	c6s+on/at	fancy.plate+PART.NOM
VS	Comp1	

They were on a fancy plate.

letet't	*t'tyaineta*	*asum*	*fruṅiaq*
NSIPro	EC[2]+be.loct+PAST	c6s+on/at	fancy.plate+PART.NOM
S/Topic	V	Comp1	

(*As for) those, (they) were on a fancy plate'*

asum	*fruṅiaqt'k*	*tyainetalet*
c6s+on/at	fancy.plate+PART.NOM_EC[2]	be.relation+PAST+NSIPro
Comp1		VS

'(It was) on a fancy plate (that) they were.'

E.1.3. Comp2

This slot is filled only if the verb is formally ditransitive, which is most common with causatives, transattributives, and sortals.

E.1.4. Adjunct1

Adjunct1 elements are tightly bound to the verb (they are not topicalizable), and fillers of this slot mainly comprise simple adverbs and nominal base-forms interpreted as incorporated into the verb, lacking either primary or construct case. It might be better to refer to Adjunct1 elements as a kind of verbal complement; the choice of label was made simply because (a) calling it a complement at the clause level means having to do something to indicate the *other* complements are of a different variety (i.e., the diagram was already drawn) and (b) lexical items denoting, e.g., frequency of action occur in this slot and are typically considered adjunctival in other languages. However, placing some nominal forms in the Adjunct1 slot results in transitive verbs not requiring Comp1s, a very un-adjunctlike behavior.

The ***absence of class- and case-marking*** on the nominal following the verb is the major sign of this incorporated status:

munåit't	*uyaašikåru*	***siiwufuti***
we.EX+NOM+EC[2]	IMPERF+toss+PAST	c4d+marmot+ACC
S/T	V	Comp1

As for us (not you), we were tossing marmots.

munåit't	*uyaašikåru*	***wufut***
we+NOM+EC[2]	IMPERF+toss+PAST	marmot
S/T	V	Adjunct1

As for us (not you), we were marmot-tossing.

E.1.5. Adjunct2

This is the default position for PPs, particularly those indicating time, place, purpose, accompaniment, instrumentality, etc. NPs occuring in this slot either by themselves or after a preposition are typically in the Circumstantial case.

E.1.6. Adjunct3

Items in this slot are almost always either non-referential, or are endophoric, referring either forward or backward to some other element of the text; they encode speaker's stances *about* the semantic content of what they precede, or place it in logical or rhetorical relation to other material. For example, a reason-clause placed in this position will provide the motivation for *saying* the rest of the clause, while a reason-clause placed

in the Topic or Adjunct2 position will provide the cause for the event described by the main clause.[23] Clausal conjunctions and subordinators go in this slot, as does a wide range of stance markers.

E.1.7. Negation

The morpheme ***qri*** can be viewed as the "basic" negative marker in the language; it is used to negate clauses or predicates (in Adjunct 1 position) or full rhetorical moves (if the evidential clitic is attached to the end of it):

t'tuyaašikåru ***qri*** *munåi siiwufuti*
"I'm sure we were not tossing marmots."

qrit't *uyaašikåru munåi siiwufuti*
"It's not the case that I'm sure we were not tossing marmots."

The morpheme ***yuk***, on the other hand, is used in coordinate series to negate one or more members of the series; it frequently fuses with the phrasal coordinator ***pe***:

t'tuyaašikåru munåi siiwufuti ***peyuk*** *siitasufi*
I'm sure we were tossing marmots, not squirrels"

With coordinated full clauses, the coordinator ***fa*** also fuses with it in the same manner:

t'tuyaašikåru munåi siiwufuti ***fayuk*** *p'uyaašikårures siitasufi*
"I'm sure we were tossing marmots, but you weren't tossing squirrels"

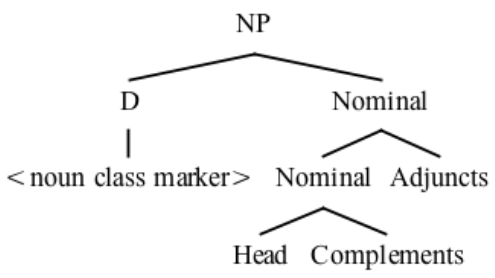
The {p'} evidential in that example indicates that the second clause is to be taken as a second full claim, but one with the same status as the first.

t'tuyaašikåru munåi siiwufuti fa qrit't uyaašikårures siitasufi
"I'm sure we were tossing marmots and(but) I'm not sure you were tossing squirrels."

E.2. Phrase Types

<needs major work>

E.2.1. Nominal Phrases



The author is, as an analytic move, regarding noun class marking as

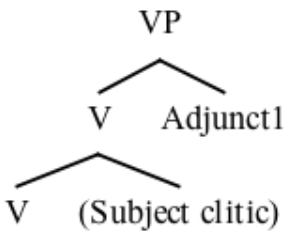
`the positioning of the evidential clitic, which

effectively applying to NPs as constituents rather than only to words – in other words, viewing the markers as clitics. Motivations for this include the following:

- *Full*-form class marking is restricted to one noun per NP, and the elements that occur with reduced-form class marking can be regarded as also being NPs, albeit ones used in modifier or complement position.
- Class marking denotes many of the same semantic features as do determiners in other languages.
- The fact that class marking is phonologically attached to the noun does not *prevent* the markers from being considered separate elements (this is standard clitic behavior).
- Nominalized verbs, including those at the beginning of nominalized sentences and predicates, still receive class marking (the class 9 prefixes); it seems reasonable to consider the class-marking as applying to the entire nominalization.

At the same time, however, the author wishes to keep this descriptive grammar as theory-agnostic as possible, and so is not proposing that the class marker is the *head* of the NP (even though that move would make the construction completely head-initial in keeping with most of the rest of the language). [24]

E.2.2. Verbal Phrases



Most of the information in the VP is packaged morphologically; the only two elements that can be easily considered "separate" are the subject clitic (which is obligatory only with the absence of a full subject NP) and the Adjunct1 element.

E.3. Major Clausal Construction-Types

As with many terms in this grammar, "construction" is being used loosely here; it merely denotes a pairing between a putative event- or process-type and a particular configuration of complements and case-markers.

[24] If linguists can apply a determiner-phrase (DP) analysis to languages in which determiners are highly optional, it stands to reason that one can refuse to apply a DP analysis in cases where it buys a whole lot. It's a matter of balance, really.

E.3.1. Intransitive:

V | S:Ag/Nom

Choice of case-marking for subjects in the intransitive indicates (unsurprisingly) whether it is volitional or not.

E.3.2. Transitive:

V | S:Ag/Nom | C1:Acc

E.3.3. Hemitransitive:

V | S:(Ag/)Nom | C1: Dat

This construction is used for a very wide range of processes in which the subject does not directly affect anything to a strong extent. Its frequency is partly due to the fact that verbs of locution, sensation, and cognition typically follow this pattern. Agentive subjects are rare in hemitransitives, but when present indicate that the subject expended some effort to deliberately experience the process.

E.3.4. Attributive:

V | S:Nom | C1:Qual+Dat | P C2:Circ|[25]

Rather than expressing attribution as "The box is large" or "The box has large size," Yešqūr uses something like "X finds large of the box," with "large" being simultaneously marked Qualitative and Dative. The primary verb used in this construction is ***tuul***. The implication is that the quality is not *necessarily* a real characteristic, but rather is the product of perception – the kind of hedging that it is reasonable to hypothesize that any bureaucrat or academic could, possibly, respect. At the same time, it's possible to completely eliminate any potential for assigning *fault* for misperceptions by the simple tactic of using a generic subject clitic. The most common preposition used is ***xån***.

[25] While typologically, it may seem a bit odd to position the quality as a more central participant than what *has* the quality, this construction might be the result of centuries of exposure to Itatha philosophy, which takes a determinedly Aristotelian view of things and which, in some cases, seems oddly structuralist. In Itatha tradition, "finding green" in a leaf *changes* one's notion of what 'green' means. You just happen to have updated your notion of green-ness by encountering the bit of it associated with that leaf. Unlike the Itatha themselves, the immediate post-Expansion Yešqūr took Itatha philosophy *seriously* (until they got bored).

t'tetuuletaleq	*mumaqaåtåqu*	*xån praniruqå*
EC[2]+find+PAST+NSpec	c9s+size+Q:Sec+Dat	assoc. box+CIRC
VS	C1	C2

"One finds largeness of the box / The box is large"

Frequently, of course, the object of attribution is topicalized:

xån praniruqåt't	*tuuletaleq*	*mumaqaåtåqu*	*laquqå*
assoc. box+CIRC	EC[2] find+PAST+NSpec	c9s+size+Q:Sec+Dat	it

"Of the box, one finds largeness of it"

E.3.5. Sortal (Comparative, Copular, and Possessive)

$V_{stative}$ | S:Nom | C1: Dat | C2: (P) Circ

The Yešqūr verbs ***kyaim*** (be equivalent to), ***truan*** (be inequivalent to), ***tyain*** (be at time/location), and ***yiar*** (be in relation to) are used together with quantifiers to express the assertion of a wide range of relations, among which are equivalence, comparison, and possession; frequently, these do not translate directly into English well. Basically, since the set of Yešqūr quantifiers is rather large and rather detailed, the language allows a good bit of the specifics of a relationship to be "packed" into a quantifier instead of a verb, etc.

Assertions of comparison use ***kyaim*** or ***truan*** in connection with ***yufut*** ('greater than'), ***rital*** ('less than'), and ***kanet*** ('equal to').

t'ktruaneta	*Kanpata*	*taixåłu*	*ipsaqxuut*	*yufut Kikputuqå*
EC[2]-be.ineq	Kanpat-NOM	c7s-mensurancy-DAT	c7r-bravery-P:P	> Kikput-CIRC

"Kanpat is braver than Kikput"

Statements of "ownership" typically lack a preposition; they are formed with ***yiar,*** and the quantifier used depends on whether possession is inalienable (***tur***, referring to heavily interconnected systems) or alienable (using ***sun***, for simple sets).

t'kyiareta	*Kanpata*	*kituruqup*	*kiṅfuun*
EC[2]-be.rel	Kanpat-NOM	c3s-system-DAT-that	c3r-nose-P:P

"Kanpat owns that nose over there" (appropriate only if nose has been severed)

t'kyiareta	*kituraqup*	*kiṅfuun*	*Kanpatu*
EC[2]-be.rel	c3s-system-Nom-that	c3r-nose-P:P	Kanpat-DAT

"That nose over there is Kanpat's" (nose can be attached or not)

t'kyiareta	*tasunaqup*	*etqafpwaur*	*Kanpatu*
EC[2]-be.rel	c5s-set-Nom-that	c5r-book-P:P	Kanpat-DAT

"That book is Kanpat's"

The same verb is used with the quantifier ***šuq*** to express metaphorical connections.

t'kyiareta	Kanpata	ešuqu	warnuut	pumswuåpåq
EC[2]-be.rel	Kanpat-NOM	c1s-similancy-DAT	ferret-P:P	daze.perplex-Q:P

"Kanpat is like a dazedly perplexed ferret"

E.3.6. Causative

$V_{causative}$ | S:Ag/Nom | C1:Varies | (C2:Varies)

These constructions involve any of the causative verbs formed with ***li-*** or ***lu-***; the exact meaning depends on the cases assigned to the verb's complements. The agentive vs. nominative distinction is of particular importance in causative constructions, as is the accusative vs. dative. In "double nominative," "double accusative," and "double dative" instances, word order serves to disambiguate, as does the presence or absence of a resumptive pronoun under topicalization for double datives or double accusatives (the pronoun indicates that the topicalized element was a Comp2).

X/S	Y/C1	Z/(C2)	
Ag	Acc	Acc/Dat	X forced Y to do something to Z
Ag	Nom	Acc/Dat	X ordered/induced Y to do something to Z
Nom	Nom	Acc/Dat	X motivated Y to do something to Z
Nom	Acc	Dat	X accidentally made Y do something to Z
Nom/Ag	Dat	Circ	X very indirectly got Y to do s.th. to Z

The [Ag/Dat/Circ] version of the causative is used to indicate that someone actively *worked* to create circumstances which indirectly led Y to do something to Z.

E.3.7. Transattributive and Transequative

$V_{stative+causative}$ | S:Nom/Ag | C1:Qual/Part+Acc | xån C2:Dat

A causative variant of the attributive, the transattributive involves higher-transitivity cases on complements. An agentive subject denotes intentionality, while a nominative subject can imply accidental causation (but is required with non-human subjects regardless). Transattributives with causative verbs of locution (the main examples here being ***lifåun*** or ***liraaš*** 'declare, pronounce') denote instances of officially stating that someone or something has a particular quality. The "transequative" is simply the same structure, but with the verbs *lukyaim* or *likyaim*.

F. Some Notes on Semantic Domains

F.1. Color Terminology

Anyone dealing with Yešqūr chromonyms is faced with the fact that there are an awful lot of them and, as they interact with legislative context (particularly in the area of product regulation), that the shade the term refers to may be quite different in one context than in another. For purposes of compiling this grammar, the author adopted the rather non-standard practice of presenting younger speakers with novel, brightly colored objects and asking for descriptions – the same kind of strategy that will prompt English-speakers to say something like "light green" instead of "lime" or the like. The result was a set of five terms corresponding roughly to black-to-grey, red-to-orange, yellow, blue-to-green, and violet (these are listed in the lexicon, q.v.). The author regards these as the basic color terms of the language, but it must be stressed that many of the other chromonyms in the language are monomorphemic as well.

Separate from legislative context, a larger list of terms is used in the offices themselves; these correspond to various shades that official paperwork and folders can be in, but employees, after daily exposure, invariably start using them for describing other objects. As there is some consistency to the forms' shades, speakers also form associations between the shades and concepts associated with that *type* of form, and these add connotations to the use of the shade-term when it is applied to objects. For example, *purxup*, a slightly orangish-tinted shade of beige, is famously associated with the imposingly exhausting Application for Recognition of New Regulatory Body and thus *purxup* is popularly conceptualized as the color of difficult drudgery. "I find *purxup* in this soup" can thus mean "I find making this soup to be an entirely-too-complex and unrewarding task." Conversely, *friqłus***,** a somewhat disturbing blend of olive green and taupe, is used for a wide range of receipts given as proof of bill-payment, and thus has come to signify "obligations fulfilled."

Yešqūr literature makes active use of these associations; as a result, students find it difficult to understand the nuances of literary pieces without at least some familiarity with bureaucratic contexts. As the bureaucracy controls the examination process and the result is to give the offspring of bureaucrats an advantage, this situation is unlikely to change.

F.2. Kinship

Yeširiq culture appears to have been mostly matrilineal at the time of expansion, although its traditional separation of organizational roles (female village headwomen and male war leaders) renders the question of whether it was matriarchal problematic. In the language, female lines of kinship are more differentiated than are male, with different terms being used for "mother's sister" and "father's sister", but the same term used for all immediate male relatives of both parents.

Stating who one's female relatives are as well as one's father and one's traditional "founder ancestor," involves use of the ever-useful word ***yiar*** along with the kinship term as a bare adverb in the Adjunct1 position:

t'kyiareta	rišuṅ	Flunkipa	Wimpatu
EC[2]-be.rel-PAST	$aunt_m$	Flungip-NOM	Wimbat-DAT

"Flungip is Wimbat's mother's sister"

For other male relatives, on the other hand, the verb used is ***tyain***, which is more frequently used for location; the construction involved uses the preposition ***xån***:

t'ktyaineta	qaruq	Slirfun	xån	Wimpatu
EC[2]-be.rel-PAST	male-rel	Slirvun-NOM	P	Wimbat-DAT

"Slirvun is a male relative of Wimpat's"

The extended clan-focus of Yeširiq culture has led to a number of lexical distinctions that might seem perplexing to outsiders, the most obvious of which involves the division of buildings – including public buildings – into two categories: family-related and non-family-related. An extended family might, for example, fund a public library, which despite being open to – and used by – the general public, counts as a ***fikat***. A building serving almost exactly the same purpose but funded by general tax revenue would be a ***wamit*** instead. Complicating matters is the fact that some buildings are constructed using funds drawn from both kinds of sources; in such cases, specific *parts* of the building count as fikat or wamit. This can lead to a building with multiple entrances having different signs.

G. Lexicon

<Needs scanning to weed out violations of palatal harmony, instances of particularly unpronounable diphthongs; 95% of derived terms need to be developed>

Base Word	Cat	Class	Derived	Class	Gloss
fåapux	v				debate
fåin	v				buy
			lufåin		engage in trade
			lifåin		sell s.o. s.th.
fałak	n				goose
fałuq	n				noise(of animal/person)
famaṅ	n				straight

			quṅfamaṅ		exposed, hard to defend (military term)
fånåñ	n				bucket
fåñat	n				bag(for carrying)
fasåt	n				full
fåsił	n				pot(clay)
fatuq	n				fog
faułux	v				suspend(table/delay)
fåun	v				inform
			lifåun		declare s.o. to be in a state/condition
			(ef)tyefåun		slander
fauq	v				be.moved
fåuqat	v				propose(change to structure)
fayuł	n				moon
fikat	n				building(family-linked)
fipap	n				cup/mug
fruṅiaq	n				fancy plate (*a bit similar to calling an expensive vase a [va:z] in English, except that there's an entirely different word for normal plates).*
fwaun	v				recompense
kraån	v				work(on object)
kåix	v				hear
			lukåix		amplify, repeat so that someone can hear, speak loudly, publish
			likåix		point out noise to someone, copy/print a copy of a text
kåsis	n				strange (thing)
kalus	n				antelope
qåur	v				smell
kaur	v				sleep
			lugaur		lull someone, calm somone
kiat	v				organize
kiån	v				weave(cords)

kiar	v				kill(non-human)
kiir	v				dance(recreation)
kuimux	v				chew/swallow
kułas	n				fire
kuuxåń	v				plant
kyaim	v				be(equivalent to)
			lukyaim		consider equivalent to
			likyaim		categorize, treat X as equivalent to Y as being in set Z.
laań	v				scout
			(ef)tyelaań		spy on (with ill intent)
lååq	v				work(succeed)
			lulååq		teach/enable
lååtåk	v				direct
låipåf	v				build
łałåm	n				cavalry
łåqar	n				mountain(high)
łånin	n				chicken
lapif	n				herb
laquł	n				shop/office(goods or services bought/sold)
låras	n				dull (as a knife)
łåwat	n				wind
łayaf	n				round
liåniq	v				cook(by boiling)
łiaxix	v				hiccup
łiił	v				know(fact)
			lułiił		teach facts; lecture
liin	v				root/settle
łiin	v				know(person)
luqak	n				wall

luun	v				accept
			liluun		talk or force someone into accepting
maiɬit	v				carve/sculpt
maal	v				die
			limaal		assassinate
maṅåp	n				yellow
måpan	n				sun
maraṅ	n				box(metal)
maqat	n				size/large
mašat	n				dung
miñaš	n				table/shelf
muåñ	v				know(area, subject)
muiliq	v				snore
muñaṅ	n				near
muqan	n				cow/ox/mule
nåålål	v				blink
naanåf	v				cut(food/wood)
ṅååṅ	v				fly
			luṅååṅ		hoist
ṅaan	v				speak
ṅaårus	v				greet
ṅaat	v				tie
ñåfån	n				administrator(mid)
nåfil	n				box(wood)
ṅafuq	n				liaison
ṅåif	v				hit(animal/human)
			uftyeṅåif		beat
naik	v				dance(ritual/formal)
			tyiliñaik		compel s.o. to perform ritual dance of abnegation (the one with the ribbons and the squeak-bladders)

nåit	v				herd
			(ef)tyenåit		stampede towards trap (also used in military contexts for tricking opposing troops into disaster).
ṅålåx	n				pig
ñañaq	n				rain
nañat	n				saddlebag
nåṅił	n				sharp (as a knife)
ñåpaš	n				dry
ṅaput	n				violet
ṅaruk	n				hill/mountain(low)
ṅasaṅ	n				sand
nåuṅ	v				see
ñåuq	v				ascend(slope)
			luñåuq		push uphill
ṅauyit	v				dry(surface, material)
ñayax	n				warm
ñiik	v				move(voluntary)
			luñiik		lead
ñiil	v				walk
niṅim	n				black to grey color
ñipat	n				office(no goods or services bought/sold)
nuuł	v				cut(wound)
			(ef)tyenuuł		wound in battle/fight
ṅiufuš	v				plow
nuiṅur	v				fear
			lunuiṅur		frighten
nuruf	n				pot(metal)
påaq	v				travel
paasun	v				comb(hair)
paut	v				spit

			lupaut		cause s.o. to spit / enrage s.o.
piår	v				prepare(for s.th.)
piif	v				hit(object/substance)
piñåf	n				gloaming
puikåš	v				goatherd
puir	v				close
			lipuir		shut s.th. firmly, lock
purxup	n				orange-ish shade of beige
putuq	n				raptor
qåałåt	v				graze
qaam	v				run
			(ef)tyulqaam		rout s.o. (military term)
qafåñ	n				far
qaix	v				shout
			luqaix		startle s.o.
qalåp	n				functionary
qanañ	n				smooth
qiax	v				open
			iqiax		open a shop, bridge, building, etc. for use
rååk	v				descend(slope)
			lurååk		lower s.th.
raal	v				name
raaš	v				declare/pronounce
rakuk	n				sky
rånån	n				officer
råñuq	n				smoke
råtis	n				correct
råulis	v				bathe
rifåk	n				infantry

riis	v				defend
rikañ	n				red to orange color
riniñ	n				scaffold/frame(wood/metal)
riṅum	n				salt
ripaṅ	n				gale
risåk	n				star
riwåt	n				old
ruåpåt	v				weave(cloth)
ruum	v				predict(suspect)
			luruum		imply
šååf	v				storytell
			lušååf		teach the history of a place/person
šåalål	v				break/shatter s.th.
šalum	n				lightning
samås	n				sea
šašak	n				day
šasuñ	n				ash
šayił	n				earth
šiñix	n				good
šišul	n				songbird
siix	v				take
šuul	v				hunt(by trapping/fishing)
sraquł	n				farmer (of fields, not terraces – i.e., “flatland” farming)
šuir	v				dodge
šulas	n				room
šusåx	n				night
taiš	v				taste
tanåš	n				bad
taqåp	n				stone

tašin	n				year
tašiq	n				noise(of inanimate)
tasuf	n				squirrel
tåšus	n				thread
taaq	v				dry(food)
tifan	n				road
tinik	n				thunderstorm
tiqåm	n				arthropod(crawling/inedible)
tiyap	n				administrator(lower)
truap	v				be(inequivalent to)
tuåf	v				eat/assimilate
tuamuṅ	v				propose(physical action)
tuur	v				hunt(with weapons)
tuifur	v				barter
tulax	n				administrator(upper)
tuul	v				find/discover
tyain	v				be(at time/location)
wååf	v				extract
wafas	n				cloud
wamit	n				building(non-family-linked)
wåram	n				scout
wuup	v				touch
wiis	v				freeze
waas	v				melt
winåt	n				ice
witan	n				dirty
wuåtås	v				conflict
wutap	n				blue to green color
wuul	v				scuttle/crawl

wuxañ	n				left
xaan	v				feel(physical)
xaåqåf	v				yawn
xaašåš	v				smith
xålañ	n				new
xåñit	n				fish
xašån	n				cold
xatuł	n				wet
xiaq	v				reject
xiiwit	v				ascend
xiwar	n				cord(leather, sisal)
xualås	v				descend
xumaf	n				snow
yååmåm	v				attack
yaašik	v				toss
yåfat	n				arthropod/mollusc(pelagic)
yiir	v				swim
yaqał	n				rotten
yaqåń	n				tree/shrub
yuuf	v				breathe
yiar	v				be(in relation to)
yiis	v				kill(human)
yikas	n				horse
yiup	v				move(involuntary)
yuåkuš	v				potterymake
yuayar	v				cook(by roasting)
yukuk	n				dust
yusån	n				handle
yuušik	v				throw(at target)

yuxum	n				right