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A Grammar of Tetey

0. Introduction

This sketch briefly describes some basic grammatical features of the language of the Teteys as it was spoken around 1 YP. The dialect dealt with here is exclusively Central, i. e. the rather uniform variety of the language spoken natively by people residing approximately within the triangle formed by the settlements of Kokete, Ukelse and Ocezo. The variety in question was also the most imitated one among the speakers of other dialects in cross-dialectal communication, as well as by non-Teteys speaking to Teteys.

1. Phonology

1.1. Vowels

The inventory of vowel phonemes includes **a**, **o** [ø], **u**, **e** [ɛ], and **i**. The vowels **o** and **u** are optionally fronted to [ø] and [ɛ] after /j/ and, especially, /Cj/. There is no other information on allophonic variation; generally, the articulation of vowels appears to be rather tense and stable in all environments.

1.2. Onset consonants

	Bilabial	Dental ¹	Sibilant ²	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<u>Plain</u> <u>plosives</u> ³	p	t [t̪]	c [t̪s]		k	([?])*
<u>Ejective</u> <u>plosives</u> ⁴	p' [p [?]]	t' [t̪ [?]]	c' [t̪s [?]]		k' [k [?]]	
<u>Voiceless</u> <u>fricatives</u>	f [ɸ]	z [θ]	s		h [χ]	
<u>Nasals</u>	m	n [ɳ]				
<u>Voiced fricatives</u> <u>and approximants</u>	v [β]**	l [ɿ]		y [j]***		

¹Or denti-alveolar (these PoA don't contrast in Tetey); **l** and **n** in contact with sibilants often become alveolar, as e. g. in **sno** [sno] 'shrimp' and **slyu** [sljø] 'louse'.

²Alveolar, and mostly apical rather than laminal.

³Also called "the lenis series". Unlike plosives in the least marked series in many other languages with phonemic ejectives, plain plosives in Tetey are not aspirated in any noticeable way.

⁴Written **pp**, **tt**, **cc** and **kk** in some other versions of Romanized spelling, and sometimes called "the fortis series".

* Automatic before otherwise uncovered vowels, and not marked in the Romanized spelling except in the rather infrequent intervocalic combination [-j?-] which is written **ý** (cf. below on the use of acute to denote [?] in codas).

** Realized as approximant after obstruents, as e. g. in **tva** [t̪βa] 'my mother', and sometimes intervocally.

*** Not permitted before **i**; after another consonant (except velars), and especially after a cluster, can be realized as its palatalization, e. g. in **tlyú** [t̪l̪jø?] 'my sister' and **slyu** [sljø] 'louse'.

1.3. Onset clusters

Permitted onset clusters include: any obstruent other than /?/, **c** and **c'**, i. e. any of **p t k p' t' k'** **f z s h v**, plus **l**; or any of the non-bilabial obstruents **t k t' k' z s h** plus **v**; or one of the voiceless fricatives **f z s h** plus **n**; or one of the non-bilabial fricatives **z s h** plus **m**. Besides, each of these two-consonant clusters (and each single consonant except /j ?/) can be followed by **y** (not before **i**), which is often realized as just palatalization in this position.

1.4. Coda consonants

These include **m**, **n** [ŋ], **l** [ɫ], **y** [j] and /?/; coda **y** /j/ is not permitted after **i**; coda /?/ is denoted by an acute on the preceding vowel, i. e. **á ó ú é í** = /a? o? u? e? i?/. The dental **n** [ŋ] and **l** [ɫ] can be realized as alveolar [n] and [l] when in contact with a following sibilant, e. g. in **melso** ['məlsø] 'three mountains' and **tomsinc'e** [tɔm'sintʃ'e] 'two mirrors'.

1.5. Phonotactics

/C?/-combinations other than geminated /??/ do not occur word-internally and are simplified on word boundaries by dropping the glottal stop; /Cj/-combinations other than /?j/ tend to resyllabify, including on word boundaries, forming an onset cluster.

1.6. Word accent

Word accent is realized as a peak of tone pitch located approximately at the onset of the accented syllable, in declarative utterances followed by a sharp falling intonation on the accented syllable itself, and preceded by a rather gradual rising that covers the whole chain of pretonic syllables (if present). Posttonic syllables (if there are any) have a low tone, at least finally in a declarative utterance. Quantity is not known to be involved in the phonetic realization of word accent in any regular way; the involvement of intensity has not been properly studied, but it has been suggested that besides the word-level intensity contour naturally matching the pitch contour, a word which is not a clitic has an additional intensity peak on its first syllable (the so-called "initial intensity").

The position of word accent is mostly automatic: accented is the last syllable of a word if it ends in a consonant (including /?/), else the penult. However, clitics do not affect the position of accent, which makes it marginally contrastive in some analyses (since the position of accent may indicate that a part of the phonetic word represents a clitic, as e. g. in **tun fo** [tun'ɸo] 'the star', **tumol hvu** [tumol'xβu] 'the stars' or **apuvlo-p'i** [a'puβlɔp'i] 'without houses').

No other prosodic features are known to be contrastive in Tetey.

2. Productive morphonological processes

2.1. Consonant gradation

Consonant gradation is a process whereby a consonant representing the so-called weak grade of alternation is replaced with the corresponding consonant representing the strong grade (which is called "consonant strengthening") or, conversely, a strong grade consonant is replaced with the respective weak grade consonant ("consonant weakening"). Therefore, the consonants that can participate in consonant gradation (called "gradable consonants") form pairs, each consisting of a weak grade consonant and the corresponding strong grade consonant, as follows:

<u>Weak grade</u>	<u>Strong grade</u>
(0)	p
z	t
y	s
h	k
f	p
v	m
l	n

Synchronously the grades are not directly determined by phonetic environment. Subject to gradation are initial consonants of certain morphemes in certain combinations, and the specific grade of the consonant depends, in principle, on an inherent "strengthening" or "weakening" quality of the immediately preceding morpheme. However, morpheme-initial **p**, **t**, **s** and **k** can be invariably strong, i. e. may retain their quality even after morphemes that generally require a following weak grade. Thus, with morphemes like the root of **puta** 'village', demanding a strong grade of a following suffix, and the root of **mya** 'war', demanding a weak grade, the forms of dual in **-te** (with invariable **t**) and plural in **-vu/-mu** (with gradable **v** ~ **m**) look as follows:

puta 'a village' **putate** 'two villages' **putamu** 'villages'
mya 'a war' **myate** 'two wars' **myavu** 'wars'

The convention adopted in this description is that suffixes beginning in a gradable consonant are by default presented in their weak grade, so initial **p**, **t**, **s** or **k** in a suffix written in isolation can be only invariable; for example, the suffix of dual is written **-te**, while the suffix of plural, **-vu**. However, stems, roots and prefixes are written in the form which they have when not preceded by another morpheme, and their susceptibility to gradation, where applicable, is explained individually.

Morphemes (e. g. prefixes and roots; also morpheme combinations, e. g. stems) which demand the strong grade of the initial consonant of a following morpheme (typically a root or a suffix) are called strong, while those demanding the following consonant to be in the weak grade are called weak. The strong and weak qualities of morphemes can be marked by superscript letters **s** and **w**, respectively: **ko^s-** '3rd person sg. m. possessive', **to^w-** '1st person sg. possessive'; the convention adopted in this description is that the strong quality of morphemes is marked regularly, and the weak quality, only where it needs to be emphasized.

In certain classes of lexemes (e. g. in nouns) the most frequent form in use is suffixless, which makes the weak or strong quality of the stem not immediately observable and thus subject to analogical influences. This often leads to vacillations in treating a specific lexical stem as weak or strong, which is especially common in nouns.

2.2. Dissimilation of **u**

If the vowel **u** follows an open syllable within a word whose nucleus is also **u**, it often dissimilates to **o** (which in such cases is always the "volatile **o**", i. e. often surfaces as zero; see below, 2.3).

Restrictions on dissimilation of **u** are of two types. First, there are morphemes whose **u**'s never dissimilate; such **u**'s are called "firm", and the firm quality of **u** can be marked with a macron (**ū**). Second, certain **u**'s do not cause dissimilation of a following **u**; this is particularly common if the first **u** is part the sequence **yu**, but is subject to many idiosyncratic irregularities.

2.3. Volatile **o**

In many morphemes the vowel **o** is deleted where this produces a permitted underlying syllable structure (which is slightly different from syllable structure permitted by surface phonotactics, see below); such **o** which is subject to deletion is called "volatile **o**". Deletion of volatile **o**'s is a set of rules applied in a particular order, as described below.

(1) Volatile **o**'s are deleted first where this produces a permitted onset cluster, namely:

- any obstruent except /?/ **c c'** (but including **v**) followed by **l**, **y**, or **ly**;
- any obstruent except /?/ **c c' v** (but including **p p' f**) followed by **v** or **vy**;
- any voiceless fricative (including **f**) followed by **m**, **n** or **my**, **ny**.

(One can notice that this list violates the surface restrictions described in 1.3 by also producing onset clusters where two bilabials are in contact; these clusters are then eliminated by another process which is called "dissimilation of bilabials", see 2.4 below.)

- the deletion of **o** is not blocked by **y** /j/ already forming an onset cluster with the second consonant; conversely, before a single **y**, **o** is normally deleted only after a single consonant (other than **y** or /?/) and not after a pre-existing onset cluster (in other words, a **CCy**-cluster can be formed by **o**-deletion only where there is no underlying **o** immediately before the **y**);

- as an exception to the above rule, in a few lexicalized cases **C(o)vo + y-** yields **Covy-** (i. e. the **o** before a single **y** does undergo deletion, and the resultant **vy**-cluster then does block the deletion of the other volatile **o**).

(2) Next are deleted **o**'s that follow one of the consonants permitted in coda position, **m n l y /?/**, except when part of a cluster (including a cluster produced by rule (1)); the **o** subject to deletion by this rule can be followed by a coda /?/ which is deleted together with the vowel. If there is a sequence of underlying syllables with **o**'s satisfying this criterion, deleted is every even-numbered volatile **o** counting from the beginning of the sequence, with word-initial syllable excluded from the count.

The following examples illustrate the ordering of deletions demanded by rule (2):

kvule 'otter' + **-yo** 'trial number' → **kvuley** 'three otters': **o** is deleted by rule (2) after **y** which is a consonant permitted in codas; but:

kvule 'otter' + **-yo** 'trial number' + **-lo/?/** 'instrumental case' → **kvuleyol** 'by three otters': there is a sequence of two **o**'s preceded by consonants permitted in codas, so only the even-numbered (i. e. second) **o** is deleted.

And these examples illustrate the mutual ordering of rules (1) and (2):

hufus 'wolf' + **-vu** 'plural number' + **-lo/?** 'instrumental case' → **hufu-mo-lo/?**
(with dissimilation of **u** and consonant strengthening in **-mo**) → **hufumol** 'by wolves':
like in **kvuleyol** above, deleted is the even-numbered **o**; but:
apu 'house' + **-vu** 'plural number' + **-lo/?** 'instrumental case' → **apu-vo-lo/?**
(with dissimilation of **u** but without consonant strengthening) → **apuvló** 'by houses':
v and **l** (unlike **m** and **l** in the preceding example) can form an onset cluster, so the
o between them must be deleted first; the remaining **o** in **-lo/?** cannot be deleted
since now it follows a cluster.

Most **o**'s occurring in positions where the deletion rules may be in principle operative are volatile **o**'s. However, there are morphemes whose **o**'s are not subject to deletion. Such **o**'s are called "firm", and where necessary are marked with a macron (**ō**); conversely, where the volatile nature of an **o** needs to be emphasized, it may be marked with a breve (**õ**).

2.4. Dissimilation of bilabials

Where the deletion of a volatile **o** produces an onset cluster of two bilabial consonants, the first bilabial dissimilates into a velar: **fm fv pv p'v** → **hm hv kv k'v**. This rule is applied without any exceptions.

2.5. Glottalization

If a syllable ending in **/?** is followed by **p**, **t**, **s** or **k** within a word, the glottal stop is usually deleted, while the following consonants are changed to **p'**, **t'**, **c** and **k'**, respectively. This process is conventionally termed glottalization, despite the fact that the resulting affricate **c** is not ejective, i. e. the glottal articulation is lost rather than added at least in this particular case.

2.6. Virtual glottal stop

We have seen that a coda **/?** does not block the deletion of a volatile **o** after another permitted coda consonant, and must be deleted together with the vowel in such cases (rule (2) in 2.3 above). However, glottalization (2.5 above) is applied before the deletion of **o**; sometimes this leads to situations where a morpheme which on the surface ends in **m**, **n**, **l** or **y** (and thus has no surface **/?**) triggers the glottalization in a following morpheme as if there were a silent **/?** after the morpheme-final sonorant. It is indeed convenient to postulate an underlying **/?** in such cases, which is lost without a trace where surface phonotactics disallows it but still can trigger the glottalization of a following consonant. Such underlying **/?** is called "virtual glottal stop".

3. Nouns and nominal phrases

3.1. Grammatical categories of lexical nouns

All nouns are inflected for case; countable nouns inflect for number; a group called "inherently possessed nouns" inflects for person and number of possessor(s).

Other grammatical categories of nouns, like gender and determination, do not affect the form of the noun itself, but can determine the presence or the form of certain other words in a phrase.

Of the latter group of categories, gender is a lexical-grammatical category of the noun itself, and thus generally is not predictable from syntactic (or other) context; for this reason, it will be considered together with morphological categories and not postponed to sections dealing with syntax.

3.1.1. Gender

Tetey has two genders, masculine (m.) and feminine (f.); besides, nominal lexemes that can be construed as either masculines or feminines in predictable situations are said to belong to "common gender" (c.).

In general, the gender of a specific noun may be not predictable from either its meaning or its formal features, i. e. at least partly gender assignment is historical.

The gender of a specific noun in Tetey selects, and is seen from, the form of certain words that must agree in gender with the noun in question; these categories of words include determiners, relative pronouns, and finite verbs; a related but slightly different phenomenon is the selection of gendered forms in personal pronouns (3rd person only) and agreement prefixes on verbs with no overt argument that might serve as agreement controller.

3.1.1.1. Gender in personal nouns

In nouns that denote humans, the assignment of gender is closest to purely semantic, viz.:

- in nouns that refer specifically to men and boys (**koteze** '<his> father', **kyok'e** '<his> brother' etc.) or, conversely, women and girls (**koma** '<his> mother', **konyú** '<his> sister', **yase** 'woman' and the like), gender directly reflects the biological sex of the denotate. The same principle is applied to proper names of individuals;

- of nouns that in principle may refer to both sexes, only a small subgroup (**ute** 'person', **ve** 'child', **sozat'u** 'relative' and a few others) can be construed as feminines or masculines depending on the biological sex of people being referred to, and thus lexically belongs to common gender. However, when biological sex is irrelevant or backgrounded, or else when one speaks of a mixed group, such nouns are construed as masculines;

- most nouns that generally don't refer strictly to males or females are nevertheless grammatically strictly masculine and cannot be construed as feminines even when referring to women. When it is necessary to stress that only females are meant, one uses circumlocutions or lexical derivates that are grammatically feminine;

- a group of nouns referring to what is perceived as mostly women's occupations are construed as feminines, including when the actual denotate happens to be male. To emphasize that one means specifically a man one can resort to a circumlocution or a lexical derivate that is grammatically masculine;

- gods and spirits are treated as either feminine or masculine personalities, and their names are construed as feminines or masculines accordingly.

3.1.1.2. Gender in other animate nouns

In nouns that denote animals, grammatical gender must directly match biological sex only for terms that specifically refer to males and females, respectively, or else for individual animals' names.

In all the other words referring to animals, gender assignment is governed by a different principle: lexemes for small animals tend to be strictly feminine, and for large animals, masculine.

Switching from masculine to feminine agreement in the latter group may be used as a means of lexical derivation to convey a diminutive meaning (which is also occasionally found as solitary examples in inanimate nouns, but is productive only with words denoting animals), or else to refer to toys and amulets depicting the respective animal.

3.1.1.3. Gender in inanimate nouns

In inanimates gender is less semantically conditioned than in animates. Although certain semantic groups of lexical nouns tend to belong to the same gender, the exceptions are usually too numerous and/or too prominent for the common component of meaning to be considered the leading factor in gender choice. In most cases, gender assignment can be considered either purely historical or partly formal, viz. in correlating with derivation patterns (and switching the gender is sometimes used as a means of derivation by itself).

3.1.2. Case

Tetey has four cases called **absolutive**, **ergative**, **instrumental** and **oblique**. Case forms are differentiated by their endings which are uniform underlyingly but have different surface shapes depending on deletion of volatile **o**, strengthening of initial consonants after strong stems, and glottalization triggered by a stem-final glottal stop (overt or virtual):

Abs. 0 (zero ending);

Erg. **-ko**; **-k'o** if glottalization is applied;

Instr. **-lo**?/ (i. e. **-l** or **-ló**, depending on preservation of the volatile **o**; **-n** or **-no** with strong stems);

Obl. **-lo** (with volatile **o**, i. e. **-l** or **-lo** with weak stems and **-n** or **-no** with strong stems).

Absolutive is primarily the case for subjects of intransitive verbs and patient-like arguments of transitive verbs; ergative, for agent-like arguments of transitive verbs; instrumental denotes tools, means and manners of actions, and is the default case for demoted arguments in valency-adjusting derivation (e. g. with

applicatives, antipassives and de-causatives); oblique is used before primary pastpositions and is the case of the first component in appositive constructions (e. g. **mefokel tvezo** 'your brother who is my friend', where **mefokel** is obl. of **mefoke** 'your <sg.> brother').

3.1.3. Number

Countable nouns have four distinct forms of number: singular, dual, trial and plural. Singular stem is identical with bare lexical stem of the noun; dual, trial and plural stems are built by adding a suffix to the singular stem. Bare number stems are used as absolutives in the respective number, and case endings are added to them to build the other case forms. Like case endings, number suffixes are affected by the regular processes of deletion of volatile **o**, consonant strengthening and glottalization; besides, the suffix of plural is subject to **u**-dissimilation.

Sg.: 0 (zero suffix);

Du.: **-te**; **-t'e** if glottalization is applied (a special allomorph **-c'e** is used instead of **-t'e** with names of instruments, see [A.2.1.2](#));

Tri.: **-yo** (with volatile **o**, i. e. **-y** or **-yo** with weak stems and **-so** or **-s-** with strong stems; also glottalized **-co** which is practically restricted to names of instruments, see [3.2.0](#));

Pl.: **-vu** (**-mu** with strong stems; **-vo/-v-** or **-m/-mo** if **u**-dissimilation is applied).

3.2. Declensions in lexical nouns

Most of the productive morphonological processes discussed above ([2.1 - 2.6](#)) are seen in declensions. In most cases, they are quite regular, and specific forms are fully predictable from the dictionary form of the noun and (sometimes) from its derivational history. However, the involvement of some conflicting rules as well as numerous individual exceptions make the overall picture rather complex. In some detail it is described in [Supplement A](#); in this paragraph only a few examples are given illustrating all the diverse processes that may affect the shape of inflectional suffixes and alternations in stems.

	sno f. 'shrimp' (sno^w-)	fi f. 'mouse' (fi^s-)	apu m. 'house' (apu^w-)	hufu m. 'wolf' (hufu^s-)	pyé m. 'pig' (pyé^w-)
Sg. abs.	sno	fi	apu	hufu	pyé
erg.	snoko	fiko	apuko	hufuko	pyek'o
instr.	snol	fin	apul	hufun	pyéló
obl.	snol	fin	apul	hufun	pyélo
Du. abs.	snote	fite	apute	hufute	pyet'e
erg.	snoteko	fiteko	aputeko	hufuteko	pyet'eko
instr.	snotel	fitel	aputel	hufutel	pyet'el
obl.	snotel	fitel	aputel	hufutel	pyet'el
Tr. abs.	snoy	fiso	apuy	hufuso	pyéyo
erg.	snoyko	fisoko	apuyko	hufusoko	pyéyoko
instr.	snoyló	fisló	apuyol	hufusló	pyéyol
obl.	snoylo	fislo	apuyol	hufuslo	pyéyol
Pl. abs.	snovu	fimu	apuvo	hufum	pyévu
erg.	snovuko	fimuko	apuvoko	hufumko	pyévuko
instr.	snovul	fimul	apuvló	hufumol	pyévul
obl.	snovul	fimul	apuvlo	hufumol	pyévul
	fo f. 'star' (fo^w-)	kevo m. 'axe' (kevo^w-)	mul m. 'shoe' (mul^w-)	tomsin m. 'mirror' (tomsin/?/^s-)	
Sg. abs.	fo	kevo	mul	tomsin	
erg.	foko	kevoko	mulko	tomsink'o	
instr.	fló	kevló	mulol	tomsinnó	
obl.	flo	kevlo	mulol	tomsinno	
Du. abs.	fote	kevote	multe	tomsinc'e	
erg.	foteko	kevoteko	multeko	tomsinc'eko	
instr.	fotel	kevotel	multel	tomsinc'el	
obl.	fotel	kevotel	multel	tomsinc'el	
Tr. abs.	fyo	kevyo	muloy	tomsinco	
erg.	fyoko	kevyoko	muloyko	tomsincoko	
instr.	fyol	kevyol	muloyló	tomsincol	
obl.	fyol	kevyol	muloylo	tomsincol	
Pl. abs.	hvú	kevovu	mulvu	tomsinmu	
erg.	hvuko	kevovuko	mulvuko	tomsinmuko	
instr.	hvul	kevovul	mulvul	tomsinmul	
obl.	hvul	kevovul	mulvul	tomsinmul	

3.3. Inherently possessed nouns

A number of Tetey nouns that denote inalienably possessed objects (mainly body parts, kinship terms and a few others like 'friend' and 'soul') always take prefixes that mark the person and number of the possessor and never combine with the definite article (3.4.1) or independent possessive pronouns (3.4.2). Such nouns are called "inherently possessed"; the productivity of this category is low: it comprises a fixed list of words plus some of their derivates (specifically, regular diminutives and augmentatives), as well as certain nouns used as secondary

postpositions. It should be stressed that a number of words, including all the new formations but diminutives and augmentatives, which semantically belong with kinship terms or body parts do not inflect as inherently possessed nouns in Tetey.

The basic forms of the possessive prefixes are the following:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	to-	t'e-	tyo-	tvu-
incl.		ku-	kuy-	kuvo-
2nd		me-	mete-	mey-
3rd masc.		ko^s-	kote-	koso-
3rd fem.		tu^s-	tute-	tuso-
				tum-

It can be noticed that the number of possessor(s) is mostly expressed with familiar morphemes; the vowel in **to-** is volatile **o**, which explains the forms **tyo-** and **tvu-**; the 3rd person morphemes are "strong", which is seen in the forms of trial and plural; **kuvo-** and **tum-** display **u**-dissimilation. Only **t'e-** is synchronically somewhat obscure, with 1st person morpheme irregularly reduced to just glottalization of the dual suffix. All of these effects are also found in interaction of the respective morphemes with lexical stems of inherently possessed nouns.

The dictionary form of an inherently possessed noun is the one having the 3rd person masculine singular prefix (which may seem somewhat artificial with nouns like **koná** 'vulva' or **kosine** 'female breast', but cf. 3.5 below on agreement triggered by personal pronouns). If the possessor needs to be denoted by a lexical noun, this takes the "genitive" postposition **-zi** and is put before its head (like with the ordinary nouns in possessive construction) while the prefix of the inherently possessed noun agrees with it in gender and number (**tutel yasetel-zi tuteteze** 'the two women's father').

The stem of the noun combining with the possessive prefixes is always subject to at least some alternations, which makes this category the most complex part of Tetey morphology. In this section only one of the simplest types is given for illustration, the paradigm of **koteze** '<his> father', where the only alternation in the stem is glottalization of the initial consonant in 1st person singular (accompanied by dropping the possessive prefix itself):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	t'eze	t'eteze	tyoteze	tvuteze
incl.		kuteze	kuyteze	kuvotaze
2nd		meteze	meteteze	meyteze
3rd masc.		koteze	koteteze	kosoteze
3rd fem.		tuteze	tuteteze	tusoteze
				tumze

All the other types are illustrated and explained in Supplement B.

3.4. Determiners

3.4.1. Article

Tetey has only the definite article, which is put before the noun and agrees with it in gender and number (but not case):

Sg. Du. Tri. Pl.

m.: kon	kotel	koslo	komul
f.: tun	tutel	tuslo	tumol

3.4.2. Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns are used with nouns other than inherently possessed ones when the possessor is not in focus and have the following forms:

Sg. Du. Tri. Pl.

1st excl.	tlozi	t'elzi	tyolzi	tvulzi
incl.		kulzi	kuyolzi	kuvlozi
2nd	melzi	metelzi	meyolzi	mevulzi
3rd masc.	konzi	kotelzi	koslozi	komulzi
3rd fem.	tunzi	tutelzi	tuslozi	tumolzi

Possessive pronouns in Tetey do not convey determination by themselves and therefore demand the definite article if the head noun is determined: **kon kulzi apu** 'our (incl. du.) house', but **kulzi apu** 'a house of ours'. They also freely combine with other (equivalents of) determiners, e. g. with demonstratives: **kon kulzi apul kon so** 'this house of ours'.

Formally, possessive pronouns resemble combinations of the stems identical with possessive prefixes (3.3) with the genitive postposition **zi**, but are construed differently (they are put after the article, unlike other "genitives"), and their final **-zi** is not treated as a clitic (**tuslozi** [tu'sloθi], **kuvlozi** [ku'βloθi] - cf. **apuvlo-zi** [a'puβloθi] 'of houses').

The possessive pronouns are not used when the possessor must be emphasized; in such cases, personal pronouns with the "genitive" postposition **-zi** are used instead: **tohan-zi** 'my (own)', **kokan-zi** 'his (own)', etc.

3.4.3. Other determiners

Other words functioning as determiners are formally either participles (e. g. **zú** 'the same' ← **zu** v. ipf. 'be the same') or nouns (or pro-substantives, or noun phrases) used in appositive construction with the lexical noun, mostly as second components (cf. demonstrative pronouns, 3.6).

3.5. Personal pronouns

Structurally, the absolute case forms of personal pronouns are inherently possessed forms of a formal noun stem **-ha** (strong grade: **-ka**) which itself does not inflect for number:

Sg. Du. Tri. Pl.

1st excl.	toha	t'eha	tyoha	tvuha
incl.		kuha	kuyha	kuvoha
2nd	meha	meteha	meyha	mevuha
3rd masc.	koka	koteha	kosoha	komuha
3rd fem.	tuka	tuteha	tusoha	tumha

The oblique and instrumental cases are formed from the absolute as with standard strong vocalic declension nouns, and thus fall together (e.g. for **toha** 'I': obl.=instr. **tohan**, etc.). However, the ergative case is formed by adding the ergative case ending **-ko** directly to the possessive prefix; in addition, in 1st person sg. the possessive prefix is replaced with glottalization, like with inherently possessed nouns with stems beginning in **k-**:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	k'o	t'eko	tyoko	tvuko
incl.		kuko	kuyko	kuvoko
2nd		meko	meteko	meyko
3rd masc.		koko	koteko	kosoko
3rd fem.		tuko	tuteko	tusoko
				tumko

On coalescence of **k'o** with the homophonous form of relative pronoun, see 3.7.

An interesting peculiarity of personal pronouns in Tetey is that in agreement they are all treated like 3rd person masculines. E. g. with inherently possessed nouns: **tutel yasetel-zi tutetehote** 'the two women's faces', **tutetehote** 'their (du. f.) faces', but **tutehan-zi kotehote** 'their (du. f.) own faces'; with verbs: **k'o mesinye** 'I saw you', **k'o kosinye** 'I saw him', but **k'o kosinye meha** 'it was you that I saw'.

3.6. Demonstratives and interrogatives

Tetey has two basic demonstrative pronouns, **so** 'this' and **mu** 'that'. Independently, both are used solely to refer to abstract situations or unknown objects, as e. g. in **Muko koka siteku** 'That made him happy' or **So zo ya?** 'What is this?'.

Tetey also has two basic interrogative pronouns, **i** 'who?' and **ya** 'what?'; the difference in meaning is very similar to that found in English.

So, **mu**, **i** and **ya** do not inflect for number but otherwise are declined like regular nouns with similar stem-final sounds:

'this'	'that'	'who?'	'what?'
sōw-	muw-	i-	ya-
abs.	so	mu	i
erg.	soko	muko	iko
instr.	sló	mul	in
obl.	slo	mul	in
			yan

So, **mu** and **ya** can take the definite article to form **kon so** 'this one', **kon mu** 'that one' and **kon ya** 'which one?'. The forms of article convey the number and gender of the implied object, while **so**, **mu** and **ya**, as usual, are inflected for case but not number. **Kon so**, **kon mu** and **kon ya** are also used in appositive construction with a preceding lexical noun, e. g. **kon apul kon so** 'this house', **tuslo fyol tuslo ya?** 'which three stars?', etc.

So, **mu** and **ya** can also take the adverbializing suffix **-vō** to form the pronominal adverbs **svo** 'so (like this)', **muvo** 'so (like that)' and **yam** 'how?'. Combined with **zó** (the participle of **zo** v. ipf. 'be'), these produce **svo zó** 'such (like this)' (lit. 'being like this'), **muvo zó** 'such (like that)' (lit. 'being like that') and **yam zó** 'what kind of?' (lit. 'being how?').

3.7. Relative pronoun

Relative pronouns in Tetey are syntactically part of the subordinated clause and their case is selected accordingly; on the other hand, they agree in gender number with their head nouns (which are part of the main clause):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
m.	k'o	k'ote	k'oso	k'omu
f.	t'u	t'ute	t'uso	t'um

The declension of dual, trial and plural is the same as with similar forms in nouns and needs no special remarks; the singular forms are treated as strong stems (instr. = obl. **k'on**, **t'un**).

It can be noticed that the m. sg. abs. form, **k'o**, is homophonous with erg. of the personal pronoun **toha** 'I' (3.5). When these two forms meet within one clause, the neighboring **k'o** (relative, abs.) and **k'o** (personal, erg.) must coalesce into **k'yek'o** 'which I...'.

Relative pronouns are always put in the beginning of the relative clause; the clause is placed after its head noun (and its postpositions, if there are any). Unlike English, Tetey disallows eliding the antecedent of a relative clause; personal pronouns and demonstratives are often used as formal antecedents where English has none: **k'o sinye mu k'o meko hotye** 'I saw what you did'.

3.8. Numerals

Counting system is decimal. Numbers from 1 to 10 are root words, round numbers 100 through 1000 are their somewhat obscured derivates:

keze	'one'	kezyek'o	'100'
mó	'two'	moc'ó	'200'
pye	'three'	pyek'o	'300'
zete	'four'	zetyek'o	'400'
poho	'five'	pohik'o	'500'
sve	'six'	svyek'o	'600'
tetu	'seven'	tetyuk'o	'700'
kufyu	'eight'	kufyuk'o	'800'
nyú	'nine'	nut'ó	'900'
keho	'ten'	kehyek'o	'1000'

Round numbers 20 through 90, as well as 2000 through 10,000, are construed by putting one of the numbers 2 – 10 before **keho** 'ten' and **kehyek'o** '1000', respectively: **pye keho** '30', **nyú keho** '90', **mó kehyek'o** '2000'; note the absence of dual, trial and plural marking in the second components. It is not quite certain if any ready idiomatic patterns exist for numbers over 10,000, but known folklore texts attest at least one occurrence of **nut'ó kehyek'o** '900,000'.

The so-called connective forms of numerals are built by adding the prefix **yu-** to the respective simple number; the prefix works as a plus sign in building numbers like **pye keho yumó** '32', **mó kehyek'o yupohik'o** '2500' or **tetyuk'o yupoho keho yunyú** '759', i. e. it marks the lesser summand (always put second) in compound numerals. Besides, connective forms are used in phrases like **foke yuzete** 'my brother and four other men' (lit. 'my=brother plus=four').

When used as cardinals, numerals are put after the noun which must be in the absolute case of the semantically appropriate grammatical number; only the

numeral is declined in such combinations (like a regular noun with similar stem ending, see [Supplement A](#)). Determiners that normally follow nouns are placed after the numeral (with the oblique case marker attached to the numeral): **komul apuvo mó keho yumólo komul so** 'these 22 houses'. When not components of compound numerals, the cardinals **mó** 'two' and **pye** 'three' are used with nouns only when the quantity is emphasized in some way; otherwise, the form of dual or trial of the noun itself is enough to express the number of referents. In the cardinal sense, numerals can be used without the head noun and then can combine with determiners, participles, and attributive forms of postpositions, the construction being the same as with regular nouns with the reservation that the number forms of determiners (and other agreeing words) are selected ad sensum, while the numeral itself takes no grammatical number markers.

There are no separate forms for ordinal numbers. When functioning as ordinals, numerals (with no case markers) are simply put before the noun, immediately after the article which is usually present in such phrases: **ko mó keho yumó apu** 'the 22nd house'; the numeral can be separated from the article only by a possessive pronoun: **ko kulzi mó apu** 'our (incl. du.) second house'. Ordinal numerals cannot be used without a head noun.

4. Verbs

4.1 Agreement prefixes in verbs

In certain syntactic environments a finite verb or participle must agree with its main absolutive argument, explicit or implied. This is achieved by adding an agreement prefix to the stem of the verb. Basic forms of agreement prefixes are the same as with possessive prefixes in nouns (3.3):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
--	-----	-----	------	-----

1st excl.	to-	t'e-	tyo-	tvu-
incl.		ku-	kuy-	kuvo-
2nd	me-	mete-	mey-	mevu-
3rd masc.	ko-	kote-	koso-	komu-
3rd fem.	tu-	tute-	tuso-	tum-

Unlike possessive prefixes, the agreement prefixes used with verbs don't trigger any alternations in the stem of the verb, and the only possible alteration of their own form consists in dropping the final volatile **-o** of **to-**, **kuvo-**, **ko-**, **koso-** and **tuso-** before those initial stem consonants which can form a permitted onset cluster with **t-**, **v-**, **k-** and **s-**, respectively.

4.2 Aspect

Tetey verbs have no tenses; when the time frame of a state or action needs to be specified, this is mostly done by adverbials or their equivalents.

Lack of tenses is partly compensated for by aspect derivation. Verbs in Tetey lexically belong to either perfective or imperfective aspect (v. pf. and v. ipf.). Many common verbs come in aspectual pairs (e. g. 'see': **sin** v. ipf., **sinye** v. pf.) where derivation is obscured (although some patterns are certainly recurrent; in particular, the perfective in such pairs often differs in having the non-productive suffix **-pe** added to the stem, e. g. **zu** v. ipf. 'be the same', **zupe** v. pf. 'prove the same').

In a more regular fashion, several derivational suffixes come in similar pairs:

-ku v. ipf. (**-k'u** with glottalization), **-ko** v. pf. - "causative 1";
-teke v. ipf. (**-t'eke** with glottalization), **-tekyā** v. pf. - "causative 2";
-syu v. ipf. (underlyingly **-syus**; **-cyus** with glottalization), **-syupe** v. pf. - "de-causative".

With such pairs, the imperfective variant of the suffix is normally added to the stem of v. ipf., and the perfective one, mostly to the stem of v. pf. (but sometimes of v. ipf., which is usually associated with additional semantic shifts).

Examples:

nufya v. pf. 'cook' → **nufyako** v. pf. 'make so. cook (sth.)', **nufyatekyā** v. pf. 'have sth. cooked (by others)', **nufyasyupe** v. pf. 'get cooked';
nufe v. ipf. 'cook, be cooking' → **nufeku** v. ipf. 'keep making so. cook (sth.)',
nufeteke v. ipf. 'keep having sth. cooked (by others)', **nufesyu** v. ipf. 'be getting cooked';
nó v. ipf. 'love' → **nok'u** v. ipf. 'make so. love (so./sth.)', **not'eke** v. ipf.
'make sth./so. loved (by others)', **nocyu** v. ipf. 'be loved'.

Besides, there are several highly productive patterns used to derive perfectives from imperfectives or vice versa.

v. pf. → v. ipf.: one extremely productive suffix, **-yoy**, with the derivate referring to either an indefinite repetition of events each of which would be denoted by the v. pf., or a shift in temporal scale, such that the inherently perfective (telic) event is viewed as a process long enough e. g. to serve as background for other events. Examples:

sotya v. pf. 'taste, try (e. g. food)' → **sotayayoy** v. ipf. 'be trying (etc.)'
suko v. pf. 'fall' → **sukoyoy** v. ipf. 'be falling, keep falling'
yefape v. pf. 'meet' → **yefapeyoy** v. ipf. 'meet (repeatedly), keep meeting'

v. ipf. → v. pf.:

inchoatives ('begin X-ing'): after vowels **-/vye** (very often with altering the preceding vowel), after glottal stop **-t'vye** (replacing the glottal stop itself), after **y -évye**, after other consonants mostly **-ívye** (sometimes **-yévye**);

cessives ('stop X-ing'): **-vupy**e (with strong stems **-mupy**e; volatile **-o** can be dropped to create a permitted onset cluster with **-v-**);

resumptives ('resume X-ing'): after vowels other than volatile **o -ylye**, after volatile **o** and after glottal stop **-yolye** (replacing the **-o**), after other consonants **-oylye**, with strong stems **-slye**.

Examples:

nozyo v. ipf. 'be low' → **nozyóvye** v. pf. 'become low', **nozyoyle** v. pf. 'become low again';

kyuse v. ipf. 'be false' → v. pf. **kyusyévye** (with altered vowel) 'become false', **kyusevupye** v. pf. 'stop being false', **kyuseylye** v. pf. 'become false again';

kiso v. ipf. 'be soft' → **kisívye** (with altered vowel) v. pf. 'become soft', **kisvupye** (with **-o-** dropped) v. pf. 'stop being soft', **kisyolye** v. pf. 'become soft again';

kufo v. ipf. 'be hollow' → **kufívye** (with altered vowel) v. pf. 'become hollow', **kuhvupye** (dropped **-o-** + dissimilation of bilabials) v. pf. 'stop being hollow', **kufyolye** v. pf. 'become hollow again';

huy v. ipf. 'be round' → **huyévye** v. pf. 'become round', **huyvupye** v. pf. 'stop being round', **huyoylye** v. pf. 'become round again';

c'yu (**c'yus-**) v. ipf. 'be poor' → **c'yúvye** v. pf. 'become poor', **c'yumupye** v. pf. 'stop being poor', **c'yuslye** v. pf. 'become poor again';

nó v. ipf. 'love' → **not'vye** v. pf. 'begin to love', **nóvupye** v. pf. 'stop loving', **nóyolye** v. pf. 'begin to love again';

kapel v. ipf. 'be ready' → **kapelívye** v. pf. 'get ready, prepare', **kapelvupye** v. pf. 'become unprepared', **kapeloylye** v. pf. 'get ready again'.

For historical reasons, the stems of perfective verbs are always weak, always end in a vowel, and such stem-final vowel cannot be **i** or **u**; besides, stem-final **o** in perfectives is always firm. In imperfectives the shape of the stem is not restricted in any way.

4.3 Mood and evidentiality

These strongly overlap in Tetey and are mutually exclusive. The bare stem of a verb is the form of indicative in factual evidentiality; the other forms are built with the following suffixes:

-so (-**co** with glottalization): so-called "subjunctive", covering most irrealsis usages in both main and subordinated clauses as well as hypothetical evidentiality ('maybe...');

-vu (-**mu** with strong stems; -**vo** or -**m** with stems in -**u** but not -**Cyu**; a preceding volatile **o** can be deleted to form a permitted onset cluster): inferred evidentiality;

-ke (-**k'e** with glottalization): hearsay evidentiality;

-/?/ (often with altering the preceding vowel; silent after a final consonant other than /?/) ~ -**k'o** after stems ending in glottal stop (thus always homophonous with prefixless participle, see below): imperative (the same form is used for transitives with implied second person in ergative and for intransitives with implied second person in absolute).

4.4. Voice

The only marked form of voice in transitive verbs is antipassive which is built by suffixing **-zote** (in factual indicative also **-tote** with strong stems) to the form already marked for mood and evidentiality.

4.5. Participle

Participles (prefixless forms, see below) are formed by suffixing -/?/ (which often alters the preceding vowel) or -**k'o** to the stem. More specifically:

- stems ending in -/?/ drop it and take -**k'o**: **nó** v. ipf. 'love' → **nok'o** '(being) loved';
- stems ending in other consonants remain unchanged: **kapel** v. ipf. 'be ready' → **kapel** 'ready', **sukoyoy** v. ipf. 'be falling' → **sukoyoy** 'falling';
- stems ending in suffixes -(V)/?/**vye**-**t'vye** (inchoatives), -**vupye**/-**mupye** (cessives) and -(o)**ylye**/-**yolye**/-**slye** (resumptives) replace these with -(V)/?/**vó**-**t'vó**, -**vupó**/-**mupó** and -(o)**yló**/-**yl**/-**sló**, respectively: **nozyóvye** v. pf. 'become low' → **nozyóvó** 'which has become low', **nozyoylye** v. pf. 'become low again' → **nozyoyló** 'which is low again', **kisvupye** v. pf. 'stop being soft' → **kisvupó** 'which isn't soft anymore', **kufyolye** v. pf. 'become hollow again' → **kufyol** 'which is hollow again', **c'yuslye** v. pf. 'become poor again' → **c'yusló** 'which is poor again', etc.;
- a few lexical stems ending in -**ye** also change this to -**ó**: **tyutye** v. pf. 'use' → **tyutó** '(which has been) used';
- all the other stems ending in vowels just add -/?/ (acute in spelling) to their final vowel: **kiso** v. ipf. 'be soft' → **kisó** 'soft', **yefape** v. pf. 'meet' → **yefapé** 'met', **suko** v. pf. 'fall' → **sukó** 'fallen'.

The stem from which the participle is derived usually includes no mood or evidentiality markers; however, it is in principle possible to derive participles from stems marked for mood (other than imperative) or evidentiality to emphasize the respective shade of meaning: **kapelké** 'reportedly ready', **kisvupyesó** 'which perhaps isn't soft anymore'.

The participle is put before its head noun which by default fills its absolute valency: **c'yú ute** 'poor person', **nok'o sozat'uvó** 'relatives who are loved'. The participle can take all the arguments of the respective verb, including a noun or pronoun in ergative: **meiko nok'o sozat'uvó** 'relatives whom you love', **tvezoko nok'o sozat'uvó** 'relatives loved by my friend'; all such arguments must be put before the participle (forming a participial phrase). With participles of transitive verbs, such arguments can include a noun or pronoun in absolute, in which case the head noun is reinterpreted as filling the ergative valency: **tvezo nok'o sozat'uvó** 'relatives who love my friend'; the absolute argument can be replaced with an agreement prefix: **menok'o sozat'uvó** 'relatives who love you'. Therefore, a participle of a transitive verb cannot correspond to an English active participle

without an object; to denote the patient-like argument, one resorts to participles of verbs in antipassive: **nózoté sozat'uv** 'loving relatives'.

If the head noun has an article, a possessive pronoun or an ordinal numeral, only an argumentless participle can be put after these (agreement prefixes not counting as arguments): **komul nok'o sozat'uv** 'the relatives who are loved', **komul tlozi menok'o sozat'uv** 'my relatives who love you', **melzi nōzoté sozat'uv** 'some loving relatives of yours', **kon mó sukó kufyo** 'the second fallen tree'. If the participle has any arguments, the whole participial phrase must be placed before the article (resp. the possessive pronoun): **tvezo nok'o melzi sozat'uv** 'some relatives of yours who love my friend'; this is also possible with argumentless participles as a somewhat emphatic option.

If the head noun has a noun with attributive postposition (including the "genitive" **-zi**) as its argument, a participle having its own arguments can be attributed only to the dependent noun; in other words, a participial phrase and an attributive pospositional phrase cannot be arguments of the same noun. The standard way to obviate this restriction is to use a relative clause instead of the participial phrase: **tvezno-zi kon apu k'o meko sinye** 'my friend's house which you saw'. Argumentless participles are freely combined with attributive pospositional phrases but must be placed after them.

4.6. Gerund

Gerunds are formed by adding **-ki** (**-k'i** with glottalization) to the stem of verb (not marked for mood or evidentiality).

Gerunds can take all the arguments of the original verb, including in absolute and ergative. All such arguments are placed before the gerund.

Gerund phrases are used as equivalents of English gerund and infinitive phrases, as well as of certain types of subordinate clauses.

5. Postpositions and applicatives

5.1. Primary postpositions

5.1.1. Basic forms of primary postpositions

Primary postpositions in Tetey are not derived from other parts of speech. They are used with the oblique case of their dependent noun and phonetically are treated as enclitics.

An important subgroup of primary postpositions are spatial postpositions. These are organized into a paradigm where each item has three forms expressing so-called orientations: "locative", "allative" and "ablative". Locative orientation is used to denote static position at the respective reference point; allative orientation denotes direction towards the reference point; and ablative orientation, direction away from the reference point. Localizations have no special names and are labeled with the English preposition which is the default translation for the localization in question with locative orientation. For example, the 'in'-localization has the following forms: **vo** 'in', locative; **vove** 'into', allative; **vyo** 'out of', ablative. The whole system of spatial primary postpositions looks like this:

Orientations: locative allative ablative

Localizations:

'at'	te	teve	tey
'in'	vo	vove	vyo
'on'	yu	yuve	yuy
'under'	ki	kime	kiso
'near'	he	heve	hey
'at one side of'	zu	zume	zuso

Other primary postpositions include:

- **zi**: similar to genitive;
- **ye**: similar to dative/benefactive;
- **fi**: 'with';
- **p'i**: 'without'.

5.1.1. Attributive forms of primary postpositions

Attributive position is the only possible one for the "genitive" **zi**. The basic forms of most of the other primary postpositions are used solely as arguments of verbs (including participles and gerunds).

Spatial postpositions of the locative orientation can combine with **zó**, the participle of **zo** v. ipf. 'be', to form a participial phrase that can be used attributively: **kon yapyon-he zó kon apu** 'the house near the bridge'.

All the other primary pospositions have a special attributive form. In most of them, the attributive form is built by adding the suffix **-k'o** to the unaltered basic form: **kon tlolzi kotan-vyok'o yase** 'a woman from my village', **metezel-yek'o peta** 'some milk for your father'; however, **fi** 'with' and **p'i** 'without' change their vowel before the suffix: **fok'o** '<which is> with' and **p'ok'o** '<which is> without', e. g. **ezete mólo-fok'o apu** 'a house with two doors', **teho kezel-p'ok'o apu** 'a house without one wall'.

5.2. Applicatives

Applicatives properly belong to lexical derivation (of verbs from verbs); however, the system of applicatives in Tetey mostly mirrors that of primary postpositions, so it is convenient to discuss them here.

Applicatives are formed by prefixes attached to verb stem; the structure of applicative prefixes has some parallels with the structure of basic forms of the respective postpositions.

Applicatives corresponding to spatial postpositions use the following prefixes:

Orientations: locative allative ablative

Localizations:

'at'	t'e-	t'eve-	t'ey-
'in'	tom-	tomve-	tomoy-
'on'	cu-	cuve-	cuy-
'under'	k'i ^s -	k'ime-	k'iso-
'near'	k'e-	k'eve-	k'ey-
'at one side of'	t'u ^s -	t'ume-	t'uso-

Applicatives corresponding to the other postpositions are the following:

- zi: t'i^s-
- ye: ce-
- fi: p'i^s-
- p'i: k'opi^s-

Besides, Tetey has an applicative corresponding to instrumental case (prefix **k'o^s-**); it is also sometimes said that the antipassive voice (4.4) is essentially the "ergative applicative". In other words, the morphology of Tetey supports a full set of applicative-like transformations for all the basic types of arguments of verbs.

The function of applicatives in Tetey is to promote the argument introduced by the given postposition to the position of absolute while simultaneously demoting the original absolute argument; applicatives in Tetey do not increase the verb's valency, so intransitive verbs remain intransitive. Examples:

- X-**yu** mehu '<someone> sits on X' → X **cuvehu** 'X is used for sitting on';
- X-**ki** ná 'hide under X' → **k'iná** 'use for hiding under';
- X-**yuve** yon 'laugh at (lit. onto) X.' → **cuveyon** 'be ridiculed';
- **zumya** v. pf. 'take' → **t'itumya** 'take the things of'.

When a prefix which is "weak" in terms of consonant gradation is added to a stem beginning in **p-**, **m-** and **n-**, these are weakened to **f-**, **v-** and **l-**; however, no weakening is applied to the other consonants that can be strong grades. Conversely, when a strong prefix is added to stems beginning in **z-** and **h-**, these are strengthened to **t-** and **k-**. Besides, stem-initial glottal stop is always treated as underlying zero onset and is strengthened to **p-**. Interestingly, stems beginning in **v-** and **l-** are also treated as beginning with a volatile vowel preceded by a zero consonant which is strengthened to **p-**; with further deletion of the volatile vowel and dissimilation of bilabials, the result is **kv-** and **pl-**. Stem-initial **y-** can be treated either way, i. e. strengthened to **s-** (sometimes **sy-**) or to **py-**. Initial **f-** is abnormally strengthened to **-/?f-**. Sometimes the shape of the stem or the prefix is subject to additional irregular modifications.

5.3. Secondary postpositions

Secondary postpositions are derivates of either nouns or verbs (more specifically, gerunds).

Nouns that function as postpositions are converted to inherently possessed ones (which is one of the few processes which make the latter category marginally productive). An example of such noun is **kan** f. 'opposite side'; as a postposition, it becomes an inherently possessed **kokan** '<its> opposite side' and takes another noun with the "genitive" **zi** to form postpositional phrases like **kon tehno zi kokanno-vo** 'behind the wall' (lit. 'in the other side of the wall').

Tetey has a regular way of applicative transformation for such noun-based postpositions which involves a two-step derivation. First, the noun serving as postposition is deprived of its possessive markers and is promoted to the absolute position of an applicative: **tun kan tomzo** 'the other side is what <something> is in' (**tomzo** is the 'in'-applicative of **zo** 'be'); then the "genitive"-applicative is formed from the first applicative, and the demoted **kan** is reintroduced in instrumental: **kannó t'itomzo** 'serve the dividing line, separate' (lit. 'be what <something> is on the other side of').

Postpositions derived from gerunds can take their dependent nouns in any form as demanded by the verb (with any postposition and in any case, including absolute and ergative). The gerund itself mostly stands in instrumental. Applicative transformations are not regularly available for gerund-based postpositional phrases.

Supplement A. Stem types and declension classes in lexical nouns

A.1. Stems in vowels other than -o

A.1.1. Nouns in -a, -i and -e

Noun stems that end in **-a** (but not **-ya**) or **-i** are invariably strong; examples are **puta** m. 'village' and **fi** f. 'mouse'. Noun stems ending in **-e** and **-ya** are invariably weak (e. g. **kvule** f. 'otter', **mya** f. war). Nouns in **-ye** mostly have weak stems as well (e. g. **kelye** f. 'lizard'), but **mye** m. 'boat' has strong stem in singular and weak stem in the other numbers:

	puta m. 'village' (putas-)	fi f. 'mouse' (fis-)	kvule f. 'otter' (kvulew-)	mya f. 'war' (myaw-)	kelye f. 'lizard' (kelyew-)	mye m. 'boat' (myes-/myew-)
Sg. abs.	puta	fi	kvule	mya	kelye	mye
erg.	putako	fiko	kvuleko	myako	kelyeko	myeko
instr.	putan	fin	kvulel	myal	kelyel	myen
obl.	putan	fin	kvulel	myal	kelyel	myen
Du. abs.	putate	fite	kvulete	myate	kelyete	myete
erg.	putateko	fiteko	kvuleteko	myateko	kelyeteko	myeteko
instr.	putatel	fitel	kvuletel	myatetel	kelyetel	myetel
obl.	putatel	fitel	kvuletel	myatetel	kelyetel	myetel
Tr. abs.	putaso	fiso	kvuley	myay	kelyey	myey
erg.	putasoko	fisoko	kvuleyko	myayko	kelyeyko	myeyko
instr.	putasló	fisló	kvuleyol	myayol	kelyeyol	myeyol
obl.	putaslo	fislo	kvuleyol	myayol	kelyeyol	myeyol
Pl. abs.	putamu	fimu	kvulevu	myavu	kelyevu	myevu
erg.	putamuko	fimuko	kvulevuko	myavuko	kelyevuko	myevuko
instr.	putamul	fimul	kvulevul	myavul	kelyevul	myevul
obl.	putamul	fimul	kvulevul	myavul	kelyevul	myevul

A.1.2. Nouns in -u

Noun stems in **-u** (not **-yu**) are mostly weak, as exemplified by **apu** m. 'house' in the table below. However, nouns ending in **-CuCu**, e. g. **hufu** m. 'wolf', have strong stems, and a few nouns that end in **-CyuCu**, e. g. **kyuku** f. 'flood (time), high water', vacillate between the stong and weak types. Besides, all the nouns in **-u** show **u**-dissimilation in the plural suffix:

	apu m. 'house' (apu^w-)	hufu m. 'wolf' (hufu^s-)	kyuku f. 'flood' (kyuku^s-/kyuku^w-)
Sg. abs.	apu	hufu	kyuku
erg.	apuko	hufuko	kyukuko
instr.	apul	hufun	kyukun /kyukul
obl.	apul	hufun	kyukun /kyukul
Du. abs.	apute	hufute	kyukute
erg.	aputeko	hufuteko	kyukuteko
instr.	aputel	hufutel	kyukutel
obl.	aputel	hufutel	kyukutel
Tr. abs.	apuy	hufuso	kyukuso /kyukuy
erg.	apuyko	hufusoko	kyukusoko /kyukuyko
instr.	apuyol	hufusló	kyukusló /kyukuyol
obl.	apuyol	hufuslo	kyukuslo /kyukuyol
Pl. abs.	apuvo	hufum	kyukum /kyukuvo
erg.	apuvoko	hufumko	kyukumko /kyukuvoko
instr.	apuvló	hufumol	kyukumol /kyukuvló
obl.	apuvlo	hufumol	kyukumol /kyukuvlo

Nouns in **-yu** mostly have strong stems in all forms (e. g. **yezyu** f. 'wasp'). An exception is **zyu** f. 'fly', which inflects as a weak stem noun in plural. Nouns in **-yu** never have **u**-dissimilation in pl.:

	yezyu f. 'wasp' (yezyu^w-)	zyu f. 'fly' (zyu^s-/zyu^w-)
Sg. abs.	yezyu	zyu
erg.	yezyuko	zyuko
instr.	yezyun	zyun
obl.	yezyun	zyun
Du. abs.	yezyute	zyute
erg.	yezyuteko	zyuteko
instr.	yezyutel	zyutel
obl.	yezyutel	zyutel
Tr. abs.	yezyuso	zyuso
erg.	yezyusoko	zyusoko
instr.	yezyusló	zyusló
obl.	yezyuslo	zyuslo
Pl. abs.	yezyumu	zyuvu
erg.	yezyumuko	zyuvuko
instr.	yezyumul	zyuvul
obl.	yezyumul	zyuvul

In most nouns whose stem-final **-yu** is not preceded by a consonant, or the preceding consonant is **-y-**, the stem is considered weak in all forms and **u**-dissimilation is applied to the plural suffix, like in **ayu** m. 'bear' and **meyyu** f. 'garden'. However, **nuyu** f. 'toy', **heyu** f. 'crow' and **yoyu** m. 'arrow' are inflected like the prevailing type of **-yu**-nouns, i. e. their stems are considered strong and no **u**-dissimilation is seen in the plural:

	ayu m. 'bear' (ayu^w-)	meyyu f. 'garden' (meyyu^w-)	nuyu f. 'toy' (nuyu^s-)	heyu f. 'crow' (heyu^s-)	yoyu m. 'arrow' (yoyu^s-)
Sg. abs.	ayu	meyyu	nuyu	heyu	yoyu
erg.	ayuko	meyyuko	nuyuko	heyuko	yoyuko
instr.	ayul	meyyul	nuyun	heyun	yoyun
obl.	ayul	meyyul	nuyun	heyun	yoyun
Du. abs.	ayute	meyyute	nuyute	heyute	yoyute
erg.	ayuteko	meyyuteko	nuyuteko	heyuteko	yoyuteko
instr.	ayutel	meyyutel	nuyutel	heyutel	yoyutel
obl.	ayutel	meyyutel	nuyutel	heyutel	yoyutel
Tr. abs.	ayuy	meyyuy	nuyuso	heyuso	yoyuso
erg.	ayuyko	meyyuyko	nuyusoko	heyusoko	yoyusoko
instr.	ayuyol	meyyuyol	nuyusló	heyusló	yoyusló
obl.	ayuyol	meyyuyol	nuyuslo	heyuslo	yoyuslo
Pl. abs.	ayuvo	meyyuvo	nuyumu	heyumu	yoyumu
erg.	ayuvoko	meyyuvoko	nuyumuko	heyumuko	yoyumuko
instr.	ayuvló	meyyuvló	nuyumul	heyumul	yoyumul
obl.	ayuvlo	meyyuvlo	nuyumul	heyumul	yoyumul

A.2. Stems in **-o** or a consonant

A.2.1. An overview

Most stems ending in a consonant can be viewed as underlyingly ending in a volatile **o** (2.3) which is deleted in the surface form; on the other hand, the final **-o** where it is present can be considered volatile in most cases. For this reason, stems in **-o** are grouped together with consonant stems and kept separate from stems ending in the other vowels.

The main rule is that consonant stems and stems in **-o** are normally weak. As usual, there are individual lexical exceptions; but besides, there are three groups of recurrent exceptions: nouns in **-yo**, names of instruments and inherently possessed nouns.

A.2.1.1. Nouns in **-yo**

Stems ending in **-yo** are always treated as strong stems. An example is **kufyo** m. 'tree'.

kufyo m.
'tree'
(**kufyo^{s-}**)

Sg. abs. **kufyo**
erg. **kufyoko**
instr. **kufyon**
obl. **kufyon**

Du. abs. **kufyote**
erg. **kufyoteko**
instr. **kufyotel**
obl. **kufyotel**

Tr. abs. **kufyoso**
erg. **kufyosoko**
instr. **kufyosló**
obl. **kufyoslo**

Pl. abs. **kufyomu**
erg. **kufyomuko**
instr. **kufyomul**
obl. **kufyomul**

A.2.1.2. Instrument names

This group comprises nouns produced by a special derivation pattern, specifically, names of instruments homophonous with participles and imperatives of the verbs they are derived from. Like participles and imperatives, they end in /?/ (sometimes with an altering of the preceding vowel) if the verb stem ends in a vowel, in **-k'o** if the verb stem ends in /?/, and in the same consonant as the verb stem if the latter ends in a consonant other than /?/.

Nouns in this group are always masculine, and their stems are always treated as strong; besides, those ending in **-m**, **-n**, **-l** or **-y** underlyingly always contain a final virtual glottal stop (2.6). Another peculiarity is that the glottalized version of the dual suffix used with these nouns is **-c'e** rather than **-t'e**.

Instrument names form subgroups of exceptions in each of the main subdivisions of consonants stems and stems in **-o**, and examples will be given in the respective paragraphs below.

A.2.1.3. Inherently possessed nouns

The distribution between strong and weak stems is purely historical (i. e. not predictable synchronically) in inherently possessed (3.3) root nouns ending in **-o**. Since this group forms a fixed list, all the relevant material is given here: **komuso** f. '<his> guts', **komezo** c. '<his> friend', **kopeto** f. '<his> arm' and **kyeco** f. '<his> knee' are declined as strong stems, while **kokeso** f. '<his> leg', **kopezo** f. '<his> finger', **koteho** f. '<his> face', **kotufo** f. '<his> soul' and **kyého** f. '<his> wing' are treated as weak stems. The final **-o** is volatile, and its predictable deletion may trigger other stem alternations.

	komuso f. '<his> guts' (komuso^{s-})	komezo c. '<his> friend' (komezo^{s-})	kopeto f. '<his> arm' (kopeto^{s-})	kyeco f. '<his> knee' (kyeco^{s-})
Sg. abs.	komuso	komezo	kopeto	kyeco
erg.	komusoko	komezoko	kopetoko	kyecoko
instr.	komusnó	komeznó	kopeton	kyecon
obl.	komusno	komezno	kopeton	kyecon
Du. abs.	komusote	komezote	kopetote	kyecote
erg.	komusoteko	komezoteko	kopetoteko	kyecoteko
instr.	komusotel	komezotel	kopetotel	kyecotel
obl.	komusotel	komezotel	kopetotel	kyecotel
Tr. abs.	komusoso	komezoso	kopetoso	kyecoso
erg.	komusosoko	komezosoko	kopetosoko	kyecosoko
instr.	komusosló	komezosló	kopetosló	kyecosló
obl.	komusoslo	komezoslo	kopetoslo	kyecoslo
Pl. abs.	komusmu	komezmu	kopetomu	kyecomu
erg.	komusmuko	komezmuko	kopetomuko	kyecomuko
instr.	komusmul	komezmul	kopetomul	kyecomul
obl.	komusmul	komezmul	kopetomul	kyecomul

	kokeso f. '<his> leg' (kokeso ^w -)	kopezo f. '<his> finger' (kopezo ^w -)	koteho f. '<his> face' (koteho ^w -)	kotufo f. '<his> soul' (kotufo ^w -)	kyého f. '<his> wing' (kyého ^w -)
Sg. abs.	kokeso	kopezo	koteho	kotufo	kyého
erg.	kokesoko	kopezoko	kotehoko	kotufoko	kyéhoko
instr.	kokesló	kopezló	kotehló	kotufló	kyéhló
obl.	kokeslo	kopezlo	kotehlo	kotuflo	kyéhlo
Du. abs.	kokesote	kopezote	kotehote	kotufote	kyéhote
erg.	kokesoteko	kopezoteko	kotehoteko	kotufoteko	kyéhoteko
instr.	kokesotel	kopezotel	kotehotel	kotufotel	kyéhotel
obl.	kokesotel	kopezotel	kotehotel	kotufotel	kyéhotel
Tr. abs.	kokesyo	kopezyo	kotehyo	kotufyo	kyéhyo
erg.	kokesyoko	kopezyoko	kotehyoko	kotufyoko	kyéhyoko
instr.	kokesyol	kopezyol	kotehyol	kotufyol	kyéhyol
obl.	kokesyol	kopezyol	kotehyol	kotufyol	kyéhyol
Pl. abs.	kokesvu	kopezvu	kotehvú	kotuhvú	kyéhvú
erg.	kokesvuko	kopezvuko	kotehvuko	kotuhvuko	kyéhvuko
instr.	kokesvul	kopezvul	kotehvul	kotuhvul	kyéhvul
obl.	kokesvul	kopezvul	kotehvul	kotuhvul	kyéhvul

Inherently possessed nouns ending in consonants are weak stems and present no peculiarities compared to the prevailing declension types with such stems. Available examples include **kopí** f. '<his> eye', **koná** f. '<his> vulva', **konyú** f. '<his> sister', **kopum** f. '<his> penis', **kosyú** f. '<his> voice', **kosul** f. '<his> tail' and **kokú** f. '<his> brain'.

	kopí f. '<his> eye' (kopí ^w -)	koná f. '<his> vulva' (koná ^w -)	konyú f. '<his> sister' (konyú ^w -)	kopum f. '<his> penis' (kopum ^w -)
Sg. abs.	kopí	koná	konyú	kopum
erg.	kopik'o	konak'o	konyuk'o	kopumko
instr.	kopiló	konáló	konyúló	kopumol
obl.	kopilo	konálo	konyúlo	kopumol
Du. abs.	kopit'e	konat'e	konyut'e	kopumte
erg.	kopit'eko	konat'eko	konyut'eko	kopumteko
instr.	kopit'el	konat'el	konyut'el	kopumtel
obl.	kopit'el	konat'el	konyut'el	kopumtel
Tr. abs.	kopíyo	konáyo	konyúyo	kopumoy
erg.	kopiyoko	konáyoko	konyúyoko	kopumoyko
instr.	kopiyol	konáyol	konyúyol	kopumoyló
obl.	kopiyol	konáyol	konyúyol	kopumoylo
Pl. abs.	kopívu	konávu	konyúvu	kopumvu
erg.	kopívuko	konávuko	konyúvuko	kopumvuko
instr.	kopívul	konávul	konyúvul	kopumvul
obl.	kopívul	konávul	konyúvul	kopumvul

	kosyú f. '<his> voice' (kosyúʷ-)	kosul f. '<his> tail' (kosulʷ-)	kokú f. '<his> brain' (kokúʷ-)
Sg. abs.	kosyú	kosul	kokú
erg.	kosyuk'ó	kosulko	kokuk'ó
instr.	kosyúló	kosulol	kokúló
obl.	kosyúlo	kosulol	kokúlo
Du. abs.	kosyut'ē	kosulte	kokut'ē
erg.	kosyut'eko	kosulteko	kokut'eko
instr.	kosyut'el	kosultel	kokut'el
obl.	kosyut'el	kosultel	kokut'el
Tr. abs.	kosyúyo	kosuloy	kokúyo
erg.	kosyúyoko	kosuloyko	kokúyoko
instr.	kosyúyol	kosuloyló	kokúyol
obl.	kosyúyol	kosuloylo	kokúyol
Pl. abs.	kosyúvu	kosulvu	kokúvu
erg.	kosyúvuko	kosulvuko	kokúvuko
instr.	kosyúvul	kosulvul	kokúvul
obl.	kosyúvul	kosulvul	kokúvul

A.2.2. Stems in sonorant + -o

In this group the final **-o** can be always considered firm. The prevailing type (illustrated below by **sno** f. 'shrimp' and **sóno** f. 'flea') is weak stems; a unique exception is **kélo** f. 'duck' which is treated as a strong stem in all forms.

	sno f. 'shrimp' (snoʷ-)	sóno f. 'flea' (sónoʷ-)	kélo f. 'duck' (kéloˢ-)
Sg. abs.	sno	sóno	kélo
erg.	snoko	sónoko	kéloko
instr.	snol	sónol	kélón
obl.	snol	sónol	kélón
Du. abs.	snote	sónote	kélote
erg.	snoteko	sónoteko	kéloteko
instr.	snotel	sónotel	kélotel
obl.	snotel	sónotel	kélotel
Tr. abs.	snoy	sónoy	kéloso
erg.	snoyko	sónoyko	kélosoko
instr.	snoyló	sónoyló	kélosló
obl.	snoylo	sónoylo	kéloslo
Pl. abs.	snowu	sónovu	kélomu
erg.	snowuko	sónovuko	kélomuko
instr.	snowul	sónovul	kélomul
obl.	snowul	sónovul	kélomul

A.2.3. Nouns in bilabial obstruent + -o

In nouns whose stem-final **-o** is preceded by a bilabial obstruent (including **-v-**), the **-o** is always volatile, and the stem is considered weak. Most of such nouns display dissimilation of bilabials (2.4) in the plural stem. An exception is **kuvo** 'shirt' whose stem is treated as strong in singular (but not in trial or plural).

	fo f. 'star' (fo*-)	yefo f. 'autumn' (yefo*-)	supo f. 'island' (supo*-)	kevo m. 'axe' (kevo*-)	kuvo m. 'shirt' (kuvo*- / kuvo^s*)
Sg.	abs. fo erg. foko instr. fló obl. flo	yefo yefoko yefló yeflo	supo supoko supló suplo	kevo kevoko kevló kevlo	kuvo kuvoko kuvon kuvon
Du.	abs. fote erg. foteko instr. fotel obl. fotel	yefote yefoteko yefotel yefotel	supote supoteko supotel supotel	kevote kevoteko kevotel kevotel	kuvote kuvoteko kuvotel kuvotel
Tr.	abs. fyo erg. fyoko instr. fyol obl. fyol	yefyo yefyoko yefyol yefyol	supyo supyoko supyol supyol	kevyo kevyoko kevyol kevyol	kuvyo kuvyoko kuvyol kuvyol
Pl.	abs. hvú erg. hvuko instr. hvul obl. hvul	yehvu yehvuko yehvul yehvul	sukvu sukvuko sukvul sukvul	kevovu kevovuko kevovul kevovul	kuvovu kuvovuko kuvovul kuvovul

A.2.4. Nouns in non-bilabial obstruent + -o

The final **-o** is always volatile, and the stem is normally weak; **tuto** m. 'trunk of tree' and **tuho** m. 'dog' illustrate the regular declension. Solitary lexical exceptions include **teho** m. 'wall' (treated as strong stem in sg. but as weak stem in the other numbers), **peko** f. 'pain' (strong stem, used in sg. only), **teko** m. 'knife' and **meko** f. 'grain, seed' (strong stems in all numbers). A special subgroup are nouns in **-k'o**, since many of them are instrument names and therefore have strong stems, as e. g. **k'inak'o** m. 'what something is hidden under; cover' (← **k'iná** v. ipf. 'hide under'). To complicate things further, there is a homophonous suffix of singulatives, **-k'o**, which demands a weak grade of a following consonant; this type is illustrated by **kehok'o** f. 'grain of sand' (singulative, ← **keho** f. 'sand').

	tuto m. 'trunk of tree' (tuto^s-)	tuho m. 'dog' (tuho^s-)	teho m. 'wall' (teho^s-/teho^w-)	peko f. 'pain' (peko^s-)
Sg. abs.	tuto	tuho	teho	peko
erg.	tutoko	tuhoko	tehoko	pekoko
instr.	tutló	tuhló	tehnó	pekon
obl.	tutlo	tuhlo	tehno	pekon
Du. abs.	tutote	tuhote	tehote	
erg.	tutoteko	tuhoteko	tehoteko	
instr.	tutotel	tuhotel	tehotel	
obl.	tutotel	tuhotel	tehotel	
Tr. abs.	tutyo	tuhyo	tehyo	
erg.	tutyoko	tuhyoko	tehyoko	
instr.	tutyol	tuhyol	tehyol	
obl.	tutyol	tuhyol	tehyol	
Pl. abs.	tutvu	tuhvu	tehvu	
erg.	tutvuko	tuhvuko	tehvuko	
instr.	tutvul	tuhvul	tehvul	
obl.	tutvul	tuhvul	tehvul	
	teko m. 'knife' (teko^s-)	meiko f. 'grain, seed' (meko^s-)	k'inak'o 'cover' (k'inak'o^s-)	kehok'o 'grain of sand' (kehok'o^w-)
Sg. abs.	teko	meiko	k'inak'o	kehok'o
erg.	tekoko	mekoko	k'inak'oko	kehok'oko
instr.	tekon	mekon	k'inak'on	kehok'ló
obl.	tekon	mekon	k'inak'on	kehok'lo
Du. abs.	tekote	mekote	k'inak'ote	kehok'ote
erg.	tekoteko	mekoteko	k'inak'oteko	kehok'oteko
instr.	tekotel	mekotel	k'inak'otel	kehok'otel
obl.	tekotel	mekotel	k'inak'otel	kehok'otel
Tr. abs.	tekoso	mekoso	k'inak'oso	kehok'yo
erg.	tekosoko	mekosoko	k'inak'osoko	kehok'yoko
instr.	tekosló	mekosló	k'inak'osló	kehok'yol
obl.	tekoslo	mekoslo	k'inak'oslo	kehok'yol
Pl. abs.	tekomu	mekomu	k'inak'omu	kehok'vu
erg.	tekomuko	mekomuko	k'inak'omuko	kehok'vuko
instr.	tekomul	mekomul	k'inak'omul	kehok'vul
obl.	tekomul	mekomul	k'inak'omul	kehok'vul

A.2.5. Sonorant stems

Stems ending in **-m**, **-n**, **-l** or **-y** are conventionally termed "sonorant stems". The prevailing type are stems that are treated as weak and show no traces of virtual glottal stop, as illustrated by **mul** m. 'shoe' and **suy** f. 'time'. Lexical exceptions include several nouns whose stems are strong but display no other peculiarities: **mel** f. 'mountain', **kan** f. 'opposite side' and **tetey** c. 'Tetey person'. However, the biggest group of exceptions are instrument names whose stems are strong and end in virtual glottal stop, and besides, use a special allomorph of the dual suffix. The latter group is illustrated by **mol** m. 'coal tongs' ← **mol** v. ipf. 'hold (as if) with tongs or similar tool'; **tomsin** m. 'mirror' ← **tomsin** v. ipf. 'see in'; **cuveyon** m. 'ridiculous feature' ← **cuveyon** v. ipf. 'be ridiculed'; and **tomtim** m. 'rowlock, oarlock' ← **tomtim** v. ipf. 'insert in'.

	mul m. 'shoe' (mul^w-)	suy f. (suy^w-)	mel f. 'mountain' (mel^s-)	kan f. 'opposite side' (kan^s-)	tetey c. 'Tetey person' (tetey^s-)
Sg. abs.	mul	suy	mel	kan	tetey
erg.	mulko	suyko	melko	kanko	teteyko
instr.	mulol	suyol	melon	kanon	teteyon
obl.	mulol	suyol	melon	kanon	teteyon
Du. abs.	multe	suyte	melte	kante	teteyte
erg.	multeko	suyteko	melteko	kanteko	teteyteko
instr.	multel	suytel	meltel	kantel	teteytel
obl.	multel	suytel	meltel	kantel	teteytel
Tr. abs.	muloy	suyoy	melso	kanso	teteysø
erg.	muloyko	suyoyko	melso	kansoko	teteysoko
instr.	muloyló	suyoyló	melsló	kansló	teteysló
obl.	muloylo	suyoylo	melso	kanslo	teteyslo
Pl. abs.	mulvu	suyvu	melmu	kanmu	teteymu
erg.	mulvuko	suyvuko	melmu	kanmuko	teteymuko
instr.	mulvul	suyvul	melmul	kanmul	teteymul
obl.	mulvul	suyvul	melmul	kanmul	teteymul

mol m. 'coal tongs' (mol /?/s-)	tomsin m. 'mirror' (tomsin /?/s-)	cuveyon m. 'ridiculous feature' (cuveyon /?/s-)	tomtim m. 'rowlock' (tomtim /?/s-)
Sg. abs. mol	tomsin	cuveyon	tomtim
erg. molk'o	tomsink'o	cuveyonk'o	tomtimk'o
instr. molnó	tomsinnó	cuveyonnó	tomtimnó
obl. molno	tomsinno	cuveyonno	tomtimno
Du. abs. molc'e	tomsinc'e	cuveyonc'e	tomtimc'e
erg. molc'eko	tomsinc'eko	cuveyonc'eko	tomtimc'eko
instr. molc'el	tomsinc'el	cuveyonc'el	tomtimc'el
obl. molc'el	tomsinc'el	cuveyonc'el	tomtimc'el
Tr. abs. molco	tomsinco	cuveyonco	tomtimco
erg. molcoko	tomsincoko	cuveyoncoko	tomtimcoko
instr. molcol	tomsincol	cuveyoncol	tomtimcol
obl. molcol	tomsincol	cuveyoncol	tomtimcol
Pl. abs. molmu	tomsinmu	cuveyonmu	tomtimmu
erg. molmuko	tomsinmuko	cuveyonmuko	tomtimmuko
instr. molmul	tomsinmul	cuveyonmul	tomtimmul
obl. molmul	tomsinmul	cuveyonmul	tomtimmul

A.2.6. Glottal stems

"Glottal stems" is the conventional label for stems ending in glottal stop. All of such stems trigger glottalization in suffixes. The regular type are weak stems (e. g. **pyé** m. 'pig'); however, glottal stems also comprise numerous instrument names which, in addition to having strong stems, demand a special allomorph of the dual suffix. This group is illustrated below by **neyávó** m. 'piece of kindling wood' (← **neyávye** v. pf. 'catch fire'). A few masculine nouns that semantically can be considered instruments but have no corresponding verb stem from which they could be derived vacillate between the regular type and the model of instrument names; an example is **pá** m. 'bow, arrowbow'.

	pyé m. 'pig' (pyéʷ-)	neyávó m. 'kindling wood' (neyávóˢ-)	pá m. 'bow' (páʷ-/páˢ-)
Sg. abs.	pyé	neyávó	pá
erg.	pyek'ó	neyávok'ó	pak'ó
instr.	pyéló	neyávónó	páló / pánó
obl.	pyélo	neyávóno	pálo / páno
Du. abs.	pyet'ē	neyávoc'ē	pat'ē / pac'ē
erg.	pyet'eko	neyávoc'eko	pat'eko / pac'eko
instr.	pyet'el	neyávoc'el	pat'el / pac'el
obl.	pyet'el	neyávoc'el	pat'el / pac'el
Tr. abs.	pyéyo	neyávoco	páyo / paco
erg.	pyéyoko	neyávocoko	páyoko / pacoko
instr.	pyéyol	neyávocol	páyol / pacol
obl.	pyéyol	neyávocol	páyol / pacol
Pl. abs.	pyévu	neyávómu	pávu / pámu
erg.	pyévuko	neyávómuko	pávuko / pámuko
instr.	pyévul	neyávómul	pávul / pámul
obl.	pyévul	neyávómul	pávul / pámul

Supplement B. Inherently possessed nouns

As it was stated in 3.3, these form arguably the most complex piece of Tetey morphology. This Supplement represents an attempt at overviewing all the diverse types of their inflection.

As it was already explained, the obligatory possessive prefixes that are characteristic of this group of nouns have the following basic forms:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	to-	t'e-	tyo-	tvu-
incl.		ku-	kuy-	kuvo-
2nd		me-	mete-	mey-
3rd masc.		ko^s-	kote-	koso-
3rd fem.		tu^s-	tute-	tuso-
				tum-

B.1. Stems with no alternations but in the initial consonants

The simplest case are stems beginning in **t-**, **k-** or **s-**, in which the glottalization in 1st person sg. (with deletion of the prefix itself) is often the only alternation; in the tables below this most regular type is illustrated with **kokeso** '<his> leg' (cited here as the dual stem, **-kesote**, with singular possessors and as plural stem, **-kesvu**, in all the other combinations with prefixes), **koteze** '<his> father' (forms based on singular stem), and **kosofe** '<his> name' (given in number forms corresponding to the number of the possessor):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	k'esote	t'ekesvu	tyokesvu	tvukesvu
incl.		kukesvu	kuykesvu	kuvokesvu
2nd	mekesote	metekesvu	meykesvu	mevukesvu
3rd masc.	kokesote	kotekesvu	kosokesvu	komukesvu
3rd fem.	tukesote	tutekesvu	tusokesvu	tumkesvu
1st excl.	t'eze	t'eteze	tyoteze	tvuteze
incl.		kuteze	kuyteze	kuvoteze
2nd	meteze	meteteze	meyteze	mevuteze
3rd masc.	koteze	koteteze	kosoteze	komuteze
3rd fem.	tuteze	tuteteze	tusoteze	tumteze
1st excl.	cofe	t'esofete	tyosofey	tvusofevu
incl.		kusofete	kuysofey	kuvosofevu
2nd	mesofe	metesofete	meysofey	mevusofevu
3rd masc.	kosofe	kotesofete	kososofey	komusofevu
3rd fem.	tusofe	tutesofete	tusosofey	tumsofevu

Stems beginning in **h-** and **z-** display only the strengthening of these to **k-** and **t-**, respectively, after the strong prefixes (**ko-** and **tu-**), as e. g. in **kokune** '<his> heart' (illustrated with number forms matching the number of the possessor) and **kotokeze** '<his> defeated opponent' (singular stem):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tohune	t'ehunete	tyohuney	tvuhunevu
incl.		kuhunete	kuyhuney	kuvhunevu
2nd	mehune	metehunete	meyhuney	mevhunevu
3rd masc.	kokune	kotehunete	kosohuney	komuhunevu
3rd fem.	tukune	tutehunete	tusohuney	tumhunevu
1st excl.	tozokeze	t'ezokeze	tyozokeze	tvuzokeze
incl.		kuzokeze	kuyzokeze	kuvozokeze
2nd	mezokeze	metezokeze	meyzokeze	mevuzokeze
3rd masc.	kotokeze	kotezokeze	kosozokeze	komuzokeze
3rd fem.	tutokeze	tutezokeze	tusozokeze	tumzokeze

Stems in **f-** combine the strengthening alternation (**f-** changed to **p-**) with deletion of 1st person sg. prefix, as in **kopezo** 'his finger' (illustrated below with forms of the plural stem, **-fezvu**):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	fezvu	t'efezvu	tyofezvu	tvufezvu
incl.		kufezvu	kuyfezvu	kuvofezvu
2nd	mefezvu	metefezvu	meyfezvu	mevufezevu
3rd masc.	kopezvu	kotefezvu	kosofezvu	komufezevu
3rd fem.	tupezvu	tutefezvu	tusofezvu	tumfezvu

Konyú '<his> sister', **kosese** '<his> horn' (du. and pl. stem below) and **komezo** '<his> friend' illustrate the stems beginning in **l**, **y** and **v**, i. e. the consonants that can form onset clusters with the consonant of the prefix in certain forms (besides being subject to strengthening to **n**, **s** and **m** in others):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tlyú	t'elyú	tyolyú	tvulyú
incl.		kulyú	kuylyú	kuvlyú
2nd	melyú	metelyú	meylyú	mevulyú
3rd masc.	konyú	kotelyú	koslyú	komulyú
3rd fem.	tunyú	tutelyú	tuslyú	tumlyú
1st excl.	tiesete	t'eyesevu	tyoyesevu	tvuyesevu
incl.		kuyesevu	kuyyesevu	kuvyesevu
2nd	meyesete	meteyesevu	meyyesevu	mevuyesevu
3rd masc.	kosesete	koteeyesevu	kosyesevu	komuyesevu
3rd fem.	tusesete	tuteyesevu	tusyesevu	tumyesevu
1st excl.	tvezo	t'evezo	tyovezo	tvuvezo
incl.		kuvezo	kuyvezo	kuvovezo
2nd	mevezo	metevezo	meyvezo	mevuvezo
3rd masc.	komezo	kotevezo	kosvezo	komuvezo
3rd fem.	tumezo	tutevezo	tusvezo	tumvezo

B.2. Stems with u-dissimilation

If the vowel in the first syllable of the stem is **u**, this can be subject to **u-** dissimilation (2.2) after prefixes ending in **u**. **Kopuhe** '<his> hand' (given as du. and pl. stems), **kokusa** '<his> neck' and **kotuhyu** '<his> nose' (stem forms matching the number of possessors) illustrate the situation where there are no further complications but consonant alternations discussed in B.1:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	fuhete	t'efuh<u>evu</u>	tyofuh<u>evu</u>	tvufohe<u>vu</u>
incl.		kufohe<u>vu</u>	kuyfuhe<u>vu</u>	kuvo<u>fuhevu</u>
2nd	me<u>fhete</u>	metefuh<u>evu</u>	meyfuhe<u>vu</u>	me<u>vfohevu</u>
3rd masc.	kopuhete	kote<u>fuhevu</u>	kosofuh<u>evu</u>	komufohe<u>vu</u>
3rd fem.	tupo<u>hete</u>	tute<u>fuhevu</u>	tuso<u>fuhevu</u>	tumfuhe<u>vu</u>
1st excl.	k'usa	t'ekusate	tyokusaso	tvukosamu
incl.		kukosate	kuykusaso	kuvokusamu
2nd	mekusa	metekusate	meykusaso	mevukosamu
3rd masc.	kokusa	kote<u>kusate</u>	kosokusaso	komukosamu
3rd fem.	tukosa	tute<u>kusate</u>	tusokusaso	tumkusamu
1st excl.	t'uhyu	t'etuh<u>yute</u>	tyotuh<u>yuso</u>	tvutohyumu
incl.		kuto<u>hyute</u>	kuytuhy<u>uso</u>	kuvotuh<u>yumu</u>
2nd	metuhyu	metetuh<u>yute</u>	meytuhy<u>uso</u>	mevutohyumu
3rd masc.	kotuhyu	kotetuhy<u>ute</u>	kosotuh<u>yuso</u>	komutohyumu
3rd fem.	tutohyu	tutetuhy<u>ute</u>	tusotuh<u>yuso</u>	tumtuhyumu

Komufi '<his> toe' (given as pl. stem), **kosul** '<his> tail' and **kosuye** '<his> mouth' (matching the number of the possessor) feature, in addition, the deletion of the volatile **o** produced by **u**-dissimilation (in 3rd person sg. f. for **komufi** and **kosul** and in all the dissimilated forms for **kosuye**):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tvufimu	t'evufimu	tyovufimu	tvuvofimu
incl.		kuvo<u>fimu</u>	kuyvufimu	kuvo<u>vufimu</u>
2nd	me<u>vufimu</u>	metevufimu	meyvufimu	me<u>vuyo<u>fimu</u></u>
3rd masc.	komufimu	kote<u>vufimu</u>	kosvufimu	komu<u>vofimu</u>
3rd fem.	tumfimu	tute<u>vufimu</u>	tusvufimu	tumvufimu
1st excl.	tyul	t'eyulte	tyoyuloy	tvuyolvu
incl.		kuy<u>olte</u>	kuyyuloy	kuvyulvu
2nd	meyul	meteyulte	meyyuloy	me<u>vuyo<u>lvu</u></u>
3rd masc.	kosul	kote<u>yulte</u>	kosyuloy	komu<u>yolvu</u>
3rd fem.	tuslo	tute<u>yulte</u>	tusyuloy	tumyulvu
1st excl.	cuye	t'esuyete	tyosuyey	tvusyevu
incl.		ku<u>syyete</u>	kuysuyey	kuvo<u>suyevu</u>
2nd	mesuye	metesuyete	meysuyey	me<u>vusyevu</u>
3rd masc.	kosuye	kotesuyete	kososuyey	komu<u>syyevu</u>
3rd fem.	tusye	tutesuyete	tusosuyey	tumsuyevu

B.3. Stems with volatile **o** in the initial syllable

These drop their **o** in all forms where the phonotactics permits this. Examples are **komke** '<his> lip' (-vöke, du./pl. stems below) and **konta** '<his> daughter' (-lötä, pl. stem):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tvokete	t'evokevu	tyovokevu	tvuvokevu
incl.		kuvokevu	kuyvokevu	kuvovokevu
2nd	mevokete	metevokevu	meyvokevu	mevuvokevu
3rd masc.	komkete	kotevokevu	kosvokevu	komuvokevu
3rd fem.	tumkete	tutevokevu	tusvokevu	tumvokevu
1st excl.	tlotamu	t'eltamu	tyoltamu	tvultamu
incl.		kultamu	kuyoltamu	kuvlotamu
2nd	meltamu	meteltamu	meyoltamu	mevultamu
3rd masc.	kontamu	koteltamu	koslotamu	komultamu
3rd fem.	tuntamu	tuteltamu	tuslotamu	tumoltamu

B.4. Stems with non-productive alternations

B.4.1. Stems with "intrusive glottalization"

This group includes a few stems whose first syllable has either a glottal stop or a consonant produced by glottalization which drop the /ʔ/ (resp. replace the "glottalized" consonant with its non-glottalized counterpart) in certain forms. Final vowels of the possessive prefixes are often altered.

One subtype is illustrated by **kyeco** '*<his> knee*', **kyého** '*his wing*' and a derivate of the latter, **kyéhvá** '*<his> shoulderblade*' (**kyého** is hardly often used with 1st and 2nd person possessors, but all of its forms are easily built on analogy with **kyéhvá**). Below are given du. and pl. forms of **kyeco** and **kyého**; note the unusual treatment of 1st sg.:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	t'osote	t'ecomu	tyocomu	tvyucому
incl.		kyucому	kuycomu	kuvyecому
2nd	myecote	metyecomu	meycomu	mevyucomu
3rd masc.	kyecote	kotyecomu	kosicomu	komyucomu
3rd fem.	tyucote	tutyecomu	tusicomu	tumyecому
1st excl.	t'ohote	t'yéhvu	tyóhvu	tvyúhvu
incl.		kyúhvu	kuyhvu	kuvyéhvu
2nd	myéhote	metyéhvu	meyhvu	mevyúhvu
3rd masc.	kyéhote	kotyéhvu	kosíhvu	komyúhvu
3rd fem.	tyúhote	tutyéhvu	tusíhvu	tumyéhvu

Kófute '*his fingernail*' (pl. stem in the table below) has a similar distribution of glottalized and non-glottalized forms but the vowels of prefixes retain their basic forms, while the equally unusual treatment of 1st person sg. is different:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	k'ofutevu	t'efutevu	tyófutevu	tvúfutevu
incl.		kúfutevu	kuyfutevu	kuvófutevu
2nd	mífutevu	metéfutevu	meyfutevu	mevúfutevu
3rd masc.	kófutevu	kotéfutevu	kosófutevu	komúfutevu
3rd fem.	túfutevu	tutéfutevu	tusófutevu	tumfutevu

Kyok’^e ‘<his> brother’ is also conventionally included in this group, although its paradigm can be alternatively analyzed as suppletive (the stem being **-foke** with all possessors except 3rd person singular where it is **-k’^e**, with irregularly altered vowel of the prefix in masculine):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	foke	t’efoke	tyofoke	tvufoke
incl.		kufoke	kuyfoke	kuvofoke
2nd	mefoke	metefoke	meyfoke	mevufoke
3rd masc.	kyok’^e	kotefoke	kosofoke	komufoke
3rd fem.	tuk’^e	tutefoke	tusofoke	tumfoke

B.4.2. Stems with zero onsets

It was mentioned in discussing consonant gradations (2.1) that **p** as the strong grade can alternate with zero as the weak grade. This gradation is represented with a few examples among inherently possessed nouns. Their main peculiarity is that their stems in the weak grade underlyingly begin in a vowel, and this vowel fuses with the final vowels of possessive prefixes in various rather unexpected ways; cf. below forms like **t’^e- + -elyute** → **t’yalylute** ‘our (excl. du.) bellies’ or **me-** + **-um** → **mam** ‘your (sg.) penis’.

One subtype in this group is includes **kopelyu** ‘<his> belly’ (basic form of stem: **-elyu**) and **kopeto** ‘<his> shoulder’ (stem: **-eto**), shown below in number forms matching the number of possessors:

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tyelyu	t’yalylute	tyelyuso	tvolyumu
incl.		kolyute	kuyelyuso	kuvolymumu
2nd	myalyu	metyalyute	meyelyuso	mevolymumu
3rd masc.	kopelyu	kotyalyute	kosyelyuso	komolymumu
3rd fem.	tupelyu	tutyalyute	tusyelyuso	tumolymumu
1st excl.	tyetote	t’yatamu	tyetomu	tvotomu
incl.		kotomu	kuyetomu	kuvotomu
2nd	myatote	metyatamu	meyetomu	mevotomu
3rd masc.	kopetote	kotyatamu	kosyetomu	komotomu
3rd fem.	tupetote	tutyatamu	tusyetomu	tumotomu

Kopum ‘<his> penis’ shows a different set of vowel alternations (stem: **-um**; below with number matching the number of the possessor; the forms for feminine possessors are hardly ever used but can be freely built by analogy):

	Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
1st excl.	tyum	t’amte	tyumoy	tvumvu
incl.		kumte	kuyumoy	kuvumvu
2nd	mam	metamte	meyumoy	mevumvu
3rd masc.	kopum	kotamte	kosyumoy	komumvu
3rd fem.	(tupum)	(tutamte)	(tusyumoy)	(tumumvu)

The lexeme ‘eye’ (dictionary form: **kopi** ‘his eye’) displays a particularly complex set of irregularities. The following table shows, in a somewhat artificial fashion,

the combinations of all the possessive prefixes with the singular stem of the possessed noun:

Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
-----	-----	------	-----

1st excl.	tí	t'ye	tyó	tvyú
incl.		kyú	kuy	kuvyú
2nd		myó	metyé	mey
3rd masc.		kopi	kotyé	kosí
3rd fem.		tupí	tutyé	tusí
				tumyú

Due to the transparently agglutinative number inflexion in Tetey, most of the above forms can be actually built, although with non-singular possessors they yield odd meanings like 'their sole common eye' etc. The table below cites some semantically more natural number forms of the possessed noun (dual for singular possessor and plural for the rest):

Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
-----	-----	------	-----

1st excl.	tit'e	t'yevu	tyóvu	tvyúvu
incl.		kyúvu	kuyvu	kuvyúvu
2nd		myot'e	metyévu	meyvu
3rd masc.		kopit'e	kotyévu	kosívu
3rd fem.		tupit'e	tutyévu	tusívu
				tumyúvu

The stem of the noun 'eye' can be presented as **-i** (weak grade with zero onset) or **-pi** (strong grade with initial **p-**, as seen with the strong 3rd person singular prefixes); the weak grade yields synchronically obscure vowel contractions in most forms, is reduced to just [?] in **tyóvu** 'our (excl. tri.) eyes', and formally to zero in **kuyvu** 'our (incl. tri.) eyes' and **meyvu** 'your (tri.) eyes'. As usual, the final glottal stop of the stem (**p)i** conflates with the initial **t** of the dual marker in **t'** (**tit'e** 'my two eyes' etc.).

Irregularities seen in inherently possessed nouns are retained in some of their derivates, namely in standard diminutives (in **-ki** and **-ta**) and augmentatives (in **-teku**). An example is **kopit'a** 'his (unpleasantly) small eye' (illustrated below with the same set of forms as in the preceding table):

Sg.	Du.	Tri.	Pl.
-----	-----	------	-----

1st excl.	tit'ate	t'yet'amu	tyot'amu	tvyut'amu
incl.		kyut'amu	kuyt'amu	kuvyut'amu
2nd		myot'ate	metyet'amu	meyt'amu
3rd masc.		kopit'ate	kotyet'amu	kosít'amu
3rd fem.		tupit'ate	tutyet'amu	tusít'amu
				tumyut'amu

Note, however, that glottalization of the diminutive suffix is also seen in **kuyt'amu** and **meyt'amu**, showing that the stems of **kuyvu** 'our (incl. tri.) eyes' and **meyvu** 'your (tri.) eyes' contain a virtual glottal stop.