A REFERENCE GRAMMAR OF TUMETIĘK
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1. Phonology

This section describes the elements of Tumetë̱k phonology and how they interact with each other.

1.1. Phoneme Inventory

The phonemes present in Tumetë̱k are listed in the two subsections of this section, together with a description of their phonological behaviour.

1.1.1. Vowels

Tumetë̱k has a small vowel inventory which numbers only four distinct vowel qualities. These four phonemic vowels are organised into an imperfect square-shaped system, which is shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>front</th>
<th>back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>close</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The vowels can combine to form the following nine diphthongs: /æi/, /ai/, /au/, /əa/, /ei/, /ɛu/, /aɪ/, /uɪ/ and /ʊi/, as illustrated below.

```
 a e i u a i u a e u a e i
```

- All vowels can occur nasalised, in which case they are marked with an ogonek (tail) diacritic. For example, /æ/, /ɛ/, /ə/. As for the diphthongs, nasalisation is never marked on the glides: /æ/, /ɛ/, /ə/.

- The low vowels /e/ and /a/ are generally realised as [ɛ] and [ɑ], which makes the vowel inventory a bit more symmetric. Note that /a/ generally does not back after palatal or otherwise palatalised consonants, and its preferred realisation in that position is [ɛ].

- The high vowels /i/ and /u/ reduce to [i] and [ʊ ~ ɔ] in unstressed syllables. The [ʊ] allophone is preferred over [ɔ] in phonetic transcription.

- The high vowel /i/ is written as a dotless i in the orthography. Other vowels are written as in IPA.
1.1.2. Consonants

Tumetitęk can be said to have a small consonant inventory which consists of only twelve constituent phonemes in total. The inventory is given in the table below. Where phonemes are arranged in pairs, the voiced one is found on the right of the middle dot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>labial</th>
<th>alveolar</th>
<th>palatal</th>
<th>velar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>p · b</td>
<td>t · d</td>
<td>k · g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fricative</td>
<td>s · z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rhotic</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Voiceless stops aspirate to \([p^h \text{ th} k^h]\) word-initially before vowels.
- Voiced stops lenite to \([β \text{ ð} ɣ]\) between vowels. In some dialects, this change is confined to intervocalic onsets of unstressed syllables.
- Voiced obstruents prenasalise after nasal vowels. The prenasalised lenited allophones of /b/, /d/ and /g/ are \([mβ]\), \([nð]\) and \([ŋγ]\).
- The palatal glide /j/ labialises to [u] before rounded vowels.
- The velar plosives palatalise to [c] and [ɟ] before front vowels. The aspirated allophone of /k/ before front vowels is [cʰ], and the lenited allophone of /g/ before front vowels is [ɟ]. The prenasalised and palatalised allophones of /g/ before front vowels are \([ɲj]\) and \([ŋj]\), with the latter allophone found in the same environment as other lenited allophones.
- Coronal consonants often palatalise to \([ɲ]\), \([tʲ ~ tsʲ], [ɕʲ ~ dzʲ], [ʂ], [ʐ]\) and \([nʲ]\) before front vowels in several dialects closer to the Omari territory.
  This palatalisation is traditionally not indicated in transcription.
- The onglide of a diphthong may drop altogether after an allophonically palatalised consonant: **kiayu** \([cʰŋːʊ]\) “decide”.
- The palatal glide /j/ is written y.

Other consonants are written as in IPA, or with the text equivalent of their IPA representation (e.g. /g/ is written g).
1.2. Phonotactics

The canonical syllable structure of Tumetëk can be summarised as (C)(C)V(C)(C). This is very oversimplified, and there are many constraints which make syllables such as *pzer*, *tursk*, *ytig* and *mba* illegal. For example, clusters with three or more consonants are disallowed.

1.2.1. Onset

Tumetëk permits maximally two consonants in an onset. The onset can be anything from zero consonant or one consonant to several more complex consonant clusters such as *ps* and *gr*.

The list of permitted onset clusters follows below.

A stop followed by a sibilant which agrees in voicing:
- *ps, ts, ks, dz, gz*

A sibilant followed by a stop which agrees in voicing:
- *sp, st, sk, zb, zd, zg*

An obstruent followed by a rhotic:
- *pr, br, tr, dr, kr, gr, sr, zr*

It is worth noting that clusters in **bold grey**, except maybe for */sr/*, are unattested in root words; all instances of these clusters are produced by affixation at work, for example *s- “2SG.POSS” + dan “father”, which yields zdan “your (thy) father”.*

The said */sr/* appears in only one word: **nasr̥gru** “impediment”, and this in a word-medial position, which implies it can be either an onset cluster: */na.sr̥.gru/*, or spread across two syllables: */nas.r̥i.gru/*.

Either way, */na.sr̥i.gru/* and */nas.r̥i.gru/* would both develop to a same word, which is **nosr̥kra** */no.sr̥i.kra/* in the only descendant, Tantšak, so the exact state of */sr/* remains unclear.
1.2.2. Nucleus

The syllabic nucleus is the sole obligatory part of a legal Tumetìek syllables, and there are strict limitations on what can be a legal nucleus.

Only monophthongs and diphthongs can be a legal nucleus, and triphthongs and syllabic consonants of any sort are strictly disallowed.

1.2.3. Coda

Tumetìek permits maximally two consonants in a coda. The coda can be anything from zero consonant and any single consonant except r y, to more complex two-consonant clusters such as nd.

Coda clusters are rare, though, and are limited to a nasal followed by a voiced homorganic stop: mb nd. Notably, ng is disallowed.

1.3. Stress

Primary stress is weight-sensitive in Tumetìek, falling on the heaviest syllable in a word: kuegren [kʰʊ̯̯̃ɛ̯̃ˈᵑɡrɛn] “sleep”, deqdin [dĕ̯̯̃ɑ̯̃ˈⁿðĭn] “be rude”.

Syllable weight depends on presence and size of the syllable coda. Open syllables count as light, closed syllables with a single coda consonant count as heavy, and closed syllables with a coda cluster count as superheavy.

If there are two or more equal-weight syllables, the first such syllable is stressed: gara ['ga.ɾa] “chipmunk; squirrel”, etkun ['eɾ.kun] “murder”.

Secondary stress falls on the third syllable after the primarily stressed one. It ignores syllable weight: sättria [ˈsă.tĭɾă] “knowledge”.

Stressed syllables can carry a higher pitch, but this is left out from the phonetic transcription for the sake of readability, especially when a nasal vowel receives stress which would result in the IPA symbol carrying two diacritics above itself.

Secondary stress falls on the third syllable after the primarily stressed one. It ignores syllable weight.
1.4. Morphophonology

This section details the morphophonological processes that occur in Tumetįek.

1.4.1. Voicing

The voiceless obstruents /p t k s/ sometimes voice to /b d g z/ between vowels or next to a sonorant. Instances prone to voicing will be indicated by a middle dot (‘).

kenet· “bone” + -ak “GEN” → kenedak “of bone”

ni- “1SG” + kęb· “cut off” → nıgeb “I cut off”

1.4.2. Iotation

Iotating consonants, most commonly /n/ /k/ and /g/, but sometimes also /m/ and /t/, sometimes eject an i before the next vowel. Such instances will be indicated by an apostrophe (’).

bik’ “raindrop” + -ak “GEN” → bikiak “of raindrop”

·kirięm’ “cloud” + -ak “GEN” → kiriemiak “of cloud”

1.4.3. Lenition

Lenition is a type of consonant mutation which occurs at specific morpheme boundaries. Consonants usually get more sonorous by undergoing lenition, but a notable exception is the lenited form of g, which is a voiceless k.

Leniting environments will be indicated with a plus sign (+).

The outcomes of lenition are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>plain</th>
<th>lenited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p t k k’</td>
<td>b d g g’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vbr Vdr Vgr</td>
<td>Vm Vn Vn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vb’ Vd’ Vg’</td>
<td>r k y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

·k1+ “down” + ·kîek· “go” → kigiek “go down”

yeg’ “be slow” + e’m “agentive suffix” → yenę “slug, snail”
1.4.4. Nasalisation

If a nasal consonant comes before another consonant, it is realised as nasalisation of the previous vowel. However, some instances of /m/ and /n/ can resist nasalisation. Such instances will be indicated by a ring above (°) when word-final.

\[ \text{mun}° \text{“seven”} + \text{-kik “GEN.MED”} \rightarrow \text{munkik “of those seven”} \]

\[ \text{nin}° - \text{“1SG>2SG”} + \text{tiu “see”} \rightarrow \text{nintiu “I see you”} \]

Some words that begin with a voiced obstruent (/b/, /d/, /g/ and /z/) can cause a prefixed vowel to undergo nasalisation. Such words will be indicated by a tilde (~).

\[ \text{ni- “1SG”} + \text{~brat “sibling”} \rightarrow \text{nibrat “my sibling”} \]

\[ \text{rr- “1PL”} + \text{~zrugrie “give”} \rightarrow \text{rzuugrie “we give”} \]

1.4.5. Epenthesis

Some words end with a consonant which only surfaces before a vowel or sometimes in a legal consonant cluser. Such consonants are superscripted (e.g. °m, °p and °r).

\[ \text{kubr “tooth”} + \text{-ak “GEN”} \rightarrow \text{kubrak “of tooth”} \]

\[ \text{rizugrius “you annoy them”} + \text{e “IMP”} \rightarrow \text{rizugriupse “annoy them”} \]

If possible, words ending with such a consonant inflect as if they end with a vowel, so the genitive form of tumeti°m “newcomer” is tumetiék, instead of *tumetiémak.

1.4.6. Vowel Coalescence

Two vowels with same basic quality, regardless of nasalisation, can come into contact because of affixation and/or compounding. In such vowel sequences, the first vowel fuses with the second vowel.

If a nasal vowel appears before an oral vowel which is not opener than the former, it loses nasalisation.

\[ \text{bru- “3PL.POSS”} + \text{udu “cow”} \rightarrow \text{brudu “their cow”} \]

\[ \text{grọ- “2PL>3”} + \text{ek- “burn”} \rightarrow \text{griek “you burn it”} \]
1.4.7. Rhotacism

If a nasal consonant, excluding n°, comes into contact with an obstruent, it nasalises the preceding vowel, voices that obstruent if possible, and changes to a r which appears after the obstruent.

\[ \text{n- “1SG” + dan “father” } \rightarrow \text{dran “my father”} \]

\[ \text{s- “2SG” + nęp “goat” } \rightarrow \text{zreb “your (thy) goat”} \]

1.4.8. Nasal Assimilation

A fairly minor, yet regular process is the assimilation of n° to m before a labial stop.

\[ \text{pun°- “3̣2SG.PST” + bumun “avoid” } \rightarrow \text{pumbumun “he avoided you (thee)”} \]

\[ \text{pun°- “3̣2SG.PST” + peki “choose” } \rightarrow \text{pumpek “he chose you (thee)”} \]

1.4.9. Deletion

If three or more consonants or vowels come into contact, all phonemes in the resulting sequence except the last two are deleted. Some affixes are able to delete preceding vowels. Those suffixes will be indicated by a grave accent (´).

\[ \text{grieka “duck” + -’ti “NOM.PRX” } \rightarrow \text{griktı “this duck”} \]

\[ \text{madu “lips” + -’ka “NOM.MED” } \rightarrow \text{matka “those lips”} \]

Obstruents are regularly deleted before nasals, and clusters of two identical consonants are resolved to a single consonant.

\[ \text{ind “be blue” + naba “water” } \rightarrow \text{inaba “deep water” (via *innaba)} \]

\[ \text{nęp “goat” + nęya “cheese” } \rightarrow \text{nęneya “goat cheese”} \]

1.4.10. Voicing Assimilation

If obstruents with different voicing come next to each other, regressive voicing assimilation applies.

\[ \text{kübṭ “tooth” + -’ti “NOM.PRX” } \rightarrow \text{kuptı “this tooth”} \]

\[ \text{madu “lips” + -’ka “NOM.MED” } \rightarrow \text{matka “those lips”} \]
2. Nominals

Nominal words in Tumetětě fall into two distinct categories: nouns and pronouns, which differ primarily in morphological behaviour.

2.1. Nouns

Tumetětě nouns inflect for case, deixis and pronominal possession by means of affixation. The case-deixis suffixes exhibit a considerable degree of fusion, and as such they are best treated as a single suffix type.

The exact ordering of noun inflections is given below.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
-1 & 0 & +1 \\
\cdot \text{possession} & \text{STEM} & \cdot \text{deixis} \\
& & \cdot \text{case}
\end{array}
\]

2.1.1. Pronominal Possession

Possession is marked on Tumetětě nouns by means of prefixing. There is a small class of inherently possessed nouns, which mandatorily take a possessive prefix agreeing with their possessor. The most typical words in this class include body part terms, but some other nouns referring to parts of a larger whole, such as terms referring to people, especially kinship terms, are treated as such.

Possessive prefixes are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>n’- n\textsuperscript{-1} t- te\textsuperscript{-3}</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>r- s\textsuperscript{-2} k’- kte\textsuperscript{-4}</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>bru-</td>
<td>nu-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{1. } \text{ni- before sonorants or consonant clusters.}\]

\[\text{2. } \text{si- before consonant clusters or one of /s/, /z/, /m/ or /n/, z- before prevocalic /b/, /d/ or /g/, combines with /j/ into si-}.\]

\[\text{3. } \text{t- before a prevocalic /s/, d- before prevocalic /z/ and /r/}.\]

\[\text{4. } \text{k’- before a prevocalic /s/, g- before prevocalic /z/ and /r/}.\]
2.1.2. Case and Deixis

Tumetičk nouns inflect for case and deixis by means of fusional suffixes.

The case system is a simple nominative-accusative-genitive one, and there is a
three-way deictic contrast: the degrees of distance include proximal, medial and distal
as common with such three-way contrast.

Case usage is relatively straightforward: the accusative case marks direct objects
and is used with some prepositions; the genitive case marks possessors in alienable
possession constructions, and is also used with some prepositions. The nominative case
is used elsewhere, e.g. for subjects and predicative nouns.

The deictic system exhibits a considerable amount of morphophonological
complexity compared with the rest of Tumetičk morphology. There are three degrees
of distance from the deictic centre: proximal, medial and distal.

The case/deictic suffixes are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>no deixis</th>
<th>proximal</th>
<th>medial</th>
<th>distal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V_</td>
<td>C_</td>
<td>V_</td>
<td>C_</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-’tį</td>
<td>-tį</td>
<td>-’ka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accusative</td>
<td>+’u</td>
<td>+u</td>
<td>-’tu</td>
<td>-tu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>-k</td>
<td>-ak</td>
<td>-’tk</td>
<td>-tk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If a noun ends in one of -b(rV), -d(rV), or -g(rV), the deictic suffixes
devoice the stops to p, t, and k, and replace the stem-final vowel with the suffix
vowel if possible, as shown below.

  psuđiebra “bridge” + ·’tį “PRX” → psuđiepri “this bridge”
2.2. Pronouns

There are only two distinct types of pronouns in Tumetjek: *personal pronouns* and *interrogative pronouns*.

2.2.1. Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns inflect for number, case and politeness. The case inflections show a considerable amount of irregularity, and are given in the table below together with the basic nominative forms.

There are no third-person pronouns *per se*, but the numeral *nu* “one” or demonstratives borrowed from Omari may be used as one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>first person (speaker)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>singular</td>
<td>plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>casual</td>
<td>polite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>ti</td>
<td>nɨru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accusative</td>
<td>tu</td>
<td>nɨru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>tuya</td>
<td>nɪza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>second person (speaker)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>singular</td>
<td>plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>casual</td>
<td>polite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>nɑru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accusative</td>
<td>nuyu</td>
<td>nɑru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>nuya</td>
<td>nɪza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.2. Interrogative Pronouns

Tumetjek has only one interrogative pronoun, which inflects for case and number in a somewhat irregular manner, having a distinct accusative suffix -i.

It is also of note that the singular form has two distinct stems, the nominative stem *kie* and the oblique stem *kiab* which is used to form the accusative and the genitive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>kie</td>
<td>kian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accusative</td>
<td>kиабу</td>
<td>kиану</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>kиаба</td>
<td>kиана</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Verbs

Tumetień verbs are richly inflected, inflecting for a total of six grammatical categories. Nonetheless, the language makes frequent use of auxiliaries.

The ordering of the verbal inflections is summarised below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>-2</th>
<th>-1</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>+1</th>
<th>+2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subject</td>
<td>secondary</td>
<td>stem</td>
<td>mood</td>
<td>primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>object</td>
<td>voice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>voice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1. Person and Tense

The first slot in the verb template contains a large array of prefixes, sixty-five of them in total, which encode the number and person of the subject, and in transitive verbs also the person of the object.

One can choose between two sets of such prefixes, the choice of which indicates the tense of the verb, of which there are only two: the non-past tense and the past tense.

The pronominal prefixes in the non-past tense are given below, together with their common allomorphs.

### non-past tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>subject</th>
<th>1SG</th>
<th>1PL</th>
<th>2SG</th>
<th>2PL</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>object</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>no object</td>
<td>n-</td>
<td>ni-</td>
<td>k-</td>
<td>kie-</td>
<td>r-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1SG</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>ri'n'</td>
<td>grien'</td>
<td>mun'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1PL</td>
<td>nis-</td>
<td>ris-</td>
<td>gris-</td>
<td>mus-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2SG</td>
<td>ni'n°</td>
<td>kien°</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>mun°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2PL</td>
<td>nik°</td>
<td>kiek°</td>
<td>rik°</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>muk°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>mi-</td>
<td>miu°</td>
<td>klu-</td>
<td>kiu°</td>
<td>rlu-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. *ni-, ki-, rlu-, grlu- and mu-* before nasals.
The pronominal prefixes are also given below, now in the past tense. The most common allomorphs are listed below the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>past tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>subject →</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1PL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2PL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ ru-,  uy-, yau-, kuy- and bru- before nasals.

² se- before a consonant cluster or one of /s/, /z/, /m/ or /n/, z- before prevocalic /b/, /d/, /g/ or /r/, combines with /j/ into si-.

3.2. Mood

The first suffixal slot in the Tumetîk verb template is occupied by modal suffixes. There is a total of four moods: realis, irrealis, imperative and optative.

The realis mood is unmarked, and as such it is usually left out from the interlinear glosses.

The irrealis mood is heavily used, and does not map exactly to English usage of irrealis modals such as “would”; an average speaker would use the irrealis to add even a slightest element of doubt to their utterance in all but most formal speech.

Verbs conjugated into the imperative mood accept only second person subjects.

The modal suffixes are given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>suffix</th>
<th>mood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Ø-</td>
<td>realis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tui-</td>
<td>irrealis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-e-¹</td>
<td>imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-nu-</td>
<td>optative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ -ke- after vowels.
3.3. Voice

The voice system of Tumetičk is very large and as such it spans two slots in the verb template. Voice inflection is carried out on two tiers: the primary tier, which hosts two primary voices and the secondary tier, which hosts nine secondary voices.

Tumetičk has a total of eleven voices including both primary ones and secondary ones, so the voice system is very large when compared with an average one.

3.3.1. Primary Tier

The primary tier occupies the last slot in the verb template. This tier hosts a total of two voice suffixes, collectively called primary voices.

-Ø       ACT       active

Unmarked; the citation form of verbs. Left out of glosses for sake of brevity.

-un      PASS      passive

Decreases valence by promoting an original primary object to subject; the original subject is removed but may optionally appear in the genitive case, accompanied with the preposition kia.

3.3.2. Secondary Tier

The second tier occupies the second slot in the verb template. This tier hosts a total of nine voice prefixes, collectively called secondary voices.

All secondary voices promote an indirect or otherwise oblique argument to direct object. They can only be used with intransitive verbs, except for the dative -sa-. If a secondary voice is used together with the passive voice, the verb takes on an impersonal meaning, as shown below.

Kuṭaneu ʒʁiu.  Kuṭaneun ʒʁiu.
1PL-3-INE-live house-ACC vs. 3-INE-live-PASS house
We live in a house. One lives in a house.

(A house is lived in.)
The secondary voice prefixes are listed in the table below, with glosses and explanations provided next to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sec. voice</th>
<th>gloss</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-tan’-</td>
<td>INE</td>
<td>in, inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-kim-</td>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ska-</td>
<td>ABL</td>
<td>away (from), from, off, out of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rek-</td>
<td>SUPE</td>
<td>above, onto, up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ki+</td>
<td>SUBE</td>
<td>below, down, under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-yen-</td>
<td>VIA</td>
<td>through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-mu-</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>to, towards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-im-</td>
<td>CIRC</td>
<td>around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sa-</td>
<td>DAT</td>
<td>for, to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Used for promoting both datives and benefactives.

Several sentences which exemplify the use of secondary voices are given below.

**Yaurekëke pɨtuki!**
2SG:3-SUPE-climb-IMP  tree-MED.ACC
Go climb that tree!

**Urani munin stebru.**
child 3:3-CIRC-run  house-ACC
The children are running around the house.
4. Derivational Morphology

This section describes how Tumetę̆k derives new words from ones that already exist using derivational affixes, the most common of which are described below.

4.1. Verb → Noun

-ε -εⁿ” – agentive

This commonly used suffix derives nouns with an agentive meaning.

Many nouns with this suffix exhibit considerable semantic change, and there are some nouns ending with this suffix which do not have a corresponding verb, such as kirέ “cloud” and huέ “prostitute”.

gréreb “annoy” + ɛ → grérebé “annoyance; mosquito”

yenu “shine” + ɛ → yenue “star”

This suffix sometimes exhibits irregularity, as in the following examples:

pruđ “build” + ɛ → prutsę “builder”

yęg “be slow” + ɛ → yenę “slug; snail”

-ga -ga – instrumental

The other commonly used nominaliser derives instrument nouns out of their corresponding verbs.

dreti “grind” + ga → dreti ga “grindstone”

kēb “chop; cut (off)” + ga → kēb ga “knife”
**kie**- **kie**- – art; skill

This quite unusual nominaliser suffix derives nouns with a basic meaning of art or skill. Notably, it appears in the full name of the language: **kieta** “language; voice” is regularly and transparently derived from **ta** “speak”.

**kie** + **ta** “speak” → **kieta** “language”

**kie** + **niek** “sing” → **kieniek** “music”

-**ria** -ria – action; abstract

This suffix derives action nouns and abstract nouns out of their corresponding verbs.

**sątį** “know” + **ria** → **sątria** “knowledge”

**zi** “love” + **ria** → **ziria** “love”

4.2. Noun → Noun

-**iu** -iu – hypocoristic; diminutive

This suffix derives nouns with a meaning that conveys smallness of the object or quality named, or endearment. Perhaps the best example of this suffix is its use in forming the intimate words for parents, as exemplified below.

**mięn** “mother” + **iu** → **mięniu** “mummy”

**dan** “father” + **iu** → **daniu** “daddy”

-**neg** -neg’ – singulative

This suffix derives nouns that denote the part of a larger whole, but it can also derive nouns from other nouns which are inherently plural, such as **międan** “parents”.

**ki** “sand” + **neg** → **kineg** “a grain of sand”

**międan** “parents” + **neg** → **międaneł** “parent”
5. Syntax

In short, this section describes how sentences are constructed in Tumetiêk.

5.1. Noun Phrase Syntax

Noun phrases display quite equally distributed left- and right-branching. The canonical ordering of constituents within a noun phrase is given below.

(REL) (DET) (APP) NOUN (PREP) (REL)

5.1.1. Relative Clauses

Tumetiêk employs the gap strategy to form relative clauses, and this is described in more detail under 5.3. Clause Linking.

Relative clauses can either precede or follow the head noun, depending on their weight. Relative clauses consisting of a single verb are counted as light, and all other relative clauses are counted as heavy.

Heavy relative clauses mandatorily follow the head noun; light relative clauses can either precede the head noun or follow it, with former being preferred.

\[
\text{negru psut} \quad \text{psut negru} \\
\text{3-be\_dead} \quad \text{tree} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{tree} \quad \text{3-be\_dead} \\
\text{dead tree} \quad \text{dead tree}
\]

\[
kada \text{ muprûd zûnu} \\
\text{man} \quad \text{3\_3\_build} \quad \text{house-ACC} \\
a \text{man who is building a house}
\]
5.1.2. Determiners

Determiners constitute a small closed word class distinct from both verbs and nouns. This class includes quantifiers, numerals, and specific words describing size or age such as betre “old” and pîdre “big; large”.

They immediately precede the head noun or its apposition, if there is one, and are always closer to the head noun than relative clauses which precede it.

**betrere**
old woman
old woman

**tumet Kîrâ nîrîbe**
young kîrâ 1SG-sister
my younger sister Kîrâ

5.1.3. Appositions

In Kîta, appositions immediately precede the head noun, agreeing in case with it.

**ník nue**
sun light
sunlight

**ya-Kîrâbu brurîbeu**
with kîrâ-ACC 3-sister-ACC
with her sister Kîrâ

5.1.4. Prepositional phrases

Tumetîk constructs prepositional phrases out of normal noun phrases by simply putting a preposition in front of it. The head noun of that phrase is then inflected for case demanded by the preposition.

**ya-nîmêdanu**
with 1SG-parents-ACC
with my parents
In case a prepositional phrase *itself* modifies an another noun, it appears immediately after that noun.

**kada ya-brur̃nau**
man with 3-woman-ACC
a man with a wife

**zr̃r̃i ban-skimy**
house near river-GEN
the house near the river

### 5.1.5. Possession

Tumeti̇k distinguishes between two kinds of possession: *alienable possession* and *inalienable possession*.

Alienable possession is handled by placing the possessor in a prepositional phrase introduced by the preposition *ku* “of” and inflecting the possessor into the genitive.

Some dialects do not use the preposition *ku* in possessive constructions.

**kę̃ba ku-brį̃naku**
knife of 1SG-brother-GEN
my brother's knife

**zr̃eya ku-nir̃ina**
clothes of 1SG-woman-GEN
my wife's clothes

On the other hand, inalienable possession is handled in a much simpler manner; the possessor is placed in apposition with the possessee.

**niknue**
sun light
sunlight

**numi̇en nąreko**
1SG-mother_in_law tongue
my mother-in-law's tongue
Pronominal possession, regardless of alienability, is handled with possessive prefixes.

ninås
ISG-arm
my arm

tegieta
IPL-language
our language

5.2. Clause Syntax

This section describes ordering of constituents within a clause and strategies of forming constructions out of these constituents.

5.2.1. Word Order

The basic and most common word order in a Tumetiek clause is S Aux V O, and the language handles indirect objects through a double object construction.

Kada brᶻamutu zunu sa.
man 3-3.PST-DAT-predict flood-ACC IPL.ACC
The man predicted the flood for us.

Pagi mugęk yenůkuda.
lion 3-3-go attack-INF
The lion is going to attack us.

The most common variation on the word order is Aux V P A, ubiquitous in passive clauses because it gives the patient a greater prominence than to the agent.

Meun naba.
3-spill-PASS water
The water was spilled.

Egun hutu kia-piumestak.
3-burn-PASS town by fire-GEN
The town was burned by fire.
5.2.2. Adverbials

Adverbial phrases immediately follow the last verb in the verb phrase.

Tumetîk productively forms adverbials out of verbs by nominalising the verb with the abstract nominaliser -ria. The resulting noun is placed in a prepositional phrase introduced by the appropriate preposition, most commonly dru “in”.

Bruetkun dru-gruariâk pagu!
3\-3.PST-kill in be_true-NMLZ-GEN lion-ACC
He really killed a lion!

5.2.3. Auxiliary Constructions

Tumetîk makes frequent use of auxiliary verbs to convey information which verbal morphology is not able to indicate, and they are often stacked next to one another to convey richer and more complex meanings.

They make the main verb non-finite, so it has to take the infinitive suffix -ta.

Auxiliary verbs do not constitute a distinct verb class – it is more that certain verbs, in fact eight of them, can be used both independently and as auxiliaries.

Auxiliaries are conventionally divided into four groups: modal, aspectual, tensal and polar auxiliaries, the distinction between which is based on the distance between the main verb and the auxiliary, as described below.

Tensals are closest to the main verb, and modals are furthest away. Aspectuals come in between these, so a general ordering of these three is modal-aspectual-tensal.

The sole polar auxiliary drîk can come before any other auxiliary, or in the absence thereof, immediately before the main verb. It negates all verbs, both full and auxiliary, which follow it.
The auxiliary verbs in Tumetić are listed below.

### tensal auxiliaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kṳ̓ ̣k</td>
<td>want</td>
<td>Indicates future tense; gains a retrospective meaning when combined with the past tense.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### aspectual auxiliaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nuk</td>
<td>start</td>
<td>Indicates inceptive or inchoative aspect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nība</td>
<td>die</td>
<td>Indicates cessative aspect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bętkut</td>
<td>dance</td>
<td>Indicates frequentative or iterative aspect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### modal auxiliaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tsek</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>Indicates subject’s ability to do the event described by the verb, or uncertainty whether the event described by verb will happen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k̓e</td>
<td>try</td>
<td>Indicates that the subject is trying to do the event described by the verb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aski</td>
<td>succeed</td>
<td>Indicates that the subject succeeded in doing the event described by the verb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### polar auxiliaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dr̓ik</td>
<td>be false</td>
<td>Negates the following verb or verbs in the clause.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.4. Questions

Tumetíŋk employs a total of five question-forming strategies which fall under one of two types of questions: polar (yes-or-no) and content questions.

5.2.4.1. Polar Questions

Tumetíŋk usually forms polar questions using the particle gia.

The particle is placed clause-initially to question the clause as whole, but it can also be placed before a specific constituent to inquire whether the latter is/was involved in the event described, in which case it is cliticised to that constituent.

Gia eu?
Q 3-live
Is he alive?

Gia-rûran bruk zuŋu?
Q 2SG-child 3-PST-burn house-ACC
Was it your child who burned down the house?

There are two more interrogative particles, which can be used to add finer shades to meaning of the question. These can appear in same positions as gia.

dra The rhetorical question particle; indicates that the speaker is not really asking for information; may be associated with both doubt or support of the expected answer. Glosses RHET.

uk The possibility question particle; does not ask for a statement about reality, but about the listener’s assessment of likelihood of the described situation. Glossed POS.

Dra mûrèb?
RHET 3-do
Did you really do that?

Uk grun kîŋk biktua?
POS rain 3-want fall-INF
Do you think it’s going to rain?
5.2.4.2. Content Questions

Tumetęd forms content questions by replacing the questioned constituent with the interrogative particle **tin**, which takes appropriate morphological marking if needed. However, the interrogative pronoun **kie** and its inflected forms may also be used. There is no wh-movement whatsoever.

**Tin niek?**
Q 3-sing
Who is singing?

**Rudįmu ką abi?**
2SG:3-eat INT-ACC
What are you eating?

5.3. Clause Linking

Like most languages, Tumetęd can link clauses by subordination of a clause to the another one, or coordination in which all clauses stay independent.

Tumetęd strongly prefers coordination over subordination so conditional or adverbial subordinate clauses are not possible to form at all; relations between two such clauses are expressed by a simple juxtaposition.

Note that the verbs in conditional clauses are marked for the optative mood.

**Rutiu pagiu ruskanın.**
1SG:3.PST-see lion-ACC 1SG:3.PST-ABL-run
I saw a lion and ran away from it.

**Nindeądinu, munaumpa.**
2sg-be_rude-OPT 3:2sg-hate
If you are rude, they hate you.
Subordinate clauses are limited to complement clauses and relative clauses. A common feature linking these two types is that they are both not marked with a conjunction, but they are formed using the *gap strategy* – there is no overt case-marked reference to the head of the clause.

Complement clauses take the place of an object of the matrix clause; placement of relative clauses is described in detail in 5.1. Noun Phrase Syntax section.

**Nīuzati rutiu.**

ISG\3-know | ISG\3.PST-see
---|---
I know I saw it.

**Kada muprṇḍ zṛiu**

man | \3-build | house-ACC
---|---|---
a man who is building a house