The Puvaŋeŋo Language

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Geography

Puvaŋeŋo is spoken on **Puvuva** the largest island in the **Keyeenyeye** archipelago off the coast of western **Peilaš** by a group known as the **Puvape**. The language is spoken across the whole island with a fair amount of dialectal variation, however unusually its closest relatives are to be found not on the other islands in the chain but on the mainland across the bay.

The island itself features a prominent mountain range in its centre sloping down into forest towards the coast. The climate is generally tropical and humid, with a contrast of wet and dry seasons, supporting thick rainforest outside of the peaks of the mountains and settlements. The human presence consists of scattered settlements based around the coast with large intervening tracts of jungle, with transport between these settlements being achieved mainly by boat rather than by foot. Travel into the interior is possible for particular cultural practices; many settlements are built at the mouths of small rivers along the banks of which journeys inland are made.

1.2 Culture

The **Puvape** are a group of sedentary mixed farmer/hunter-gatherers, with agriculture consisting mainly the staples of breadfruit **nyeyo** and pigs **syevu**. These are farmed on plots of land cleared in forest close to the settlement. The rest of the diet is generally foraged from the surrounding area. Dishes made from these generally consist of flavoured vegetable stews sometimes combined with roast meat.

Social organisation at the village level is somewhat complex, with several extended family houses being centred on a large communal square. Houses generally consist of close collection of free-standing units **seme** housing one extended family headed by a patriarch **mofe**. Prior to marriage, teenage boys will join one of the cult houses **mosemii** built inland of the village and live there until marriage, with married men returning to the cult house to sleep when their wives are on their periods. The raising of children is a somewhat communal affair, with weaned children often being taken care of as much by the patriarch and his wife as by their birth mother.

Notably there are several ethnic sub-divisions or "lineages" in the Puvape people. The largest and most socially predominant of these are the **Anipi**, who comprise nearly a half of the total ethnic population. The other ethnic sub-divisions are the **Kisoyo**, **Piluvu**, **Mafoyo** and **Xoovu**. It will be noted that the latter four have required marital exogamy (e.g. **Kisoyo** cannot marry in their own group) but the **Anipi** are permitted endogamous marriage, though this mostly

occurs only in settlements with majority or solely **Anipi** population. Determination of lineage is patrilineal, and marriages are patrilocal.

The native religious practices are generally animist in orientation, with a large part of them being articulated through the **mosemii**. There are a few typical taboos, such as the aforementioned period taboo, which is motivated by the view that menstrual blood poses a physical danger to men. At this point, the man will go and live in their **mosemii** for several days, with the expectation that they will bring back some meat to their home in order for their wife to "regain her strength". It is not uncommon for several men, being tabooed from their wives for the same period, will go on a hunt together and share the kill between them to take back.

Chapter 2

The Grammar

2.1 Abbreviations

1 first person

1EXCL first person exclusive

2 second person

21 second person plural/first person inclusive

ALI alienable

ANI animate

APP applicative

CAUS causative participle

COMND command, imperative

COND conditonal participle

CV intensive

DIR direct

DIST distal demonstrative

ERG ergative

HEAR hearsay

IMP imperfective

INA inalienable (but INT.INA interrogative inanimate)

IND indirect

INDEF indefinite

INST instrumental

INTER interrogative

IRR irrealis

ITER iterative

LOC locative

NEG negative

OBL oblique

PAR participle

PL plural

PRF perfective

PROHIB prohibitive

PROX proximal demonstrative

REFL reflexive

REL relative

SAP speech-act participant

SG singular

SIM simultaneous participle

SOBJ speech-act participant object

SSUB speech-act participant subject

SUBJ subjunctive

TRA transitive

2.2 Phonology

2.2.1 Consonants

	Bilabial	Dental	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	**p**	t̪ <**t**>	c <**ty**>	**k**
Fricative	ɸ <**f**>	s̪/θ <**s**>	ɕ/ç <**sy**>	**x**
(Voiced)	β <**v**>	z̪/ð <**z**>	j <**y**>	
Nasal	**m**	n̪ <**n**>	ɲ <**ny**>	ŋ
Lateral		l̪ <**l**>	ʎ <**ly**>	ʟ <**ł**>

2.2.2 Vowels

Puvaŋeŋo has a standard five-vowel system /i e a o u/, with each vowels coming in contrastive short-long pairs. Long vowels are denoted using double letters.

2.2.3 Phonotactics

Phonotactics are strict (C)V, with vowel-only syllables only occurring word-initially. Additionally, word-initial consonants are restricted to the plosives, voiceless fricatives and nasals excluding **ŋ**.

2.2.4 Prosody

Puvaŋeŋo has variably placed stress, with penultimate being the default and final being found when the penultimate vowel is short and the ultimate vowel is long. Secondary stresses are then assigned trochacially to every other preceding syllable. Degenerate feet occur when a word-initial syllable is not assigned stress, except in bisyllables with ultimate stress, where an iambic foot is created instead.

2.3 Nominal Morphology

2.3.1 Case

Puvaŋeŋo has a simple three-way case distinction between an absolutive, an ergative-instrumental and an oblique case. The absolutive is formally unmarked, while the ergative and oblique are expressed with suffices, which vary depending on the length of the preceding vowel, as show below:

	Short	Long
ABS	-	-
ERG-INST	**-yu**	**-tyu**
OBL	**-lV**	**-le**

(1) novasenanyu   soota   naŋuuki
     1-father-INA-ERG ground.pigeon 3TRA-strip-IMP.DIR

     My father is skinning the ground pigeon

With the oblique the V represents an echo of the preceding vowel. There is a further irregularity where instead of a suffix when the final consonant of a short vowel noun is one of **z** or **y** the consonant is replaced by a lateral rather than adding a suffix - **z**>**l** and **y**>**ly**. Additionally,

as seen above when an inalienably possessed noun and the reflexive pronoun takes the ergative it is realised as **-nyu**.

(2) tuzu   azuxi
     grouse shout-IMP.DIR

     The grouse is shouting

(3) no   tulu   syaxatalu
     1SG grouse-OBL SAP-strike-PRF.DIR

     I struck out at the grouse

(4) tyesalana   fiilu
     2-uncle-INA die-PRF.DIR

     Your uncle is dead

(5) tyeyasenanyu   xamu   natyiini
     2-father-INA-ERG INDEF 3TRA-speak-PRF.NEG

     Your father said nothing

2.3.2   Possessive Prefixes

Nominals in Puvaŋeŋo (which include participles, as discussed below) are either alienable of inalienable for the purposes of possession. There are two different sets of prefixes marking the person of each possessor for the two classes, and inalienable nouns are found with a suffix as well marking that they are inalienably possessed âĂŞ the absence of this suffix is semantically marked. First the alienable paradigm. The first form is used before consonant-initial words and the second before vowel-initial words.

1	**nuu-/nov-**
2	**tyuu-/tyov-**
3	**muu-/mov-**

Then the inalienable paradigm

1	**no- -na**
2	**tye- -na**
3	**-na**

2.4   Adjectivals

There are two main classes of adjective-like elements in Puvaŋeŋo - the root adjectives and the stative verbs. The root adjectives form a small class of core meanings, and behave mostly like nominals, being compounded with their head noun and not exhibiting any special morphology.

tuu	big
ponuu	small
paa	young
kosyi	old
nole	black, dark
xaata	white, bright
nufu	long
sumu	short
sose	good
xoxa	bad

(6) nosalana   kosyi
     1-uncle-INA old

     My old uncle/my uncle is old

(7) kosyi nosalana
     old   1-uncle-INA

     My old uncle

These may be treated as independent nominals in their own right.

(8) no   mu   kosyi muufiinyesya   syeefisaxi
     1SG DIST old   3ALI-dead-IMP.PAR SSUB.TRA-hold-IMP.DIR

     I want that old one dead

This class also includes the set of numerals. It will be noted that when used as independent nominals the numerals by default take singular agreement - plural marking on the verb would be interpreted distributively (as in "X groups").

(9) aŋa paxe
     five wrasse

     five wrasses

(10) pezana   olo
     eye-INA two

     They have two eyes

(11) aŋafi fololo   syeenyaxi
     six   tree-OBL hang-IMP.DIR

     Six of them were hanging from the trees

(12) no   tyeŋala sanya syeenyiikuu
     1SG 21-OBL four   SSUB.TRA-give-IMP.IRR.PL

     I will give you four each

The other class of adjectivals consists of stative verbs, which is productively derived from nominals -**nyexi** (see below). These behave like verbs, taking verbal inflections when predicative and requiring a participle relative construction when attributive.

(13) tyenyiinyesya   eya
     salty-IMP.PAR fish

     salty fish

(14) ee   eya tyenyiinyexi
     PROX fish salty-IMP.DIR

     This fish is salty

2.5   Pronominals

2.5.1   Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns only exist for the 1st and 2nd persons, and are the only kind of nominal that
exhibits a number contrast. Additionally, there is a clusivity contrast in the 1st person, however
the form used to mark it is identical to the 2nd person plural.

1SG	**no**
1EXCL	**taa**
1INCL/2PL	**tyeŋa**
2SG	**tye**

These pronouns notably do not take ergative-instrumental marking, instead taking oblique
marking when they occur as direct objects with transitive verbs (something which will be dis-
cussed under Alignment). There is additionally a reflexive pronoun **syina**, which does not mark
number. It has an irregular oblique form **syinya** and takes the inalienable ergative **-nyu**.

2.5.2   Others

The other pronouns come in pairs of a pronominal root and an adverbial root. There are four
such pairs: proximal and distal demonstratives (which also function as 3rd person pronouns), an
indefinite and a WH-interrogative.

	PRONOM	ADVERB
PROX	**ee**	**eefi**
DIST	**mu**	**muxu**
INDEF	**xamu**	**xaki**
INTERR	**na/ni**	**exi**
Everyone	**tamu**	**taki**

The **na/ni** alternation in the Interrogative is based on animacy, with na being used with
animates and ni with inanimates.

2.6   Verbal Morphology

2.6.1   The Applicative

The first prefix in the verb complex is the applicative **nyaa-**, which occurs in transitive verbs to
mark that at least one of the oblique arguments has a benefactive role.

(15)   tye   eya nolo   nyaasyeefunye?
       2SG fish 1SG-OBL APP-SSUB.TRA-roast-PRF.SBJ

       Would you roast a fish for me?

(16)   tye   mu   nolo   nyaasyeepuu   nułe
       2SG DIST 1SG-OBL APP-SSUB.TRA-return-PRF.SUBJ must

       You have to send them back to me

2.6.2   Person/Transitivity

Transitivity is expressed in the Puvaŋeŋo verb via prefixes, with transitive verbs being marked
overtly while intransitives are not overtly marked as such. This is tied up with a very limited

form of person marking, with separate prefixes to mark the presence of a speech-act-participant (1st or 2nd person) as a core argument.

Intransitive verbs are relatively simple âĂŞ They exhibit no prefix when their subject is a non-SAP and take a **sya-** prefix when their subject is an SAP. This prefix causes a mutation in a following plosive consonant.

Base	Lenited
p	v
t	z
ty	y
k	0

Additionally, when the verb begins with a palatal consonant or the first vowel of the root is front, the vowel of the prefix mutates to e.

(17) fe   muusemele   tyasyi
      man 3ALI-hut-OBL walk-PRF.IND

      The man walked to his house

(18) no   nuusemele   syeyalu
      1SG 1ALI-hut-OBL SAP-walk-PRF.DIR

      I walked to my house

Transitive verbs are more complex. There is a single overt prefix **na-** used with non-SAP argument, but for SAP arguments there is a contrast between **syee-** for an SAP subject and **syana-** for a SAP-object with a non-SAP subject. There is a further piece of morphophonology, with an **n** being inserted before a vowel-initial stem, plus a mutation in labials and velars, with **f** and **x** undergoing fortition to **p** and **k** and **p** and **k** nasalising to **m** and **ŋ** respectively.

(19) no   tyele syeekatalu
      1SG 2SG SSUB.TRA-hit-PRF.DIR

      I hit you

(20) no   fefe syeekatalu
      1SG man SSUB.TRA-hit-PRF.DIR

      I hit the man

(21) fefeyu   nolo   syanakatalu
      man-ERG 1SG-OBL SOBJ.TRA-hit-PRF.DIR

      The man hit me

(22) fefeyu   syani nakatalu
      man-ERG REFL 3TRA-hit-PRF.DIR

      The man hit himself

2.6.3   The Inflectional Suffix

The final suffix in the full verb is the inflectional suffix, which marks for three categories simultaneously; modality (encompassing a mix of mood, polarity and evidentiality), aspect (in the form of a perfective-imperfective distinction) and number (of the absolutive argument). These are expressed in a single fused suffix. There are also a set of suffixes used to form different kinds of subordinate clauses (the relative suffix behaves somewhat differently and will be discussed as such)

There are four conjugation classes for this suffix depending both on the length of the previous vowel and the presence of a morphophonological nasal or lateral element, referred to in the table below as the -V, -VV, -N and -L classes (note that the colon in the -V class represents the lengthening of the preceding short vowel).

Direct	-V		-VV		-N		-L	
PRF	-lu	-zee	-lu	-tee	-nulu	-tee	-lu	-lee
IMP	-xi	-:tee	-ki	-kii	-ŋi	-ŋii	-łi	-łii
Indirect								
PRF	-syi	-zasyi	-syi	-tasyi	-syi	-tasyi	-syi	-lasyi
IMP	-xusyi	-:tasyi	-kusyi	-kuusyi	-ŋusyi	-ŋuusyi	-łusyi	-łuusyi
Hearsay								
PRF	-ve	-zave	-ke	-tave	-me	-tave	-łe	-lave
IMP	-xuve	-:tave	-kuve	-kuuke	-ŋuve	-ŋuuke	-łuve	-łuuke
Subjunctive								
PRF	-0	-za	-0	-ta	-0	-ta	-0	-la
IMP	-xu	-:ta	-ku	-kusa	-ŋu	-ŋusa	-łu	-łusa
Negative								
PRF	-ni	-zani	-ni	-tani	-ni	-tani	-ni	-lani
IMP	-xuni	-:tani	-kuni	-kuuni	-ŋuni	-ŋuuni	-łuni	-łuuni

The citation form of verbs in the lexicon is the imperfective-direct-singular, since it handily demarcates the four verb classes.

(23)   no   tyenyesa   funyelu
        1SG barracuda roast-PRF.DIR

        I roasted a barracuda over an open fire

(24)   ee   fefe tyoseyu   fiitasyi
        PROX man misletoe-INST die-PRF.DIR.PL

        These men died of mistletoe poisoning it seems

(25)   no   iitya   tyiisya   syeetooxuve
        1SG speech say-IMP.PAR SSUB.TRA-need-IMP.HEAR

        I am told I need to make a speech

(26)   tye xeepu syeesyizoota
        2SG paddle SSUB.TRA-break-IMP.SUBJ.PL

        You will be breaking paddles

(27)   tye xamu   syeemoo   aa?
        2SG INDEF SSUB.TRA-absent-PRF.SUBJ INTER

        Have you lost something?

(28)   muyu   tyanuu nolo   naninyiikuuni
        DIST-ERG blanket 1SG-OBL 3TRA-give-IMP.NEG.PL

        They do not give me blankets

In terms of inflectional classes, there are a few irregularities of assignment, in particular involving a few verbs with stem-final long vowels which inflected like short-vowel stems such as **eexi** "drink" and **siiki** "crack, split open"

2.6.4   Participles

Puvaŋeŋo has a large roster of participles encoding a number of distinctions.

	-V	-VV/-N/-L
Sequential/Perfective Relative	**-fa**	**-pa**
Imperfective Relative	**-sya**	**-tya**
Simultaneous	**-syaŋa**	**-tyaŋa**
Causative	**-foyu**	**-poyu**
Conditional	**-feepa**	**-peepa**
Negative Conditional	**-niva**	**-niva**

(29) fuŋalya   iipa   fefe
      window-OBL appear-PRF.PAR man

      The man that appeared in the window

(30) ituzu   itetya   notenuna
      housepole make-IMP.PAR 1-mate-INA

      My lodge-mate that makes housepoles

(31) naneetyele   xiisyaŋa no tyefaŋena   syeetyoolu
      village.square-OBL walk-SIM 1SG 2-brother-INA SSUB-meet-PRF.DIR

      While heading to the village square I saw your brother

(32) tayoxaniva   tye syefii
      reverence-NEG.COND 2SG SAP-die-PRF.SUBJ

      If you do not pay your respects you will die

Participles are syntactically nominal in character, such that they may mark the person of their (nominative) subject by alienable possession prefixes.

(33) nuutyiyuupoyu   mu   syanatyuuni
      1ALI-greedy-CAUS DIST SOBJ.TRA-eat-PRF.NEG

      They will not feed me because I are greedy

(34) tyuupuufeepa   no   syeepii
      2ALI-return-COND 1SG SSUB.TRA-die-PRF.SUBJ

      If you go back I will kill you

2.6.5   Reduplication

There are multiple reduplicative processes in verbs used to mark semi-derivational categories.

The first of these involves reduplication of a CV-empty segment to mark the intensive. There are constraints on the shape of the segment - copied long vowels are shortened. With vowel-initial roots u and o insert a -v- and a, i and e insert -y-.

(35) tye syeneneesyi
      2SG SAP-CV-push-PRF.IND

      Looks like you pushed [too] hard

(36) ee   nyeye mumuukii
      PROX stone CV-smooth-IMP.DIR.PL

      These stones are very smooth

The second of these is complete reduplication of the verb root to mark the iterative. The root and reduplicant are interpolated by a semantically empty segment, the form of which depends on the conjugation class:

-V	-yV/-vV
-VV	-0(-y-/-v-)
-N	-nV
-L	-lV

Here V represents an echo of the preceding vowel, which is absent when the root is vowel-initial. The y v alternation follows the same criteria as the intensive above: v with rounded vowels and y otherwise, and similarly with -VV roots when the root is vowel-initial

(37)   taa   mu   nakatayaxatazee
       1EXCL DIST 3TRA-ITER-hit-PRF.DIR.PL

       We hit them over and over

(38)   nuuxafo   xifaaxifaaki
       1ALI-parrot ITER-vomit-IMP.DIR

       My parrot keeps throwing up

(39)   tye   moyosele   eŋexaneŋexaŋuve
       2SG river-OBL ITER-urinate-IMP.HEAR

       You keep urinating in the river

2.7   Derivation

2.7.1   Verb to Noun

There is a regular agent nominalisation **-fe**, as well as a somewhat less productive and more semantically idiosyncratic formant **-se/-te**.

eyakaŋi "to fish" > **eyakafe** "fisherman"
pozoxi "to dance" > **pozofe** "dancer"
siŋi "to remain, stay" > **site** "resident, inhabitant"
tyovaxi "to stink, be putrid" > **tyovase** "corpse"

There is a patient/locative nominalisation as well in the form of **-ye/-tye** (the former form being used with -V verbs and the latter with the other three classes).

nanooxi "to feel (emotionally)" > **nanooye** "feeling"
toveeki "to hunt" > **toveetye** "prey"
fooki "to sit" > **footye** "seat"

2.7.2   Noun to Verb

The most common verbalising affix is the stative **-nyexi** which forms stative verbs as discussed above.

esyuu "fire" > **esyuunyexi** "be hot"
nyeye "stone" > **nyeyenyexi** "be hard, stony"

There is also a more semantically irregular affix **-xaŋi**, which forms verbs which denote actions involving the noun it is derived from.

fee "smoke" > **feexaŋi** "to smoke"
eŋe "urine" > **eŋexaŋi** "to urinate"

2.7.3 Compounding

Compounding is a somewhat productive process for word-formation, the predominant type being noun-noun compounding. These are often accompanied by irregular processes of sandhi like those found with the SAP prefix.

fulya "clay" + **funyee** "cooking vessel" > **fulyafunyee** "clay pot"

nyeye "stone" + **keŋo** "mouth" > **nyeyeeŋo** "cave"

apa "star" + **ufe** "mouse" > **apoofe** "bat"

aamo "rain" + **axa** "cloud" > **aamovaxa** "raincloud"

ixi "grave" + **nyeye** "stone" > **ixinyeye** "grave marker"

2.8 Syntax

In general Puvaŋeŋo is fairly strongly head-final, with heads nominals coming finally in noun phrases and finite verbs coming finally in clauses.

2.8.1 Phrasal Syntax

Within the noun phrase, aside from the final position of the head noun, there are relatively few strict limits on permutations of modifying elements. In general the tendency is for simpler elements to appear closer to the noun, typically the demonstratives and numerals, with relative clauses tending to come first in the phrase.

(40) no syeepisaasya   syele ee   tuu eya
      1SG SSUB.TRA-hold-IMP.PAR 3   PROX big fish

      These three big fish that I am holding

(41) seepa   aŋoolo xamu   tyanuu
      fill-PRF.PAR seven   INDEF blanket

      Some seven finished blankets

Notably however, root adjectives may optionally appear after the head noun rather than before it, with demonstratives sometimes being found in this position as well.

(42) tyeyasena   kosyi
      2-father-INA old

      Your old father

(43) nofinana   ee
      1-hand-INA PROX

      This hand of mine

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are pre-nominal and use one of two different participle forms. Relatives may generally be formed freely with any participant, but with a difference in marking. Core arguments generally are null-marked inside the relative clause.

(44) teetya   fefe no syeetookii
      follow-IMP.REL man 1SG SSUB.TRA-need-IMP.DIR.PL

      I need men who [will] follow [me]

(45) noveyakapa   syenya tye funyexu   aa?
      1ALI-fish-PRF.REL shark   2SG roast-IMP.SUBJ INTER

      Are you cooking that shark I caught?

(46) nofaŋena   napiipa   feyee   mu
      1-brother-INA 3TRA-die-PRF.REL foreigner DIST

      That is the man that killed my brother

(47) tyefaŋenanyu   mafa   mu   azuu   exi   kiisyi?
      2-brother-INA-ERG catch-PRF.REL DIST bullroarer INT.LOC lie-IMP.IND

      Where is that bullroarer your brother found?

Reltivisation of non-core arguments, when that occurs, may also be zero-marked or have a reflexive resumptive pronoun.

(48) nuupopa   keyeele   nomovasena   fiike
      1ALI-be.born-PRF.REL sun-OBL 1-granddad-INA die-PRF.HEAR

      My grandfather died on the day I was born

(49) monyeye sitya   semexala   taa   syesyuuxii
      mountain near-IMP.PAR village-OBL 1EXCL SAP-ascend-PRF.DIR.PL

      We are going up to the village by the mountain

(50) syinya   fozootya   moyose ee
      REFL-OBL wash-IMP.PAR river   PROX

      This is the river for washing

Negation of relatives is achieved by a periphrastic construction involving the copular negative **sini**.

(51) nyizeenyesya   sini nyizee no   nyiinyiini
      sticky-IMP.PAR NEG glue   1SG understand-PRF.NEG

      I do not understand glue that is not sticky

(52) syinya   pataxatya   sini puva mu
      REFL-OBL sail-IMP.PAR NEG island DIST

      That is an island we do not sail to

2.8.2   Alignment

Puvaŋeŋo is a split-ergative language, with the split being found between personal pronouns and other nominal elements.

The personal pronouns (i.e. first and second persons) follow a nominative alignment, with nominative case (intransitive subject and transitive agent) being unmarked and the accusative (transitive patient) being marked with the oblique case.

(53) no   syeesyiyoxanulu
      1SG SAP-start.fire-PRF.DIR

      I started a fire

(54) nolo syeekesyananii
1SG-OBL COMND-SSUB-give

Give it to me

By contrast, other nominal elements (including full nouns, demonstrative, indefinite and interrogative pronouns) are characterised by an ergative alignment, with the absolutive case (intransitive subject and transitive patient) being formally unmarked and the ergative (transitive agent) being marked by the ergative-instrumental case.

(55) kalye fulo fooki
frog leaf-OBL sit-IMP.DIR

A frog is sitting on a leaf

(56) kalyeyu pusi natyuukii
frog-ERG ant 3TRA-eat-IMP.DIR.PL

The frog is eating ants

It will be noted that the ergative may occur with verbs lacking the transitive marker, conveying a de-agentive sense, and furthermore this usage is predominant with inanimate instrumental agents.

(57) faŋena muyu napiike
brother-INA DIST-ERG 3TRA-die-PRF.HEAR

He killed his brother (intentionally)

(58) faŋena muyu fiike
brother-INA DIST-ERG die-PRF.HEAR

He killed his brother (by accident)

(59) nofinana pałeyu kuulu
1-hand-INA knife-ERG scratch-PRF.DIR

The knife cut my hand

2.8.3 Clausal Syntax

The typical order of constituents in Puvaŋeŋo clauses is SOV, though the split ergative alignment complicates this somewhat. In general ergative arguments will tend to follow more animate absolutive arguments but precede more inanimate ones, with oblique core arguments always following both absolutive and ergative arguments. Nominative personal pronouns will tend to come before other arguments.

(60) mosyena fefeyu nakatazave
son-INA man-ERG 3TRA-strike-PRF.HEAR.PL

Men struck their sons

(61) poxuyu tyanuu esyuule nasyisyi
woman-ERG blanket fire-OBL 3TRA-lie.on-PRF.IND

The woman placed a blanket over the fire

(62) no nyeyo tyeŋala nyaasyiinyiita
1SG breadfruit 21-OBL APP-SSUBJ.TRA-give-PRF.SUBJ.PL

I will give you some breadfruit

WH-Interrogatives

WH-interrogative phrases are realised in-situ.

(63) nayu   tyele   syananinyiisyi?
      INT.ANI-ERG 2SG-OBL SOBJ.TRA-give-PRF.IND

      Who gave [it] to you?

(64) mu   ni   esyuule   napunyexuve?
      DIST INT.INA fire-OBL 3TRA-roast-IMP.HEAR

      What was he cooking on the fire?

(65) tyeŋa exi   syexiitee?
      21   INT.LOC SAP-walk-IMP.DIR.PL

      Where are we/you going?

Copular Constructions

Copular constructions in Puvaŋeŋo are achieved by simple apposition.

(66) no   fefe
      1SG man

      I am a man

(67) mu   tuu toomu
      DIST big cuckoo

      That is a big cuckoo

   Negation is achieved by a clause-final particle **sini**

(68) ee   sanu sini
      PROX dog NEG

      This is not a dog

   This same construction is also found with the root adjectives.

(69) pusi ponuu
      ant small

      Ants are small

(70) tye   tuu, no   ponuu
      2SG big   1SG small

      You are big, I am small/You are bigger than me

(71) tye   kosyi sini
      2SG old   NEG

      You are not old

Predicate Possession

There is no single verb meaning "have" in Puvaŋeŋo. Instead, there are two main constructions used to express this meaning.

The first construction is the simple marking of a possessed noun in a copular construction with possessive prefixes and placing that in a copular construction with another (pro)nominal to represent the possessor. This is most typical with 3rd persons.

(72) fefe muusyiinyelepuzo
      man 3ALI-red.dye.plant

      The man has some red dye plant

(73) ee   tiłuna
      PROX foot-INA

      It has a foot

The second construction uses independent pronouns marked with the oblique case and no possessive marking on the possessed noun. This is more typical with SAPs.

(74) tenu   nolo
      lodge.mate 1SG-OBL

      I have a lodge-mate

(75) tayo   tyeŋala
      respect 21-OBL

      We command respect

Both of these constructions are negated using the same strategy as copular constructions (i.e. the negative particle **sini**), and may similarly take the interrogative particle **aa**.

(76) tamu taale   sini
      every 1EXCL-OBL NEG

      We do not have everything

(77) mofolo muumolyose   sini
      forest   3ALI-rubber.plant NEG

      The forest has no rubber plants

(78) pipe tyele   aa?
      child 2SG-OBL INTER

      Do you have any children?

2.8.4   Use of Modes

The functions of the five verbal modes are complex and multiform, with different forms competing with each other in certain contexts. In general the most fundamental contrasts are between the indicative modes (the direct, indirect and hearsay) as a whole, the subjunctive and the negative.

The functions of the indicative modes are the simplest to explain. These are used in non-negative realis clauses, with three levels of evidentiality being distinguished. The direct mode is used when the speaker has either directly witnessed themselves or was an active participant. The nature of the evidence for direct witness is generally visual, though auditory evidence may also be implied, for instance if the event described was separated from the speaker by a screen.

(79)   novasena   semele   fooki   penye   nasotexayasotexaki
       1-father-INA hut-OBL sit-IMP.DIR bitterroot 3TRA-ITER-chew-IMP.DIR

       My father would sit in the hut chewing bitterroot

(80)   tye   pupulu
       2SG fart-PRF.DIR

       You farted

The indirect evidence refers to events or states which the speaker did not directly witness but instead has good reason to believe happened. This can be either through direct physical evidence (e.g. a speaker inferring from a pile of warm embers that a fire had been made recently) or through inference based upon other prior knowledge (e.g. knowing that a friend must be in the forest based on them being fond of hunting).

(81)   tyeyasena   toveekusyi
       2-father-INA hunt-IMP.IND

       Your father must be out hunting

(82)   no   folo nizofa   syasuusyi
       1SG tree leave-PRF.PAR SAP-fall-PRF.IND

       I appear to have fallen out of a tree

The hearsay is used when the speaker does not even have indirect evidence for the event occurring but is instead relying upon third-or-more party testimony. As such this is a typical modality for legends, though this is not a hard and fast rule, especially for stories with first-person narration.

(83)   tye   xeno syazookuve
       2SG wife SAP-need-IMP.HEAR

       I am told you are in need of a wife

(84)   eya moyosele   pootave
       fish river-OBL lack-PRF.HEAR

       I hear there were no fish in the river

The subjunctive is more complex. Firstly it is used in hypothetical or counterfactual statements of any time.

(85)   tyeŋa syaxu
       21   SAP-descend-PRF.SUBJ

       We could have gone downriver (but did not)

(86)   ee   pepenyenye
       PROX CV-bitter-IMP.SUBJ

       I would have be very bitter

Relatedly it may be used for statements in future time.

(87)   puufa   keyeele taa   syesyuu
       begin-PRF.PAR sun-OBL 1EXCL SAP-ascend-PRF.SUBJ

       We will head upriver tomorrow at dawn

(88) taa   tyeŋala fulu   syeelyoza
     1EXCL 21-OBL war-OBL SSUB.TRA-exsanguinate-PRF.SUBJ.PL
     We will bleed you dry by war

The subjunctive is also used in polar interrogatives along with the particle **aa**.

(89) mu   nolo   syananyii   aa?
     DIST 1SG-OBL SOBJ.TRA-see-PRF.SUBJ INTER
     Did they see me?

(90) tye ee   syeekineeku   aa?
     2SG PROX SSUB.TRA-know-IMP.SUBJ INTER
     Do you know of this?

It is also the mode used with the modal particles **tyone** "may, can" and **nułe** "must, be required to" to encode situational possibility and necessity respectively.

(91) tye syenizo   tyone
     2SG SAP-leave-PRF.SUBJ can
     You may leave

(92) taa   syavuuta   nułe
     1EXCL SAP-return-PRF.SUBJ.PL must
     We have to go back

(93) no   syesiŋu   tyone aa?
     1SG SAP-stay-IMP.SUBJ can   INTER
     Can I stay?

Finally it is used in commands, accompanied by either the affirmative **syeeke-** and the prohibitive **syeekine-**.

(94) syeekesyeesuu!
     COMND-SSUB.TRA-fall-PRF.SUBJ
     Drop it!

(95) syeekinenakata!
     PROHIB-3TRA-hit-PRF.SUBJ
     Do not let him lash out!

The negative is used to negate any of the above modes (with the exception of the imperative sense of the subjunctive).

(96) no   syenizoni
     1SG SAP-leave-PRF.NEG
     I will not leave, did not leave

(97) tye syavozoxuni
     2SG SAP-dance-IMP.NEG
     You are not dancing

(98)   nonenyenayu   nyeyo   nakuvakuuni
       1-mother-INA-ERG breadfruit 3TRA-burn-IMP.NEG.PL

       My mother does not burn the breadfruit

(99)   noxenona syiikiilye   footaŋa no semele syazotyaŋuni   tyone
       1-wife-INA menstruation-OBL sit-SIM 1SG hut-OBL SAP-enter-IMP.NEG can

       I am not allowed to enter the hut while my wife is menstruating

Interrogative Mode Usage

As mentioned above, polar interrogatives use the bare subjunctive universally except in negative
interrogatives.

(100) no   eefi   syafeexaŋu   tyone aa?
       1SG PROX.LOC SAP-smoke-IMP.SUBJ can   INTER

       Can I smoke here?

(101) tye nuupałe   syeenoo   aa?
       2SG 1ALI-knife SSUB.TRA-take-PRF.SUBJ INTER

       Did you take my knife?

(102) tye monyeye nyiikuni   aa?
       2SG mountain see-PRF.NEG INTER

       Do you not see the mountain?

However, the situation with WH-interrogatives is quite different. In general the indicative
modes are preferred, with the evidential being selected as in normal indicative sentences. For
example, in a situation where the speaker witnessed an event but was unsure as to the identity
of one or more of the participants the direct would be used, and so on.

(103) tye ni   syenyiiki?
       2SG INT.INA SAP-see-IMP.DIR

       What do you see?

(104) nayu   tyele   syanakatasyi?
       INT.ANI-ERG 2SG-OBL SOBJ.TRA-hit-PRF.IND

       Who hit you? [the speaker can see evidence the listener was hit]

(105) nyeyefolo   exi   syeekuuke?
       breadfruit.tree INT.LOC stand-IMP.HEAR.PL

       Where are the breadfruit trees? [the speaker has been made aware of a group of breadfruit
       trees through some other party]

(106) tye nolo   nili   nyaxokani?
       2SG 1SG-OBL INT.INA-OBL APP-help-PRF.NEG

       Why are you not helping me?

Copular constructions work as normal, since there is no special mode marking to speak of at
all.

(107)   ni   tyeneyana?
INT.INA 2-name-INA

What is your name?

(108)   na   moveya ee?
INT.ANI 3ALI-fish PROX

Whose fish is this?

(109)   na   ee   sini?
INT.INA PROX NEG

Who is this not?

2.9   Inter-clausal Syntax

2.9.1   Coordination

Coordinating conjunction is generally expressed using simple juxtaposition with finite verbs, regardless of correspondence versus contrast. If the correspondence between the two clauses is particular strong (generally meaning a combination of temporal simultaneity and complementary action) it may be reinforced with the particle **suu** "with" interpolated between the two clauses.

(110)   tye meesa syeemułii   tye nyefoo folopiyu
2SG hole   SSUB.TRA-dig-IMP.DIR.PL 2SG ground sapling-INST

syeeseekuni
SSUB.TRA-fill-IMP.NEG

You are digging holes but not planting saplings in the ground

(111)   taa   monyeye syeesenulu   taa   xamu
1EXCL mountain SSUB.TRA-ascend-PRF.DIR 1EXCL INDEF

syamaza
SAP-catch-PRF.DIR.PL

We went up the mountain and found some things

(112)   fefe toveekii   suu   poxu xookii
man hunt-IMP.DIR.PL CONJ woman gather-IMP.DIR.PL

Men hunt and women gather

2.9.2   Subordination

There are a number of participles used for subordination. These come before the main clause in apposition to it. Typically the subject of the participle is identified with one of the arguments of the main clause and has no marking in the participle clause itself. For SAPs it is the nominative subject of the main clause which is identified in this way, while for 3rd persons it is the absolutive argument. The latter takes precendence when both are present

(113)   kee   nole eefa   nomovasena   fiilu
water black drink-PRF.PAR 1-granddad-INA die-PRF.DIR

My grandfather died after drinking dirty water

(114)   axa   footyaŋa taa   semexala   syeyootee
        cloud sit-SIM   1EXCL village-OBL SAP-encounter-PRF.DIR.PL

        It was misty when we arrived at the village

(115)   kee   nole eefoyu   nomovasena   fiilu
        water black drink-CAUS 1-granddad-INA die-PRF.DIR

        My grandfather died because he drank dirty water

(116)   fiipa   tye tyovasena   syeetyiseeke
        die-PRF.PAR 2SG 2-father-INA SSUB.TRA-help-PRF.HEAR

        You took care of your father when he died

(117)   nolo   nyaanevafeepa   tye mozu syiinyiita
        1SG-OBL APP-thatch-COND 2SG carp SSUB.TRA-give-PRF.SUBJ.PL

        If you thatch [this roof] for me I will give you some carp

When the subject of the participle is different from that of the main clause, its person may be marked using alienable possessive markers. Additionally, the reflexive **syina** may be used logophorically to overtly mark when a complement subject is identified with the ergative subject of a transitive main clause.

(118)   eefi   muuxiifa   no   syina syeesyeya   nułe
        PROX.LOC 3ALI-walk-PRF.PAR 1SG REFL SSUB.TRA-cover-PRF.SUBJ must

        When he comes I must hide myself

(119)   xutyele   tyuupataxatyaŋa no   syina tyeŋala syeetyityiseekii
        sky-OBL 2ALI-sail-SIM   1SG REFL 21-OBL SSUBJ.TRA-INT-help-IMP.DIR.PL

        While you were sailing in the sky I working hard for us.

(120)   syina kukonyesyaŋa muyu   xiyekiłu nakookii
        REFL be.mad-SIM   DIST-ERG scale.bug 3TRA-gather-IMP.DIR.PL

        In his madness he would gather up scale bugs

Chapter 3

Semantics

3.1 Numerals

As indicated above in the adjectives section, numerals in Puvaŋeŋo follow a decimal system, though with certain patterns that indicate a quinqual subsystem, with the numerals between 5 and 10 being noticeably derived from 5.

fi	one
olo	two
syele	three
sanya	four
aŋa	five
aŋafi	six
aŋoolo	seven
aŋasyele	eight
aŋasanya	nine
oya	ten
tata	hundred

3.2 Kinship

For the most part, Puvaŋeŋo follows an Eskimoan system of kin terms, though due to the prevalence of cousin marriage there are a few complications. In particular, in-law terminology is in large identified with non-immediate blood relative terminology, to the extent that **sala** "uncle" is equated with "father-in-law", **naki** "nephew" with "son-in-law" and so-on.

That this is the case in an Eskimoan system can be put down to the different patterns of marriage between the two halves of the population. For the four smaller lineages (**Kisoyo**, **Piluvu**, **Mafoyo** and **Xoovu**), the pattern is strongly in favour of cross-cousin marriage, since that is what best ensures the exogamy requirements. For the **Anipi**, where lineage-internal marriage is typical, there is relatively little concern for cross versus parallel cousins, thus facilitating the confusion of the two terms.

3.3   Colour Termniology

Puvaŋeŋo has a rather restricted set of colour terms. The main two poles are represented by the two adjectives **xaata** "white" and **nole** "black". These are also used for shades of bright and dark colours respectively. There are also specific terms for "red", "brown/yellow" and "green" in the form of the stative verbs **syiinyexi**, **fulyanyexi** and **fuzonyexi** respectively. The latter two are very obvious derivatives of **fulya** "clay" and **fuzo** "leaf" while the first may have some tie to an original root meaning "blood" as seen also in **syiikiiye** "menstruation" and **syiinyezuu liver**.

3.4   Cardinal Directions

The system of cardinal directions is strongly tied with the topography of the island where Puvaŋeŋo is spoken. The two main axes are along the length of the island (roughly corresponding to a north-south axis) and inland-seaward (approximately east-west). This latter axis is notable in that the two terms used (**xutyiye** "inland" and **tyenyesyiye** "seaward") refer to opposite cardinal directions when on opposite sides of the island - on the west side, **xutyiye** will refer to an eastwardly direction and **tyenyesyiye** to a westwardly one, and vice-versa on the east side.

Chapter 4

The Lexicon

aako daughter
aakoxu granddaughter
aamo rain
aamovaxa raincloud
aƚi to shout, cry out
aŋa five
aŋafi six
aŋasanya nine
aŋasyele eight
aŋoolo seven
apa star
apakiiye night-time
apoofe bat
ase father
avonyexi be hot
axa cloud, mist
axe leg, prop root
axee shadow
azuu bullroarer

eena nose
eepaatya stomach bug
eetya death
eetyese pufferfish
eetyu testicles
eexi to drink
eeyenee whale
eŋe urine
eŋexaŋi to urinate
esyeeya stonefish
esyiyoxaŋi to start a fire
esyuu fire
esyuukooki angry
esyuunyexi be hot
eya fish
eyakafe fisherman
eyakanye kingfisher
eyakaŋi to fish
ezuxo moon

fane arm, tree branch
faŋe brother
faŋi to grow
fee smoke
feepuxi to rock back and forth
feexaŋi to smoke
fefe man, male
feyee foreigner, alien
fi one

fiiki to die
fina finger, hand
fini death
fininyexi be dead
fisaxi to hold, want to
folo tree
folopi sapling
foƚoo magpie
fooki to sit
footye seat
fote mangrove
fova shrieker bird
fovanyexi be chatty, loud
fovuu mushroom
fozooki to wash
fulya clay
fulyafunyee clay pot
fulyanyexi yellow
fulyaxanye potter
fuŋaya window
funyee cooking vessel
funyexi to roast over fire
fusu wasp
fuukuxi to smash, shatter
fuxa ache, pain
fuzo leaf
fuzonyexi be green
fuzu warfare

iiki to show, appear
iinyaa curtain
iite heron
iitya a speech, declaration
iityi aunt, mother-in-law
ikuvaa kindling
ilyoxi to exsanguinate
imukanye bee-eater
imunu bee
inyaŋi to protect, defend
inyiiki to give
inyinee spear
isi dust, fine sand
isinyexi be fine-grained
iteŋi to make, build
ituzu housepole
ityiyiye stomach
ixi grave
ixinyeye grave marker

kaaka crow
kałi to curve, curl
kalye frog
kalyexanye frog-eating snake
kami grease
kane riverbank, coast
kava stinging pain
kayese elbow, knee
kayoo parrotfish
kee water
keekiiye wet season
keekunyi water spring
keenyexi be watery, damp, wet
keesa otter
keeva storm
keŋo mouth
keso gecko
keye eel
keyee sun, day
keyeekiiye daytime
kiiki to lie down
kiitye bed
kiilya lung
kisa cavity, socket
kiye body hair, facial hair
kiyetefaa hide
kofe mussel
kome sacred mysteries
kosyi old
kotya encircling fence
koyee dew
koyeenyexi be wet, damp
koyuu pool, puddle
kufuxi be soft
kukonyexi be crazy, mad
kuna python
kuuki to scratch, cut lightly
kuutye eucalypt

meeki to run
meesa hole (in the ground)
mofanii albatross
mofe patriarch, headman
mofolo forest
molyonyexi be soft, rubbery
molyose rubber plant
monenye grandmother
monyesoo beach
monyeye mountain

moofe giant clam
mooye pelican
mosemii cult house
mosote comb
mosotexaŋi to comb
mosye son
mosyexu grandson
movalye bullfrog
movase granddad
moyenye sea, ocean
moyose river
mozu carp
mule mole
mułi to dig
muŋi to defeat, reject
mutye bracket fungus
muuki be smooth
muutyaa gale
muvanuzu stew
muvanyexi to boil in water

naaki to fuck, have sex with
naatyaxi to flatten, press down
naatyoozusyi ray, skate
naki nephew, son-in-law
na-maxi to receive, catch
naneetye village square, debating ground
na-nooki to take, seize
nanooxi to feel (emotionally)
nanooye feeling, emotion
na-ŋuuki to skin, strip
naso feather
naze frost
neeki to push against
nenye mother
nevaxi to thatch
nevoozu roof
neya name
nezoxi to swim
nilye pigeon
nisyikanye monitor lizard
niye niece, daughter-in-law
nizoxi to leave, exit
nole black, dark
nolefuzo black dye plant
nomoxi be sore, sick
nopi blood vessel
noxi to throw
nufu long

nuuki to tie up, bind together
nuuni baby blanket
nuyo back

nyaaki to begin
nyeeya minnow
nyefoo earth, ground
nyemute wind
nyemi knife
nyesootyiye north
nyeye stone, rock
nyeyeeŋo cave
nyeyefolo stalactite
nyeyenyexi be hard, stony
nyeyesefaa lichen
nyeyexanye stone carver
nyeyiiye moss
nyeyo breadfruit
nyeyofolo breadfruit tree
nyezee tongue
nyiiki to see
nyiinyiiki to understand
nyizee glue, gum
nyizeenyexi be sticky
nyooki to count, measure
nyootye vagina
nyoozu wound

okaxi be helpful, to help
ole headdress, crest
olo two
oota husband
opuu buttocks
oso tide
oya ten

paa young
pate knife, dagger
palya head
pata boat
pataxaŋi to sail
paxe wrasse
penye bitterroot
penyenyexi bitter
petu sand
peye cousin
peza eye
piinaa sling
piŋa skink

pipe child, baby
piyamuzu mucus
piyaŋi to sneeze
pofeyu bladder
poko faeces
pokoxaŋi to defecate
poloo brain
poni result, end product
ponuu small
poŋi to be born
pooki to be absent, missing
poonya ash
pooza beetle
posya rock lizard
poxu woman, female
pozofe dancer
pozoxi to dance, leap
pozu magpie
pupuxi to fart
pusi ant
pusonyexi be ugly, deformed
puu louse
puukooki be infested, louse-ridden
puuxi to go back, return
puva island
puvanyexi be isolated, remote
puyoo egg

safu dust
sala uncle, father-in-law
sati sea turtle
sanu dog
sanya four
seeki to fill, complete
sefaa skin
sekala ball
seme hut
semexa village
senolo horn, tusk
seŋi to ascend
seyaa kidney
sezo worm
siiki to crack, split open
siipiyooki be horny, lusty, randy
sili to be near, with
sineeni knowledge, wisdom
siŋi to remain, stay
sisizu viper
site inhabitant, resident

sofu fragrant herb
solyo ring, circle
solyonyexi be round
solyoxaŋi to walk round in circles
sonu sound, tone, hum
sooki to crawl
soota ground pigeon
sose good
sote tooth
sotexaŋi to chew, masticate
sovu bag
suɫi to sleep
sumu short
suna thorn, spine
sunaxaŋi to prick
suuxi to fall

syaɫi to fly
syaŋu penis
syavuu hummingbird
syeeki to stand
syeene eagle
syeenyaxi to hang, droop
syele three
syenya shark
syevu pig
syeyaŋi to hide, cover oneself
syezuu blood
syii ear
syiiki to summon, call hither
syiikiiye menstruation
syiikooki be healthy
syiinyelepuzo red dye plant
syiinyexi be red
syiinyezuu liver
syiiye head hair
syiiziɫu neck
syiɫi to lie inside
syivo inside, interior
syixuuzu gift
syizoxi to break, snap
syooki to cut, chop
syuuxi to ascend, go upriver

taɫa intestines
tamu everyone
tata hundred
tayenyexi be cool, shady
tayo respect, good deeds

tayoxaŋi to pay respects, reverence
teeki to follow
teetye path, route
tenu lodge-mate
texo belly
tiɫu foot, tree root
tiso grass
tiye breast
tomu cuckoo
tonutye doorway, entrance
toŋu tail
tooki to desire, have a need for
toomuxi be numerous
topa paint, paste
topaxaŋi to paste on, paint
topaxatye mural
totyaŋi to enter
tova body, tree trunk
tovanyexi be strong, brawny
toveeki to hunt
toveetye prey
tovenyexi be dry
tovexiiye dry season
tovoyuu bow
tulya sap
tulyenyexi be sweet
tuu big
tuuki be ill, sick
tuzu grouse, chicken

tyaavo spider
tyaɫu heart
tyanuu blanket
tyaŋi to hear
tyeete care, attention
tyelo seed
tyenyesa barracuda
tyenyesyiye seaward, downriver
tyenyexoo frigatebird
tyenyii salt
tyenyiinyexi be salty
tyeyexanye vulture
tyiiki to speak, say
tyiitye word, speech
tyiityiye south
tyinexi to sew
tyiniŋi to feel, sense
tyiseeki to help
tyivuu spoon

tyixuŋi to go through, along
tyiyuuki be greedy, gorge oneself
tyoła palm tree
tyone chest, breast
tyoŋe tortoise
tyooki to meet, encounter
tyoozu story, tale
tyose mistletoe
tyovase corpse
tyovaxi to stink, be putrid
tyovoozu rotting flesh
tyuuki to eat
tyuuzunu poison

ufexu mouse
uka meat
uutyaa wind
uve sponge
uxala mud
uxalanyexi be muddy
uxałooki be stupid, foolish
uxi entrails
uxiikee bile
uxisyi power, strength
uxisyinyexi be strong, powerful
uzusyii menstrual blood

xaata white, bright
xafo parrot
xała claw
xałi to hook, catch
xanuxi to be full
xataxi to hit, lash out
xava fig
xavopolo fig tree
xaxałi to play, toy with
xazuu fish-hook
xeeki to pull
xeepu oar, paddle
xeno wife
xifaaki to vomit
xifoxuru vomit
xiixi to walk (to)
xiiye time
xiłuxu beetle grub
xineeki to know a fact
xiyekiłu scale bug
xokuxi to cough
xooki to gather, harvest

xosuxi be rough coarse
xoxa bad
xoxi to laugh, chuckle
xoyi sister
xozii flower
xukanyii paddle
xunołanye swallow
xuŋi to descend, go downriver
xusyii bone
xutye sky
xutyiye inland, upriver
xuuki to burn
xuvaye hearth, fireplace
xuzo fly