

The Puvaŋeŋo Language

May 13, 2020

Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	Geography	5
1.2	Culture	5
2	The Grammar	7
2.1	Abbreviations	7
2.2	Phonology	9
2.2.1	Consonants	9
2.2.2	Vowels	9
2.2.3	Phonotactics	9
2.2.4	Prosody	9
2.3	Nominal Morphology	9
2.3.1	Case	9
2.3.2	Possessive Prefixes	10
2.4	Adjectivals	10
2.5	Pronominals	12
2.5.1	Personal Pronouns	12
2.5.2	Others	12
2.6	Verbal Morphology	12
2.6.1	The Applicative	12
2.6.2	Person/Transitivity	12
2.6.3	The Inflectional Suffix	13
2.6.4	Participles	15
2.6.5	Reduplication	15
2.7	Derivation	16
2.7.1	Verb to Noun	16
2.7.2	Noun to Verb	16
2.7.3	Compounding	17
2.8	Syntax	17
2.8.1	Phrasal Syntax	17
2.8.2	Alignment	18
2.8.3	Clausal Syntax	19
2.8.4	Use of Modes	21
2.9	Inter-clausal Syntax	25
2.9.1	Coordination	25
2.9.2	Subordination	25

3	Semantics	27
3.1	Numerals	27
3.2	Kinship	27
3.3	Colour Terminology	28
3.4	Cardinal Directions	28
4	The Lexicon	29

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Geography

Puvanejo 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	PROX proximal demonstrative
1EXCL first person exclusive	REFL reflexive
2 second person	REL relative
21 second person plural/first person inclusive	SAP speech-act participant
ALI alienable	SG singular
ANI animate	SIM simultaneous participle
APP applicative	SOBJ speech-act participant object
CAUS causative participle	SSUB speech-act participant subject
COMND command, imperative	SUBJ subjunctive
COND conditonal participle	TRA transitive
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	

2.2 Phonology

2.2.1 Consonants

	Bilabial	Dental	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p	$\underset{\text{̣}}{t}$ < t >	c < ty >	k
Fricative	$\underset{\text{̣}}{f}$ < f >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{s}/\theta$ < s >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{ç}/ç$ < sy >	x
(Voiced)	$\underset{\text{̣}}{b}$ < v >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{z}/ð$ < z >	j < y >	
Nasal	m	$\underset{\text{̣}}{n}$ < n >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{ɲ}$ < ny >	ŋ
Lateral		$\underset{\text{̣}}{l}$ < l >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{ɭ}$ < ly >	$\underset{\text{̣}}{ɮ}$ < ɭ >

2.2.2 Vowels

Puvanejo 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

Puvanejo 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 trochacically 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

Puvanejo 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	- IV	- le

- (1) novasenanyu soota naɲuuki
 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 filu
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 Puvanejo (which include participles, as discussed below) are either alienable or 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. 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 Puvanejo - 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 muufinyesya 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) aḡa paxe
five wrasse
five wrasses
- (10) pezana olo
eye-INA two
They have two eyes
- (11) aḡafi fololo syeenyaxi
six tree-OBL hang-IMP.DIR
Six of them were hanging from the trees
- (12) no tyenḡala 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 discussed 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 nuŋe
 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 Puvajego 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. 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).

	-V		-VV		-N		-L	
Direct								
PRF	-lu	-zee	-lu	-tee	-nulu	-tee	-lu	-lee
IMP	-xi	-:tee	-ki	-kii	-ŋi	-ŋii	-li	-lii
Indirect								
PRF	-syi	-zasyi	-syi	-tasyi	-syi	-tasyi	-syi	-lasyi
IMP	-xusyi	-:tasyi	-kusyi	-kuusyi	-ŋusyi	-ŋuusyi	-lusyi	-luusyi
Hearsay								
PRF	-ve	-zave	-ke	-tave	-me	-tave	-le	-lave
IMP	-xuve	-:tave	-kuve	-kuuke	-ŋuve	-ŋuuke	-luve	-luuke
Subjunctive								
PRF	-0	-za	-0	-ta	-0	-ta	-0	-la
IMP	-xu	-:ta	-ku	-kusa	-ŋu	-ŋusa	-lu	-lusa
Negative								
PRF	-ni	-zani	-ni	-tani	-ni	-tani	-ni	-lani
IMP	-xuni	-:tani	-kuni	-kuuni	-ŋuni	-ŋuuni	-luni	-luuni

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 xeepe 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

Puvanejo 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 tyē 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) tyē syeneneesyī
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 ejexanejexajuve
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 two 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” > **esyuunnyexi** “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”

- (45) noveyakapa syenya tye funyexu aa?
 1ALI-fish-PRF.REL shark 2SG roast-IMP.SUBJ INTER
 Are you cooking that shark I caught?
- (46) nofaɣena napiipa feyee mu
 1-brother-INA 3TRA-die-PRF.REL foreigner DIST
 That is the man that killed my brother
- (47) tyefaɣenanyu 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?

Relativisation 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 syesyuuuxii
 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) nyizeenyeyesa 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

Puvanejo 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 syeesiyioxanulu
 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) faɣena muyu napiike
 brother-INA DIST-ERG 3TRA-die-PRF.HEAR
 He killed his brother (intentionally)
- (58) faɣena muyu fike
 brother-INA DIST-ERG die-PRF.HEAR
 He killed his brother (by accident)
- (59) nofinana paɣeyu 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 Puvanejo 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 nasyisi
 woman-ERG blanket fire-OBL 3TRA-lie.on-PRF.IND
 The woman placed a blanket over the fire
- (62) no nyeyo tyenala 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 syananinyiisi?
 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 Puvaneŋo 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 Puvanejo. 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 tyeqala
 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 tyegala 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 **nule** “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 nule
 1EXCL SAP-return-PRF.SUBJ.PL must
 We have to go back
- (93) no syesiqu 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 **syeequine-**.

- (94) syeequesyeesuu!
 COMND-SSUB.TRA-fall-PRF.SUBJ
 Drop it!
- (95) syeeकिनakata!
 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 footaṇa no semele syazotyṇuni 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 syafeexaṇu tyone aa?
 1SG PROX.LOC SAP-smoke-IMP.SUBJ can INTER
 Can I smoke here?
- (101) tye nuupale 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 syeeekuuke?
 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 syeemulii 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 precedence when both are present

- (113) kee nole eefa nomovasena filu
water black drink-PRF.PAR 1-granddad-INA die-PRF.DIR
My grandfather died after drinking dirty water

- (114) axa footyaṇa 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 nule
PROX.LOC 3ALI-walk-PRF.PAR 1SG REFL SSUB.TRA-cover-PRF.SUBJ must
When he comes I must hide myself
- (119) xutyele tyuupataxatyṇa no syina tyenala 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 kukonyesyaṇa muyu xiyekiḷu 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 Puvanejo follow a decimal system, though with certain patterns that indicate a quinquial subsystem, with the numerals between 5 and 10 being noticeably derived from 5.

fi	one
olo	two
syeye	three
sanya	four
aja	five
ajafi	six
ajoolo	seven
ajasyeye	eight
ajasanya	nine
oya	ten
tata	hundred

3.2 Kinship

For the most part, Puvanejo 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 Terminology

Puvajeŋo 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 **syiikiye** “menstruation” and **syiinyezuu** liver.

3.4 Cardinal Directions

The system of cardinal directions is strongly tied with the topography of the island where Puvajeŋo 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 **tyenyeyiye** “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 **tyenyeyiye** to a westwardly one, and vice-versa on the east side.

Chapter 4

The Lexicon

aako daughter
aakoxu granddaughter
aamo rain
aamovaxa raincloud
ali to shout, cry out
an̩a five
an̩afi six
an̩asanya nine
an̩asyele eight
an̩oolo 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
eeylene whale
enje urine
en̩exan̩i to urinate
esyeeya stonefish
esyiyoʒan̩i to start a fire
esyuu fire
esyuukooki angry
esyuunyexi be hot
eya fish
eyakafe fisherman
eyakanye kingfisher
eyakan̩i to fish
ezuxo moon

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

fiki to die
fin̩a finger, hand
fini death
fininyexi be dead
fisaxi to hold, want to
folo tree
folopi sapling
foloo magpie
fooki to sit
footye seat
fote mangrove
fova shrieker bird
fovanyexi be chatty, loud
fovuu mushroom
fozooki to wash
fulya clay
fulyafun̩yee clay pot
fulyanyexi yellow
fulyaxanye potter
fun̩aya window
fun̩yee cooking vessel
fun̩yexi to roast over fire
fusu wasp
fuukuxi to smash, shatter
fuʒa 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
inyan̩i to protect, defend
inyiiki to give
inyinee spear
isi dust, fine sand
isinyexi be fine-grained
iten̩i to make, build
ituzu housepole
ityiyiye stomach
ixi grave
ixinyeye grave marker

kaaka crow
kati to curve, curl
kalye frog
kalyexanye frog-eating snake
kami grease
kane riverbank, coast
kava stinging pain
kayese elbow, knee
kayoo parrotfish
kee water
keekiye wet season
keekunyi water spring
keenyezi be watery, damp, wet
keesa otter
keeva storm
kejo mouth
keso gecko
keye eel
keyee sun, day
keyeekiye daytime
kiiki to lie down
kiitye bed
kiilya lung
kisa cavity, socket
kiye body hair, facial hair
kiyetefaa hide
kofo mussel
kome sacred mysteries
kosyi old
kotya encircling fence
koyee dew
koyeenyezi be wet, damp
koyuu pool, puddle
kufuxi be soft
kukonyezi 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
molyonyezi be soft, rubbery
molyose rubber plant
monenye grandmother
monyesoo beach
monyeye mountain

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

naaki to fuck, have sex with
naatyazi to flatten, press down
naatyoozusi 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-ɲuuki 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
noxixi 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
nyeyeengo cave
nyeyenyexi be hard, stony
nyeyesefaa lichen
nyeyexanye stone carver
nyeyiye 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
pataxani to sail
paxe wrasse
penye bitterroot
penyenyexi bitter
petu sand
peye cousin
peza eye
piinaa sling
piya skink
pipe child, baby

piyamuzu mucus
piyani to sneeze
pofeyu bladder
poko faeces
pokoxani to defecate
poloo brain
poni result, end product
ponuu small
poni to be born
pooki to be absent, missing
poonya ash
pooza beetle
posya rock lizard
poru 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
seni to ascend
seyaa kidney
sezo worm
siiki to crack, split open
siipiyooki be horny, lusty, randy
siti to be near, with
sineeni knowledge, wisdom
siyi to remain, stay
sisizu viper
site inhabitant, resident
sofu fragrant herb

solyo ring, circle
solyonyexi be round
solyoxani to walk round in circles
sonu sound, tone, hum
sooki to crawl
soota ground pigeon
sose good
sote tooth
sotexani to chew, masticate
sovu bag
suli to sleep
sumu short
sunu thorn, spine
sunaxani to prick
suuxi to fall

syati to fly
syangu penis
syavuu hummingbird
syeekei to stand
syeeene eagle
syeenyaxi to hang, droop
syele three
syenya shark
syevu pig
syeyani to hide, cover oneself
syezuu blood
syii ear
syiiki to summon, call hither
syiikiye menstruation
syiikooki be healthy
syiinyelepuzo red dye plant
syiinyexi be red
syiinyezuu liver
syiyye head hair
syiizitu neck
syili to lie inside
syivo inside, interior
syixuuzu gift
syizoxi to break, snap
syooki to cut, chop
syuuxi to ascend, go upriver

tata intestines
tamu everyone
tata hundred
tayenyexi be cool, shady
tayo respect, good deeds
tayoxani to pay respects, reverence

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

tyaavo spider
tyatu heart
tyanuu blanket
tyani 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
tyiniyi to feel, sense
tyiseeki to help
tyivuu spoon

tyixunji to go through, along
tyiyuuki be greedy, gorge oneself
tyota palm tree
tyone chest, breast
tyone 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
utyaa wind
uve sponge
uxala mud
uxalanyexi be muddy
uxatooki be stupid, foolish
uxi entrails
uxiikee bile
uxisyi power, strength
uxisyinyexi be strong, powerful
uzusyii menstrual blood

xaata white, bright
xafo parrot
xala claw
xali to hook, catch
xanuxi to be full
xataxi to hit, lash out
xava fig
xavopolo fig tree
xaxati to play, toy with
xazuu fish-hook
xeekei to pull
xeepe oar, paddle
xeno wife
xifaaki to vomit
xifoxxuru vomit
xiixi to walk (to)
xiie time
xituxu beetle grub
xineeki to know a fact
xiyekitu 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
xunotanye swallow
xunji to descend, go downriver
xusyii bone
xutye sky
xutyiye inland, upriver
xuuki to burn
xuvaye hearth, fireplace
xuzo fly