Contents

Introduction  7
  History  7
  This Book  8
  The Culture and its Speakers  8
    Culture  8
    The Mythology  8
    The Creation Myth  8
    The Coming of Wind (Ţeţatômê safichnu)  9
  Fictional creatures  10
    Roles  10
  Goals  10
  Contact  11

Phonology  13
  Consonants  13
  Vowels  14
  Romanization  14
    The Reformed Orthography  14
    The Original Orthography  15
  Phonotactics  16

Noun Phrases  17
  Case  17
Core Cases
Comparison
Topic or Focus
Other Inflections
Describers
Relative Clauses
Postpositional Phrases

Pronouns
Personal Pronouns
The Reflexive Pronoun
Demonstratives

Verb Phrases
Mood
Tense
Regularly Marked Tenses
Irregularly Marked Tenses
Aspect
Valency Suffixes
Adverbs
Evidentiality
List of Evidentials
Evidential Agglutination
Verbification

Syntax
Word order
The Copula
Interactions with Valency Suffixes
Idioms 51
Kinship and Community 51
Language and Linguistics 52
Life, Death, and the Divine (xanan kê fnadyc kê fûdet tütâ) 53
Materials and Chemistry 53
Measurement and Time 54
The Mind and Emotions (femek kê kexekâ) 55
Motion and Transportation 56
Music and Sound 57
Numbers and Mathematics (semetâ kê milek) 57
Perception (šëgin) 58
Postpositions 59
Quantity and Size 59
Technology 60
Values and Morals 60
Weapons and their Uses 61
Associated Activities 61
Courage and Cowardice 61
Particular Weapons 62
Other 62
Weather 62
Other 63

Appendix 67
Sample Texts 67
The North Wind and the Sun 67
Original Phonology 68
Color Wheel 69

Index 71
Introduction

This book provides a detailed grammatical description of Sajem Tan (most commonly translated as "Common Honey" in English), an invented language that was started by nine members of the Conlang Listserv in November of 2015. From the nine original tribemembers, the language has continued to grow, picking up new members and gaining new unique features the longer people worked on it.

History

On November 29, 2015 at 11:34 PM UTC, Shanoxilt Cizypij sent a message to the Conlang Listserv asking if anyone would be interested in actually implementing an idea that had been suggested there roughly 6 and a half years earlier. The idea was to create a collaborative conlang with each contributor being given a particular role which would be responsible for a particular section of the language. The roles he suggested were Thunder, Rain, Spider, Flower, River, Stone, Bee, Bear, and Bird and he called the language Common Honey.

Within 2 days of that initial message all the roles had been filled except Bear. Within a few months, the tribe had its 9 roles filled and the phonology and phonotactics decided upon. At this point most of the tribe began gathering weekly on Skype to discuss, use, and expand the language. Its progress was documented on FrathWiki. Later, after the Great Porn Fire, the tribe switched to Discord and decided that Sajem Tan discussion should take place whenever there was time available instead of only on Saturdays. This led to greater tribe activity – Sajem Tan discussion takes place nearly every day.

Throughout the entire process there was turnover in the tribe’s membership as new members joined (such as Dust, Star, and Wind) and old ones departed for various reasons. Of the original 9 members, only Bird, Stone, and Thunder are still active in the tribe, but even with these losses, the tribe still have nearly a dozen active members engaging in a variety activities aimed at expanding the language.

\footnote{Sajem Tan would be described in the invented language (conlang) community as an collablang, a shortening from collaborative language, in this case the community being the whole Common Honey tribe. To be more precise, it is a non-naturalistic artistic collablang.}

\footnote{The initial email can be found here.}

\footnote{The less said, the better.}
This Book

The making of the book was triggered by a growing dissatisfaction among some of the members of the community, most notably Mazem, with the lack of a detailed and centralized description for Sajem Tan. Most of the original tribemembers didn’t see this as an issue, since they had seen the language grow and develop, and therefore knew how to express things. Newer tribemembers such as Mazem, however, did not have this benefit. The source of anything related to Sajem Tan was the FrathWiki page and the Discord server. The main problem with the FrathWiki page wasn’t that it was not extensive – it wasn’t meant to be – but that it was incomplete and left a multitude of things unanswered. The problem with Discord was it seemed like no one knew the exact way to express things. This is thus meant to be a more complete and full description of the language, ultimately meant for future reference and studying purposes for anyone wanting to learn Sajem Tan or to join the tribe.

The Culture and its Speakers

Culture

Sajem Tannic culture is quite complex. Each contributor chooses a name, which is typically a natural thing or concept. Speakers use different pronouns based on whether their associated object or concept is animate, vegetal, inanimate, or neutral. Additionally, animate tribe members must refer to themselves in the third person, vegetal members must refer to themselves in the second person, and inanimate roles can refer to themselves in the first person, as is normal for non-Sajem Tan speakers. As a result, there are many more inanimate and neutral speakers than animate or vegetal ones.

The Mythology

Sajem Tan’s culture can be told through myths. These myths describe the beliefs of the Sajem Tan people.

The Creation Myth

The tribe’s creation myth as taught to us by Bird in the early days of the tribe runs thus:

snymmet kë lnûm znôkâ sno let kemfê dûc Divôm. kem žasikže metfê dûc Divômvmê dönâ kë roâkâm Tërnôn. znim Tërnônvâ gûlimunsun Jidôk kë jëkžutumsun ñësën. rovnê zajëndin navnyc, Jidôk kë Œfam ñômak, Tërnôn znôçfê Zaţên. valnûmfê Tërnôn kë

Which is in English traditionally rendered:

So very long ago, during gray and overcast days past, Thunder rumbled. From the shaken sky tumbled Thunder’s noises and with them, Rain. By the fallen Rain, Flower was nourished and River was filled. Upon its web, between Flower and Stone, Spider gathered Rain. When Rain ceased and Thunder silenced, Bee gathered Flower’s pollen. Bee then flew away to its hive to make our Common Honey. Upon the hive came Bear who so loved our Common Honey that it shared with all who would sample. Witnessing all this, from atop Stone, Bird declared, “May this recur until all our tribe partakes of Common Honey.”

**The Coming of Wind ( Ţêṭatvmê safîcîhnu)**

This myth describes how Tribemember Wind was brought into the tribe, according to Sajem Tannic belief.

As Common Honey was becoming bigger, the tribe decided they needed a new tribemember to keep track of it all; therefore, they called upon Bird. Bird contemplated this for a while but thought of no solutions. He decided that flying would help him. As he was flying, Bird noticed Wind, an ancient force who had watched our Common Honey’s creation, beneath his wings. Upon Wind’s flowing trail, Thunder’s echoes, the words of the past, were heard. Bird invited him to the tribe because he new much. Wind set to work immediately, keeping a record of how Common Honey was created. Our Common Honey finally had a history!
**Fictional creatures**

The most significant of the Sajem Tannic are the Tetanâ, small snail-like creatures with mohawks, laser vision, and the ability to fly. They travel the universe repairing rips in the spacetime continuum by singing songs in Sajem Tan.

The Tytemekâ were once a part of the Tetanâ tribe, but due to a series of unfortunate events, they were expelled and became centipedes with a hand on each leg. Their name is now synonymous with "bad idea" and they are widely hated and feared as terrible monsters. They live now in šitukmumęmek Xataxym (The Pit of Bad Ideas).

There are also the Cömekâ, bonsai trees that receive wisdom from Zëvet and pass it on to other terrestrial beings by means of telepathy and their root systems (a concept they may have invented to simplify communication).

**Roles**

At the founding of the tribe, there were 9 roles. The holder of each role had final say in all matters in their domain. Divöm (Thunder) had charge of Phonology, Tërnn (Rain) was given the domain of Morphology, Zaťen (Spider) had Syntax, Jidök (Flower) was semantics, Ţefam (Stone) did Orthography, šešën (River) had Pragmatics, Kižüt (Bee) kept track of the Corpus, Ţefnöm (Bear) did Pedagogy, and Viţi (Bird) supervised the whole process.

As time progressed, more roles were added, beginning with the Cüjimâ (Ants) which is currently the only group role and consists of those who find Sajem Tan interesting but do not have the time or inclination to participate extensively. Thetàt (Wind) deals with Etymology and trying to explain various oddities in our lexicon. Zëvet (Star) is the creator and explainer of idioms. Tezet (Lightning) is the tribe’s musician. Milek (Fern) is the resident mathematician. Tözen (Fog) oversees translation.

The original tribe members each took one of the 9 roles and the role’s name became their name. When new roles were created, they were named after the tribemembers who held them. But over time some tribemembers departed with the task of their role incomplete. The solution the tribe adopted was to allow members to take on multiple roles. Thus Ţefam is now also Ţefnöm and Zëvet is also Zaťen.

**Goals**

The goal of the Sajem Tan project is to produce an interesting and semantically nuanced language, along with a community of people...
who speak it and enjoy using it. As a result, our efforts are often more focussed on producing something learnable or amusing, rather than what one might find in a "good" conlang. We also often make efforts to give words meanings that don’t seem like they should go together, such as "vmēfēc", which means both "wisdom" and "silliness". The primary intended usage of such semantics is to make interesting and flowery poetry. In addition, there have been a number of occasions when we have decided that a particular English word will never have a direct translation, most notably "person".

Contact

The tribe’s discord server can be found at https://discord.gg/KNMWNYh. Any comments, questions, observations, suggestions, or other feedback can also be directed to awesomeevildukes+ST@gmail.com.
Phonology

Sajem Tan phonology consists of eighteen consonants and twelve vowels, including several fairly rare ones. The phonology was selected by Samantha Tarnowski, whose tribal name is Divôm (Thunder) and who is one of the original members of the tribe.

The phonology that is described here is actually not the phonology Thunder selected in the beginning. The one she chose was deemed extremely difficult to pronounce and was revised somewhat in the Age of Great Reforms. The previous iteration can be found in Original Phonology. The phonology displayed here is a revised version of the original phonology called the "Reformed Phonology". It was created in January 2017 by Ştefan Alecu (Mazem/Kummaline), Reuben Staley (Ţeţat/Wind), Malimacx (Milek/Fern), and Dave Hayes (Zêvet/Star).

Some of the distinguishing features of the phonology are its inclusion of the voiced and voiceless alveolar lateral fricatives /ɬ ɮ/, the lack of the alveolar lateral approximant /l/, the lack of any rhotics, its unusually large vowel system which includes three front rounded vowels, /y ø æ/.

Consonants

The following is a chart of all eighteen of the consonant sounds in the Sajem Tan language:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labial</th>
<th>Dental</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>Plosive</td>
<td>t d</td>
<td>k g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>f v</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>s z</td>
<td>j 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lat. Fricative</td>
<td>ɬ ɮ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vowels

There are 12 vowels, listed in this chart:

Romanization

There are two different orthographies for Sajem Tan – the Original Orthography, created at the very beginning of the project, and the reformed orthography, created during the Age of Great Reforms. While both orthographies are acceptable in normal use, a substantial portion of the tribe strongly prefers the reformed version, which has been used consistently throughout this document.

The Reformed Orthography

The Reformed Orthography is the one most commonly used. It was created in January of 2017 along with the other reforms of that period. Kummaline and Fern were the first to object to the original orthography and they proposed this a replacement.

On September 4th, 2017, an alternative to <th> was being discussed, and Fog suggested <ts>, which eventually won in a vote between that and two other suggestions (namely <ç> and <þ>).

Transcription table

In Sajem Tan alphabetical order, the orthography is described as such:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>d</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>x</th>
<th>j</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>v</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>z</th>
<th>ş</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>/x/</td>
<td>/j/</td>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>/v/</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>/ş/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ž</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>ē</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>ŏ</td>
<td>i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/ž/</td>
<td>/l/</td>
<td>/r/</td>
<td>/m/</td>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>/ɑ/</td>
<td>/æ/</td>
<td>/e/</td>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>/i/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td>ū</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>ā</td>
<td>ē</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/y/</td>
<td>/ū/</td>
<td>/ū/</td>
<td>/c/</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>/ɑ/</td>
<td>/ē/</td>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>/u/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consonants

Each of the Reformed Orthography consonants are listed below in an IPA table layout.
**Vowels** Every vowel is displayed in an IPA-style chart below:

```
\[ i \quad y \quad ê \quad ö \quad ù \quad ü \quad o \quad \checkmark \quad \ddot{e} \quad ù \quad u \quad à \]
```

**The Original Orthography**

The Original Orthography was created in November 2015 by Stone and remains widely used by several members of the tribe. It was created specifically be very digraph-heavy because American trimemembers wanted to avoid typing diacritics, or any kind of special character not found on the US English keyboard. The reason \( <h> \) and \( <l> \) were used as diacritics is because they were not used elsewhere on their own as single characters. This removed any and all ambiguity while typing.

**Transcription table** The entire set of consonants in the the correct Sajem Tan alphabetical order is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>Original Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/d/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>/g/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>/x/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>/j/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>/f/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>/v/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>/θ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>/s/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>/z/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zh</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sl</td>
<td>/sI/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zl</td>
<td>/zI/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>/m/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>/n/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>/æ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>el</td>
<td>/œ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>/e/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ol</td>
<td>/ø/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>/i/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>/y/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uh</td>
<td>/u/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>/u/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consonants** The consonants, written in Original Orthography in an IPA chart are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>Original Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>/m/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>/n/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>/t/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/d/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>/k/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>/ɡ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>/f/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>/v/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>/θ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>/s/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>/z/</td>
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<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zh</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sl</td>
<td>/sI/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zl</td>
<td>/zI/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>/j/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vowels  Every vowel is displayed in an IPA-style chart below:

```
 i̯    y                  u
  e'o̯l                 o
  eh'e̯l               uh
  a               ah
```

**Phonotactics**

Sajem Tan’s phonotactics distinguish 2 types of morphemes: roots and particles.

- Roots are composed of any number of open syllables containing the vowels ö, e, ě, i, a, ū, ŭ, and y. The onset of these syllables may be any consonant or any fricative followed by m or n. The final syllable of the root must of the same form but with a coda of t, k, c, m, or n.

- Particles, on the other hand, use the vowels o, â, ê, and u. They are always monosyllabic. The onset and coda are both optional, but they follow the same rules as those of roots if they are present.
Noun Phrases

A noun phrase consists of a noun, preceded by any number of possessors, relative clauses, postpositional phrases, and describers, typically in that order. Nouns are only required to conjugate for case.

Case

Cases are marked using suffixes, which always appear as the final morpheme of the noun. The nominative, accusative, and the complement of a postposition are all unmarked.

Certain verbs require their objects to be marked for a certain case. This is indicated in their entries in the Lexicon.

Core Cases

CAUSATIVE CASE is marked with -tê and indicates that a noun is the cause of the action.

(1) têrnënê möt žujotvmê tûnâ.

têrnën -fê möt žu -jot -vmê tûn -â
rain DUR not 2S=ANIM FUT GEN eye PL

"You’re never gonna cry."

(2) sêtê têrnënê möt žujotvmê tûnâ.

sê -tê têrnënê möt žujotvmê tûnâ
1S=ANIM CAUS rain DUR not 2S=ANIM

"I’m never gonna make you cry."

The only difference between these is the addition of "sêtê"

COMITATIVE CASE is marked by -kâm, and can generally be translated to English as "with". It is used to express a person with whom the action is being done.
(3) cejyn\text{-mun} \text{-žut} \text{-kâm} tan \text{fê} dac dê.

\begin{verbatim}
cejyn -mun -žut -kâm tan -fê dac
sound very cause-to-be COM speak DUR IND=midPST
dê 1S=NEUT
"I spoke with the megaphone." (I had a conversation with an anthropomorphic megaphone.)
\end{verbatim}

Which should not be confused with

(4) cejyn\text{-mun} \text{-žut}gu tan \text{fê} dac dê.

\begin{verbatim}
cejyn -mun -žut -gu tan -fê dac
sound very cause-to-be INSTR speak DUR IND=midPST
dê 1S=NEUT
"I spoke using the megaphone." (I was addressing a crowd and used a megaphone to be heard.)
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Dative case} is marked with -\text{-tot} and indicates the recipient of verbs like give, sell, and send. The most common translation is the preposition "to".

(5) dasnan\text{-tot} decek snamfê thê.

\begin{verbatim}
dasnan -tot decek snam -fê thê
universe DAT chicken give DUR 1S=INAN
"I gave a chicken to the Universe."
\end{verbatim}

It can also be used to vaguely indicate destination in the absence of an appropriate postposition.

(6) diŋtōt xinemfê dê.

\begin{verbatim}
din -tōt xinem -fê dê
home DAT teleport DUR 1S=NEUT
"I teleported home."
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Genitive case} means much the same thing it does in English. It is marked with the suffix -vmê and expresses general possession. "my chicken" is "dëvämê decek", "my birth" is "dëvämê teŋnym", and "my flipper"\textsuperscript{4} is "dëvämê gigim".

\textsuperscript{4} This applies both to the flipper you were born with if you are a sea creature, or the flipper you forcibly amputated from some other sea creature and now keep in your sock drawer.
Instrumental cases are -gu and -vâ. Both express that the noun they are attached to is the tool used to accomplish the action. The difference is that -gu applies to physical tools small enough to held in one’s hands while -vâ covers everything else. So, for example to knock someone out with a club (dacök), the involvement of the club would be expressed with "dacökgu". If instead you wanted to say you knocked someone out with your mind (femek), this would be "femekvâ".5

Vocative case is marked with -o and indicates the addressee of a sentence.

(7) Viṭito decek zanum môt žu.

Viṭit -o decek zan -um môt žu
Bird VOC chicken be GNO not 2S=ANIM
"Bird, you are not a chicken."

Comparison

The comparative case, marked by -vê, mark the object in comparative statements that in English are often rendered "is more ___ than".

The suffix -tu is the comparative, attaching it to a describer creates a verb meaning "to be more ___ than", such as "dûttu", "to be larger than". Typically the subject would be considered an experiencer, but on occasion it is treated like an agent, hence "The dinosaur is bigger than the chicken." would frequently be rendered "decekvê dûttuüm tivût." rather than the arguably more accurate "decekvê tivût dûttuüm.".6

Applying the suffix twice forms the superlative, which can be used either intransitively, as in "tivût dûttuüm." ("The dinosaur is the largest.") or transitively, with a group as the object, as in "tivûtâvê du dûttuüm." ("That is the largest of the dinosaurs.").

For more information on verbification in Sajem Tan, see Verbification.

Topic or Focus

The case -žê is typically translated with the prepositions "about" and "from". It marks the topic being spoken or thought about.

5 The example assumes that the knocking out is done using some form of telepathy. If you wish to bash someone over the head with a brain, that would likely be "femekgu".

6 Unless you are talking about mad scientist activities, such as a dinosaur transforming itself into something larger, in which case "decekvê dûttuê tivût." is a quite accurate phrasing.
(8) decekâţê tanfê déā.

```
    decek -ă -ţê tan -fê dē -ă
    chicken PL FOC speak DUR 1S=NEUT PL
```

"We spoke about chickens."

It can also mark the source of a verb like "to give".

(9) kecycţê decek dē snamfēsun.

```
    kecyc -ţê decek dē snam -fê -sun
    internet FOC chicken 1S=NEUT give DUR PASS
```

"I was given a chicken by the Internet."

**Other Inflections**

All other noun inflections are officially derivational suffixes, and can be found at the beginning of the Lexicon. However, a few are used extremely frequently and are worth mentioning here.

- **-jot** indicates the future state of something, and is the easiest way to mark the future tense. The word "ţefamjot" could be translated as "the future state of the rock" or "the rock in the future". A statement involving -jot could be translated using one of those phrases, or it could rendered in the future tense. Thus "decek kygykšo ţējot." could be rendered as either "My future self is eating a chicken." or "I will be eating a chicken."

- **-so** is generally glossed "having one", as in "ţimanso" – "one who has feathers". Apart from the genitive case, this is the most common method of expressing possession. It is sometimes distinguished from the other possessives as indicating some degree of inalienability, such as of body parts or items significant to one’s identity.

- **-ā** is probably the most commonly used suffix on nouns, and serves as the default plural marker, as in "decekā" – "chickens". However, there are several other plural markers, and further detail can be found in [Derivational Suffixes](#).

**Describers**

The part of speech called describers covers both of what in English would be adjectives and adverbs. When used to modify nouns they are generally the last thing before the noun. They do not conjugate.
Relative Clauses

Relative clauses take the form of ordinary verb phrases delimited by "mu" and "om"\(^7\), which may be written as "mu" and "om", but is more commonly written with square brackets, thus both of the following are equally correct.

\(\text{(10) } \text{mu decek kygyk\text{-}fê ro om tivût}\)

\[\text{mu \ decek \ kygyk \ -fê \ ro \ om \ tivût} \]
REL chicken eat DUR 3S=ANIM CONJ dinosaur

"the dinosaur that ate the chicken"

\(\text{(11) } [\text{decek kygyk\text{-}fê ro}] \text{ tivût}\)

\[\text{[ decek \ kygyk \ -fê \ ro \ ] \ tivût} \]
REL chicken eat DUR 3S=ANIM CONJ dinosaur

"the dinosaur that ate the chicken"

Pronouns are never dropped, unlike in English.

\(\text{(12) } [\text{tanrücdu \ tekfê zo}] \text{ \ tefam}\)

\[\text{[ tanrüc \ -du \ tek \ -fê \ zo \ ] \ tefam} \]
REL sentence -this write DUR 3S=INAN CONJ rock

"the stone who wrote this sentence"

Never

\(\text{(13) } *[\text{tanrücdu \ tekfê}] \text{ \ tefam}\)

\[\text{[ tanrüc \ -du \ tek \ -fê \ ] \ tefam} \]
REL sentence -this write DUR CONJ rock

"the stone who wrote this sentence"

In written Sajem Tan, relative clauses are typically placed before the head noun. In speech, on the other hand, it is common to find them after their heads.

Postpositional Phrases

A postpositional phrases simply consists of a noun phrase in the unmarked case followed by a postposition. For example, "upon the rock" is "\(\text{\text{\textbf{\text{-}}} tefam navnyc}\)". When modifying a noun, the postpositional

\(^{7}\text{In pre-reform Sajem Tan these were pronounced as alveolar clicks (/!/).}\)
phrase always precedes it. So, "ṭefam navnyc viṭit" ("the bird upon
the rock"), never "viṭit ṭefam navnyc".

These phrases typically mark relations that English would mark
with prepositions, but sometimes they cover things typically done
with verbs. For example, the word "tan", when used as a postposi-
tion indicates the speaker of something. So far, such phrases have
typically modified whole sentences.

(14) ẓê tan decek kygykfê tivût.

highlight
3S=VEG say chicken eat DUR dinosaur

"He said that the dinosaur ate the chicken."

Although they can also sometimes be applied to individual noun
phrases.

(15) ţê tan tanrüc

1S=INAN say sentence

"the sentence that I said"

Normally verbal uses include most common ways of expressing
speech, knowledge, and possession of qualities. The general form of
all of them is that what would in English be the subject of the main
verb becomes instead the object of the postposition and the verb in
the dependent clause becomes the main verb instead.
Pronouns

Sajem Tan has pronouns for first, second, and third person. Pronouns are also separated by animacy into animate, vegetal, and inanimate. The animate pronouns are used for anything that would generally be considered a living animal (including humans). Vegetal covers all other living things, including plants, fungi, and bacteria. Inanimate is used for everything else. There is also a set of neutral pronouns which can be used to refer to groups of mixed animacy or to entities whose animacy is unknown or irrelevant.

Tribal tradition dictates that entities who are inanimate talk in the first person, entities who are vegetal talk in the second person, and entities who are animate talk in the third person. See the culture section for more on this.

Pronouns are conjugated in the same manner as nouns.

Personal Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Person</th>
<th>Second Person</th>
<th>Third Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animate</td>
<td>sê</td>
<td>žu</td>
<td>ro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetal</td>
<td>źu</td>
<td>vo</td>
<td>zê</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inanimate</td>
<td>ńê</td>
<td>vu</td>
<td>zo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>dê</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>du</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Reflexive Pronoun

The pronoun žo refers to the subject the sentence.

(16)  žo žê sežüfenfê dac.

özô žê sežüfen -fê dac
REF 3S=VEG find  DUR IND-midPST

"He found himself." (used, for instance, of a fern who had a life-altering experience.)
When used inside a relative clause, it refers to the subject of the sentence, rather than the head noun or the subject of the clause it's in.

**Demonstratives**

Demonstrative forms of nouns are constructed by placing a pronoun of corresponding animacy directly after the noun in question. There are three demonstrative forms, one for each pronoun person. First person pronouns mean "this", second person pronouns mean "that", and third person pronouns mean something like "yonder". For example

\[(17) \text{ gamykzêtot zhanvu fmamegyndâ dac deceksê} \]

\[
gamyk \text{-zê} \quad \text{-tot zhan -vu fmamegyn -dâ dac} \\
\text{tree DEM3 DAT knife DEM2 throw PFV IND-midPST} \\
decek \text{-sê} \\
\text{chicken DEM1} \\
\]

"This chicken threw that knife at yonder tree."
Verb Phrases

Mood

Mood is marked by auxiliary verbs, which are placed immediately after the verb. In the case of coordinated verbs, such as in "He began to hear and speak.", the auxiliary occurs once after both of them ("vōjamfê kê tanfê sat ro." rather than "vōjamfê sat kê tanfê sat ro.").

Tense

Tense is primarily marked on auxiliary verbs. The final vowel of the basic form of an auxiliary verb is always either i or ö. Throughout this section, these will be referred to as i-auxiliaries and ö-auxiliaries, respectively. These vowels are changed to mark tense.

Regularly Marked Tenses

Nonpast Nonpast is the default tense and is marked by not changing the vowel in the auxiliary. The time period is marks is just what is sounds like, not the past. Anything from the moment the sentence is uttered to the end of time\(^9\) would fall under nonpast.

Distant past The distant past is marked with ü for i-auxiliaries, and û for ö-auxiliaries. It expresses things that happened long ago. Like the other past tenses, this is relative and could conceivably be used to refer to the events of yesterday (for example, if many things have happened or if they seemed to take forever), but it is generally reserved for myths and legends.

Mid/Intermediate past The intermediate past is marked with a for i-auxiliaries, and y for ö-auxiliaries. Midpast is used for things that happened a while ago, but not so far as to be distant past, and not so recent as to be immediate past. It can also be used as a non-specific past tense.

\(^9\) Assuming, of course, that the sentence is being uttered somewhen between the beginning and end of time.
Immediate Past The immediate past is marked with e for i-auxiliaries, and ë for ö-auxiliaries. It marks things that just happened, such as the event immediately preceding the present moment.

Irregularly Marked Tenses

Future There is no way to mark specifically future tense on auxiliaries distinct from present tense. However, there is a noun suffix, -jot, which indicates the future state of something. "decekjot" is "the future state of the chicken", and "tanfê decekjot."\(^{10}\) could reasonably be translated "The future state of the chicken speaks." While technically this is indeed part of noun morphology rather than verb morphology, it seemed natural to place a section on it here since this is the section the average oblivious reader will most likely look for future tense conjugations in\(^{11}\).

Aspect

Aspect is marked with a mandatory suffix directly after the verb. That is to say, it occurs as the final morpheme of the verb or the penultimate\(^{12}\) if there is a valency suffix.

Perfective aspect The perfect aspect is used of actions that are viewed as either instantaneous or that have no perceived interior composition. It is marked with -dâ. Technically any aspect can go onto any verb, but keep in mind that this one might not work in all cases. Examples of verbs that follow this pattern in English would be things like pressing a key down on a keyboard, since it only requires one action, so it’s hard for it to have any process or composition to it. Greeting someone may also be done in the perfective aspect.

Durative aspect The durative aspect is marked with -fê, and expresses things that happen over a definite period of time, no matter how long.

(18) tanfê dac dê.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{tan} & \quad \text{-fê} & \quad \text{dac} & \quad \text{dê} \\
\text{S=NEUT} & \quad \text{IND=midPST} & \quad 1S=NEUT
\end{align*}
\]

"I spoke."
(19) decek kygykê dac dê.
    decek  kygyk -ê  dac  dê
    chicken  eat  DUR  IND=midPST  1S=NEUT
    "I ate the chicken."

**Gnomic aspect** The gnomic aspect is marked with -um, and can express anything. It is commonly used to express things that are unchangingly true.

(20) decek zanum dê.
    decek  zan  -um  dê
    chicken  be  GNO  1S=NEUT
    "I am a chicken."

But it can also be used if you just don’t want to mark aspect.

**Habitual aspect** The habitual aspect is marked with -êt and expresses actions that are frequently repeated.

(21) decek kygykêt dê.
    decek  kygyk  -êt  dê
    chicken  eat  HAB  1S=NEUT
    "I eat chicken."

**Continuous aspect** The continuous aspect is marked with -šo and is frequently equivalent to the English "is doing". It is used to express actions that are ongoing.

(22) decek kygykšo dê.
    decek  kygyk  -šo  dê
    chicken  eat  CONT  1S=NEUT
    "I am eating chicken."

(23) tanšo dac zê.
    tan  -šo  dac  zê
    speak  CONT  IND=midPST  3S=VEG
    "He was speaking."
Valency Suffixes

Valency suffixes are a class of suffixes which may be placed after a verb’s aspect marker. At present there are two: -sun and -jâk.

The suffix -sun puts the clause in the passive voice.

(24) decek kygykfê dec dê.

\[
\begin{array}{llllll}
  decek & kygyk & -fê & dec & dê \\
  \text{chicken} & \text{eat} & \text{DUR IND=nearPST} & 1S=NEUT
\end{array}
\]

"I ate the chicken."

becomes

(25) kygykfêsun dec decek.

\[
\begin{array}{llllll}
  kygyk & -fê & -sun & dec & decek \\
  \text{eat} & \text{DUR PASS IND=nearPST} & \text{chicken}
\end{array}
\]

"The chicken was eaten."

There have been examples of the omitted subject being added back in the object position.

(26) dê kygykfêsun dec decek.

\[
\begin{array}{llllll}
  dê & kygyk & -fê & -sun & dec & decek \\
  1S=NEUT & \text{eat} & \text{DUR PASS IND=nearPST} & \text{chicken}
\end{array}
\]

"The chicken was eaten by me."

But there is usually no reason for this outside rhyming poetry and it is discouraged in normal speech. In the case of verbs that take an indirect object, such as "snam" ("to give"), the indirect object is moved to the subject position

(27) decek dê snamfêsun.

\[
\begin{array}{llllll}
  decek & dê & snam & -fê & -sun \\
  \text{eat} & \text{DUR PASS IND=nearPST} & \text{chicken}
\end{array}
\]

"I was given a chicken."

The other suffix, -jâk, is generally glossed "in order to". The clause it is used in may be placed after another clause as its goal.
Adverbs

Adverbs are not a distinct class in Sajem Tan. They are instead merged with Adjectives to form a single class called Describers (Södyccesikâ). When functioning as adverbs, they come immediately before the verb.

(29) decek zežöt kygykfê dê.

chicken done-with-good-intentions eat DUR 1S=NEUT

"I ate the chicken with good intentions."

Evidentiality

Evidentials can be summed up very quickly. All evidentials (there are eight roots at present) are marked as optional adverbs which come before the main verb (like all other adverbs.) For example, "kic" means "known as a result of deep and protracted study." An example would be "Thnamök kic zanfe ro" or "It is known through study that he really is a pizza."

List of Evidentials

Since there are only nine evidential adverbs in total, not counting agglutinated evidentials, explaining all of them here couldn't hurt.

VôN means "understood through the reversal of a previously held belief." For example, the realization that planets orbit around the sun instead of around the Earth (zëvet smet dûganmê tôt zûzûmšo cadêkâ) or that Linux is actually better than Windows (Con Windows om con Linux om şittuum.).

Tûmak means "deduced from context." A situation in which this would be applicable is if you were digging up an Ancient Greek
stone tablet, but you could not get the final corner, so you have to deduce what the document was trying to say with its last two lines. This is especially needed in Sajem Tan because many words have a wide variety of definitions, so often the original intent of the words must be assumed in some cases.

Tec means "deduced from sensory evidence." You might use tec if you were feeling your way around a dark room, and you feel something on the wall that feels like it might be made out of wood. In this case, you might describe your experience with (kanöt tec sežüfendâ dac sê.) "I found a door (at least, that’s what I assumed it to be, based on the sensory evidence.)" Of course, it does not have to be touch; it can be any sense. Sight, smell, taste, hearing, touch, thermoception, proprioception, et cetera and et cetera, although this can be clarified by agglutination of words to the front of the adverb (See Evidential Agglutination)

Tök compliments tec. While tec means "deduced from sensory evidence", tök means something closer to "known based on direct sensory evidence." An example would be that you see a door with your own eyes and state to another person "I found a door" (kanöt tök sežüfendâ sê.) The only difference between tec and tök is that tök is more concrete.

Snat describes a situation where the information being stated has been learned from secondary/tertiary sources. For example, if you expressing that you know that Sajem Tan has nouns because you read it in its reference grammar, you would say "snat fnecömâum Sajem Tan."

Šan means "known though hearsay via a living person" or "rumored." If you heard from a friend that Hannah pilots helicopters in her spare time, you may state "kixikömâ šan katöcêt con Hannah om."

Let means "traditional knowledge or lore." This is usually used in reference to Sajem Tan mythology, but it applies to any mythology or lore. For example, if, in reference to "The Coming of Wind", you state that you know that Bird invited Wind to the tribe, you might express that as "Theṭat lettzenfê dúc Viṭit."

Kic means "carefully discerned through practiced study".

²¹ If you ever do find yourself in this situation, then you have a lot cooler of a job than I do.
Evidential Agglutination

Evidential adverbs compound much like just about everything else, with the canonical example being "femek tôk", which is typically glossed "discovered via telepathy". This is obviously from the fact that telepathy is done using the mind. Theoretically, putting any body part in front of tôk or têc would be the sense involving that body part. For example, vójam têc might mean "deduced from something I heard."

Verbification

In Sajem Tan, a verbification system that can be applied to almost any part of speech is used to compress grammar in several ways.

As a replacement for copular verb phrases Copular verb phrases are generally frowned upon. Instead, it is advised to put verbify the object of the phrase. For example, consider the following:

\[(30)\] darēfim zanum ro.

\[\begin{align*}
  & \text{darēfim} \quad & \text{zan} \quad & -\text{um} \quad & \text{ro} \\
  & \text{child} \quad & \text{be} \quad & \text{GNO} \quad & \text{3S=ANIM} \\
  & \text{"He is a child."} \\
\end{align*}\]

\[(31)\] darēfimum ro.

\[\begin{align*}
  & \text{darēfim} \quad & -\text{um} \quad & \text{ro} \\
  & \text{child} \quad & \text{DUR} \quad & \text{3S=ANIM} \\
  & \text{"He is a child."} \\
\end{align*}\]

Both statements say the same thing, and both are grammatically correct, but the latter is less clunky in its syntax, and also is generally more elegant.

To demonstrate motion Sajem Tan lacks a simple word for "move". This is because the same idea can be conveyed using verb endings.

\[(32)\] têzat javemfê dac kixıkömkatöc.

\[\begin{align*}
  & \text{têzat} \quad & \text{javem} \quad & -\text{fê} \quad & \text{dac} \quad & \text{kixıköm} \quad & -\text{katöc} \\
  & \text{storm} \quad & \text{into} \quad & \text{DUR} \quad & \text{IND=midPST} \quad & \text{plane} \quad & \text{pilot} \\
  & \text{"The plane pilot went into the storm."} \\
\end{align*}\]
Syntax

Sajem Tan is generally head-final, with modifiers nearly always preceding what they attach to.

Word order

The default word order is Object-Verb-Subject for transitive sentences and Verb-Subject for intransitive ones. Indirect objects are covered in Oblique Arguments.

(33) decek kygykê ro.
   \[decek \quad kygyk \quad -fê \quad ro\]
   chicken eat DUR 3S=ANIM
   "He ate the chicken."

However, if the subject of the verb is an experiencer or patient, it goes in front of the verb.

(34) decek ro nêmê.
   \[decek \quad ro \quad nêm \quad -fê\]
   chicken \_3S=ANIM see DUR
   "He saw the chicken."

In (33) the subject is actively consuming the chicken, whereas in (34) he is just passively noticing the chicken. If you changed the order and said "decek nêmê ro." this would indicate that the subject is taking some sort of action and would probably be translated "He looked at the chicken."

Verbs whose subjects are normally experiencers or patients are labeled as "experiencer" verbs in the Lexicon, however this designation is not absolute. An example of an "experiencer" verb being having a non-experiencer subject was given above. As an example of a verb that isn’t an "experiencer" verb being used with an experiencer subject, one could conceivably say "decek ro kygykê." which would
mean something like “He experienced eating the chicken.” or could indicate that the person you’re talking about was completely numb at the time and was simply eating on autopilot.

The object of a transitive verb with an experiencer subject should generally appear in the focus case, so “decekžê ro nëmfê.” rather than "decek ro nëmfê.”, but this rule is frequently broken in casual speech.\(^{15}\)

The rule was broken in the examples in the preceding paragraphs to avoid the potential confusion of the addition of an unexplained case marking.

\(^{15}\) The rule was broken in the examples in the preceding paragraphs to avoid the potential confusion of the addition of an unexplained case marking.

The Copula

The copula "zan" is an exception to the rules of experiencer subjects and invariably places the subject after the verb, even though it would typically resemble an experiencer much more than an agent.

\[
(35) \quad \text{gamyk zanum dasnan.}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{gamyk} & \text{be} \\
\text{zan} & \text{GNO} \\
\text{um} & \text{universe} \\
\end{array}
\]

"The universe is a tree."

Rather than "gamykžê dasnan zanum.".\(^{16}\)

Interactions with Valency Suffixes

One would expect that the subject of a verb that been passivized with -sun would nearly always be an experiencer and thus appear before the verb. However, there has been little usage of this suffix so far, and in what little there has been the former object has always followed the verb. It is possible that -sun causes the object to go where the subject would have gone – that is, its position depends on the role of the omitted subject rather than its own role – but this has not yet been determined with certainty.

At present, the only time a verb may be used without a subject is when it has the valency suffix -jâk, which is the only thing Sajem Tan has which resembles the use of the infinitive in other languages.

Oblique Arguments

Oblique arguments include indirect objects ("decekţot" – "to the chicken"), instrumentals ("cicgu" – "using cheese"), topics ("sûlemţê" – "about nectar"), locations ("gamykâ vmat" – "among the trees"), various other postpositional phrases ("ţefam tan" – "the rock said that"), and purpose clauses ("dûdentţumaf xafomţêjâk" – "in order to attack the gold"). All of these typically appear before the main sentence body, except purpose clauses, which appear at the very end. Thus

\(^{16}\) The tribe does not necessarily support the idea of a world tree. This is purely for illustrative purposes.
"I sang Let It Go among the trees in order to attack the Universe." would normally be "gamykâ vmat sesûtfe tê dasnan xafömfejâk.".

Obliques are emphasized by moving them from before the main sentence body to directly after it, though still before any purpose clauses.

(36) sesûtfe tê gamykâ vmat dasnan xafömfejâk.

sesût  -fê  tê  gamyk  -â  vmat  dasnan
sing-Let-It-Go  DUR  1P=INAN  tree  PL  among  universe

xföm  -fê  -jâk
attack  DUR  in-order-to

"It was among the trees that I sang Let It Go in order to attack the Universe."

Questions

Polar questions are formed by adding the auxiliary verb "kôk". They are typically answered with "lik" or "xen", "thumbs up, correct" and "thumbs down, incorrect" respectively.

More complex questions are formed with the interrogative suffix "-ku", which is generally translated "which".

(37) ðefam kygykfê decekku?

ðefam  kygyk  -fê  decek  -ku
rock  eat  DUR  chicken  which

"Which chicken ate the rock?"

These questions may be answered either by repeating the question with the appropriate noun substituted for the one with the question marker.

(38) ðefam kygykfê con Bob om.

ðefam  kygyk  -fê  con  Bob  om
rock  eat  DUR  chicken  quote  Bob

"Bob ate the rock."

Or you can just state the changed noun phrase alone.

(39) con  Jerald  om.
quote  Jerald  unquote
"Jerald."
This latter strategy is not available when more than one word is questioned.

(40) ṭeṭamâku kygykê decekâku?

ṭeṭam -â -ku kygyk -fê decek -â -ku
rock  PL which eat  DUR chicken  PL which

"Which chickens ate which rocks?"

Note that this example is ambiguous as to whether the questioner wants to know which individual chicken ate which individual rock or whether the intention is to find out which group of chickens did the eating and which group of rocks was eaten. If one were to use the collective suffix "-mon" rather than "-â", it would unambiguously be the latter, but there is currently no equally simple way to specify the former.

For longer questions, möt may be added as a redundant question marker. Word order does not change when asking a question.
Particles

Particles in Sajem Tan are basically anything that isn’t a root or a suffix. They describe things that are hard to express in English without making a long and confusing sentence about them. They can also act as containers for words and phoneme sequences. Particles function in four main ways: they describe the sound/nature of an object or action, they declare what part of speech an object is, they provide a way to express concepts from other languages in Sajem Tan, and they mark the usage of intentionally archaic or incorrect words.

Word Creation

The most common and probably most important particle is cêk, which is used to define new words. The standard form for word creation is "cêk word ¸ tom ‘definition in English’.", for example "cêk dasnan ¸ tom ‘natural; cosmic’." would declare the coining of the word "dasnan".17

The particles là and nuk are used with the same format as cêk, but là adds definitions to a word that already exists, and nuk removes them. So, for example, if you say "là ¸ tefam ¸ tom ‘potato’.", the word "¸ tefam" will then mean "potato" as well as "rock". To avoid anyone getting annoyed at you for such unhelpfulness, you can then say "nuk ¸ tefam ¸ tom ‘potato’." to put things back the way they were.

Sound and Nature Descriptions

The particles šên and tân occur immediately before a noun and refer to the feeling and sound of that noun, respectively. Thus, "simem" ("peace") becomes "šên simem" ("the feeling of peace") and "divôm" ("thunder") becomes "tân divôm" ("the sound of thunder"). Naturally, these can attach to each other to produce things like "tân šên tân tetanâ" ("the sound of the feeling of the sound of the Tetanâ.").18

17 This particular sentence is useless because "dasnan" already exists and declaring already extant words is pointless and confusing.

18 Because sometimes feelings make noises.
Part of Speech Declarations

The Parts of Speech particles can be placed before any word in a sentence to specify what part of speech they should be interpreted as. There are four in total: nê declares the following word as an intransitive verb, êm declares the following word as a transitive verb, kun declares the following word as an adjective or an adverb, and oc declares it a noun. For example, "I distracted the pasta-related conversational tangent" is "dûden dûden dûdenê dê.", but if you wanted to be very clear about the structure of this dûden-filled sentence, you could also say "kun dûden oc dûden êm dûdenê dê." which means exactly the same thing, but now can’t be mistaken for some other repeated string of the word dûden.

Transliterations

The particle don is used to mark onomatopoeia. For example, the phrase "don zëzën" could be used to refer to the sound a bee makes. The particle kut is essentially the same, expect it refers to feeling rather than actual sounds. So "kut xìgèdǐfìgèdès" could mean "all over the place" or "disorganized".

The most commonly used transliteration particle is con, which indicates that whatever follows it is text from a foreign language. So to refer to someone named Daniel, you would just say "con Daniel" (or, more commonly, "con Daniel om" - see next section) and use it like a normal noun. In speech what follows con can be anything from "potato" to a record scratch. In writing it can be Hangul, Hieroglyphics, or a map of Greenland.

Conjugation Carrier

The conjugation particle, om, is used in conjunction with both the Descriptions and the Transliterations. Any conjugations that are not affected by the initial particle are placed on om. Thus "tân viţiţa" is "the sound of birds", while "tân viţiţ omâ" is "the sounds of a bird". With transliterations, it is usually included even when there is no conjugation to mark where the transliteration ends.

Usage of Archaic and Incorrect Words

The particle xo is placed in front of words that have been invalidated due to clarifications of the phonotactics, such as "viţ" (now "viţiţ"), "teţi" (now "teći"), and "tâ" (now "tan"). So "sesûtšo xo viţ." ("The bird is singing.") is essentially identical to "sesûtšo viţiţ.". This particle can
similarly be used with any other word that is in some sense incorrect, such as slang usage or words where nuk has been applied.
Discourse and Pragmatics

Quotation

Quotations made using postpositions are generally taken as indirect speech. "ro tan gamyk zanum sê." would generally be taken as "He said that I’m a tree." or "He called me a tree." as opposed to the person in question calling themself a tree, which would likely be "ro tan gamyk zanum ro." or possibly "ro tan gamyk zanum žo.".

Direct speech, on the other hand, would be indicated with verbs. "’gamyk zanum sê.’ tanfê ro." would unambiguously communicate the idea of the person in question calling themself a tree.

Tense

In normal usage, tense is not marked, and must be inferred. When telling a story, the tense is assumed to be indefinite or distant past. In conversation it is typically inferred as either immediate past or present. Explicit marking of tense is only used when extreme clarity is desired (which is quite rare), when mood is being indicated, for emphasis, or to fulfil Rain’s taboo of always marking everything for tense.
Derivation and the Lexicon

The morphemes of Sajem Tan are divided into 2 phonotactic classes: roots and particles. Phonotactic particles either serve as particles, affixes, or sometimes postpositions. Phonotactic roots can serve as nouns, verb, postpositions, auxiliary verbs, or describers.

While each morpheme has a standard part of speech, they can also be used as other parts of speech, and often are. For instance, sit ("begin") is typically listed as an auxiliary verb, but it also occasionally serves as a noun ("sit" or "oc sit", "beginning") or a verb ("kê tidyn du sitî du"21, "And so it begins.").

In addition, nearly any set of morphemes can be compounded together to form more complex words, with the last root contributing the primary meaning. For example, "danec" is "borrowed", "thek" is "to scribble", and "noc" indicates the end product of an action. Compounding these 3 gives "danecteknoc" - "the borrowed scribbling result", which is the name of the romanization system.22 However, since the resulting words can get rather unwieldy, coining new roots is generally preferred over words of more than 2 or 3 morphemes if the word is expected to be used more than a couple of times.

While concatenation is the most common and systematic form of derivation, there are 2 other forms: triconsonantal roots and merge-compounding. Sometimes a word is desired and there is a somewhat similar term already in existence. In such cases, if the word is 2 syllables long, it is common to coin the new word with the same consonants but different vowels, though the process is in no way systematic or consistent. Merge-compounding, meanwhile, only applies in a few specific domains, such as colors and geometric shapes. In these cases the end the first root and the beginning of the second are dropped to create a new word that still resembles the originals but is phonotactically a single root. The details of the process vary from one domain to another and so will be discussed there.

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21 Literally "And like this it begins."

22 If a distinction between the 2 romanization systems was desired, the original might be "dümdeñeteknoc" or "gödeñdeñeteknoc", while the reformed could be "jamdeñeteknoc" or "düzedeñeteknoc".

Derivational Suffixes

Plurals

The most common plural suffix is -â, which simply means "more than one thing". However, there are several other, more specific plurals available.

-**MON** indicates a collection of something. A flock of chickens could be called a "decekmon".

-**Nâ** is the partive plural, indicating some, but not all. So if you had 8 pizzas (†namôkâ) and 3 of them were pepperoni, then those would be "†namôknâ".

-**NO** is very similar to -nâ, except that it is singular. Whereas †namôknâ would refer to a few pizzas on a table of several pizzas, †namôkno would indicate some quantity of pizza, as in "†namôkno kygykâ dé." - "I am eating some pizza."

-**ÂÂ** indicates an infinite quantity of something. "daťncfêsun šik semetââ." "An infinite number of numbers can be encountered."

Quantity

-**XÊT** means "lacking" and sometimes serves as a negative, along with -uk. The word "†namôkxêt", if used as a noun might be translated "the lack of pizzas", and as a describer would be "without pizzas" or "pizzaless".

-**MÊT** is the inverse of -xêt and is traditionally defined as "having a surfeit or plentitude of something". So "†namôkmêt" is "the plentitude of pizza", "having plenty of pizza", or "pizzaful". It is also sometimes used as a general describer-forming suffix, akin to the English -y, hence the most common translation of "stony" is "ťefammêt" rather than simply "ťefam".

-**MUN** denotes the most intense form of something; oftentimes it is transcribed as "maximum". Originally a term like "dûtmun" would have meant something like "unfathomably large", and some other term would have to be found for simply "very large". But, as is normal for such things, the meaning has weakened over time and "dûtmun" can now be used in either case.
-uk is the counterpart of -xêt, denoting otherness rather than lack. While "ţnamökkxêt" denotes a lack of pizza, "ţnamökkuk" refers to something that is not pizza.

-ukmun is a compound of -uk and -mun and thus means "maximally other than". It is the most common negative and is usually the best translation of the English "anti-". While "jëkuk" and "jëkukmun" both mean "not full", the former could refer to something that is half-full, while the latter only refers to things that are empty.

Other

-fun small, cute; Example: ţefamfun – a pebble
-ţnu the act of; Example: xögakţnu – the act of being courageous
  I thought that we decided that thnu is basically gerund, didn’t we? – Thethat
-tuc part of, Example: jëkëmtuc – a part of a book (page, cover, binding)
-so having-one; an entity having the thing referred to by the stem, Example: sôm ţimanso – the swift feathered one
-ţum pet; Example: ţefamţum – a pet rock
-ţut cause to be; Example: ţefamţut – to turn to stone
-mâk improver; Example: ţnamôkmâk – marinara sauce
-noc the end state or product of an action, Example: ţenţynnoc – a child
-nun marker of affection; Example: ţenţynnocnun – your child
-kâ energetic; coffee; Example: ţenţynnocnkâ – your toddler
-ok horrendous; excedingly awful, Example: ţenţynnocnkôk – your toddler who has just done something very frustrating

Auxilliary Verbs

dic indicative
dit reaffirm
-göm be obligated to; must
gôn try to; attempt
gôt stop; (noun) limit; boundary; termination point; end
-ximic continue
-jöm should
-jit must; vital; necessary
-fmök irrealis mood; counter-factual
-fnit to be willing to
-sin imperative
-sit begin; start

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23 Due to Bee’s taboo, this is how he typically refers to Bird.
24 This is probably a good term for the activities of Medusa and the White Witch.
25 Pizza with red sauce being, of course, objectively better than pizza with white sauce. Usually used as an opinion statement, for obvious reasons.
26 Similar to the Esperanto "-ĉ�".
27 Often rendered "indeed".
šnön  it is possible that; may; maybe
šik  be able to
möt  no; not; negative verb  
kök  polar interrogative; yes-no question

Body Parts

gigim  flipper; fin
gyznyt  nose
xidat  tail, especially one that is prehensile; (intransitive) to multi-task
fnat  seed
vmyn  mouth
vöjam  ear; (experiencer transitive) to hear
ţnak  root
ţisyn  leaf
šnûk  lips
žiman  feather; long lustrous hair
ròfit  wing
nic  done in a giving way; hand
cëzan  tongue
cûc  foot
tün  eye; camera; telescope
kidek  face
kyfik  arm

Buildings, Architecture, and Furniture

din  home; hive
dycüm  movie theater
gajindin  church; place of worship
gafût  brick
xananzmet  house
jaxin  plastic or wooden chair, especially one that has been mass-produced; schoolroom desk
femekumkunannot  a door that you keep wanting to push but it’s actually a pull door
fiţnën  lighthouse; beacon
vmak  a piece of furniture meant for sitting upon; a chair; (intransitive) to sit
viţitdin  nest; twig-woven home of the swift feathered one
ţnëk  a room
ţûfin  theater for live performances
ţûnenõgem  fort; fortress
**zmet** building; to build
**zaditkanöt** window
**zizüm** library
**žnazym** table
**rōžitthék** bathroom
**mōmēc** roof; shelter
**cūjimdin** anthill
**kanöt** door
**kižütdin** beehive

**Clothing**

**gacafmet** shirt; something worn on the body above the waist, but not on the neck or head
**gireţnyt** shoes
**jūkük** pants; trousers; something worn on the body below the waist but not on the feet
**šafnem** jacket; coat; a sleeved upper body garment typically worn over a shirt or blouse
**nēkit** scarf; fabric worn around the neck
**tatük** glasses; spectacles; contact lenses; monocle; eyewear
**tüvmyzam** cloth; fabric

**Colors (söjemâ)**

Sajem Tan’s color system is based on its 3 primary colors: snitin – orange, gāżyn – green, and nyfün – purple. Secondary colors are formed by merge compounding which takes the first syllable of one color and the second of the other and combines them. Which color contributes which syllable does not matter.

- orange + green = snižyn or gatin "yellow"
- orange + purple = snifün or nytin "red"
- green + purple = gafün or nyţyn "blue"

Tertiary colors are formed by doubling the first syllable of a secondary color. So if you want a word for a purple-red, you take the word for red that is "purple-orange", which is "nytin" and double the purple to make "nnytin". A more orange-red, on the other hand would be "nsnifün".

Further color terms can be formed adding "cēk" and "kak" to make them lighter or darker, respectively. Thus "cēknytin" is light red and "kaknytin" is dark red.

If this is still not enough colors, there is also the word "söjem", which means "color" and is frequently compounded to form further color terms, such as "deceksöjem" – "chicken-colored".
gevmüksöjem black
fnadycsöjem clear; transparant
ţnamõkmâksöjem dark red
snymsöjem white
lnam grayscale; black-and-white
lnûm gray; grey; dull; indeterminate; incomplete; boring; plain;
 numinous

Conjunctions

xok one of; xor; exclusive or; exactly one of these, but no more (contrast "smâ")
xoksmâ not this, but this; the first of these if false, and instead the second is true
jo if; implies; therefore
smâ but
mân when; while (see also the postposition "sno")
nu inclusive or; at least one of these, but possibly more (contrast "xok")
tidyn like; similarly to; occurring in comparable manner to
tyk so; as a result
kê and
ân one of; a term roughly equivalent to both xok and smâ

Flora and Fauna

dëgemžum Pokemon
decêk chicken
gamyk tree; producer
xydût monkey
xyzak bat
jidök flower
fenat animal, particularly land-dwelling mammals and reptiles
fûn dwarf
vmadanso pig
vazôt cat; (transitive verb) regard with disdain
vôt plant
vitit bird; overseer
ţnûdûk elephant
ţefnöm bear
zatên spider; silkworm; syntax
šikök sugar glider
ţnicôn dog
ţirik fish

29 Literally "one who has bacon", for obvious reasons.
lēcēn  lemon
lysyc  snake
rnuṭnytn  chimera; any mythical or fictional animal with parts taken from various animals
rnanic  chameleon
mazūn  insect
mūsn̄nkemen  reindeer
nesit  fruit
nyran  snail
cajikžum  tea pet, small sheep-like creatures whose fur is tea leaves
cyżēnit  any plant not native to Earth
ciijim  ant
teten  flying snail with a mohawk and laser vision
tivūt  dinosaur
tytemek  centipede with human hands and the teeth and dangling thing of a deep sea anglerfish
tytýt  clover
kemen  cow
kizik  grass
kižūt  bee; harvester; storyteller

Food and Eating (gygik kê kygykthnu)

Included in this section is one of the most important words in Sajem Tan culture: dûden. It is included here because the original root meaning is "pasta", but it has gained the additional meanings of "things that are off-topic", "to be unproductive", and "to distract". It is important because all of Sajem Tan and its culture are constantly being filled with ever mounting piles of pasta.

A far rarer word is tamat, which is the opposite of dûden. It also means "pastry".

gygik  food
gyvn̄nam  to cook
gūlim  to nourish; to feed; to sustain
vmadan  bacon
ţi namōk  pizza
ţi namōksōjemmāk  olive oil
ţi namōkmāk  marinara sauce
sufekalifażilitikesixalōđöšyc  cookie
sülem  nectar
zamin  juice
zicīm  a container for consumable liquids, especially a bottle, cup, or thermos

30 Literally "cold cow", in reference to the fact that cows turn into reindeer if you get them cold enough.

31 Which is an experiencer verb if you are merely a participant, but not if you introduced the off-topic material.
žyšyn  bread
mēsūn  ice cream; gelato; cold
mēlēn  orange (fruit)
cajik  tea
cōsek  apple
cic  cheese
tūcelitvöt  vegetable oil
kagan  hula-hoop; donut; doughnut
kemenzamin  milk
kgyk  to eat; to drink; to consume
kygūk  chopstick

Fun and Games (xūkat kê takâ)

gak  fun derived from a game or other entertainment
xūkat  fun; grammar; climbing; the enjoyment of challenges
xūkatsazyc  adventure
rantak  domino
nenyk  playing card
nenykta  card game
tak  game; amusement; recreation; to play (a game)
takgödûn  die; dice, especially those used in roleplaying games

Geography (jafitâ kê tižön)

dûdem  dam; swamp
xataxym  hole; pit; ditch
xētēn  cliff
jafit  land; territory; the general term for anything that isn’t ocean or sky, like grass, dirt, rocks, snow, etc.
snijat  mountain
sekēt  valley
zek  sandstone; packed sand; the natural sand found in deserts and canyons
šēšën  river; pragmatics
tōmōm  slope
tižën  oceanic; marine; ocean

The Heavens (žasikâ)

žasikâ being the different versions of the sky - day time, night time, as seen from orbit. Probably the most interesting word in this category is dasnan, which expressed both the English "Nature", as well as
"Outer Space", despite those often being seen as somewhat opposite each other.

_venisyt_ moon
_zëvet_ sun; star; that which gives the (false) impression of constancy or permanence
_žasik_ sky; canopy of a forest; ceiling of a cave (but not of a house)
_cadëgyn_ astronaut; cosmonaut
_cadëk_ planet

**Idioms**

There are, at present, 3 recorded idioms. They are the domain of Zëvet (Star)

_Fmanfê tidyn gamyk_ means to stand petrified and in awe. "fmanfê tidyn gamyk mân datfê Dasnan Decek.", "He stood in awe as the Cosmic Chicken took flight.". Literally "to stand still like a tree".

_Let ___ dûc_ is roughly equivalent to the English "once upon a time" or "it was said of old that". "let datfê dûc Dasnan Decek.", "It was said of old that the Cosmic Chicken took flight.". Literally "according to lore, ___ happened in the distant past".

_Tërnônfê tûnà_ means "cry" or "weep". "tërnônfê rovmê tûnà.", "He cried". Literally "eyes rain".

**Kinship and Community**

The tribe is very interested in kinship and naming practices, particularly since most of us do not have any biological relation to each other, and often go by names that we gave ourselves.

We acknowledge several different sources of names. For example, Þefam has the parental name "Daniel", the family name "Swanson", the tribal name "Þefam" or "Stone", internet name "PopcornDude", and likely several others that he hasn’t mentioned.

_darëfim_ child; kid
_jüvet_ to state a name; to identify or denominate oneself
_fyzûn_ sibling
_vakût_ parent; parental figure; teacher; older relative
_snedêm_ a secret
_sajem_ common; communal; public
_žetamvakût_ biological father (see also "tat")
*lnaxan* small talk; when someone tries to end a silence but all they do is make it worse; to idly chat despite not wanting to

*mam* mom; female\(^{32}\) (see also "tat")

*möšnem* tribemember

*möm* tribe

*mömvaküt* legal parent; adoptive parent

*múc* that which cities, forests, and hives have in common, a community

*niìn* friend

*cifnövnin* leader

*tat* dad; male\(^{33}\) (see also "mam")

*tyzyšyk* custom; praxis; way

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### Language and Linguistics

Sajem Tan has a fairly complete set of terms for phonetics, as well as names for most of its own parts of speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>manner</th>
<th>place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plosive</td>
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<td>trill</td>
<td>dental</td>
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<td>pharyngeal</td>
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<td>epiglottal</td>
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<td>glottal</td>
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<td>describer</td>
<td>redyzit</td>
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<tr>
<td>particle</td>
<td>cesyt</td>
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<tr>
<td>suffix</td>
<td>këšik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*danečęknoc* the romanization system of Sajem Tan

*xalan* sign language

*jëšnec* signature, particularly an autograph

*jëkëm* book; physical book; paper book

*jëkëmtuc* page; book cover; binding

*jegenṭeknoc* the official writing system of Sajem Tan

*tat* auxlang; auxiliary language

*ṭefam* stone; writing; orthography

*ṭek* to write; to scribble; to scrawl

*ṭeknoc* writing system

*ṭycam* to read

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\(^{32}\) The usage of "mam" and "tat" to denote gender is somewhat disputed, but no alternative has been proposed, so these remain for occasional use in compounds.

\(^{33}\) See note on "mam".
sesüt  to yell
sødyc  to describe
znenan  tale; story
zevűc  mistranslation
zesnernat  a hard-to-pronounce word; shibboleth
zung zipper
lizak  artlang; artistic language
mazem  engilang; engineered language
mynam  conlang; constructed language
cëkcejyn  vowel
cesik  word
cifmezen  to transfer; to metaphorize
tan  honey; vomit; language; (postposition) said that; to speak; to vomit
tanrüc  utterance; short speech; sentence; dollop of honey
kaganţeknoc  the cursive form of the writing system
kakcejyn  consonant
küc  letter, as in character, not message
kûcţeknoc  alphabet

Life, Death, and the Divine (xanan kê fnadyc kê fûdet tiîtá)
gajin  pure awe; to hail; to salute
xanan  life
fnôxem  destiny; fate
fnadyc  death
fik  (experiencer intransitive) to die
fûdet  god; personified force of nature
ţnadyc  (interjection) death; (noun) inspiration; Death
têţynym  (noun) birth; pregnancy; (intransitive verb) become pregnant;
    be pregnant; (transitive verb) bear; birth; give birth to; conceive;
    gestate

Materials and Chemistry

Translation work on the Periodic Table is rather incomplete, but
what has been accomplished is shown below. The root word for most
metals is "thûfam", which in compounds generally means "metal",
but on its own refers specifically to Copper.
Hydrogen  törnënžutdûtuk  "small water-maker"
Helium  zëvetzyrök  "star gas"
Oxygen  törnënžutdút  "large water-maker"
Silicon  kecytţufam  "internet metal"
Calcium  kemenzaminţũfam  "cow juice milk metal"
Iron  xatăţũfam  "magnetic metal"
Copper  źũfam
Silver  snymsøjemţũfam  "white metal"
Tin  tamaţũfam  "on-topic/useful metal"
Gold  dûdenţũfam  "distracting metal"

*dejizōn* (noun) wood
*zic* (noun) liquid
*zyrök* (noun) gas
*nüvomic* (noun) charcoal
*törnën* (noun) water
*töröt* (noun) ice

**Measurement and Time**

The tribe has its own system of measurement, of which all that has been documented is 2 units of distance based on the length of a Tetan along with a rather complex calendar with no particular relation to any other known timekeeping system.

*dyfnyn* to measure
*duküt* a pair; unit of measurement = 5.7 inches (14.5 cm)
*dûm* old; beautiful (especially of a female)
*gëšök* calendar, especially the Sajem Tan calendar
*gešik* clock; sundial; timekeeper
*göden* rusted; old (of an object); tarnished
*jam* new
*fmûžik* year
*fic* here; now
*fűdetteţnynmnök* Christmas as a religious holiday
*vynit* long (time); slow; delayed
*vykic* afternoon
*ţazan* dusk
*snamnocznök* Christmas as a secular holiday
*znök* day
*lnagen* night
*madam* history
*canōc* month
*tetan* flying snail with a mohawk; unit of measurement = 2.9 inches (7.2 cm)
kasyn  (experiencer intransitive) to recur; (transitive) to repeat; to rerun a TV episode
kacfic  past

The Mind and Emotions (femek kê kexekâ)

danec  borrowed; copied; imitated; to borrow; to copy; to duplicate
dègem  to select; to curate; to anthologize; to choose; to decide
dözec  to conceptually return to a source; to renew creativity by reviewing old inspirations
dömik  compassion
xaxat  to laugh
xamatin  the frustration of realizing that one has inadvertently invalidated or undone an accomplishment
xecût  a lie; an untruth
xifem  (transitive) to overthink; to ruminate
jafin  melodrama
jafinnêt  melodramatic
jan  to care about; to take interest in
jin  light; pathos; display of irrationality/passion; dramatic situation
jiküfin  to take notes on; to study
jünim  pleasant dream; (experiencer intransitive verb) have a pleasant dream
femek  (adj) noetic; (noun) mind; thought; Sherlock Holmes; (intransitive verb) exclaim "Elementary my dear Watson!"; (transitive verb) deduce; realize
vmëfëc  (adj) crazy; (noun) wisdom; silliness
söjesöm  (adj) multimodal; multipurpose; proceeding in many manners; manifold; (noun) chromesthesia; (transitive verb) color-code; organize by color
simem  silent; quiet; calm; sleepy (see also "tneday")
zamen  to hope
zežöt  done with good intentions
žejün  (experiencer transitive) to enjoy
rek  sad; depressed
risön  fear; panic; paralysis
rilym  creepy; skeleton
našët  love
cagyn  lazy; lackadasical; underachiever; couch potato
can  bored
cejym  OCD; to obsessively organize minute details
töţim  majestic; to want; to desire
tišnim  sleepy
tücelit  that which affects you in a good way
**Motion and Transportation**

- **dafmûm** arrow (on a page or a sign); direction; to point at (see also "vmandûk")
- **daṭnyc** to encounter; to stumble upon
- **dasnankixikôm** space-helicopter
- **dat** to rise; to get up; to move upwards; to take off
- **gisnömköxakok** skis from the perspective of someone who hates them
- **xalem** to glide; to move forward on a thin cushion of fluid (air, ketchup, slime, etc.); to transition smoothly to something
- **xinem** to teleport; to travel instantly
- **jët** to fly or swim along a meandering route (see also "žûžûm")
- **tën** fast; quick (of processes/actions other than motion verbs); quickly (see also "söm")
- **smit** overused; cliche; to be widespread; to spread
- **safic** come; arrive at the spot of the speaker; return
- **saznötjët** to run around
- **sazyc** to go; to travel
- **söm** fast; swift; quick (of moving objects) (see also "thën")
- **znôc** to gather; to collect, particularly firewood
- **znim** falling; (experiencer intransitive) to fall (unconstrained motion under influence of gravity) (see also "met")
- **znimköxak** unicycle
- **zak** to release; to let go of
- **zežötkatöcukmunmâk** self-driving car
- **žasikžûžûmzanso** spaceship
- **žûžûm** to fly like a bird; fly or swim along a fairly straight line or smooth curve (see also "jët")
- **met** falling; collapsing; tumbling (chaotic falling, like an stone bouncing many times as it falls down a hill, or a vase breaking when it hits after a simple ballistic fall) (see also "znim")
- **mizirat** wheelbarrow; cart; trolley; pram
- **nacömköxak** skis from the perspective of someone who doesn’t hate them
- **tezüfien** to search for; to seek; to quest
- **türnënköxak** pedal-boat
- **katöc** to pilot; to drive
- **kem** (experiencer intransitive verb) shake; vibrate; (transitive verb) shake; cause to vibrate
- **köxak** rider-powered vehicle
Music and Sound

Music is the domain of Tezet (Lightning).

dön  (intransitive) to make a loud, deep sound; to grumble; to rumble
dyjüt  a stringed musical instrument, especially a guitar
jivytyt  music box
zac  tuba
cëñytyt  musical instrument; wind instrument
tanik  saxophone
tevök  drum
tylit  trumpet
kicat  french horn
cëjyn  sound

Numbers and Mathematics (semetâ kê milek)

There are 2 sets of numbers: decimal (base 10) and senary (base 6). The former is typically used for everyday communication, while use of the latter indicates that something is formal, solemn, of important. Senary is also used for things naturally occurring in groups of 6 and for units of time smaller than an hour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>decimal</th>
<th>senary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>tyt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>dök</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>fët</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>vyt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>lóc</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>rëc</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>xek</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>žat</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>kük</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>gün</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>znek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>föt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>ŧnöt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>žët</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>vmët</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers typically begin with the most significant digit compounded to the appropriate multiplier (in bold above). 360, for instance is vücrate žëtsenek ("3-100 6-10") in base 10, or žët lûtfofö ("216..."
Digits past the decimal point are written without multipliers from most to least significant, followed by the word "nök" ("decimal point"). The constant π, for instance, in base 10 begins "vüc nök déc lût déc rik..." ("3.1415...") and in base 6 "vyt nök tys rëc tys vyt..." ("3.0503...").

Ordinal numbers are expressed with the suffix -sut. In base 10, for example: "decsut" - "first", "famsut" - "second", "vücsut" - "third", etc.

Fractions are expressed with the verb "sazem" ("to divide"). Used as a postposition, this would give the form "denominator sazem numerator". 2/3 would be "vüc sazem fam" ("3 dividing 2").

Other arithmetical terminology includes "kyn" ("to multiply"), "kek" ("to add") and "nük" ("to subtract"). Some examples: "rikvâ lût kynfê dê." ("I multiply 4 by 5."") 5gän zanum rik kek lût." ("4 plus 5 is 9."). The word for "number" is "semet", which specifically refers to a number as an abstract concept, not a numeral.

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Geometric shapes primarily derive from "dûfnet" and "gödûn" - "polygon" and "polyhedron" respectively. Terms for specific polygons or polyhedra are formed by prefixing the number of sides or faces. For example "kükdûfnet" is "octogon" and "znekfamgödûn" is "dodecahedron". However, merge-compounding is applied whenever the final vowel of the number is the same as the initial vowel of the dimensionality root and the two are merged on that vowel. Thus a zoccihedron is not a "*thnötgödûn", but a "*nödûn" and a quadrilateral is not a "lûtdûfnet" but a "lûfnet".

There is also the word "dûgan" which means "circle". Derived from this is "dûganmêt" which means either "circular" or "circuitous". And finally there is "zim", an intransitive verb meaning "to form a spiral-based fractal". The subject of zim is typically an experiencer, and the best available example of this verb in use is "sèvmê xanantuc zimšo mësünmêt sê smet.", meaning, roughly, "My soul is spiraling in frozen fractals all around.".

Mathematics is the domain of Milek (Fern).

**Perception (šëgin)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>düdöt</td>
<td>(experiencer transitive verb) witness; observe; notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xôt</td>
<td>real</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vnëvôm</td>
<td>(experiencer transitive verb) forget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>van</td>
<td>odd; strange; weird; absurd; unusual; pertaining to Sajem Tan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thiGYk</td>
<td>(noun) fashion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sežîfen</td>
<td>(experiencer transitive verb) find; discover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sùžnôm</td>
<td>pleasant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As an describer it is generally glossed "supplemental".

Or "I multiply 4 using the intangible tool that is 5."

An object with 100 sides, such as a d100.

Literally: "Part of my life is coldly forming a spiraling fractal around me."
zëtyt  seemingly
šēgin  to perceive
šizūt  (experiencer transitive verb) remember; recall
menec  a false sense of safety
mik  (interjection) whoa; woah
mūšim  (experiencer intransitive verb) be cool; be awesome
nēn  (experiencer transitive verb) see; have in view
nēnök  to hide an object

Postpositions

daket  near
javem  into; entering
fēn  knowing persons or places
vmat  in the middle of; in the midst of; amidst
smet  around; through; about; surrounding
sno  in the time of; during; in; on (time period or event)
sajön  deep in a set of internet links
sēn  to; towards
zet  knowing wisdom/silliness
zūt  after; once; soon after
šōmak  between
šyn  knowing abstract things
navnyc  upon; atop; on top of
taznōn  until
tōtimnoc  request that
tān  having a quality/property
kafym  in; inside; (experiencer transitive verb) be inside
kac  before; earlier than

Quantity and Size

dūt  big; large; grand; major; important
dūtmun  huge; gigantic; giant
gesēt  chest; box; large container
gōcic  (experiencer intransitive verb) diminish
xyt  all; each; every; whole
xüm  much; many
jēk  full
fat  thin (of a person)
țin  large (of a person)
šyxēt  arbitrary
šūžik  (noun) tear; drop
Despite our habit of referring to ourselves as if we are an obscure hunter-gatherer tribe, we actually do have fairly sophisticated technology.

dökat picture
dökatmâk Photoshop
gölim photograph
jiret Quizlet
jikin wiki; notebook; bulletin board
vexit to enter; to join; to log on; to sign in
vin to exit; to leave; to log out; to sign off
țemüüt information
zadit glass
cejanym telephone
tekezisët computer, especially one capable of connecting to the Internet
kexêkdökat emoji
kexêkdökatdûden (noun) when Thunder starts distracting the tribe by inserting random emojis; (intransitive verb) throw off a conversation by inserting random emojis
keçyc Internet; cyberspace; virtual reality; dream; Holodeck; multiplayer game mode; Second Life; Tron; something which is illusionary or simulated
keçycjin meme
keçyctatük Google Glass

Values and Morals

Sajem Tan’s moral vocabulary is, at present, fairly limited, but it has been determined that we do not directly have a concept of “rights”, and that such things are best expressed as duties not to do particular
things.

\textit{janyc} that which is considered morally unacceptable to be eaten
\textit{fmöthyt} duty; responsibility; thing one ought to do; domain; specialization
\textit{šit} high-quality
\textit{magöt} valuable; (noun) value; worth
\textit{cëtiin} that which is considered morally acceptable to be eaten
\textit{celit} good person; morally upright individual
\textit{tyc} bad (see also “-ok”)

\textit{Weapons and their Uses}

Despite the generally fairly peaceful disposition of the tribe, there is nonetheless a quite extensive military vocabulary.

\textit{Associated Activities}

\textit{xaföm} (transitive verb) wield (with an instrumental object); attack
\textit{ecënacöm} (transitive verb) poke with lies; get attention through lies; hurt someone with dishonesty
\textit{fmamegyn} (transitive verb) throw
\textit{vyt} (transitive verb) catch; capture
\textit{žösat} (transitive verb) defend; protect
\textit{lin} (noun) fight; (transitive verb) fight
\textit{rafmëk} (transitive verb) miss a target, especially when aiming a projectile weapon like a gun, a bow, or a laser
\textit{ralön} (transitive verb) shoot
\textit{misnem} (transitive verb) be injured by another’s carelessness
\textit{nanym} (transitive verb) dispatch, especially for military purposes; send a letter
\textit{nacöm} (transitive verb) poke; get someone’s attention; stab
\textit{nacön} (transitive verb) poke; get someone’s attention
\textit{ninûn} (transitive verb) cut; chop; slice; hack
\textit{nicim} (transitive verb) shank
\textit{cicüm} (transitive verb) cause to explode; blow up

\textit{Courage and Cowardice}

\textit{xögak} courage; bravery; valor; to be courageous
\textit{janemvin} (intransitive verb) hide; (transitive verb) desert; leave (a person)
\textit{jëten} to cower; to hide
\textit{valnüm} to cease; to flee
viten weak
ţikit strength
rûznyk dignity; honor

Particular Weapons
dacök (noun) cudgel; club
dyznek (noun) two-handed sword (see also "ţan")
dûk (noun) spear
dûkim (noun) staff or walking stick; cane
vmam (noun) bow
vmamdûk (noun) arrow (from a bow) (see also "dafmûm")
vmedyt (noun) projectile
sesit (intransitive verb) sing Let It Go; (transitive verb) sing boisterously, especially music that is disliked by others
sesîtnënök (transitive verb) rickroll
ţan (noun) one-handed sword; dagger; knife (see also "dyznek")
löm (noun) axe
ralök (noun) laser; phaser; ray gun; energy beam; (transitive verb) point at; indicate
môdûm (noun) mace
cifnôvnînxecütnacöm (noun) political slander

Other
gisnöm pain from an accident or injury
xykûk (noun) shield
fnan (intransitive verb) stand guard; stand firm; watch one’s surroundings
zatenym troop; group; platoon
lingyn warrior; Klingon
mesök victory
töcûkek forcefield
kyvydyc (noun) crack; tear; hole

Weather

Two particularly common triconsonantal roots in this section are T_-Z_T, which is things relating to storms, and T_RN_N, which is things relating to water.
divôm (noun) thunder; phonology
fijyc (noun) rainbow
ţetat (noun) wind; breeze
ţezat (noun) storm; hurricane
snym (noun) cloud
snymmêt (adj) cloudy; overcast
saznöt (noun) mud
mësïntërnön (noun) snow
tërnön (noun) rain; (intransitive verb) rain
tezet (noun) lightning
tözën (noun) mist; fog
tözöt (noun) blizzard
törnënziázit (noun) mud
törnön (noun) flood; deluge; (intransitive verb) rain heavily; (transi-
tive verb) inundate
tirnin (noun) hail

Other

Welcome to the category of things that didn’t really fit anywhere else.

gafnüm to steal
gasnön effort; attempt; pain
gevmük underground; subterranean; chthonic; to bury, especially
treasure or waste; to inter; to inhume
gezëfün one’s personal potential
gyn worker
xanön to greet
xatat magnetic; a magnet
xexen problem
ximüc to bid farewell
xümöm to fumble; to bungle; to mishandle
janan (adv) it’s funny that/how
janem forcefully
janim to disappoint; to let down
jegen hook
jeran to be excellent; to excell at something
jöfnim (interjection) huzzah
jücem fire; to set on fire; to enflame
fnam to test; to explore; to push (a boundary); to probe
fmvük to make; to create
famat a farm
vnejyn reflective; mirror-like; a mirror
vnevnek an echo
vafak to join
vavmyn anarchy
vesnen to share
vesnemnoc communism
vâxûm  (noun)  toil; hard work

ţnedût  silence; ominous stillness; void

ţnön  free

ţefammêt  stony; rocky

ţikitmâk  steroids

ţûvmythat  a flag

snam  to give; to transfer

snôżem  knot

snysûn  fluffy

sasôn  applause; an ovation; the rumbling praise of the crowd; (transitive verb) applaud; cheer; give a standing ovation

sacet  to need

znöţen  weary

zazit  dirt

zen  to invite

zyšen  cute; adorable; beautiful; pretty; nice; kind; to help; to aid; to assist

zûzûmêt  ladle; dipper

zîk  burned

šašöt  to partake

šisek  orchard

ţnêm  bright; (experiencer intransitive verb) glow; give off light

ţaţûn  chaotic; chaos

ţetam  pollen; semen

ţôgâm  shapeshifter, especially were-creatures

ţûţim  dust; a floating particle; something that settles down or doesn’t

rûžit  poop (thanks, Thunder’s sister)38

man  to thank

mesnan  magic

môten  solid; rigid; stiff; firm

našam  a wave

nem  class; identifies a word as a class of words (often used like a suffix); in the class of ___

nymem  clumsy

nüdic  miner, usually a coal miner; one who mines

cêţên  servant

cenetînylin  (adj) inconsistent; spontaneous; (adv) inconsistently; at random; spontaneously; (intransitive verb) to be inconsistent

côtan  remote-controlled item; telekinetically-controlled item; sub-servient zombie

cigym  rubber duckie

çüt  axiom; truth universally acknowledged

tezetfun  electricity

38 This word was one of the first words coined as was given to us be Tezet before she joined the tribe and we have always kept this note as part of the definition.
kamexamexat  energy (in the physics sense)
kevin  (intransitive verb) word dump; post a large amount of text,
        usually a list
Appendix

Sample Texts

The North Wind and the Sun

Mësün Ṭetat Kê Zêvet


Mësün Ṭetat Kê Zêvet
cold wind and sun

"The Cold Wind and the Sun"

mësün Ṭetat kê Zêvet janem-tan ťikit -tutu -um zo
cold wind and sun forcefully speak strong most
màn du daket sazcyc -fê şafnem -so
while there near travel DUR coat having-one

"While the cold Wind and the Sun were arguing about who was the strongest, someone with a coat came near."

zo -â lik- tan ťikit -tutu -um zo [(mu)
3S=INAN PL correct say strong most
ro -vmê şafnem zak -žut -fê şafnem -so
3S=ANIM GEN coat release cause DUR coat having-one
]((om)
REL

"They agreed that the one who caused the coat-wearer to remove his coat would be the strongest."
So Wind blew forcefully but all this did was cause the coat-wearer to pull the coat nearer.

"Wind gave up."

Sun glowed warmly and the coat-wearer quickly released his coat.

"So Wind said that Sun was the strongest."

**Original Phonology**

The phonology as originally described by Divöm is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>Labial</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>t d</td>
<td>k g</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>c</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>f v</td>
<td>s z</td>
<td>j s</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lat. Fricative</td>
<td>i 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lat. Approximant</td>
<td>α</td>
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**Vowels**

![Vowel Chart]
Differences

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Revised</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>j</td>
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<td>γ</td>
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<td>o</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Color Wheel

snifuln/
nytin

nyntin

nyfuln

nynyzhyn

nyzhyn/
gafuln

gafafuln

gazhyn
gagatin

snitn

snisnizhyn

snizhyn/
gatin

snisnifuln

snifuln
**Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Great Reforms</td>
<td>13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ants</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bee</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fern</td>
<td>10, 13, 14, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fog</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kummaline</td>
<td>13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning</td>
<td>10, 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merge-compounding</td>
<td>43, 47, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Orthography</td>
<td>14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Phonology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain</td>
<td>10, 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Orthography</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Phonology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spider</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star</td>
<td>10, 13, 51</td>
</tr>
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<td>Stone</td>
<td>10, 15, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanâ</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder</td>
<td>10, 13, 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viţit</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>10, 13</td>
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