

project: euphoria

The Language of the New Grant

Documentation provided for the LCS 2023 Conlang Relay
by Holly L. Ellis

A Grammar of Jaixa

Note that the phonology presented here is currently under significant revision, so the phonology and morphology presented here will be the stable legacy version. Not that it matters terribly now, so have fun!

Also, a good portion of this specific grammar was written while on very little sleep. If there are any questions, or parts seemingly just missing within this grammar, please feel free to email me:

Holly (she/her) @ [Hollow1134@gmail.com]

Contents

1. The Torch
2. Phonology & Romanization
3. Morphology
4. Syntax
5. Lexicon (Words Used)

The Torch

: [todo lutaa kol jecoo nasoli]:

ifolko xo anau nol e xasooli esa: jikaxia Okuna ja todo lutaa kol enasolaj jecoo sel dama enasexaj pevoi esa: jecoo sel okusoose e kuneni esa: jecoo ja jika tse moine maven ne e kuni esa; eke wojeli sel xelbe tse ebetic yovalixia bo jinaoni esa: noldoco sel ifolko tol esontolaj jika e nenleni esa:

jikaxia loondi etaj Sanoona e nasai esa: osecaaxia; ifolko tol lotse jikaxia e toolka esa: jikaxia ifolko etaj Molta ja Sanoona e nanoi esa; exalo ekomic tse Molta xo jikaxia e epukej jinaagi esa:

Molta xo udaso ne Sanoona xo junde Iidina e nasai esa: lotse otiki te elota-talaka si: Molta ja xaci tse edusexaj sisutu e kuni esa: dama sel Iidina e nenleni esa: dos; ifolko tol etsobaj vil e fadooli se: amaxe ja noldoco te notoo livoaje elulaj jun xaroolagi esa: Iidina ja estobaj vil kol jikaxia ifolko e sisutu emonaj jun tooli esa: loondi xen sontooli esa:

dos; tisai esa: “Sanoona e nasai: ifolko xen lotse jika e toolun si: todo lutaa kol enasolaj jecoo kol toolun si: noldoco sel amaxe e nenlen se: bene ixia ja jikaxia loondi sel jameno nai:” ve Molta

Sanoona e nasai esa: osecaaxia; ifolko tol lotse jikaxia e tooli esa; bene noldoco sel nenleni esa: jikaxia ifolko ja okusoose e jikaxia loondi e esaagaj siditsalai esa; bene eloic ekomaic ne sel jikaxia loondi e otademaoni esa:

“sosulooxia; ixia ja xose kol eponaic lalipoun nai:” ve Sanoona:

Pronunciation & Romanization

A simple guide to Jaixa /dʒaɪxa/ pronunciation and romanization is provided below.

Romanized letters are provided on the left, and phonemic ranges are provided on the right.

Jaixa uses five vowels, which roughly represent their corresponding IPA symbols; though they each occupy a fairly wide vowel space. It is entirely safe to use their ‘pure’ values, though loosening their pronunciation is well within the spirit of it. The most common represented values are given below:

i ...	/i~ɪ/	u ...	/u~ɨ~ʊ/
e ...	/e~ɛ/	o ...	/ɔ~ɔ/
a ...	/a~ə~ɐ/		

Diphthongs should be as expected. Long vowels are written with a doubled vowel (aa, ee, etc ...)

And the consonants:

m ...	/m/	w ...	/w/
*n ...	/n/	y ...	/j/
p ...	/p/	f ...	/f/
t ...	/t/	v ...	/v~w/
k ...	/k/	s ...	/s/
b ...	/b/	c ...	/tʃ~ʃ/
d ...	/d/	j ...	/dʒ~ʒ/
g ...	/g/	x ...	/x~h/
ts ...	/ts/	l ...	/l/
r ...	/r~ɾ/		

*n: the coda nasal assimilates to whatever is in front of it, but still defaults to /n/

c and *j* are pronounced as affricates when they’re found word initially.

On the romanization:

... Only loanwords or proper names should be capitalized.

... Colons (:) and Semicolons (;) should be used instead of periods (.) and comas (,), for the sake of (my own) visibility in the text. Quotation marks (“”) are used as normal.

Morphology

Nominal Morphology ...

To be viable, nouns require case marking, and nothing else. Very little of Jaixa's nominal inflection is shown in the text, but of importance: nouns do not inflect for the plural; the *-xia* suffix forms the COLLECTIVE of the noun, referring to it *and* an associated group or set.

jika: some person, some people.
jikaxia: a people.

Nouns can be modified by other nouns, the modifier following the noun in modifies. This usually indicates a quality of shape relating to the modifier, or a quality of disposition. Context is usually enough to disambiguate the meanings:

jika sevi: a fishy person; a fish shaped person.

Genitive relationships are indicated in a construction like:

jika tse sevi: A person's fish.
lotse sevi: Their fish.

Verbal Morphology ...

Verbs are marked for APPLICATIVES, VOICE, and MOOD, and use auxiliaries or paraphrastic constructions to refine the meaning further. The MEDIOPASSIVE is used to demote the ERGATIVE argument, or to indicate a reflexive meaning.

sevi ja au katepagi: a fish hugs itself.
sevi e katepagi: a fish is hugged.

APPLICATIVES carry the PASSIVE part of the MEDIOPASSIVE, demoting the ERGATIVE argument and replacing it with an oblique argument.

Verbs can be marked as INDICATIVE or SUBJUNCTIVE, and take further marking to form an IMPERATIVE. This combines with an auxiliary to produce specific meanings, shown in the table on the following page.

Additionally, verbs take a slightly different root when inflected into a non-finite form.

Verbal Inflection Tables

verb tense matrix:

		plain			potential			
		ipfv.	pfv.	opt.	ipfv.	pfv.	opt.	
ind.	plain	habitual	progressive	polite	permissive	experiential	inceptive	
	imp.	imp. (str)	inceptive imp.	polite imp.	*imp. (wk)		jussive	
subj.	plain	hypothetic			volition	hypothetic pot.	potential	*hyp. volition
	imp.	-			necessity	-	-	*hyp. necessity

*primarily literary forms. Notably, the Weak Imperative has a minor future interpretation.

auxiliary conjugation:

plain			potential		
ipfv.	pfv.	opt.	ipfv.	pfv.	opt.
sa	si	esa	na	nai	se

verb conjugation:

Endings are divided between verbs which end in <-i> and <-ai, -oi>. The following table shows the conjugations relevant to the text.

	Plain	LOC	CAUS	BEN	MP	
Indicative	Plain	-i				
Ind. Imperative		-o, -un	-ol-	-ex-, -ox-	-en-, -on-	-(a) g-
Subjunctive		-an, -ka				

The APPLICATIVE suffixes are placed on the stem as normal (remove the final -i, replace) and are followed by the normal plain form endings. Note that non-finite forms always take the <-i> forms.

With the verb *moni*:

Plain: *moni, mono, monan*; Locative: *monoli, monolno, monolan*;

Causative: *monexi, monexo, monexan*; Benefactive: *moneni, moneno, monenan*;

Mediopassive: *monagi, monago, monagan*;

Converb: *emovaj*; Participle: *emovic*;

With the verb *nasai*:

Plain: *nasai, nasaun, nasaka*; Locative: *nasoli, nasolun, nasolka*;

Causative: *nasaoxi, nasaoxun, nasaoka*; Benefactive: *nasaoni, nasaonun, nasaonk*;

Mediopassive: *nasagi, nasagun, nasaga*;

Converb: *enasaj*; Participle: *enasic*;

APPLICATIVES can take different case marking, as shown below:

The LOCATIVE may take any of the following:

INSTRUCTIVE: by (route or manner)

ABESSIVE: not at, not by

LOCATIVE-GENITIVE: location (of), time (of)

ALLATIVE: motion towards, goal

ABLATIVE: from, source (of), time (since), origin

The BENEFACTIVE may take any of the following

DATIVE: beneficiary, purpose (for)

COMITATIVE-GENITIVE: with (co-participation)

ABESSIVE: marked non-participant

The CAUSATIVE may take any of the following

DATIVE: cause, reason (for)

COMITATIVE-GENITIVE: with (instrument)

ABESSIVE: marked non-causative or instrument

The following is a list of case markers used in the text:

ERGATIVE: (*ja*) agent, stimulus, force, topic

ABSOLUTIVE: (*e*) experiencer, patientive, theme

DATIVE: (*sel*) purpose (for), beneficiary, cause

COMITATIVE-GENITIVE: (*tse*) possession, instrument, co-participation

INSTRUCTIVE: (*kol*) manner by, route (direction), through

SIMILATIVE: (*bo*) comparison by simile, like

LOCATIVE-GENITIVE: (*xo*) relationship, location (of), time (of)

ALLATIVE: (*xen*) direction, goal

ABLATIVE: (*te*) source (of), origin, time (since)

Syntax

The basic word order of Jaixa is SOV, though note that it primarily organizes itself with a Topic-Comment structure, and that it follows ABSOLUTIVE case alignment.

jika ja sevi e katepai: a person ERG hugs a fish ABS.
jika e lumi: a person ABS sleeps.

It is very common for the topic (usually the ERGATIVE argument) to be dropped entirely, as in the following sentence:

sevi e katepaji: (someone) hugs-MP a fish ABS.

Note the change in the verb ending.

Additionally, no verb in Jaixa can be considered ditransitive. It is *extremely* common for a verb to be marked with one of three APPLICATIVES, which promote an oblique argument to the ERGATIVE position in a sentence.

loondi xo sevi e katepaoli: (someone) hugs-LOC a fish ABS at a park LOCG.
kin sel sevi e katepaoni: (someone) hugs-BEN a fish ABS for a person DAT.
kin sel sevi e katepaoxi: a person DAT makes (someone) hug-CAUS a fish ABS.

These constructions also remove the original ERGATIVE argument, which cannot be reintroduced into the sentence normally. Each APPLICATIVE will take different case markers, to produce different meanings.

Subordinate clauses (including relative clauses) are formed by replacing the head verb of the subordinate clause with a CONVERB, and placing the subordinate clause directly before the head of the clause it is subordinate to:

koi ja [loondi xo sevi ekatepaj 0] sai: I watch [while a fish is hugged in a park].
[sevi esaj 0] jika e katepaji: The [fish watching] person is hugged.

Note that the ABSOLUTIVE case marker is missing, and that relative clauses may only attach to ABSOLUTIVE arguments. Additionally, it is frowned upon to nest subclauses, though technically doable.

**sevi esaj koi ja sevi ekatepaj sai:* *I who watch fish, watch while a fish is hugged.

Lexicon (Words Used)

Verbs are given in plain form. Words are ordered in English alphabetical order. Only as much information as should be needed is provided.

n. noun; *dem.* demonstrative;

v. verb; *pn.* pronoun;

p. particle; *ad.* interjection, clause linking word, or adverbial;

amaxe (*dem.*) those, animate;

ame (*dem.*) that, animate;

anau (*n.*) animal;

bene (*ad.*) and so;

beti (*v.*) to be big, stative verb;

bo (*p.*) similitive case marker;

dama (*dem.*) that, inanimate

dos (*ad.*) thus, thusly;

dusi (*v.*) to be sharp, stative verb;

e (*p.*) absolutive case marker;

eke (*ad.*) but;

exalo (*ad.*) because;

fadoi (*v.*) to know, to be able to;

ifolko (*n.*) forest;

Iidina [name];

ja (*p.*) ergative case marker;

jami (*v.*) to behave well, to mind your manners, to be respectful. (Used differently depending on the context – can more generally mean ‘to behave appropriately, to have read the room.’);

jecoo (*n.*) soul, spirit;

jika (*n.*) person;

jinai (*v.*) to seem, to look as though;

jun (*ad.*) in order to (used to causally link a subordinate clause to the main clause.);

junde (*n.*) sibling, brother, sister, close familial or queerplatonic relationship;

kol (*p.*) instructive case marker;

komai (*v.*) to be peaceful, to be calm (stative);

kuni (*v.*) to have, to hold;

lalipoi (*v.*) to work;

livoaji (*n.*) child; young adolescent;

loi (*v.*) to love (appreciative, not romantic); to respect (existential, for animate referents);

loondi (*n.*) clearing, grove; field, meadow; (a large open space outdoors that is unobstructed);

lotai (*v.*) to be tense, taught (physically) (stative); to pull at (a relationship), to be tense (mentally);

lotse (*pn.*) their;

lulai (*v.*) to dress;

luta (*n.*) bush, shrub, short but thick or dense foliage;

maven (*n.*) leg; foot;

moine (*n.*) arm; hand;

Molta [name];

moni (*v.*) to use;

nanoi (*v.*) to be afraid (stative);

nasai (*v.*) to be, to exist;

ne (*ad.*) and;

nenli (*v.*) to give (note that the object of this verb is the recipient, not the item given.);

nol (*ad.*) many (quantifier);

noldoco (*n.*) illusion, false-sight; unreality (particularly of the senses);

notoo (*n.*) clothing;

Okuna [name];

okusooce (*n.*) duty of care (a particular responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of someone or something);

osecaa (*ad.*) yesterday; *osecaaxia* in the past, long before;

otademai (*v.*) to teach, to instruct;

otiki (*n.*) implied platform, mental or emotional position (not physical location);
pevoi (*v.*) to believe in, to have faith that;
ponai (*v.*) to be simple, to lack difficulty or complexity (stative);
puki (*v.*) to be ill, to be sick (stative); to have (to an implied detriment) some quality;
sai (*v.*) to watch;
Sanoona [name];
sel (*p.*) dative case marker;
sidsalai (*v.*) to fulfil, to conclude (positive connotation);
sisutu (*n.*) short blunt end blade, usually used in food preparation; kitchen knife;
sontoi (*v.*) to step, to walk; to move by one's feet;
sosuloo (*ad.*) tomorrow;
sosulooxia from now on; in the future;
talai (*v.*) to blossom, to flower; to bear fruit; to expand, to grow larger (intricately, not just inflation);
te (*p.*) ablative case marker;
tisai (*v.*) to stand;
todo (*n.*) tree;
toi (*v.*) to lead (a group), to move at the head of a group;

tse (*p.*) comitative-genitive case marker;
tsobi (*v.*) to hide, to veil;
udaso (*n.*) partner, spouse, husband, wife, close romantic or queerplatonic partner;
ve (*p.*) quotative marker;
vil (*n.*) path, way, route; manner, method;
wojeli (*n.*) upper torso, neck, lower jaw; (sometimes used to refer to the entire upper body area);
xaci (*n.*) magic;
xaroi (*v.*) to protect, to defend;
xasoi (*v.*) to live, to reside at;
xelbi (*n.*) short, usually furless, quadruped, with a notable sense of smell and poor eyesight;
xen (*p.*) allative case marker;
xo (*p.*) locative-genitive case marker;
xose (*ad.*) together;
yoval (*n.*) teeth; upper jaw;