

The Na`vi Noun

Lenition

When certain prefixes are added to a word (usually nouns) that begins with certain consonants, that consonant is changed. The following consonants are affected:

px becomes p
tx becomes t
kx becomes k
p becomes f
t becomes s
ts becomes s
k becomes h
` is dropped from the word

Prefixes which cause lenition are indicated by a '+' for a morpheme connector. Prefixes that do not cause lenition are indicated by a '-' for a morpheme connector.

Additionally, the adisposition word 'mi' will cause the following word to lenit, but only when used as a preposition. Even though this word is not a prefix, it is often shown as mi+ to indicate that the next word is lenited.

Plurality

Me+ Dual
Pxe+ trial

Ay+ four or more – prefix may be dropped on words lenited by it. Ex. Ay + tarouyu = aysarouyu or simply saronyu.

Adverb modifier

nì- makes noun an adverb.

Adjective modifiers

le- Makes noun an adjective
a- Makes this noun an adjective
For the noun immediately before it.

→ **Noun** ←

Case/function

(none) Subject of an intransitive verb.
-ìl, -l Agent of a transitive verb – **ergative** case
-it, -t, -ti Direct object of a transitive verb
- **accusative** case
-ur, -r, -ur Indirect object of a transitive verb
- **dative** case
-ìri, -ri Topic marker. Can be used in place of Any other case marker.
-ä, -yä **genitive** case – possessive

Plurality

-ng inclusive of speaker, 'us'

Adjective modifier

-a Makes this noun an adjective for the noun
Immediately after it.

Gender - infrequently used

-an Masculine -é Feminine

Noun-related Definitions

Accusative – The case for the direct object of a verb. Direct object.
Agent – The noun that enacts a transitive verb.
Dative – The case of the indirect object of a verb. A noun to which something is given.
Direct object – The noun which the verb affects. Accusative case.
Ditransitive – A verb that needs a direct and an indirect object.
Ergative – The case for the topic of a verb.
Genitive – The possessive case of a noun.
Indirect object – The noun that is not affected directly by the verb.
Inflection – A change to a word to mark its function.
Intransitive – A verb which only needs a subject.
Nominative – The case for the subject or agent of a verb.
Subject – The noun which enacts a verb.
Topic – A subject that is the focus of the Sentence and will appear in the next several sentences. Overrides any other case indication.
Transitive – A verb which needs a direct object.

Note on case/function: If the noun being inflected ends with a consonant, the suffix that begins with a vowel is used. If the noun being inflected ends with a vowel, the suffix beginning with a consonant is used. The single consonant form is sometimes used on nouns ending in vowels.