

Múnise Text

Sikeetse kútuna nevépú ves túsrënseva vaava uket aantu kutur.

Miheké ílepsam vata neksam sulúsursë véruksa eukeu úékkuhuksa. Neksam sulúsurmeke léthuksa, vaku ekúérmesam sauk melu véruksa. Ekúérmesam neveputa vaava úketes náúltetesam pírrëmuk neukeu lusmuk.

Pírrëmise lussa eet ulmeme kilmúútnasam aepas. Ulmés atta themas eukeu ulmé melu sámaksa eukeu aepas pírrëmiseru rúkkaksa. Súúttavu kupripéth súúravva laraunsa seukeu kutus pétheuta enrës.

Pétheruvu suura uváár súúttamasmë suura ves luursa seuksa el áttapsa. Suuth péthensë serháépnaksa eukeu athmúniteva péthensë uvmúnuksa. Petta euk súúravvath méhensa eukeu muutsa eukeu veskë uváás.

Luu serháépnese suutta évrëmahnas eslúlukuksa! Sata athmunit súúthava munus eukeu ses suhís suura ves luurmus euppu athmuutna sulúsursë úmmuvath athmúnitevath verus pétheuta lussa éúkeru ísemes eukeu met theus.

Miheké vata ummu athmunit munsa eukeu themas eukeu métansam etru emal kutus. Metta étheksa eukkel kútuksa eukeu métansë itse athmunit étheksa euksa lúluksa!

Suutta évrëmahnnavath athura uváás. Lusurmúútnasam sutúsrënse sikeetse liis athura melu sauk seuk kutus seukeu lúluksa. Théúnata sikeetses lúlikse munit kutus eukeu túsrënse muutna étheksa eukeu se kutus. Miheké vata áttapsa eukeu sikeetse tássuva áthava múniteva mus. Sikéétseta serháépneseva muk seukeu ákise seva kútumus. Ákisevath sikeetse ísemeh.

Dictionary

aantu (*postposition*) above, over
aepa- (*intrans. verb*) work, labour
ahna (*mass noun*) tools, limbs
ákise (*count noun*) path; manner, way
ath:a (*count noun*) brother
attap- (*intrans. verb*) sleep
eet (*count noun*) young
ekuerme (*count noun*) homeland
emal (*mass noun*) ash
enr- (*intrans. verb*) come, arrive
=eru (*clitic*) until
=eruvu (*clitic*) [with **=masm** in the next clause] when, once
ethek- (*trans. verb*) know, be aware of
etru (*mass noun*) bones
=eu (*clitic*) and [links clauses]
euk (*pronoun*) [third person, coreferential with subject]
evrm (*count noun*) bird
haepna- (*trans. verb*) strike, attack
his:e (*count noun*) head
ile:v (*mass noun*) field
íseme- (*intrans. verb*) die, fall silent
=ke (*clitic*) for, indeed
keetse (*count noun*) flower
=kel (*clitic*) that [indicates a belief or piece of knowledge after a verb of sensing or thinking]
kil (*mass noun*) fire
=ku (*clitic*) so, thus, in such a way
kupru (*count noun*) star, spark
kutu- (*trans. verb*) see, look at, watch
kútuna (*count noun*) eye
laráúm- (*trans. verb*) greet, welcome
leth- (*trans. verb*) put, place, set, lay down
liis (*mass noun*) dark
luluk- (*intrans. verb*) grow
lus- (*intrans. verb*) burn, be immolated
lusur (*count noun*) star [mythological register]
luu (*count noun*) two
luur- (*intrans. verb*) lie down
=masm (*clitic*) [with **=eruvu** in the previous clause] then
=me (*clitic*) meanwhile, at that same time; [with **=ku** in the next clause] as, in the way that
mehem- (*trans. verb*) feed - [subject] feeds [instrumental] to [object]
melu (*postposition*) next to, beside
met:am (*mass noun*) water
miheké (*count noun*) numerous, plentiful
mu- (*trans. verb*) give, offer
mum- (*trans. verb*) hear, listen to
munit:e (*mass noun*) words, speech
munu- (*trans. verb*) say, speak

muut- (*intrans. verb*) shine, glow
muutna (*mass noun*) light
neh (*count noun*) sky
peth:em (*mass noun*) bugs, winged insects
pírrmu- (*trans. verb*) offer up, sacrifice
rukka- (*intrans. verb*) cool down
=sa (*clitic*) but, however
sa (*mass noun*) wind
samah- (*intrans. verb*) sit down
sauk (*count noun*) lake
se (*pronoun*) [third person, not coreferential with subject]
seer- (*trans. verb*) to bite
=ta (*clitic*) [different subject to previous clause]
tas:su (*count noun*) elder, older
thema- (*intrans. verb*) stand up; wake up
theu- (*trans. verb*) fall into
theuna (*mass noun*) rain
tusrm- (*trans. verb*) drown, submerge
uekkuh- (*trans. verb*) rule, administer
úket:e (*mass noun*) harvest
ulmé (*count noun*) boy
últet:e (*mass noun*) time, days
ummu (*mass noun*) thick; powerful
ura:v (*count noun*) tree
uth- (*trans. verb*) desire, wish for
uváá- (*trans. verb*) arrive at; become
va:a (*mass noun*) barley (stalks)
vepú (*mass noun*) cattle
veru- (*trans. verb*) kindle; create
ves (*postposition*) below, under
vesk (*count noun*) large, big
=vu (*clitic*) then, after that

Munise does have a native writing system, but I never got around to digitising it, so we're not using it here :p

Phonology

CVC syllables. Consonant clusters can show up in *underlying* forms, but can't be realised - epenthetic [i] <ë> breaks them up.

- It's inserted (1) the *fewest* possible times and (2) in the *latest* possible places; e.g. /aml-s/ is realised [anlis] <**anlës**>, /aml-s=ma/ is realised [anlisima] <**anlësëma**>.

Múnise has 11 consonants and 8 vowels.

	Labial	Dental	Dorsal		Front	Back
Nasal	m	n		Close	i	u
Fortis Obs.	p	t	k	Mid	e	
Lenis Obs.	β < v >	θ < th >	x < h >	Open	a	
Sibilant		s		Diphthongs ai < ae > oi < ue > au eu		
Liquid		l r				

Lexical stress. Romanised with an acute accent when not penultimate.

Stressed monophthongs can be long, romanised by doubling the letter, e.g. /a:/ <**aa**>.

Diphthongs and unstressed vowels don't contrast length.

Nasals assimilate to a following consonant's place of articulation.

- i.e. [m] <**m**> before a labial, [n] <**n**> before a dental, [ŋ] <**n**> before a dorsal.

Lenis obstruents become fortis next to /s/ or a fortis obstruent.

- i.e. /β/ /θ/ /x/ become /p/ /t/ /k/ adjacent to /p t k s/.

Monophthongs in hiatus merge in the following way:

- /Va/ and /VV/ become /V:/ if stressed, /V/ if unstressed.
- /a.e/ /u.e/ /a.u/ /e.u/ become the diphthongs /ai oi au eu/.

/kp/ becomes /pp/, /kh/ becomes /k/.

Other allophony that doesn't affect the torch has been left out here.

Some nouns in the dictionary include a colon, marking off a final segment or two. This post-colon material only appears before a suffix; it is elided word-finally or before a clitic.

In a lexical compound, the last vowel of a non-final element may undergo umlaut, with /a/ becoming /e/ and /u/ becoming /i/.

Syntax

In a clause, the verb always comes last. The object, if there is one, is always the second phrase, while clitics always attach to the end of the first phrase. The subject is usually the first phrase, but not always.

In a noun phrase, the head noun always comes last. A postpositional phrase consists of a noun phrase followed by a postposition.

Nouns can modify other nouns by apposition, standing in front of them and taking the same case and number morphology. However, apposition also serves to coordinate noun phrases - this is rare, but can create ambiguity; does **suelhë sutháth** mean “the wheels and the bricks” or “the round bricks”?

Nouns marked with the genitive or dative, in their possessive senses, or the locative can modify another noun as well.

A verb can be negated with the particle **el** before it.

Clitics are used to link clauses together, but there is no relationship of subordination. Where other languages use relative clauses, complement clauses, etc., Múnise chiefly uses parataxis.

Morphology

Nouns

Nouns are divided into two groups by which number prefix they can take. When used as ‘adjectives’ (appositive modifiers), as above, any noun can take either prefix.

- Mass nouns can take the singulative prefix: **ne-** if the following syllable’s vowel is /e/, otherwise **na-**. This form refers to one member of a group, one piece of a substance, etc.
- Count nouns can take the plural prefix: **si-** if the following syllable’s vowel is /e/, otherwise **su-**. This form refers to multiple people/creatures/places/objects etc.

The pronoun **euk** takes the prefix **n-** if the noun it refers to is marked singulative, **s-** if plural.

Nouns are marked for case in all but three situations: if they are the subject of a clause, the object of a clause, or directly governed by a postposition. Four cases are used in the text, though two marginal others exist in the language.

- The genitive, **-s**, mostly marks inalienable possessors - family members, body parts, pieces of larger wholes. It also marks demoted subjects, as covered in the section on valency.
- The dative, **-va**, mostly marks alienable possessors, recipients of some transitive process, and goals of motion (though these are commonly verbal objects). It also marks

demoted objects and one of the arguments of causative-transitive verbs, as covered in the section on valency.

- The instrumental, **-vath**, marks instruments, things used for the verb to occur.
- The locative, **-sam**, marks locations where or times when things occur.

The augmentative prefix **ath-**, applied to a noun root, indicates a large, important or powerful kind of something.

Verbs

Verbs *must* take one of five tense/aspect suffixes, of which only three appear in this text.

The imperfect, **-r**, indicates a situation occurring now, regularly, or simultaneously with something else.

The non-hodiernal past - after a vowel, **-s**, but after a consonant, **-sa** - indicates a situation that occurred prior to the current day, and is particularly common in narrative.

The desiderative, **-h**, indicates a situation which is obligated to happen by social convention or which the subject desires to occur.

The suffix **-se** nominalises a verb root, deriving a mass noun referring to the object of the verb. It causes umlaut in the previous syllable: /a/ becomes /e/, /u/ becomes /i/.

- It can apply to a verb marked causative, but not with any *other* valency-changing affix.

Valency

The causative suffix **-mu** adds a subject who is responsible for the verb's occurrence. When applied to an intransitive root, the former sole argument becomes the object, while when applied to transitive ones, the former subject is expressed in the dative.

The applicative prefixes make a case-marked noun phrase (neither subject nor object) into the object, while the former object is expressed in the dative. There are four, but only two occur in the text: **uv-** promotes a dative noun, while **es-** promotes a genitive noun.

The passive suffix - after a vowel, **-k**, but after a consonant, **-uk** - makes the object into the subject, while the former subject is expressed in the genitive.

All of the above markers can co-occur. For example, when a verb is marked both passive and applicative: the original subject is genitive; the original object is dative; and a dative or genitive argument (depending on the applicative used) is now the subject.

En muutna ékseva éénlëtar!