

## Noun

The noun has two numbers; the plural marker is  $-(\bar{a})k$  for the nominative;  $-(\bar{a})t$  is the base for plural oblique cases.  $/\gamma/$  may figure as a link element: e.g. *urā* ‘house’, pl. *urāk*; *xal* ‘stone’, pl. *xalk*; *īr* ‘sister’, pl. *īrk*; *bāva* ‘father’, pl. *bāvayāk*; *lumma* ‘mother’, pl. *lummyāk*. The oblique base in  $-(\bar{a})t$  is specific to Brahui, and is not found in other Dravidian languages. In the light of the Caldwell thesis (see **Dravidian Languages**) this  $-t$  has been compared with the  $-t$  plural formant in Uralic.

### CASE SYSTEM

Ten case endings are added to the singular stem, to plural oblique base:

- genitive: sing.  $-nā$ , pl.  $-ā$ ; e.g. *kaḡnā ilumnā* ‘ullī’ ‘my brother’s horse’
- dative:  $-ki$  (with link vowel); e.g. *mār* ‘son’, *māraki* ‘to the son’
- accusative:  $-e$ ; e.g. *māre* ‘the son’
- instrumental:  $-aṭ$ , pl.  $-eaṭ$ ; e.g. *māraṭ* ‘by the son’; *māteaṭ* ‘by the sons’
- comitative:  $-tō$  (with link vowel); e.g. *māratō* ‘with the son’
- ablative:  $-ān$  (with link vowel); e.g. *māteān* ‘from the sons’
- locative:  $-ṭī$  (with link vowel); e.g. *urāṭī* ‘in the house’; *o kanā s’ a’ raṭī tūlik* ‘he lives in our village’
- aditive:  $-āy$ ; e.g. *urāāy* ‘into the house’
- adessive:  $-isk$ ; e.g. *dūnisk* ‘at the well’
- terminative:  $(is)kā$ ; e.g. *draxt* ‘tree’ (Iranian loanword), *draxtiskā* ‘as far as the tree’

## Adjective

Qualitative adjectives have short, indefinite, and definite forms: e.g. short *djān* ‘good’; indefinite *juānō*; definite *juanāl-angal-ikō*. The short form is used predicatively, the other two as prepositional attributes: e.g. *marḡunā kasar* ‘the long road’; *rāstikō dū* ‘the right hand’.

### COMPARISON

A comparative is made with  $-tir$  (= Iranian  $-tar$ ): e.g.

Dā ‘ullī juān aff, asi juān.tir.ō’ ullī-as ‘ata  
‘This horse is no good, bring me a better one.’

## Pronoun

### PERSONAL INDEPENDENT

|   | <i>Singular</i> | <i>Base</i> | <i>Plural</i> | <i>Base</i> |              |
|---|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | ī               | kan-        | nan           | nan-        |              |
| 2 | nī              | ne-         | num           | num-        |              |
| 3 | dād             | dād/dāṛ     | dāfk          | daft-       | proximate    |
|   | ōd              | ōd/ōṛ       | ōfk           | ōft-        | intermediate |

ēd            ēd/ēr            ēfk            ēft-            remote

These are declined in all cases: e.g. for first-person singular: *ī*, *kanā*, *kanḱi*, *kane*, *kaneat*, *kantō*, etc.

#### DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN

Three degrees of proximity: *dā* – *ō* – *ē*. These are invariable.

#### INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN

*dē(r)* ‘who?’; *ant* ‘what?’ Declined in most cases.

#### RELATIVE PRONOUN

The Iranian loanword *ki* is used.

#### Verb

For almost all positive forms there is a parallel set of negative forms (*see Dravidian Languages; Finnish*).

Finite forms are marked for mood, tense, number, and person; non-finite forms are participles, gerunds, and verbal nouns (infinitive).

In the great majority of cases, personal and non-personal forms are made from a single base form, which is the verbal noun minus the ending *-(i)ng*: e.g. *binig* ‘to hear’, base *bin-*; *salig* ‘to stand’, base *salī-*. Some verbs have three or more bases, which may be suppletive: e.g. ‘*inig*’ ‘to go’ has two bases, ‘*in* and *kā*’.

#### INDICATIVE MOOD

The present/future tense has the endings *-iva*, *isa-*, *-ik*; *-ina*, *-ire*, *-ira*, added directly to the base, optionally preceded by *a*: e.g. *(a)tixiva* ‘I put’, *(a)tixik* ‘he puts’. Simple past: tense markers are added to the base; *-ā-* is the most common. The personal endings for the past are: *-t*, *-s*, *-θ*; *-n*, *-re*, *-r*: e.g. *maxig* ‘to laugh’, *maxāt* ‘I laughed’. There are similar sets of endings for past continuous, past perfective, past anterior.

#### NEGATIVE CONJUGATION

The markers are *-p(a)(r)-l-f(a)(r)-l-t(a)-*, to which specific sets of personal endings are added for the various tenses. For example, the endings for the present/future tense are:

|   | <i>Singular</i> | <i>Plural</i> |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | -ra             | -na           |
| 2 | -ēsa            | -ēre          |
| 3 | -k              | -sa           |

Examples: *xam-pa-ra* ‘I do not see’; *(a)tix.p.ēre* ‘you do/will not put’.

In the past tense the tense marker *-v-* follows the negative marker *-ta*, and a specific set of personal endings is added: e.g. *ī urāṭī pē'i.ta.v.aṭ* 'I didn't go into the house'; *tix.ta.v.as* 'they did not put'.

#### POTENTIAL MOOD

No specific marker; specific set of endings: e.g. *tixe* 'he may put'.

#### IMPERATIVE MOOD

Singular markers are *-a(k)*, *-θ*, pl. *-bō*: e.g. *tixθ* 'put!', pl. *tixbō*. Negative: *-pal-fa*: e.g. *tixpa* 'don't put!'; *bafa* 'don't come!' (*banning* 'to come').

#### CONDITIONAL MOOD

The marker is *-ōs-*: e.g. *binōsuṭ* 'if I should hear'.

#### AUXILIARY VERB

*anning* 'to be'. The present tense is: *uṭ, us, e; un, ure, ō*. This verb is used with the genitive case in the sense of 'to have': e.g. *kanā irā mār ō* 'I have two sons'. The negative is *affaṭ* 'I am not'; *allavaṭ* 'I wasn't': e.g. *ī brā'ūt-as affaṭ* 'I am not a Brahui'.

#### NON-FINITE FORMS

There are two participles, in *-ōk* and in *-ōī*. The former is invariable and is not related to any specific tense. The form in *-ōī*, also invariable, is linked with the future: e.g. *ī dā kārēme karōī uṭ* 'I am the one who has to do this work.'

#### Preposition

Some prepositions have been borrowed from Baluchi, and there are a few postpositions, e.g. *bā(r)* 'like', which follows the ablative case: e.g. *'ullīām bā* 'like a horse'.

#### Word order

#### SOV

#### COMPENDIUM

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