

Cúúysung

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Preface

Inspired by the challenge's specifications for different levels of marking on a closed class(es) of words, I wanted to create a language with a certain sense of history, one where looking at the grammar one can detect a shift from an earlier typology to a different, more recent typology, with vestiges of the old typology surfacing here and there as the final stragglers of this earlier form of the language. I've tried to incorporate these vestigial elements in all parts of the grammar, from the phonology (for example, voiced stops appearing, unusually, only in the coda position of roots) to the inflectional and derivational morphology, as well as the syntax. The dialect part of the challenge also let me explore this sense of history, with some dialects 'further along' the transition from a morphologically complex head-final language to a morphologically simple head-initial language than the standard form of Chuysung.

Introduction

Cúúysung (a contracted form of *Cúúy Oosung* (*Edéég Óóm*), 'language of the palace (of the king)'), Anglicised as Chuysung, is the official language of the island nation of Arad, spoken in practically all formal contexts of Arad society and the only written language used by the Aradan people. The *Kuton-koñ-Cuuy*, the official government institute of language, sets the official standard for formal Chuysung, alongside its philological and literary duties.

Phonology

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i i: <i ii>		u u: <u uu>
Mid	e e: <e ee>		o o: <o oo>
Open		a a: <a aa>	

Chuysung distinguishes five phonemic monophthongs, each of which comes in a short/long pair. Phonemic diphthongs are not present—all instances of diphthongs are vowels followed by consonantal glides. The mid vowels /e e: o o:/ are usually realised as open-mid vowels [ɛ ɛ: ɔ ɔ:], while the close vowels [i i: u u:] vary in their realisation between close [i i: u u:] and near-close [ɪ ɪ: ʊ ʊ:]. The open vowel is typically realised as a front vowel [a a:], but there is significant variety from speaker to speaker. There are no differences in quality between the short and long vowels, with the only distinguishing factor being length. Primary stress occurs on the

final root of a word, with secondary stress occurring on any other roots present. Prefixes and suffixes are always unstressed.

Vowels can take a high tone, marked orthographically with an acute accent <á í é ó ú áá íí éé óó úú>, in contrast to a level tone, which is unmarked orthographically. High tone is a simple rise in pitch throughout the entire vowel, whether short or long, with the vowel of the following syllable lowering in pitch. If the following vowel has a high tone, the high tone is erased completely in favour of a low tone, whether the vowel is long or short. These processes apply across word boundaries.

Allophonically, certain consonants in the coda position trigger a low tone on the preceding vowel, with the realisation of this low tone depending on the length and tone of the vowel in question. If the vowel is short, it gains a simple drop in pitch, with high tone short vowels losing their high tone completely. If the vowel is long, the second mora gains a drop in pitch, with high tone long vowels retaining the high pitch on their first mora, and level tone long vowels gaining a high pitch on their first mora in contrast to the low tone on the second.

Short, unstressed, toneless, non-open vowels devoice when between two voiceless consonants, except in emphatic speech. In rapid speech, devoiced vowels can be deleted entirely, producing a range of phonetic consonant clusters. For example, *tufom* is typically realised as [tʰ.ɸ̥w̥], but in rapid speech often becomes [tʰɸ̥w̥].

Consonants

	Bilabial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m	n	ɲ <ñ>		
Stop	p b	t d	c ɟ <c j>	k g	ʔ <h>
Fricative	f	s	ʃ <š>		
Approximant		r l	j <y>	w	

Nasal Consonants

Chuysung distinguishes three nasal consonants, a bilabial nasal, an alveolar nasal, and a palatal nasal. Words cannot begin with nasals—in roots, they only occupy the coda position. Vowels preceding a nasal consonant are always nasalised. In the coda position, /m ɲ/ are realised as nasalised glides [w̃ j̃] respectively, while /n/ varies between complete elision, with lengthening and nasalisation on the preceding vowel, and a consonantal realisation of an alveolar nasal [ñ] or a velar nasal [ŋ̃]. All three nasals are merged when followed by a consonant, being realised in a similar manner to final /n/, with nasalisation and lengthening on the preceding vowel. Intervocally, /m/ is a bilabial [m], /n/ is an alveolar [n], and /ɲ/ is a pure palatal [ɲ], with no coronal coarticulation.

Stop Consonants

Chuysung distinguishes nine stop consonants, but only four may occur word-initially—/t/, /k/, /c/ /ʔ/, and /ʔ/ is not permitted to occur in any position except the absolute word-initial position, with root-initial /ʔ/ undergoing a number of deletion processes when a prefix is attached to the root.

Intervocally, the contrast between the fortis and lenis stops is that of voicing, /p t c k/ being unvoiced and /b d ɟ g/ being voiced. Word-finally, the stops themselves are realised identically, with no audible release [p̚ t̚ c̚ k̚], but with the voiced stops triggering an allophonic low-tone on the preceding vowel, as described in the vowel section.

The alveolar stops /t d/ are alveolar [t d], not dental. Both undergo affrication when they form an onset with a glide /j w/, becoming [tsj tsw dzj dzw].

The palatal stops /c ɟ/ are realised as affricates [tʃ dʒ] when in positions with audible release—when unreleased, they are realised as a retracted palato-alveolar stop [t̠ʃ̠]. /ɟ/ can also deaffricate in rapid speech, becoming [ʒ].

Fricative Consonants

Chuysung distinguishes three fricative phonemes, two of which are sibilants. The labiodental fricative /f/ patterns in a similar manner to a voiceless stop in that it can undergo lenition into /b/, and can occur in both the onset and the coda position. /s ʃ/ are a denti-alveolar sibilant [s̪] and palato-alveolar apical sibilant [ʃ̪] respectively, and unlike /f/, they possess no lenis form. All three fricatives have a different realisation when in the coda position, regardless of the following consonant, with /f s ʃ/ becoming [ɸ h ɕ], with the preceding vowel gaining a low tone.

Approximant Consonants

Chuysung distinguishes four approximant phonemes. The coronal liquids /r l/ generally pattern like nasal consonants—they cannot occur word-initially, and so in roots only appear in the coda position. When followed by a vowel, they are realised as an alveolar tap and an alveolar lateral approximant respectively: [r l]. Word-finally or when followed by a consonant, /r/ is realised as an alveolar approximant [ɹ], or is vocalised entirely into a non-syllabic schwa-like sound [ə̯], which elides entirely in certain unstressed contexts. In the same position, /l/ undergoes strong velarisation, being realised as either a pure velar lateral approximant [ɭ] or losing its lateral element to become a velar approximant [w], with it devoicing to [ɭ̥] or [x] when followed by a voiceless consonant.

The glides /j w/ can occur in the word-initial, intervocalic, and coda positions, as well as form complex onsets with preceding obstruent consonants. Intervocally and in the coda, /j w/ are glides [j w], while phrase-initially and as a part of a complex onset with a voiceless consonant,

they are devoiced to voiceless fricatives [ç xʷ]. Word-initially and as a part of connected speech, they vary between voiced [j w] and voiceless [ç xʷ].

Phonotactics

Roots have the following syllable structure:

(C₁)(G)V(C₃)(C₂)

V is any vowel.

C₁ is /t/, /c/, /k/, /f/, /s/, /ʃ/, /ʔ/, /j/, or /w/.

C₂ is any consonant except /ʔ/.

C₃ is a homorganic nasal /N/, only applicable if the following consonant is a voiced stop, or /s/, only applicable if the following consonant is a voiceless stop, or /r/, /l/, /j/, or /w/.

G is /j/ or /w/.

For verbal and nominal roots, if there is no coda consonant, the vowel must be long, with open syllable short vowels being illegal. However, some other parts of speech have roots with open syllable short vowels, e.g. *šo* 'to, at'.

A few roots are disyllabic, e.g. *amak* 'millet' and *edée* 'servant'. These words tend to follow some set patterns, typically being of the shape VCVC or CVrVC or CVIVC, with identical vowels. They are thought to be borrowings from an otherwise unattested substrate, possibly representing the assimilation of monosyllables with illegal onsets (***mak* or ***dée* would both be illegal root shapes).

Fortition and Lenition

The fortition or lenition of an initial or final stop consonant in a root is a morphological process which is used for both derivational and inflectional purposes. Lenition causes a post-vocalic voiceless stop consonant (including /f/, and excluding /p/) to voice, /f t c k/ > /b d ɟ g/, while fortition causes the opposite, devoicing voiced stops /b d ɟ g/ > /f t c k/. Lenition and fortition are often combined with additional suffixes and prefixes in both derivation and inflection.

Assimilation

Consonant clusters and vowel clusters formed by prefixes and affixes undergo a number of assimilation processes:

When a consonant is followed by a glottal stop, the glottal stop is deleted and the preceding vowel gains a high tone: *šan-* + *haaf* > *šánaaf*.

Vowels separated by glottal stops contract into a long vowel with a high tone: *oo-* + *hom* > *óóm*.

Unstressed vowels in hiatus become glides or are deleted: *oo-aañ* > *waan*.

Nasals assimilate to the place of articulation of the following consonant: *šan-* + *cúp* > *šańcúb*.

When an affixal /r/ is followed by a consonant, it is deleted: *tur-* + *fom* > *tufom*.

When an affixal /l/ is followed by a consonant, it is deleted and the preceding vowel undergoes rounding: *cal-* + *tóm* > *cotóm*. Compare: *cal* + *elt* > *calelt*.

When an affixal /s/ is followed by a consonant, it is deleted: *kus-koñ* > *kukoñ*. Compare: *kus-ee* > *kusee*.

When an affixal /s/ is preceded by /s/ or /ʃ/, it is deleted: *kíš-sa* > *kíša*

When /n t d k g s l/ are followed by /j/, they undergo palatalisation to /ɲ c ɟ c ɟ ʃ j/: *ton-ya* > *toña*, *cót-ya* > *cóca*, *wal-ya* > *waya*, etc.

When /ɲ c ɟ ʃ/ are followed by /j/, /j/ is deleted: *koñ-ya* > *koña*.

When a voiced stop is followed by an affixal voiceless stop, the voiced stop devoices and the voiceless stop is deleted: *cíd-k* > *cít*.

When an affixal voiceless stop is preceded by a nasal consonant, the nasal consonant assimilates to the same place of articulation as the stop while the stop voices: *ton-k* > *tong*.

Verbs

Verbs are marked for aspect, mood, and plurality, and a closed class of verbs receive subject/object suffixes, the subject/object suffixes merging together into portmanteau suffixes. Number is poorly distinguished in the person suffixes.

Subject Suffixes

	Singular	Plural
First Person	-w, -u	-y(a)
Second Person	-s(a)	-s(a)
Third Person	-k(on)	-k(on)

Subject/object Suffixes

	First Person	Second Person	Third Person	First Person	Second Person	Third Person
First Person Singular		-w, -o	-w, -o		-wt, -ot	-wnd, -ond
First Person Plural		-yas	-yon		-yat	-yond
Second Person	-so		-son	-say		-sond
Third Person	-ko	-kos	-kong	-koñ	-kond	-kond

Tense-Aspect-Mood

TAM is marked with a mixture of suffixes, tone changes, lenition/fortition processes, and adverbial particles. The plural marker is placed on top of the TAM marker, being marked solely by a change in tone from level to high.

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Subjunctive	-∅	CVC
Perfective Subjunctive	-∅ + yan — Triggers fortition	CVC + yan — Triggers fortition
Future/habitual Subjunctive	CVC + sol	CVC + sol

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Indicative	-ii — Triggers lenition	-íí — Triggers lenition
Perfective Indicative	-ii + yan — Triggers fortition	-íí + yan — Triggers fortition
Future/habitual Indicative	-íí + sol — Triggers lenition	-íí + sol — Triggers lenition

The subjunctive mood is primarily used for forming subordinate clauses, but it is also used for hypotheticals, wishes, and dubitative statements, as well as commands.

The distinction between the imperfective, perfective, and future/habitual is primarily that of aspect, as opposed to time—the imperfective marks an action or state as occurring over an indefinite period of time, while the perfective marks an action or state as a single entity. The future/habitual is used to express future time with no commentary on its likelihood, as well as actions that occur regularly and as custom.

Suppletive Verbs

Two verbs are suppletive, having different roots for the perfective aspect in contrast to the imperfective and future/habitual aspects.

ē 'to be'

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Subjunctive	ee	éé
Perfective Subjunctive	foo	fóó
Future/habitual Subjunctive	éé	éé

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Indicative	eey	ééy
Perfective Indicative	fooy	fóóy
Future/habitual Indicative	ééy	ééy

koñ 'to step, to go, to leave, to come'

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Subjunctive	koñ	kóñ
Perfective Subjunctive I	sal	sál
Future/habitual Subjunctive	kóñ	kóñ

	Singular	Plural
Imperfective Indicative	koñ-ii	koñ-íí
Perfective Indicative I	sal-ii	sal-íí
Future/habitual Indicative	koñ-íí	koñ-íí

Prepositions

Most prepositions in Chuysung are verbs in the singular subjunctive imperfective, unmarked for person, which take on prepositional meaning, for example *šil* 'to pass' can also mean 'through,

along', *kwa* 'to sit' can mean 'atop', etc. The main exception is *šo* 'to, at, on', which does not seem to have a corresponding verbal meaning, but it functions in the same way as other prepositions. Prepositions can also be used adverbially, and do not always need to take a dependent noun, for example:

Konj-i sal-ii-g week sún-g.

man-DEF go-PFV-3s. away.from house-3s.

'The man went from his house.'

Konj-i sal-ii-g week.

man-DEF go-PFV-3s. away.from

'The man departed.'

Chuysung is satellite framing, encoding the manner of the verb on the head verb and the path of motion on the preposition. Large amounts of prepositions can be stacked onto a single inflected verb:

Konj-i sal-ii-g week sún-g šil yón-i šo sán-i.

man-DEF go-PFV-3s. away.from house-3s. through village-DEF to forest-DEF

'The man went from his house through the village into the forest.'

Prepositions can also be stacked with each other to form complex paths:

Konj-i sal-ii-g week šil sún-g.

man-DEF go-PFV-3s. away.from through house-3s.

'The man exited his house.'

Likewise, these too can be used adverbially, without a dependent noun:

Konj-i sal-ii-g week šil.

man-DEF go-PFV-3s. away.from through

'The man exited.'

Adjectives

There are two classes of adjectives—adjectives of the first class are a small, closed class of adjectives that precede the nouns they modify and require no additional particles or morphology. They mostly consist of colour terms, and basic descriptors of size and shape:

Kééd ooból.

red sun

‘The red sun.’

Taay konj.

big man

‘A big man.’

All other adjectives follow the nouns they modify, and are linked to their noun with the *i* particle, which is also used to form relative clauses. A number of them are derived from verbal roots which take on different meanings when used as eventive verbs:

Cííd-i i yím.

woman-DEF REL be.tall

‘A tall woman.’

Cííd-i yím-ii womifel.

woman-DEF stretch-IPFV bedsheet

‘The woman is stretching a bedsheet.’

This closed class of adjectives possess a set of suffixes to form comparative and superlative adjectives, *-ii* and *-íí*, which form the comparative and superlative respectively, as well as *-áá*, which forms a comparative meaning ‘less than’. The preposition *kwaa* ‘atop’ is used to form comparisons between two nouns:

Konj-i eey-g taay-ii kwaa kúj-i.

man-DEF be-IPFV-3s. big-COMP atop child-PS-DEF

‘The man is bigger than the child.’

Comparatives and superlatives for the open class of adjectives are formed with *taayii* and *taayíí* respectively, following the adjective in question:

Konj i yím taay-ii kwaa kúj-i.

man-DEF REL be.tall-SUBJ-IPFV COMP atop child-PS-DEF

‘The man is taller than the child.’

Adjectives and adverbs are the same part of speech in Chuysung, and the closed class of adjectives precede their verbs and the open class follow their verbs when functioning as adverbs, just as they do their nouns, for example:

Konj-i cíñ tíw-ii-g šil.

man-DEF little look-IPFV-3s. along

‘The man looked around a little bit.’

Konj-i tíw-ii-g told šil.

man-DEF look-IPFV-3s. be.quick along

‘The man quickly looked around.’

Nouns

Nouns are declined for possession, definiteness, and number—however, only a closed class of nouns decline for number and the number/person of their possessor. The suffix *-i* marks nouns as plural, definite, or possessed:

Konj-i say.

man-PL PL

‘Men’

Saa fom-i.

2s. bowl-PS

‘Your bowl.’

Fom-i.

bowl-DEF

‘The bowl.’

These meanings can be disambiguated via additional words—for example *konj-i say* has the plural suffix combined with the plural word *say*. Plural definite nouns can be optionally formed with demonstrative pronouns, if disambiguation is required:

Yom konj-i.

this man-PL

‘The men.’

Only a closed class of animate nouns take the *-i* plural marker, with all other nouns being optionally marked with *say*, with plurality frequently being unmarked. Reduplication (without a plural marker) refers to a group of something taken as a collective whole, while reduplication with a plural marker has a meaning of ‘all’:

Konj-konj.

man-REDUP

‘A group of men.’

Yom konj-konj-i say.

this man-REDUP-PL PL

‘All the men.’

Possessed nouns can be paired with pronouns, as in the *saa fom-i* example above, or with a noun, e.g. *fom-i konj* ‘man’s bowl’—note that the possessive pronoun in these constructions is placed before the noun, while a possessive proper noun is placed after. The preposition *koñ* can also be used, e.g. *fom-i koñ konj*, with the former process being used more frequently for literal possession and the latter for marking association, origin, composition, and more abstract connections.

Obligatory Possession

A small class of nouns are obligatorily possessed, with possession formed via a different means to the *-i* construction outlined above, with a set of suffixes which mark person and number (number only in the first person) being appended to the end of the word instead:

	Singular	Plural
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First Person	CVC-u	-y(a)
Second Person	-s(a)	-s(a)
Third Person	-k(on)	-k(on)

Obligatorily possessed nouns without a specified possessor take the *-i* possessive suffix, meaning ‘someone’s’, for example: *fooy* ‘(someone’s) mother’, *cin-i* ‘(someone’s) sister’, etc. Forms such as ***foo* or ***cin* without any suffix are not permitted. Some nouns are only obligatorily possessed with certain meanings, for example: *konj* ‘man’ but *konj-i* ‘(someone’s) husband’. Most obligatorily possessed nouns are kinship terms, body part nouns, as well as a few miscellaneous nouns, such as *súm-i* ‘house’.

Classifiers

Count nouns must be declined with *-i* and paired with a classifier when a number of said noun is specified. For example:

Fom-i yin kíp.

bowl-DEF two CL

‘Two bowls.’

Something like ***fom-i yin* would not be a valid construction in Chuysung. Classifiers are mostly transparently derived from nouns—*kíp* as a noun means ‘head’, and as a classifier is used to count nouns with a round shape.

Differential Object Marking

When a noun denoting a human being is the object of a verb, the preposition *šo*, ‘to, at’ is required; compare:

Cííd-i wal-ii-kong fom.

woman-DEF carry-IPFV-3s.3s. bowl

‘The woman is carrying a bowl.’

Cííd-i wal-ii-kong šo kú-c.

woman-DEF carry-IPFV-3s.3s. to child-3s.

‘The woman is carrying her child.’

Pronouns

Personal pronouns distinguish two numbers, as well as two cases, the accusative pronouns being used for when the pronoun is the direct object of a transitive verb and the nominative pronouns for everything else.

	Singular	Plural
First Person Nominative	huu	yaa
Second Person Nominative	saa	sáá
Third Person Nominative	kon	kón
First Person Accusative	húú	yáá
Second Person Accusative	sáá	sáát
Third Person Accusative	kón	kónd

Chuysung also possesses an indefinite pronoun, *kas*, as well as a set of three demonstrative pronouns, *yom*, *it*, and *kyaa*, which mark something as near the first person, near the second person, and near the third person respectively. The demonstrative *yom* can also be used as a definite article in certain contexts.

There are three main interrogative pronouns, *tee*, ‘who, what’, *tée*, ‘whom’, and *teen* ‘how, why’, alongside additional compound interrogative pronouns, such as *teebúñ* ‘where’, *teesak* ‘whose’, etc. Interrogative pronouns are not fronted, but remain in the typical position of the noun they stand in for:

Week-ii-s yan téé?

cut-PFV-2s. PFV what

‘What have you cut?’

Particles

The three most frequent particles are *fu*, the negation particle, *i*, the relative particle, and *ki*, the interrogative particle. *Fu* negates verbs and adjectives, equivalent to English ‘not’, but is placed after the verb or adjective, for example:

Konj-i told-ii fu.

man-DEF run-IPFV NEG

‘The man was not running.’

Tum fu konj-i.

happy NEG man-DEF

‘The unhappy man.’

Konj-i i yím fu.

man-DEF REL be.tall NEG

‘The man is not tall.’

The relative particle *i* is used to form relative clauses as well as connect verbal adjectives to their head nouns:

Konj-i cúp-ii-gon yan cífd-i i sal-ii-g kyaa fól šo yóñ-i kwaa kon fel-i.

man-DEF give-PFV-3s. PFV woman-DEF REL go-PFV-3s. other day to village-DEF with 3s. bed-PS.

‘The man gave the woman, who had arrived in the village yesterday, his bed.’

The particle *ki* forms yes/no questions, and is placed after the verb:

Koñ-íí-s ki kwaa yom fól?

go-PFV-2s. INT away.from this day

‘Will you be leaving today?’

Derivation

Derivational Morphology

Productive derivational morphology consists of prefixes, changes to the final consonant (lenition or fortition), and reduplication. Some prefixes trigger lenition on the initial consonant of the root.

oo- — Forms augmentatives of status from nouns. — Triggers lenition.

tur- — Forms augmentatives of size from nouns.

kus- — Forms patient nouns from verbs, nouns meaning ‘where X occurs’ or ‘relating to X action’ from verbs. — Often combined with lenition on the coda consonant.

šan- - Forms result nouns from verbs. — Often combined with lenition on the coda consonant.

cal- - Forms diminutives of size from nouns.

ši- - forms diminutives of status from nouns. — Triggers lenition.

ik- - Forms agent nouns from verbs.

ki- - forms adjectives of quality from nouns. — Triggers lenition. Often combined with fortition on the coda consonant.

CVP > CVB — Forms nouns from verbs — Frequently combined with additional prefixes.

CVB > CVP — Forms verbs from nouns — Frequently combined with additional prefixes.

Compounding

Both noun and verb compounds are present in Chusugon. Nouns can be compounded with other nouns, adjectives, and verbs to form new nouns with the addition of an *-i-* interfix, probably derived from the *i* relative clause particle. For example: *wom* ‘cloth’ and *fel* ‘bed’, *womifel* ‘bedsheet’. In the case of vowel hiatus, *-i-* is simply deleted: *twéé* ‘water’ and *twum* ‘be heavy’, *twéétwum* ‘alcohol’, and not ***twééitwum* or **twééytwum*.

Verb compounds mostly consist of two verbal roots, with the second verb being declined for the subjunctive imperfective singular, with no pronominal inflection, e.g. *koñ* ‘to go’ and *tíw* ‘to see’ > *koñ tíw* ‘to find, to meet’. Unlike compound nouns, these verb compounds do not form a single word, as inflection is appended to the first element of the compound, between the first verb and the second.

Nouns are often turned into verbs via pairing the verb *kom* ‘to do’ with the noun as a direct object, with prepositions then used to introduce indirect objects, e.g. *kom twéé* ‘soak’, *kom twéé šo wem* ‘to soak cloth’ (literally ‘to do water to cloth’).

Dialects

Kukoñi-Kól-Fúñ Dialect

The Kukoñi-Kól-Fúñ dialect is the informal spoken register of Chuysung in the urban centre of Kukoñi-Kól-Fúñ. While relatively close to Standard Chuysung, it notably lacks the voiced series of stops /b d ɟ g/, having merged them with the voiceless series /p t c k/ while fully phonemicising the low tone the voiced series imparted phonetically on preceding vowels. The low tone from coda fricatives has also been phonemicised, with coda /s/ being elided completely with compensatory lengthening, and coda /ʃ/ vocalising into /j/ alongside the imparting of a low tone. For example, *kask* is realised as [kà:k̃].

Voiced stops still surface phonetically, but according to a very consistent allophonic rule, in which /p t c k/ in-between vowels voice, and in all other positions are realised as voiceless. For example, *cíd* and *cíd-in* are [t͡ɕiːt̚ t͡ɕiːdĩː] in Standard Chuysung, while they are [t͡ɕiːt̚ t͡ɕiːdĩː] in Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň, with the falling tone retained in both forms. Likewise, while intervocalic voiceless stops can be found in Standard Chuysung, they are not present in Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň. For example, *kukoň* is [kɤ.kõ̃] and [ku.gõ̃] in Standard Chuysung and Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň respectively.

Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň possesses a few archaisms in comparison to Standard Chuysung, the main archaic features being the absence of /f/ (outside of loanwords) and the presence of /ŋ/. Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň did not undergo the prehistoric sound change of *p > f as Standard Chuysung did (Standard Chuysung /p/ likely originates from an old geminate *-pp-), and so all instances of Standard Chuysung /f/ are /p/ in Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň, except in cases of borrowing. This gives the local pronunciation of the name Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň as [kugõ̃jĩkóx̥pũ̃] as opposed to standard [kɤkõ̃jĩkóx̥fũ̃], with *púň* instead of *fúň*. The velar nasal is realised as a nasalised velar glide [ũ̃] when word final and a velar nasal stop [ŋ] in-between vowels. Notably, /ŋ/ can correspond to any of the three nasals from Standard Chuysung, for example, Standard Chuysung *fom*, *sán*, *seň* [fõ̃w̃] [sáː] [sẽ̃] correspond to Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň [fõ̃ũ̃] [sáũ̃] [sẽũ̃]. Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň does not devoice initial glides, and /w/ is realised as a labiodental fricative, for example *yóň* and *wěg*, [çõ̃] and [xʷèːk̃] in Standard Chuysung, are [jõ̃] and [vèːk̃]. Likewise, word-final /m/ is realised as a nasalised labiodental fricative [ṽ], compare [xʷẽ̃w̃] to [vẽ̃ṽ] for *wem*.

Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň /t/ has underwent palatalisation to /t͡ɕ/ when before /i/ or /u/, which has phonemicised due to the loss /tj tw/ clusters, with [dz] as a voiced allophone, e.g. *tíik*, *túng*, *twéetwum* are [t͡ɕiːk̃], [t͡ɕũːk̃], [t͡ɕéːdzũ̃ṽ] respectively.

Túng Dialect

The Túng dialect is spoken in the countryside regions surrounding Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň, and deviates more strongly from Standard Chuysung than Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň, having a highly reduced consonant inventory. It shares a few features with Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň, such as the lack of voiced stops and consequent phonemicising of the low tone, as well as the preservation of /p/ and consequent lack of /f/. This is thought to be due to the Kukoňi-Kól-Fúň dialect originating from an early form of the Túng dialect, when rapid urbanisation led to an influx of workers from the outlying agricultural regions into the city centre.

The main factor which distinguishes the Túng dialect from other dialects is its process of nasalisation. All word-final nasals have disappeared, nasalising the preceding vowel. Likewise, nasals in the prevocalic position nasalised the following vowel, before denasalising themselves into stops. As such, phonemic nasal consonants have disappeared from the language entirely, but they surface phonetically as allophones of the stops when followed by a nasalised vowel. For example, *túng* is pronounced as [tũ̃k̃] in Standard Chuysung but [nũ̃k̃] in Túng.

Túng distinguishes the habitual from the future with an additional particle *con* [ɲõ:], which marks the habitual aspect; compare: *twéég-í sol amak* ‘I will reap the millet’ vs *twéég-í con amak* ‘I reap the millet (every year, frequently, etc)’.

Another distinct grammatical feature of broad Túng is the lack of the *-i* suffix on nouns for marking definiteness, plurality, and possession. E.g. *konj* ‘man, men, the man, a man’. This occurs much more frequently among elderly speakers, and *-i* is common in the speech of younger speakers in the countryside due to influence from Standard Chuysung. Túng also lacks pronominal marking on more verbs than Standard Chuysung, for example *twéék* in Standard Chuysung receives pronominal marking, but doesn’t in Túng. Pronominal marking is confined to less than a dozen verbs, and unlike the reintroduction of *-i*, pronominal marking is generally not being restored among younger speakers, as there is a strong tendency in all colloquial dialects to reduce inflectional person markers.

Túng has a number of specialised words relating to geography and agriculture that look to be of substrate origin, so-called ‘millet-words’, due to *amak*, ‘millet’, being the best known of such substrate words (though *amak* is present in all dialects). These words are often bisyllabic, but with both vowels being of the same quality, and often without any initial consonant, e.g. *amak*, *olon*, *edéé*, *ujún*, etc. Notably, there is a strong tendency for these ‘millet-words’ to have as their intervocalic consonant a consonant which cannot appear in initial position in Standard Chuysung—likely the initial vowel was inserted epenthetically by Proto-Chuysung speakers to make the word conform to Chuysung phonotactics, thus *amak*, *olon*, *edéé*, and *ujún* probably go back to substratal forms roughly of the shape **mak*, **lon*, **déé*, and **jún*. Cases involving initial consonants, e.g. *talap*, may have originated as monosyllabic words with complex onsets in the substrate language, **tlap*.

Lexicon

Nouns

fooy - n. obl. pl. mother
 tooy - n. obl. pl. father
 cini - n. obl. pl. sister
 konj - n. obl. pl. man
 cííd - n. obl. pl. woman
 ser - n. people, person
 kúji - n. obl. pl. child, son, daughter
 fom - n. bowl
 weeg - n. section, piece, plot of land, property
 ikweek - n. knife
 cuuy - n. obl. neck, throat, speech, language
 fúñ - n. field
 fól - n. day (unit of time), daytime

yóň - n. village
 kípí - n. obl. head
 twéé - n. water, body of water, river, lake
 hom - n. cloud, sky
 fel - n. bed
 tóm - n. hill, mountain, elevated land
 arp - n. earth, ground, soil, mud, land
 elt - n. deer
 aaň - n. student (typically at a religious school)
 fet - n. chair
 súmi - n. obl. house
 wem - n. cloth
 táwk - n. pig, boar, mammal
 saaw - n. sea, ocean
 túng - n. land, countryside
 fen - n. island
 seňi - n. obl. name
 sán - n. tree, forest
 amak - n. millet
 oogonj - n. pl. sir, lord, male teacher, male royal, respectable man
 oojííd - n. pl. miss, lady, female teacher, female royal, respectable woman
 ooból - n. sun
 šaňcúb - n. gift
 tuřom - n. large bowl
 kukoň - n. road, path
 šansom - n. darkness, night
 šánaaf - n. tiredness
 tuyóň - n. city
 óóm - n. sky, God
 kusee - n. being, person (formal)
 waaň - n. priest, priestess
 cotóm - n. hillock, mound
 calelt - n. fawn
 šaňím - n. space, room
 šigonj - n. young-man
 šijííd - n. young-woman
 kuton - n. school
 tutúng - n. large landmass, continent
 iksíg - n. belt
 kask - n. fire
 túngisaaw - n. harbour, coastline
 šankwob - n. measure, standard
 kukoňitwéé - n. river
 fúňitwéé - n. lake, sea
 fomifól - n. sky
 seriduyóň - n. burgher, business owner, clerk, urban professional, middle-class individual
 tuyóňifooy - n. capital city
 twéétwum - n. alcohol

womifel - n. bed-sheet
 oosúmi - n. obl. palace
 edéé - n. servant
 ujún - n. plough — Dialectical, sometimes rendered as *uñún* in order to reflect contemporary Túng pronunciation.
 olon - n. yoke — Dialectical.
 talap - n. furrow — Dialectical.
 tíík - n. bird
 sak - n. thing, item, property
 fosti - n. obl. hair
 hiili - n. obl. blood
 kutéég - n. prey
 šanee - n. life, being

Adjectives

kál - adj. black, dark brown, maroon
 som - adj. black, dark blue
 hooy - adj. yellow, green
 kééd - adj. red, orange
 cíñ - adj. small, little, a few
 taay - adj. large, big, much, many
 tum - adj. happy, joyful, lovely
 fay - adj. good
 koo - num. one
 yin - num. two
 sap - num. three
 hap - num. four
 tyar - num. five
 kól - num. six

Verbs

ee - v. pro. sup. to be
 koñ - v. pro. to step, to go, to leave, to come, to meet
 kom - v. pro. to do, to make
 cúp - v. pro. to be generous, to give
 šóór - v. to be useful, to be good, to be diligent, to use
 week - v. pro. to cut, to slice
 cót - v. pro. to speak, to say, to talk
 wal - v. pro. to carry, to convey
 ton - v. pro. to hold, to have, to know, to learn
 foor - v. to write
 yím - v. to be long, to be tall, to stretch, to extend, to show
 tam - v. to follow
 coñ - v. to open, to begin, to start

šéén - v. to fall, to fail
 šil - v. to pass
 haaf - v. to be tired, to be weary, to tire
 tíw - v. pro. to see, to know (perfective)
 twum - v. be heavy, be full, fill
 kwaa - v. pro. to sit
 told - v. to be quick, to run
 elb - v. be akin to, be like
 wer - v. to lie down, to rest, to sleep
 kíš - v. pro. to eat
 kigonc - v. be male, be masculine, to masculinise
 koň tíw - v. pro. to find - From *koň* 'to go' and *tíw* 'to see'.
 sík - v. pro. to tie, to fasten
 twéék - v. pro. to cut, to reap, to harvest
 yak - v. to become hard, to be stiff, to be stern, to harden
 tíw yak - v. to judge, to regard negatively, to scrutinise
 kwát - v. to fear, to be scared of, to worry
 kwof - v. to count
 yet - v. to seek, to want
 kyod - v. be dear to, be beloved, to love, to like
 twep - v. to be near, to be close to
 kélk - v. to drink
 téék - v. to hunt
 taad - v. to stop, to prevent
 sat - v. pro. to receive, to feel
 kom twéé - v. pro. to soak

Prepositions

šo - pre. to, towards, at, on
 šil - pre. through, along, into
 koň - pre. from, of, because of, due to
 week - pre. away from, apart from
 kwaa - pre. atop, with, while

Adverbs

šweeg - adv. until, to the point of, finally, eventually
 šom - adv. when, where, at the point, at the place
 šiyom - adv. by doing so, having done so
 koňom - adv. from doing so, and so
 weecom - adv. but, rather
 tadat - adv. always

Conjunctions

ci - conj. if

Particles

i - part. relative particle
 fu - part. privative particle
 ki - part. interrogative particle

Pronouns

huu - pro. 1s.
 saa - pro. 2s.
 kon - pro. 3s.
 yaa - pro. 1pl.
 saa - pro. 2pl.
 kón - pro. 3pl.
 yom - pro. this
 it - pro. that (proximal)
 kyaa - pro. that (distal), other
 kas - pro. indefinite pronoun

Classifiers

ser - class. human nouns
 fúñ - class. large, flat nouns
 kíp - class. round nouns

Chrestomathy

Letter

A letter from a new student of *Som Kuton Fay Óóm* ('Navy Blue School of the Good God') to her mother.

Šo Aamaa,

Tam-tam-íí šil kukoň-i i yím, sal-íí-ya šweeg šo Kukoňi-Kól-Fúñ, šom ōból coň-ii šéén šil, cíñ tíw-ii-w šo tuyóň-i šo fól-i koň šansom-i šánaaf-i, koňom sal-ii-w told šil huu šańím-i, huu šéén-ii yan šo kwā huu fel-i. Huu haaf-haab-ii sal-u šo cín-u! Šo yin fól sal-ii-w šo kon—sen-g eey-g Šańcúbóóm, eey-g cíñ šijííd—cíñ-ii kwaa huu weecom cíñ-aa kwaa cíñ-íí ya Tumtum-i—i taay cót-on sol, weecom tam-íí sol šil fay kukoň-i say, i šóór. Toogon eey-g seriduyóň koň Tómom, foogon eey-g oojííd koň kuton koň tuyóň-i, weecom Šańcúbóóm kód-íí-g sol fay, i elb oojííd—cót-u yan koň foogon.

Ya oojííd-i eey-g Ōdumtaay, fay i šóór-šóór, weecom i yak, kon taay tam-íí sol šil fay kukoň-i say, tíw-ii-w yan eey-g fay, weecom hu kwád-ii tíw-g yan yak šo huu ci huu šéén yan week kon fay šankwob-i. Huu yet-yed-íí sol koo yím fay-íí šankwob šo cíñ Tumtum.

Cót šo kon huu cin-g i taay-í kyod taay-í kyód sol kón, elb huu kyód sol sáá, foow. Huu foorí sol twep šo saa, saa cíñ Calelt-i.

to mum,

INTENS-follow-IPFV-PL along road-DEF REL, go.to-PFV-PL-1pl. finally at Kukoñi-Kól-Fúñ, when sun set-IPFV pass-SUBJ through, little see-IPFV-1s. at city-DEF at day-DEF due.to darkness-DEF tiredness-DEF, and.so go.to-PFV-1s. quick into 1s. room-PS, 1s. fall-PFV PFV to atop 1s. bed-PS. 1s. INTENS-be.tired-IPFV go.to-SUBJ-1s. to sister-1s.! at second day go.to-PFV-1s. to 3s.—name-3s. be-IPFV-3s. Šańcúbóóm, be-IPFV-3s. small woman—small-COMP atop 1s. but small-NEG.COMP atop small-SUPR 1pl. Tumtum-PS—REL much talk-SUBJ-HAB-3s. HAB, but follow-HAB HAB good road-DEF PL, REL be.diligent-SUBJ-IPFV. father-3s. be-PFV-3s. businessman from Tomom, mother-3s. be-IPFV-3s. teacher of school of city-DEF, but Šańcúbóóm speak-IPFV-HAB-3s. HAB well, REL akin.to-SUBJ-IPFV respectable.woman—speak-PFV-1s. PFV due.to mother-3s.

1pl. teacher-PS be-IPFV-3s. Tumtaay, good REL INTENS-be.learned-SUBJ, but REL be.stern-SUBJ, 3s. much follow-HAB-3s.-HAB HAB along good road-DEF PL, see-PFV-1s. PFV be-IPFV-3s. good, but 1s. fear-IPFV see-SUBJ-PFV-3s. PFV be.hard at 1s. if fall-SUBJ-PFV PFV away.from 3s. good measure-PS. 1s. INTENS-want-HAB HAB first show-SUBJ good-SUPR measure to small Tumtum.

speak-IMP to 3s. 1s. sister-3s. REL be.beloved-SUBJ-IPFV much-SUPR love-SUBJ-HAB HAB 3s.-ACC, akin.to 1s. much-SUPR love-SUBJ-HAB HAB 2s.-ACC., mother-1s.. write-FUT FUT soon to 2s., 2s. small Calelt-PS.

To Mum,

Following the long road, we finally arrived at Kukoni-Kol-Funy, when the sun was just beginning to set, and so on the first day, due to darkness and tiredness, I saw very little of the city, and I quickly went into my room to fall onto my bed. I was too tired to even meet my sister! I met her the day after—her name is Sanchubom, she is a short young woman, shorter than me, but not as short as our littlest Tumtum, and she talks a lot, but follows the righteous path, being very studious. Her father is a businessman from Tomom, while her mother is a teacher at a school in the city, but Sanchubom speaks very well, like a gentlewoman—I imagine due to her mother.

Our teacher is Ms. Tumsay, who is good and very learned, but stern, and she follows the righteous path very diligently, which I know is good, but I fear she will look down on me if I fail to live up to her good standard. I only want to set a good standard for little Tumtum.

Tell her I, her dearest sister, love her very much, as much as I love you, Mother. I will write to you soon; your little Calelt.

5MOYD 1691st

Sal-í-g tíw šo cíň kúj-i i kigonc i wer kwaa arp.

come-PFV-PL-3pl. see-SUBJ-IPFV to small child-PS REL be.male-SUBJ-IPFV REL
lie-SUBJ-IPFV atop earth.

"There they found a child, a little boy, lying on the ground."

5MOYD 1106th

Weecom elb sál-k šil kyaa kukoň.

rather akin.tp-SUBJ-IPFV go-SUBJ-PFV-PL-3pl. along that.distal path

"It seems like they had just (already) gone on another path"

5MOYD 867th

Táwk-i say koň-í-g šil week tutúng-i šo fen-i say.

animal-DEF PL go-IPFV-PL-3pl. along away.from continent-DEF to island-DEF PL

"The animals cross over again to the islands (from the mainland)."

5MOYD 1347th

"It drinks its blood while (its prey is still) running."

Kon kélk-ii hiil-k kwaa kon kutéég-i taad-ii fu told.

3s. drink-IPFV blood-3s. while 3s. prey-PS stop-IPFV NEG run-SUBJ-IPFV

5MOYD 1365th

"I've always felt that there is something a little lacking in my life."

Sát-u sol tadat kas salkon cíň week huu šanee-y.

receive-SUBJ-HAB HAB always ind.pro go-SUBJ-PFV little away.from 1s. life-PS.