L’ewa: A Personal Language

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Abstract

A personal language for use in linguistics research and for a diary.

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Introduction

I've been curious about how language works for a very long time. This curiosity has lead me down many fascinating rabbit holes, but for a long time I have either been cribbing off of other people's work or studying natural languages that don't have a cohesive plan or core to them. Constructed Languages[1] (or conlangs as I will probably be calling them from here on out) are a simpler model of this. You might be familiar with Klingon[2] from the Star Trek series, the various forms of Elvish[3] as described by J. R. R. Tolkien or Dothraki[4] from Game of Thrones. This series will show an example of how one of those kinds of languages are created.

Recently a challenge came up on /r/conlangs[5] called ReConLangMo[6] and I've decided to take a stab at this and flesh this out into a personal language[7].

The language I am going to create will be called L'ewa (/l.ʔɛ.wa/, also romanized `lewa` for filesystems). This word is identical in English and in L'ewa. It means "is a language". The name came to me in a shower a while ago and I'm not entirely sure where it came from.

This language is being designed as a personal language to help me keep a diary (more on that later) and to act as a testbed for writing a computational knowledge engine, much like IBM's Watson. I do not expect anyone else to use this language. I may pull this language into fiction (if that ever gets off the ground) or into other projects as it makes sense.

Some of the high level things I want to try in this language are ways to make me think differently. I'm following the weak form of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis[8] by this logic. I want to see what would happen if I give myself a tool that I can use to help myself think in different ways. Other features I plan to include are:

- A seximal[9] number system
- A predicate-argument system similar to Lojban[10]
- Nounlessness (only having verbs for content words) like Salishan[11] languages
- An a-priori[12] (or made up) vocabulary
- Grammatical markers for the identity of the thinker of a sentence/phrase/word
- Make each grammatical feature and word logical, or working in one way only
- Typeable with standard QWERTY en-US keyboards
- A decorative script that I'll turn into a font

L'wea as A Diary Language

When I was younger, I used to keep a diary/journal file on my computers off and on. I was detailed about what I was feeling and what I was considering and going through. This all ended abruptly after my parents were snooping through my computer in middle school and discovered that I was

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructed_language
[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klingon_language
[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvish_languages
[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dothraki_language
[5] https://www.reddit.com/r/conlangs/
[6] https://www.reddit.com/r/conlangs/comments/gbgvu0/reconlangmo_2020/
[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artistic_language#Personal_languages
[8] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistic_relativity
[9] https://www.seximal.net/
[10] https://lojban.pw/cll/uncll-1.2.6/xhtml_section_chunks/chapter-tour.html#section-bridi
[11] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salishan_languages
[12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constructed_language#A_priori_and_a_posteriori_languages

questioning fundamental aspects of myself like my gender. I have never really felt comfortable keeping a diary file since then. I have made a few attempts at this (including by using a dedicated diary machine, air-gapped TempleOS machines and the like), but they all feel too vulnerable and open for anyone to read them.

This is my logic for using a language that I create for myself. If people really want to go through and take the time to learn the ins and outs of a tool I created for myself to archive my personal thoughts, they probably deserve to be able to read them. Otherwise, this would allow me to write my diary from pretty much anywhere, even in plain sight out in public. People can't shoulder-surf and read what they literally cannot understand.

Changelog

All notable changes to this project will be documented in this file.

The format is based on Keep a Changelog[13], and this project adheres to Semantic Versioning[14].

[Unreleased]

Added

- Initial setup and formatting
- First Section on introduction stuff
- Phonology chapter
- Morphosyntactic typology chapter
- Fun with Nouns and Verbs chapter
- Color words section
- Dictionary appendix
- Sentence Structure Semantics chapter
- Lexicon chapter

[13] https://keepachangelog.com/en/1.0.0/
[14] https://semver.org/spec/v2.0.0.html

Phonology and Writing

I am taking inspiration from Lojban, Esperanto, Mandarin Chinese and English to design the phonology of L'ewa. All of the phonology will be defined using the International Phonetic Alphabet[15]. If you want to figure out how to pronounce these sounds, a lazy trick is to google them. Wikipedia will have a perfectly good example to use as a reference. There are two kinds of sounds in L'ewa, consonants and vowels.

Phonology

Consonants

Consonant inventory: /d f g h j k l m n p q r s t w ʃ ʒ ʔ ʙ̥/

Manner/Place	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labio-velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal	m	n						
Stop	p	t d			k g		q	ʔ
Fricative	f	s	ʃ ʒ					h
Approximant				j		w		
Trill	ʙ̥	r						
Lateral approximant		l						

The weirdest consonant is /ʙ̥/, which is a voiceless bilabial trill, or blowing air through your lips without making sound. This is intended to imitate a noise an orca would make.

Vowels

Vowel inventory: /a ɛ i o u/

Diphthongs: au, oi, ua, ue, uo, ai, ɛi

	Front	Back
High	i	u
High-mid		o
Low-mid	ɛ	
Low	a	

Romanization

L'ewa's romanization is intentionally simple. Most of the IPA letters keep their letters, but the ones that do not match to Latin letters are listed below:

[15] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet

Pronunciation	Spelling
/j/	*y*
/ɛ/	*e*
/ʃ/	*x*
/ʒ/	*z*
/ʔ/	*'*
/ʁ̥/	*b*

This is designed to make every letter typeable on a standard US keyboard, as well as mapping as many letters as possible on the home row of a QWERTY keyboard.

Phonotactics

I plan to have two main kinds of words in L'ewa. I plan to have content and particle words. The content words will refer to things, properties, or actions (such as `tool`, `red`, `run`) and the particle words will change how the grammar of a sentence works (such as `the` or prepositions).

The main kind of content word is a root word, and they will be in the following forms:

- CVCCV (/ʒa.sko/)
- CCVCV (/lʔ.ɛwa/)

Particles will mostly fall into the following forms:

- V (/a/)
- VV (/ai/)
- CV (/ba/)
- CVV (/bai/)

Proper names *should* end with consonants, but there is no hard requirement.

L'ewa is a stressed language, with stress on the second-to-last (penultimate) syllable. For example, the word "zasko" would be pronounced "ZAsko".

Syllables end on stop consonants if one is present in a consonant cluster. Two stop consonants cannot follow eachother in a row.

Writing

I haven't completely fleshed this part out yet, but I want the writing system of L'ewa to be an abugida[16]. This is a kind of written script that has the consonants make the larger shapes but the vowels are small diacritics over the consonants. If the word creation process is done right, you can actually omit the vowels entirely if they are not relevant.

I plan to have this script be written by hand with pencils/pen and typed into computers, just like English. This script will also be a left-to-right script like English.

[16] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abugida

Morphosyntactic Typology

Word Order

L'ewa is normally a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) language like English. However, the word order of a sentence can be changed if it is important to specify some part of the sentence in particular.

I haven't completely finalized the particles for this, but I'd like to use `ka` to denote the subject, `ke` to denote the verb and `ku` to denote the object. For example if the input sentence is something like:

```
/mi/ /mad.sa/ /lo/ /spa.lo/
mi   madsa    lo   spalo
 I   eat      an   apple
```

You could emphasize the eating with:

```
/kɛ/ /mad.sa/ /ka/ /mi/ /lo/ /spa.lo/
[ke] madsa    ka   mi   lo   spalo
V    eat      S    I    an   apple
```

(the `ke` is in square brackets here because it is technically not required, but it can make more sense to be explicit in some cases)

or the apple with:

```
/ku/ /lo/ /spalo/ /kɛ/ /mad.sa/ /mi
ku   lo   spalo   ke   madsa    mi
O    an   apple   V    eat      I
```

L'ewa doesn't really have adjectives or adverbs in the normal indo-european sense, but it does have a way to analytically combine meanings together. For example if `qa'te` is the word for `is fast/quick/rapid in rate`, then saying you are quickly eating (or wolfing food down) would be something like:

```
/qaʔ.tɛ/          /mad.sa/
qa'te             madsa
is fast [kind of] eat
```

These are assumed to be metaphorical by default. It's not always clear what someone would mean by a fast kind of language (would they be referencing Speedtalk[17]?)

L'ewa doesn't always require a subject or object if it can be figured out from context. You can just say "rain" instead of "it's raining". By default, the first word in a sentence without an article is the verb. The ka/ke/ku series needs to be used if the word order deviates from Subject-Verb-Object (it functions a lot like the selma'o FA from Lojban).

Morphological Typology

L'ewa is a analytic language. Every single word has only one form and particles are used to modify the meaning or significance of words. There are only two word classes: content and particles.

[17] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speedtalk

Alignment

L'ewa is a nominative-accusative language. Other particles may be introduced in the future to help denote the relations that exist in other alignments, but I don't need them yet.

Word Classes

As said before, L'ewa only has two word classes, content (or verbs) and particles to modify the significance or relations between content. There is also a hard limit of two arguments per verb, which should help avoid the problems that Lojban has with its inconsistent usage of the x3, x4 and x5 places.

As the content words are all technically verbs, there is no real need for a copula. The ka/ke/ku series can also help to break out of other things that modify "noun-phrases" (when those things exist). There are also no nouns, adjectives or adverbs, because analytically combining words completely replaces the need for them.

Nouns and verbs do not inflect for numbers. If numbers are needed they can be provided, otherwise the default is to assume "one or more".

Fun with Nouns and Verbs

Other Noun Things

At a high level, noun-phrases can be marked for direct ownership or number. The general pattern is like this:

```
<article> [pronoun] [negation] [number] <verb>
```

Pronouns

Here's some of the pronouns:

English	L'ewa
me, I	mi
My system and I	mi'a
you	ro
we (all-inclusive)	mi'o
your system and you	ro'a
This (near me)	ti
That (near you)	ta
That (far away)	tu

Numbers

Numbers are in base six[18]. Here are a few numerals:

Decimal	Seximal	L'ewa
0	0	zo
1	1	ja
2	2	he
3	3	xu
4	4	ho
5	5	qi
6	10	jazo
36	100	gau

Here are few non-numerals-but-technically-still-numbers-I-guess:

English	L'ewa
all	to
some	ra'o
number-question	so

[18] https://www.seximal.net/

Negation

As L'ewa is more of a logical language, it has several forms of negation. Here are a few:

English	L'ewa
contradiction	na
total scalar negation	na'o
particle negation	nai

na can be placed before the sentence's verb too:

```
ti na spalo
This is something other than an apple
```

Verb Forms

Verbs have one form in L'ewa. Aspects like tense or the perfective aspect are marked with particles. Here's a table of the common ones:

English	L'ewa
past tense	qu
present tense	qa
future tense	qo
perfective aspect	qe

Modality

Modality is going to be expressed with emotion words. These words have not been assigned yet, but their grammar will be a lot looser than the normal L'ewa particle grammar. They will allow any two vowels in any combination that might otherwise make them not "legal" for particles.

- VV (ii)
- V'V (i'i)

Explicitly Ending Noun Phrases

In case it is otherwise confusing, ko can be used to end noun phrases grammatically.

Color Words

L'ewa uses a RGB color system like computers. The basic colors are red, green and blue, with some other basic ones for convenience:

English	L'ewa
blue	blanu
red	delja
green	qalno
yellow	yeplo
teal	te'ra
pink	hetlo

English	L'ewa
black	xekri
white	pu'ro
50% gray	flego

Colors will be mixed by creating compound words between base colors. Compound words still need to be fleshed out, but generally all CVCCV words will have wordparts made out of the first, second and fifth letter, unless the vowel pair is illegal and all CCVCV words are the first, second and fifth letter unless this otherwise violates the morphology rules. Like I said though, this really needs to be fleshed out and this is only a preview for now.

For example a light green would be puoqa'o (pu'lo qalno, white-green).

Connectives

Connectives exist to link noun phrases and verbs together into larger noun phrases and verbs. They can also be used to link together sentences. There are four simple connectives: fa (OR), fe (AND), fi (connective question), fo (if-and-only-if) and fu (whether-or-not).

OR

```
ro au madsa lo spalo fa lo hafto?
Do you want to eat an apple or an egg?
```

AND

```
ro au madsa lo spalo fe lo hafto?
Do you want to eat an apple and an egg?
```

If and Only If

```
ro 'amwo mi fo mi madsa hafto?
Do you love me if I eat eggs?
```

Whether or Not

```
mi 'amwo ro. fu ro madsa hafto.
I love you, whether or not you eat eggs.
```

Connective Question

```
ro au madsa lo spalo fi lo hafto?
Do you want to eat apples and/or eggs?
```

Sentence Structure Semantics

Independent Clause Structure

Most of the time L'ewa sentences have only one clause. This can be anything from a single verb to a subject, verb and object. However, sometimes more information is needed. Consider this sentence:

`The dog which is blue is large.`

This kind of a relative clause would be denoted using `hoi`, which would make the sentence roughly the following in L'ewa:

`le wufra hoi blanu xi brado.`

The particle `xi` is needed here in order to make it explicit that the subject noun-phrase has ended.

Similarly, an incidental relative clause is done with with `joi`:

```
le  wufra  joi              blanu    ke brado
the dog,   which by the way is blue,    is big.
```

Questions

There are a few ways to ask questions in L'ewa. They correlate to the different kinds of things that the speaker could want to know.

ma

`ma` is the particle used to fill in a missing/unknown noun phrase. Consider these sentences:

```
ma   blanu?
what is blue?
```

```
ro  qa madsa   ma?
you are eating what?
```

no

`no` is the particle used to fill in a missing/unknown verb. Consider these sentences:

```
ro no?
How are you doing?
```

```
le wufra xi no?
The dog did what?
```

so

`so` is the particle used to ask questions about numbers, similar to the "how many" construct in English.

```
ro madsa so spalo?
You ate how many apples?
```

```
le so zasko xi qa'te glowa
How many plants grow quickly?
```

Lexicon

Word Distinctions

L'ewa is intended to be a logical language. One of the side effects of L'ewa being a logical language is that each word should have as minimal and exact of a meaning/function as possible. English has lots of words that cover large semantic spaces (like go, set, run, take, get, turn, good, etc.) without much of a pattern to it. I don't want this in L'ewa.

Let's take the word "good" as an example. Off the top of my head, good can mean any of the following things:

- beneficial
- aesthetically pleasing
- favorful taste
- saintly (coincidentally this is the source of the idiom "God is good")
- healthy

I'm fairly sure there are more "senses" of the word good, but let's break these into their own words:

L'ewa	Definition
firgu	is beneficial/nice to
n'ixu	is aesthetically pleasing to
flawo	is tasty/has a pleasant flavor to
spiro	is saintly/holy/morally good to
qanro	is healthy/fit/well/in good health

Each of these words has a very distinct and fine-grained meaning, even though the range is a bit larger than it would be in English. These words also differ from a lot of the other words in the L'ewa dictionary so far because they can take an object. Most of the words so far are adjective-like because it doesn't make sense for there to be an object attached to the color blue.

By default, if a word that can take an object doesn't have one, it's assumed to be obvious from context. For example, consider the following set of sentences:

```
mi qa madsa lo spalo. ti flawo!

I am eating an apple. It's delicious!
```

I am working at creating more words using a Swaedish list[19].

Family Words

Family words are a huge part of a language because it encodes a lot about the culture behind that language. L'ewa isn't really intended to have much of a culture behind it, but the one place I want to take a cultural stance is here. The major kinship word is kirta, or "is an infinite slice of an even greater infinite". This is one of the few literal words in L'ewa that is defined using a metaphor, as there is really no good analog for this in English.

[19] https://tulpa.dev/cadey/lewa/src/branch/master/words/swaedish207.csv

L'ewa has a fairly custom kinship system. Here is a high level of conversion between English and L'ewa:

English	L'ewa term	L'ewa word
brother/sister	sibling	xinga
mother/father	parent	pa'ma
grandfather/grandmother	grandparent	gra'u
aunt/uncle	parent	pa'ma
cousin	sibling	xinga

These terms can also be applied to anyone, not just your immediate genetic family.

Idioms

L'ewa strives to have as few idioms as possible. If something is meant non-literally (or as a conceptual metaphor[20]), the particle ke'a can be used:

```
ti firgu
This is beneificial

ti ke'a firgu
This is metaphorically/non-literally beneficial
```

[20] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conceptual_metaphor

Conversations

This chapter will cover basic conversation making in L'ewa. TODO(Mai): more filler text here.

Greetings and Farewell

"Hello" in L'ewa is said using `xoi`. It can also be used as a reply to hello similar to «ça va» in French. It is possible to have an entire conversation with just `xoi`:

```
<Mai> xoi
<Cadey> xoi
<Mai> xoi
```

The other implications of `xoi` are "how are you?" "I am good, you?", "I am good", etc. If more detail is needed beyond this, then it can be supplied instead of replying with `xoi`.

"Goodbye" is said using `xei`. Like `xoi` it can be used as a reply to another goodbye and can form a mini-conversation:

```
<Cadey> xei
<Mai> xei
<Cadey> xei
```

Feelings

Feelings in L'ewa are marked with a family of particles called "WI". These can also be modified with other particles. Here are the emotional markers:

L'ewa	English
`a'a`	attentive
`a'e`	alertness
`ai`	intent
`a'i`	effort
`a'o`	hope
`au`	desire
`a'u`	interest
`e'a`	permission
`e'e`	competence
`ei`	obligation
`e'i`	constraint
`e'o`	request
`e'u`	suggestion
`ia`	belief
`i'a`	acceptance
`ie`	agreement
`i'e`	approval
`ii`	fear
`i'i`	togetherness
`io`	respect
`i'o`	appreciation

L'ewa	English
iu	love
i'u	familiarity
o'a	pride
o'e	closeness
oi	complaint/pain
o'i	caution
o'o	patience
o'u	relaxation
ua	discovery
u'a	gain
ue	surprise
u'e	wonder
ui	happiness
u'i	amusement
uo	completion
u'o	courage
uu	pity
u'u	repentant

If an emotion is unknown in a conversation, you can ask with `kei`:

```
<Mai> xoi, so kei?
      hi,  what-verb what-feeling?

<Cadey> madsa ui
        eating :D
```

Information Structure

L'ewa doesn't have any particular structure for marking previously known information, as normal sentences should suffice in most cases. Consider this paragraph:

```
I saw you eat an apple. Was it tasty?
```

Since `an apple` was the last thing mentioned in the paragraph, the vague "it" pronoun in the second sentence can be interpreted as "the apple".

L'ewa doesn't have a way to mark the topic of a sentence, that should be obvious from context (additional clauses to describe things will help here). In most cases the subject should be equivalent to the topic of a sentence.

L'ewa doesn't directly offer ways to emphasize parts of sentences with phonemic stress like English does (eg: "I THOUGHT you ate an apple" vs "I thought you ATE an apple"), but emotion words can be used to help indicate feelings about things, which should suffice as far as emphasis goes.

Discourse Structure

Conversationally, a lot of things in L'ewa grammar get dropped unless it's ambiguous. The I/yous that get tacked on in English are completely unneeded. A completely valid conversation could look something like this:

```
<Mai> xoi
<Cadey> xoi
<Mai> xoi madsa?
```

```
<Cadey> lo spalo
```

And it would roughly equate to:

```
<Mai> Hi
<Cadey> Hi, you doing okay?
<Mai> Yes, have you eaten?
<Cadey> Yes, I ate an apple
```

People know when they can speak after a sufficient pause between utterances. Interrupting is not common but not a social faux-pas, and can be used to stop a false assumption from being said.

Utterances

An utterance in L'ewa is anything from a single content word all the way up to an entire paragraph of sentences. An emotion particle can be a complete utterance. A question particle can be a complete utterance, anything can be an utterance. A speaker may want to choose more succinct options when the other detail is already contextually known or simply not relevant to the listener.

L'ewa has a few discourse particles, here are a few of the more significant ones:

L'ewa	Function
xi	signals that the verb of the sentence is coming next
ko	ends a noun phrase
ka	marks something as the subject of the sentence
ke	marks something as the verb of the sentence
ku	marks something as the object of the sentence

Formality

The informal dialect of L'ewa drops everything it can. The formal dialect retains everything it can, to the point where it includes noun phrase endings, the verb signaler, ka/ke/ku and every single optional particle in the language. The formal dialect will end up sounding rather wordy compared to informal slangy speech. Consider the differences between informal and formal versions of "I eat an apple":

```
mi madsa lo spalo.
```

```
ka mi ko xi ke madsa ku lo spalo ko.
```

Nearly all of those particles are not required in informal speech (you could even get away with `madsa lo spalo` depending on context), but are required in formal speech to ensure there is as little contextual confusion as possible. Things like laws or legal rulings would be written out in the formal register.

Dictionary

This chapter of the book will hold a list of all of the words in L'ewa as the time of this book being rendered. This may not be the most up-to-date list of words. See (TODO(Mai): ko finti le vlaste kibystu) for more words.

Root Words

L'ewa	gloss	English
blanu	blue	is blue (color)
blodo	long	is long
brado	big	is big/large/great in size
danma	animal	is an animal
delja	red	is red (color)
dextu	meat	is meat/flesh
fawzo	skin	is skin/bark
fergo	thick	is thick in dimension
firgu	beneficial	is beneficial/nice to
fi'xe	fish	is a fish (kind of animal)
flawo	tasty	is tasty/has a pleasant flavor to
flego	gray	is 50% gray (color)
futjo	tail	is a tail
genza	root	is a root (body part of a plant)
glowa	grow	to grow/get larger/increase in size
gra'u	grandparent	is a/the grandparent of
hafto	egg	is an egg
helbo	heavy	is heavy/has a lot of weight
hetlo	pink	is pink (color)
hu'te	fruit	is a fruit
jaflo	bird	is a bird/avian
jandi	grass	is grass
jexlo	tree	is a tree
jifto	fat	is fat
kligo	rope	is a rope/cord
kirta	Creator	is an infinite slice of an even greater infinite/our Creator/a Creator
kwaro	wide	is wide/broad
l'ewa	language	is a language
lifta	leaf	is a leaf
li'li	small	is small/tiny/little
lorne	horn	is a horn
lufta	feather	is a feather
madsa	eat	eats/consumes/is eating/to eat
mlato	cat	is a cat/feline
modlo	thin	is thin in dimension
n'ixu	pleasant	is aesthetically pleasing to
ni'he	blood	is blood
nlaro	narrow	is narrow

L’ewa	gloss	English
pa’ma	parent	is the/a parent of
pu’ro	white	is white (color)
qalno	green	is green (color)
qanro	healthy	is healthy/fit/well/in good health
qa’te	fast	is fast/rapid in rate
qonmu	non-binary	is non-binary/not defined by commonly used binary systems of classification
renma	person	is a person (not always implied to be human)
retna	snake	is a snake
ristu	network	is a network/graph/transportation system/distribution system
rosgi	flower	is a flower (plant body part)
spalo	apple	is an apple
spiro	holy	is saintly/holy/morally good to
sposu	spouse	is a/the spouse of
stugi	stick	is a stick
te’ra	teal	is teal (color)
ti’ko	child	is a child
tulpa	construct	to build/construct
txana	node	is a station/node of/in/on a network/graph/transportation system/distribution system
wogno	bone	is bone
womjo	worm	is a worm/earthworm
wufra	dog	is a dog
xekri	black	is black (color)
xinga	sibling	is a/the sibling of
xitsa	short	is short/of little length
xu’zo	seed	is a seed
yeplo	yellow	is yellow (color)
zasko	plant	is a plant/is vegetation
zlose	louse	is a louse/flea
’amwo	love	to love

Particles

L’ewa	family	gloss	English
mi	MI	me, I	the current speaker
mi’a	MI	we (system)	the system of the current speaker, inclusive
mi’o	MI	we (all)	any speaker, any listener and any others
ro	MI	you	the listener
ro’a	MI	you (+ system)	the system of the listener
ti	TI	this	the currently referenced object near the speaker
ta	TI	that	that (near listener)
tu	TI	that	that (far away)

L’ewa	family	gloss	English
ka	KA	subject marker	explicitly marks noun-phrase as the subject of the verb
ke	KA	verb marker	explicitly marks following phrase as a verb
ku	KA	object marker	explicitly marks following phrase as the object of the verb
lo	LO	a/an	indefinite article
le	LO	the	definite article
la	LO	proper noun	proper name article
zo	JA	zero	zero
ja	JA	one	one
he	JA	two	two
xu	JA	three	three
ho	JA	four	four
qi	JA	five	five
gau	JA	nif	nif (dec 36)
to	JA	all	all/every
ra’o	JA	some	some amount of/a few
so	JA	how many?	how many/number question
na	NA	total negation	something other than, total negation
na’o	NA	scalar negation	the opposite of
nai	NA	particle negation	negation of a particular particle
qu	QA	past tense	marks noun phrase / verb as past tense
qa	QA	present tense	marks noun phrase / verb as present tense
qo	QA	future tense	marks noun phrase / verb as future tense
qe	QA	perfective aspect	marks noun phrase / verb as perfective, or completed
ko	KO	end of noun phrase	explicitly ends a noun phrase when the grammar is otherwise ambiguous
fa	FA	or	logical or
fe	FA	and	logical and
fi	FA	connective question	which connective?
fo	FA	if-and-only-if	connects two units with the if-and-only-if connotation
fu	FA	whether-or-not	logical connective of two units with the wehther or not connotation

L’ewa	family	gloss	English
xi	XI	subject-verb separator	the optional separator between the subject and the verb, sometimes needed when it is otherwise grammatically vague
hoi	HOI	relative clause	creates a relative/descriptive clause giving more context to a given noun phrase, arguments should be verbs
joi	HOI	incidental relative clause	creates a relative/descriptive clause giving more incidental context to a given noun phrase, arguments should be verbs
ma	MA	what/which	used to fill a missing noun-phrase
no	NO	verb question	verb question, used to fill a missing/unknown verb
ke’a	KE’A	metaphor	metaphorically/non-literally
xoi	XOI	hello	hello, etc
xei	XOI	goodbye	goodbye, etc
a’a	UI	attentive	attentive emotional indicator
a’e	UI	alertness	alertness emotional indicator
ai	UI	intent	intent emotional indicator
a’o	UI	hope	hope emotional indicator
au	UI	desire	desire emotional indicator
a’u	UI	interest	interest emotional indicator
e’a	UI	permission	permission emotional indicator
e’e	UI	competence	competence emotional indicator
ei	UI	obligation	obligation emotional indicator
e’i	UI	constraint	constraint emotional indicator
e’o	UI	request	request emotional indicator
e’u	UI	suggestion	suggestion emotional indicator
ia	UI	belief	belief emotional indicator
i’a	UI	acceptance	acceptance emotional indicator
ie	UI	agreement	agreement emotional indicator

L’ewa	family	gloss	English
i’e	UI	approval	approval emotional indicator
ii	UI	fear	fear emotional indicator
i’i	UI	togetherness	togetherness emotional indicator
io	UI	respect	respect emotional indicator
i’o	UI	appreciation	appreciation emotional indicator
iu	UI	love	love emotional indicator
i’u	UI	familiarity	familiarity emotional indicator
o’a	UI	pride	pride emotional indicator
o’e	UI	closeness	closeness emotional indicator
oi	UI	complaint	complaint emotional indicator
o’i	UI	caution	caution emotional indicator
o’o	UI	patience	patience emotional indicator
o’u	UI	relaxation	relaxation emotional indicator
ua	UI	discovery	discovery emotional indicator
u’a	UI	gain	gain emotional indicator
ue	UI	surprise	surprise emotional indicator
u’e	UI	wonder	wonder emotional indicator
ui	UI	happiness	happiness emotional indicator
u’i	UI	amusement	amusement emotional indicator
uo	UI	completion	completion emotional indicator
u’o	UI	courage	courage emotional indicator
uu	UI	pity	pity emotional indicator
kei	KEI	emotion question	question about what emotion the other side of the conversation is feeling