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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble: [abdiwonaks]

Chap. I: Linguistic overview [avomaveem]
Chap. II: Historical evolution of Kotava [towarizvot va Kotava]

Phonology: [mamopaf bolk]

Chap. I: Kotava alphabet [abava]
Chap. II: The 2011 reform [fabdura ba 2011]
Chap. III: Stress [bioskara]

Orthography: [suteraf bolk]

Chap. I: Graphical peculiarities [suteraptaceem]
Chap. II: Transcriptions of proper nouns [remsutera va pilkayolt]
Chap. III: Use of capital letters [unera va eltayap]
Chap. IV: Use of punctuation marks [unera va tcala]

Grammatical system: [pulviropaf bolk]

Chap. I: Morphological chart [tazukak]

Chap. II: Substantives [yolt]

- A : Gender marking [yoltoxi]
- B : Euphonic agreement [mamanyara]
- C : Expression of plural [tukontara]
- D : Proper nouns and classifiers [pilkayolt is pulaxa]

Chap. III: Verbs [gray]

- A : Verbal stem [grayzaeya]
- B : Speech acts [grayeweem]
- C : Moods [graysareeem]
- D : Tenses [graysareeem]
- E : Polarity [graysokeem]
- F : Aspects [graykerdeleem]
- G : Modalities [graycaveindeem]
- H : Voices [graywoyokeem]
- I : Persons [grayilkomeem]
- J : Pragmatics [grayilkomeem]
- K : Relative-participial mood [trendacave]
- L : Synthesis on the verb
- M : Transitive, ditransitive and intransitive verbs [tanmukodaf grayeem isu tolmukodaf isu mukodiskaf]
- N : Impersonal verbs [ilikomiskaf grayeem]
- O : Stative verbs [sokaf grayeem]
- P : Sensation verbs [pestaleraf grayeem]
- Q : Motion verbs [liziweraf grayeem]
Chap. IV: Determinatives [gotuxa]

- A: Adjectives [soreleem]
- B: Actualisers [tunoelaxeem]

Chap. V: Pronouns [ikayolt]

- A: Personal pronouns [ilkomaf ikayolteem]
- B: Possessive pronouns [dikiraf ikayolteem]
- C: Relative pronouns and others [skedaraf ikayolteem isu ar]

Chap. VI: Adverbs [muge]

- A: Root adverbs, underived [xantaf mugeeem]
- B: Adverbial series [mugeenkeem]
- C: Manner adverbs, derived [baskaf mugeeem]

Chap. VII: Interjections [divieks]

Chap. VIII: Prepositions [yaz]

- A: Miscellaneous prepositions (neither locative nor temporal) [mexof is meugalaf yazeem]
- B: Temporal prepositions [ugalaf yazeem]
- C: Locative prepositions [xof yazeem]
- D: Adverbial prepositivisation (prepositional locutions) [mugeyazeem]

Chap. IX: Conjunctions [skedaxa]

- A: Primary subordinating conjunctions [taneodaf dirgas skedaxeem]
- B: Compound subordinating conjunctions [ponan dirgas skedaxeem]
- C: Special coordinative conjunctions [aptaf dobenplekus skedaxeem]
- D: Conjunct adverbs [mugef skedaxeem]
- E: Appositive-substitutive conjunction [ikaaykasa skedaxa]
- F: Coordinative conjunctions [kagluyas skedaxeem]

Chap. X: Affixes [osta]

- A: General affixes [jadif osteem]
- B: Verbalising affixes [tugrayas osteem]
- C: Verbal affixes [grayosteem]
- D: Substantive affixes [yoltosteem]
- E: Determinative affixes [gotuxosteem]
- F: Unproductive nominal suffixes [riwef yoltradimosteem]

Chap. XI: Assertive demonstrativeness [ruyesa danedira]

- A: Post-interrogative assertion [radimikoerurafa ruyera]
- B: Attributive assertion [pilkovoyafa ruyera]
- C: Impersonal determinative assertion [meilikoma gotusa ruyera]
- D: Absolute assertion [belikafa ruyera]
- E: Element focus [ravlemafa tuanulara]

Chap. XII: Compounding [ponara]

- A: Basic compounding [opelafa ponara]
- B: Merger compounds [jesa ponara]
- C: Adverbial compounding [tumugeasa ponara]
Chap. XIII: Word order [ravlemvura]

Chap. XIV: Principles of expression [muxarindeem]

Annexes [yona notraca]
Chapter I: LINGUISTIC OVERVIEW [avomaveem]

Kotava is not a natural language, but a constructed one whose aim is to serve as an auxiliary language between peoples and cultures. To respect and promote the fundamental principle of absolute cultural and philosophical neutrality, it was conceived under an "a priori" logic, notably by not drawing its lexicon from any existing language, past or present, but inventing it in its entirety, and using common grammatical and expressive concepts shared by most of the inhabitants of our Earth, very easy to implement. One of its essential dimensions is also the possibilities of evolution and development in relation to its future speakers.

Kotava is therefore first and foremost an architecture, global principles, living mechanisms, organised into an intrinsically coherent and potentially open system. Its basic assumptions, which define and structure it, have therefore been, are and must remain:

- Neutrality: built on an absolute bias of neutrality towards existing or past languages, not drawing its vocabulary and lexical patterns from any of them.
- Originality: it derives its qualities from its unique internal coherence, and is fundamentally self-sufficient.
- Universality: its logic, mechanisms and phonology are based on broadly universal principles (or nearly so, exceptions being observable).
- Regularity and clarity: importantly, the language is absolutely consistent and eliminates all exceptions, ambiguities and other miscellaneous complications. Its main mechanisms are logical and predictive.
- Simplicity and looseness: to allow for easy learning for the majority without prior knowledge. Simplicity is absolute rather than relative since no known language is borrowed from.
- Richness: rich in potential, variety and initial resources, both grammatical and lexical. Each speaker must be able to express themselves with their own logic, their own prisms and develop their expression without restriction.
- Upgradability: an essential principle, the language needs to be living and evolve with its speakers.

Linguistically and technically, Kotava contains the following major features:

- Simple phonology with five vowels and seventeen consonants loosely defined.
- Simplified Latin alphabet without diacritical marks.
- Mostly agglutinating language (affixing system, tenses, modalities, derivation and compounding), with flexible (personal conjugation, euphonic agreement for determiners, adjectives and participles), and isolating streaks (aspects, voice, pragmatics, prepositions, stem forms). Whatever their degree of fusion, all grammatical features are regular and immediately noticeable.
- No declinations on nouns. No morphological gender.
- "Prepositional" language where every nominal or pronominal complement is indirect and governed by a preposition. There are no postpositions.
- A rather free syntactic order, even if it is mainly SOV (subject – object – verb) or OSV.
- Importance of sentence and utterance without verbs: nominal, adjectival or adverbial ones.
- Ranking of the verb syntax with regards to the notion of speech acts.
- Finally, symbiosis of grammar and expression in a few major determining principles, such as contextuality, minimality, univocity, persistence, non-ambiguity or the position of enunciator.

Chapter II: HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF KOTAVA [towarizvot va Kotava]

1978: Official birth of Kotava
1983: 1st general reform
1993: 2nd general reform
2008: Reform of the plural
2011: Removal of the letter H

From the beginning, it has been stated that Kotava would never be a frozen language, definitively sealed in an intangible linguistic and grammatical framework. The language must evolve regularly with its users, their needs and the observed majority uses, with a necessary part of anticipation. This conception is at its very foundation, therefore this official grammar cannot be considered as a definitive "Fundamento", but simply as a description of the language at some point in time.

Apart from the major dates mentioned above, Kotava is regulated by a Linguistic Committee (Kotava Avaneda) which meets annually and validates or rejects certain proposed evolutions.

This translation of the official grammar (written in French) is from the v4.03/2016 version.
Chapter I: KOTAVA ALPHABET [abava]

There are 24 letters in the Kotava alphabet:
- 5 vowels: a, e, i, o, u
- 17 consonants: b, c, d, f, g, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, x, z
- 2 semivowels: w, y

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Majuscule</th>
<th>Minuscule</th>
<th>IPA Transcription</th>
<th>English Equiv.</th>
<th>Kotava Name</th>
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<td>/b/</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>be</td>
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<td>kh, Spanish jota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>ze</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phonetic peculiarities:
- The letter w (we) does not occur in final position, except in proper nouns. It is in principle always followed by a vowel in Kotava words.
- The letter y (ye) occurs mandatorily before or after at least one vowel except in the general suffix "-any" (on consonant stems), and in proper nouns.

Chapter II: THE 2011 REFORM [fabdura ba 2011]

Since the beginning and until 2011, there was a 25th letter in the alphabet: h (nhe). It was found only after the consonants l, m, n, where it showed palatalisation. It was never initial or after other letters, except in proper nouns. The 2011 reform saw its elimination in favour of the letter y (ye) in all positions. Now it does not exist anymore. However, acquired habits and the corpus of previously written texts mean that its use will only gradually disappear.

Chapter III: STRESS [bloskara]

There is only one rule for stress in Kotava, without any exceptions, other than verbs inflected for the 1st person singular.

- Words ending in a semivowel or a consonant are stressed on the last syllable.

Ex:  
- tuvel (tuvel) 
- felay (felay) 
- sayakik (sayakik)
- Words ending in a vowel are stressed on the penultimate syllable.
  Ex:  \textit{blucte} (blucte)  
        \textit{kando} (kando)  
        \textit{feralia} (feralja)  

- 1\textsuperscript{st} person singular of the verbal conjugation, although ending in a vowel, is stressed on the last syllable by analogy with the rest of the verbal paradigm (characterised by final consonants), hence the diacritical mark.
  Ex:  \textit{jin estū} (jin estū)  
       \textit{jin lusteyē} (jin lusteyē)
Chapter I: GRAPHICAL PECULIARITIES

There is only one diacritical mark in Kotava:

- the acute accent (‘), not compulsory, generally written on the final vowel of verbs inflected for the 1st person singular.

Other diacritical marks (diaeresis, tilde, etc.) do not occur in Kotava, except in proper nouns.

Chapter II: TRANSCRIPTIONS OF PROPER NOUNS

A: Proper nouns from a latin alphabet

These proper nouns are transcribed as is, that is to say, including letters and digraphs not used in Kotava.

Ex: Québec
Washington
A Coruña
Łódź
Århus

B: Proper nouns from a cyrillic or greek alphabet

These proper nouns are transcribed with the Kotava letters with the nearest phonetics available.

Ex: Astrakan (Astrakhan) [Russian]
Moskva (Moscow) [Russian]
Kijív (Kiev) [Ukrainian]
Lenin (Lenin) [Russian]
Atína (Athens) [Greek]
Tergovicte (Tărgovište) [Bulgarian]

C: Proper nouns from another writing system

The relevant international transcription scheme is used.

Ex: Iraq
Hirosíma
Mao Zedong
Beijing

Chapter III: USE OF CAPITAL LETTERS

In Kotava, the use of capital letters gives importance to the word.

Its use is mandatory for the initial letter of a proper noun, a language or a people’s name.

Every sentence must start with a capital letter.

Chapter IV: USE OF PUNCTUATION MARKS

- dot (.): ends a declarative sentence.
- interrogation mark (?): ends an interrogative sentence.
- exclamation mark (!): ends an exclamative sentence.
- injunction mark (‼): or double exclamation mark, ends an injunctive sentence.
- ellipsis (…): or interruptive mark, indicates a suspension in the sentence.
- semicolon (;): marks a stop in the sentence and indicates a certain break.
- comma (,): marks a slight interruption in the sentence.
- colon (:): introduces enumerations and citations.
- quotation marks (""’): surround a quotation, or used for doubts, reservations about a word.
- parentheses ( (): used around additional information.
- hyphen (-): begins lines of dialog, or enumerated lines of lists. Also indicates abbreviations (ex. ikz- for etc.)
- tilde (~): surrounds an interpolated clause, notably dialog commentary.
Chapter I: MORPHOLOGICAL CHART

The great importance of morphology is a defining feature of Kotava. Parts of speech are morphologically delimited and are in hierarchical relationships with each other. Opportunities to move from one to the other, which make up a large part of the richness of the language, are numerous but strictly regulated. This morphological table shows a synthesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Substantives</th>
<th>Determinatives</th>
<th>Derived adverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Substantives</td>
<td>Determinatives</td>
<td>Derived adverbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Determinatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>Derived adverbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pronouns</td>
<td>Prepositions</td>
<td>Primary adverbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pronouns</td>
<td>Prepositions</td>
<td>Primary adverbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Particles</td>
<td>Conjunctions</td>
<td>Interjections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Particles</td>
<td>Conjunctions</td>
<td>Interjections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hierarchy in this chart has five levels:

- **1st level**: substantives and verbs. They are characterised by their two-way relationships with each other and with the determinatives, as well as with themselves.

- **2nd level**: determinatives. They are in morphological relation with almost all other categories and with themselves.

- **3rd level**: adverbs derived from determinatives.

- **4th level**: underived primary adverbs, pronouns and prepositions.

- **5th level**: conjunctions, particles and interjections. These categories are isolated and do not have any relations with other categories.

The first three levels are called open, that is, new words can be created by internal means. On the other hand, the last two are said "closed" because they can only be increased externally, by ex nihilo creation.
Chapter II: SUBSTANTIVES [yolt]

A: Gender marking [yoltoki]

In Kotava, there is no grammatical notion of gender, male, female or any other. All nouns are indeterminate and used as such. Where it is necessary to specify or insist on the natural sex of a human or animal being, specific gender suffixes may be used, "-ya" for females and "-ye" for males.

B: Euphonic agreement [mamanyara]

Even if Kotava does not have semantic gender, the notion of "euphonic agreement" holds a great deal of importance. All determinatives (adjectives, determiners, numerals, participles), some pronouns (e.g. possessive) and general suffixes are subject to this rule, according to which they must be in euphonic agreement with the noun (or pronoun) they refer to, i.e. have a similar euphonic ending. Thus:

- substantives ending in a consonant or semivowel will lead to determinatives, possessive pronouns and general suffix with no vocalic ending
- substantives ending in –a will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)
- substantives ending in –a will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)
- substantives ending in –e will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)
- substantives ending in –i will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)
- substantives ending in –o will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)
- substantives ending in –u will lead to in euphonic agreement with a 3rd person plural (jebed)

Ex: listaf patectoy (a beautiful landscape)
    baroye blucde (three pieces of clothing)
    batj zveri (this bird)

C: Expression of the plural [tukontara]

1) Semantic plural

In Kotava, plurality is mainly a matter of semantics and is expressed with pronouns, determiners and adjectives carrying plurality inherently, with numerals (after 1) and with the personal flexion on the verb.

Ex: koe kelt va aluboy bitej wi (I see five stars in the sky)
    *aluboy (five) is semantically plural
    koe kelt jontik bitej jebed (many stars shine in the sky)
    *jontik (many) semantically plural; the verb agrees with a 3rd person plural (jebed)

2) Indefinite plural determiner "yon"

There is, besides that, a specific indefinite pluralising determiner "yon", when there is no mention of a specific enumeration or quantification. See infra. (chap. IV, § I-b).

Ex: koe kelt va yon bitej rowí (I can see stars in the sky)
    *yon (some, a certain number of) adds a plural reading

3) Plural by particles (before 2008)

Before 2008, Kotava had yet another strategy. This involved the presence of an invariable pluralising independent particle. Two actually, totally interchangeable: "se" and "yo".

To pluralise a noun (or pronoun), the rule was to put the particle "se" or "yo" immediately after, it extending its radiation over the entire nominal (or pronominal) phrase.

Ex: in va bitej yo disuker (he's looking at the stars)
    bat listaf batakaf okol se vulted (these beautiful white horses are running)
    bat listaf batakaf okol yo vulted (these beautiful white horses are running)

The 2008 reform recommends their discontinuation, in favour of the two aforementioned rules. Normally, "se" and "yo" shouldn't be used anymore. However, their use, while not recommended, is tolerated, before or after the clause to pluralise.
Proper nouns and classifiers [pilkayolt is pulaxa]

Any proper noun in Kotava is considered a noun, but an absolutely invariable and non-derivable one, unlike common nouns, and actually functions on an affixing system in which it is normally accompanied by a "classifier" which determines its class. The classifier is part of the common lexicon and it is on it that affixation takes place.

1) Classifiers [pulaxa]

Most of the nouns in the common lexicon can be used as a proper noun classifier. However, the main classifiers encountered relate to names of human persons (ayik, guazik, velik, etc.), politeness addresses (weltik, jiomik), titles (gazik, sersik, taneagadesik), places (kuksa, mefta, uzda, wida, widava) administrative entities (patecta, gola, dota), species names (katca, oxi, blind), works of or media of art (neva, luz, teliz, fela), groupings or company (lospa, veem, ja), measure or unit (soluma, lum, lumolk), currency (tal), language (ava), etc.

In keeping with the habitual rule of appositions, the apposed noun goes first, followed by its classifier.

Ex: Napoléon ginik (the emperor Napoleon)
Martin weltikye (Mister Martin); Martin weltik (Mr. or Mrs. Martin)
London widava (the city of London)
Baikal uzda (the Baikal lake)
Franca patecta (France, the country France)
Euro tal (the Euro currency)
Monotremata veem (the monotreme order)

Note: euphonic agreement follows the classifier, not the proper noun, even if the latter follows the relevant determinative and presents a different ending.

Ex: cuisa London widava (the magnificent city of London)

All possible derivatives built on a proper noun will therefore not use the proper noun itself but its classifier.

Ex: London widaviik (resident of the city of London, Londoner)
Baikal uzdaxo (Lake Baikal territory)
Euro talolk (a euro coin or banknote)
Monotremata veemolk (an animal of the monotreme order)

See Annex B for a partial listing of classifiers

2) Proper nouns without classifiers [pilkayolt voldo pulaxa]

However, in the case of very common proper noun (name of country, big city, known place, person, etc.) it is possible to omit the classifier. Thus, one will rarely find a country name (Franca, Espana, etc.) accompanied by its classifier (patecta).

From there, such a proper name will govern directly euphonic agreement, and may give rise to derivatives and be used in compounds, under two absolute reservations:

- that there is no ambiguity, notably any semantic confusion with a preexisting common noun that the context is explicit enough;
- that the proper noun contain no letters or diacritical marks that be inexistant in Kotava.

In the latter cases, the classifier must always be used.

Ex: lndonik (resident of the city of London, Londoner), besides London widaviik
euroolk (a euro coin or banknote), besides Euro talolk

however: Quebec winkik (an inhabitant of the Quebec province), never Quebecik
A Coruña widavaf (concerning the city of A Coruña), never A.Coruñaik
Chapter III: VERBS

The verbal system is the pillar of Kotava. This is the most sophisticated part of the whole language, but more because of the multiple possibilities and their synthetic aspects than because of their difficulty. Morphologically, a verbal form is recognizable at first glance. In dictionaries, the verbs are classified according to their radical state, which corresponds to the first person singular of the personal mood (effective modality, active voice, present tense). There is not any real infinitive, only a verbal name.

In Kotava, a verbal form consists of at least eight elements (or grammatical features) in addition to the radical, bearing in mind that there is always a default zero mark implicit (in italics infra.) for each of these elements, in hierarchical and conceptual order:

- verb stem;
- indication of speech act: declarative, exclamative, interrogative, injunctive;
- indication of mood: indicative, relative-participial;
- indication of tense: present, past, future;
- indication of polarity: assertive, affirmative, negative, contraritive;
- indication of aspect: durative, continuous, anterior, posterior, instantaneous, relative perfect, relative prospective, inchoative, non-discontinuous, discontinuous, resumptive, terminative;
- indication of modality: effective, abilitive, obligative, volitive, capacitive, creditive, apparent, conative, habitual, gnomic;
- indication of voice: active, passive, reflexive, reciprocal, secondary;
- indication of person: 1st, 2nd, 3rd singular, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th plural.

Other optional grammatical features (may be stacked):
- pragmatics: irrealis, epistemicals, evidentials, external deontics, reality checks, uncertain, injunctive grades, specific interrogative.

Finally, it is possible to find a certain number of suffixes (general suffixes, (in)transitivising suffixes).

A: Verbal stem

The stem (not to confuse with the root) is the minimal form a verb can be used with. A verbal stem is necessarily characterized by a typical ending in -á, -é, -í or -ú. It is from this radical (without the accent, mark of the 1st person singular) that all other forms and even verbal derivatives will be built.

Ex. of stems: VEFA (to play), in the dictionary under vefá (I play)
STUTE (to dance) stuté (I dance)
ASKI (to do) askí (I do)
PLEKU (to put) plekú (I put)

B: Speech acts

The notion of speech act is essential in Kotava. It refers to statements, sentences and proposals as a whole. And even though it is valid beyond the strict verbal field, since we can also find speech acts in purely nominal sentences for example, it is nonetheless structuring in all aspects of verbal grammar. Sometimes referred to as "enunciative moods", they take into account the global scope of a proposal (or an entire sentence) managed by a verbal form.

There are four autonomous speech acts in Kotava. These are:

- Declarative: the default basic enunciative and sentential speech act. For standard utterance of facts, opinion, discourse, etc.
- Exclamative: the emotional, exclamative, vocative, interjective speech act.
- Interrogative: the speech act for direct questions.
- Injunctive: also called imperative, it is the speech act for orders and (with the negation) for prohibition.

1) Declarative

The basic speech act. Unless otherwise noted, it is implicit and has no particular marking.

Declarative governs standard utterances, the expression of facts, opinions, statements, direct or reported speech, of all that does not fall within the scope of the three other speech acts (exclamative, interrogative or injunctive). Note that it also handles indirect questions (cf. infra).

The declarative speech act has no particular intonation patterns.

In writing, a declarative sentence or clause (governed by a declarative verb) must end with a simple dot, interruptive mark (ou ellipsis), colon or semicolon.
2) **Exclamative** [divierewa]

The emotional, exclamative, surprise, vocative and interjective speech act.

Every declarative sentence can become exclamative.

In writing, the exclamative is obligatorily characterised by an exclamation mark.

Prosodically, an exclamative sentence has a particular intonation pattern distinct from those of questions or orders. Besides that, they are not that different from standard declarative sentences.

There is however a set of pronouns, determiners and relative adverbs that are intrinsically exclamative, the "**man !**" set.

- exclamative determiner "**man !**" (such a, what a!)
  
  Ex: **man gazik byir !** (what a king he was!)

- exclamative pronoun of the "**man- !**" set
  
  Ex: **mantan tir !** (what a guy!)
  
  va **mancoba askil !** (what a thing you’re doing!)

- exclamative relative adverb of the "**man- !**" set
  
  Ex: **maneke kobal !** (you’re working so much!)
  
  **manlize irubayá !** (I lived in such a place!)

3) **Interrogative** [koerurewa]

The direct question speech act.

Every declarative sentence can become interrogative.

In writing, the interrogative is obligatorily characterised by a question mark.

Prosodically, when not introduced by an interrogative particle (**kas ?**, **mex ?**) or an interrogative determiner (**tok**, **tokeaf**, **tokoy ?**), a pronoun or an interrogative relative adverb (**tok- ?** or **kas- ?** sets), a light and distinctive voice inflection must be followed.

There are bare interrogative sentences, mainly when very short, in vocative utterances for example (and thus only distinguished by voice inflection). However, more often than not, they are accompanied or introduced by:

- interrogative pragmatic particle of existence "**kas ?**" (does..., is... ?)
  
  Typical of the global direct interrogation, that of standard questions.
  
  Ex: **kas (in) ker ?** (is he waiting, does he wait?)
  
  **kas va Paris ok London aldualbá ?** (do I prefer Paris or London?)

- interrogative pragmatic particle of doubt "**mex ?**" (isn’t it?)
  
  Ex: **dôtrakut, mex ?** (we agree, don’t we?)

- interrogative determiner "**tok ?**" (which?), "**tokeaf ?**" or "**tokoy ?**"
  
  Typical of partial interrogation.
  
  Ex: **tok gazik zo bastakayar ?** (which king was beheaded?)
  
  **moe tokeafa bodema tigil ?** (what rank of the contest do you find yourself in?)

- interrogative pronoun of the "**tok- ?**" set (who, what?)
  
  Partial interrogation.
  
  Ex: **toktan vanlanir ?** (who’s coming?)
  
  **va tokcoba askil ?** (what do you do, what are you doing?)

- interrogative pronoun of the"**kas- ?**" set (is there some/any...)
  
  Partial interrogation.
  
  Ex: **va kascoba rotaski ?** (is there anything I can do?)

- interrogative relative adverb of the "**tok- ?**" set (which?)
  
  Partial interrogation.
  
  Ex: **tokdume va in ienal ?** (why are you yelling on him?)
  
  **tokliz vulter ?** (where is he running?)

- interrogative relative adverb of the "**kas- ?**" set (is there some-... ?)
  
  Partial interrogation.
  
  Ex: **kaskane pu in rokali ?** (is there any way I can talk to him?)
Indirect interrogation falls within the scope of the declarative speech act. It is generally introduced by a relative adverb built from -kase (cf. infra: relative adverbial series).

4) **Injunctive** (or imperative) [dirgarewa]

Better known as "imperative", this is the speech act for orders (with the negation, for prohibition) and, toned down, for wishes, desires, prayers.

In Kotava, unlike in other languages, it can be used with all tenses, polarities, aspects, modalities, voices and persons.

It is often further made clearer by special pragmatic particles (cf. infra § J7: injunction grades).

At the oral level, the injunctive speech act is characterised by its distinctive intonation, almost always exclamative.

In writing, the injunctive must be noted by means of the injunctive mark (or double exclamation mark !!).

Personal pronouns are generally optional with declarative, exclamative or interrogative speech acts, but they are absolutely forbidden in the context of injunctive speech.

Some examples of injunctions:

- **KE** (to wait)
- ke !! (wait!) (to self)
- kei !! (wait!)
- kelet !! (we shall wait!)
- me ker !! (let him not wait!)
- zo ked !! (let's wait on them!)
- tøz kei !! (start waiting!)
- rokec !! (you can wait!)

C: **Moods** [graycave]

The notion of mood in Kotava is a tad different from similar notions in the grammars of European languages. The notion is exclusive to verbs and verbal forms, but has only two subdivisions:

- **Indicative**: personal mood
- **Relative-participial**: non-personal mood

1) **Indicative** (or personal) [tiracave]

This is the basic implicit mood of any verb, for all speech act. As such it has *no particular marking*.

The indicative is the mood of sure facts and reality. It serves to mark what is, has been or will be certain or almost certain. It is also called *personal mode*, insofar as any verbal form in the indicative includes a mention of a grammatical person.

It is mainly this mood that will be illustrated through the following developments and examples.

2) **Relative-participial** [trendacave]

This is the only non-personal mood in Kotava, i. e. the participle is not connected directly to an absolute referent, unlike the indicative, but is a kind of relative mood, introducing relative subordinates. In addition, its forms also serve as verbal adjectives.

Although it would be logical to present it here, in accordance with its grammatical place and modal function, its presentation is, for didactic reasons, developed below, after the examination of all the other grammatical features. The correct understanding of the importance of the relative-participant mood in Kotava will only get better. (cf. infra § K: Participial-relative mood).

D: **Tenses** [graysare]

There are only three tenses in Kotava: present, past, future. Its temporal system does not include aspectual distinctions such as between perfective and imperfective.

- Present tense is for current actions, happening at the moment of enunciation.
- It is also used for regular, habitual processes.
- Past tense is for past, completed actions.
- Future tense is for reasonably probable future actions.
All other nuances tenses habitually express in other languages are there often made with aspects (cf. infra § F).

Each mood (indicative and relative-participial) for each speech act (declarative, exclamative, interrogative and injunctive) may be used with these three tenses. [examples below are with the indicative unless indicated otherwise].

1) Present [tise sare ok rekee]

The present tense use the bare stem of the verb, without a specific tense ending. It is zero-marking and personal endings go directly to the stem.

Ex: **DANKA** (to sing); **DOLE** (to sell)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>1sg (I)</th>
<th>2sg (you</th>
<th>3rd person (he, she, it)</th>
<th>2pl (you)</th>
<th>1pl (we incl.)</th>
<th>2pl (excl.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>danká</td>
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</table>

2) Past [tiiyise sare ok darekee]

The past tense is formed with a suffix between the stem and the personal endings (or the participle endings).

This suffix is basically "-y" but has four variants (with the same principle as euphonic agreement):

- **Ya**: verbs ending in -a
- **Ye**: verbs ending in -e
- **Yi**: verbs ending in -i
- **Yu**: verbs ending in -u

Ex: **DANKA** (to sing); **DOLE** (to sell)

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</table>

3) Future [titise sare ok direkee]

The future tense is formed similarly to the past tense, with a suffix between the stem and the personal endings.

This suffix is basically "-t" but has four variants:

- **Ta**: verbs ending in -a
- **Te**: verbs ending in -e
- **Ti**: verbs ending in -i
- **Tu**: verbs ending in -u

Ex: **FOLI** (to believe); **ESTU** (to eat)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>1sg (I)</th>
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<th>3rd person (he, she, it)</th>
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E: Polarity [graysok]

There are four polarities in Kotava:

- **Assertive**: the normal state, showing that a situation is, happens.
- **Affirmative**: a reinforced assertive, insisting on the situation taking place, notion of "really".
- **Negative**: the reverse of the assertive. A situation isn’t, doesn’t happen, just so.
- **Contraritive**: the reverse of the assertive, or rather of the affirmative. A situation is not and all is done for it not to happen.
Each of the two moods (indicative and participial-relative), four speech acts (declarative, exclamative, interrogative and injunctive) may be used with with the four polarities. [examples below are with the indicative unless indicated otherwise].

1) **Assertive** (or positive) [anje sok]

This is the basic polarity. Something simply happens.

In Kotava, the **assertive polarity is implicit**, there is no special marking.

Ex:  

- `estú` (I eat, I am eating)  
- `koe Paris irubá` (I live in Paris)  
- `va sumewiski wir` (he’s looking at the television)  
- `va in kiaval` (you’re greeting him)

2) **Affirmative** [ene sok]

It is like a reinforced assertive, insisting on the fact that the process really takes place.

The affirmative is indicated by the preposed particle "en", which used by itself means "yes".

Ex:  

- `en estú` (I am really eating)  
- `koe Paris en irubá` (I really live in Paris)  
- `va in en kiaval` (you’re greeting him straightforwardly)

3) **Negative** [mee sok]

This polarity tells that the process doesn’t take place, is simply not happening.

The negative is indicated by the preposed particle "me" which used by itself means "no".

Ex:  

- `me estú` (I am not eating)  
- `koe Paris me irubá` (I do not live in Paris)  
- `va in me kiaval` (you are not greeting him)

Besides this simple negation, Kotava has two derived negations: "men" and "mea".

a) **Pre-fact negation** [abdife mee sok]

Pre-fact negation tells that the process hasn’t happened yet, but shall normally. It is "not... yet".

Pre-fact negation is indicated by the preposed particle "men" (not... yet).

Ex:  

- `koe Paris men irubá` (I do not live in Paris yet)  
- `sin va sint men kiavad` (they are not yet greeting each other)

b) **Post-fact negation** [radimife mee sok]

Post-fact negation tells that a process took place and has ceased. It is "not ... anymore".

Post-fact negation is indicated by the preposed particle "mea" (not... anymore).

Ex:  

- `koe Paris mea irubá` (I do not live in Paris anymore)  
- `sin va sint mea kiavad` (they are not greeting each other anymore)

4) **Contraritive** [vole sok]

The contraritive is a particularity of Kotava. It tells not only that a process doesn’t happen, but also that all is done for it not to happen.

Contraritive is indicated by the preposed particle "vol" which used by itself means "on the contrary, surely not".

Ex:  

- `vol estú` (I do my best to not eat)  
- `sin va sint vol kiavad` (they do all it takes to not greet each other)

5) **Uncertain**

Before 2011, the uncertain was a basic polarity like the aforementioned four. It is no longer the case and it’s now considered a simple secondary grammatical feature, falling under the category of specifying pragmatics, expressing what is possible, uncertain, what is done or may take place, with nobody knowing for sure; it uses the particle "rotir" meaning "maybe, perhaps, possibly". (cf. infra § J6: Pragmatics).
Besides the three tenses, there is an extensive aspectual system in Kotava for all nuances of the verbal process. There are twelve aspects:

- Simple durative
- Instantaneous
- Anterior (or perfect)
- Posterior (or prospective)
- Relative perfect
- Relative prospective
- Inchoative
- Continuous (or permansive)
- Non-discontinuous
- Discontinuous (or pausative)
- Resumptive (or reiterative)
- Terminative (or cessative)

Each tense, polarity, mood, speech act, can sport any of these twelve aspects. [examples beneath are in the indicative, unless otherwise noted].

1) **Simple durative** [tiskise kerdela ok ree kerdela]

This is the implicit aspect for verbs. It show that the process has a certain duration (opposite of instantaneous).

Being the base aspect, it has no particular mark.

Ex:  
estuyú (I ate)  
koé Paris irubal (You live in Paris)

2) **Instantaneous** [vule kerdela ok veree kerdela]

With this aspect the verb forgoes all idea of duration, the process begins and ends instantaneously, is just a point in time. There is often a sense of suddenness.

The instantaneous aspect uses the preposed particle "ve".

Ex:  
va finta ve disukel (you glance at the add)  
va finta ve disukeyel (you glanced at the add)  
va finta ve disuketel (you will glance at the add)

3) **Anterior** (or perfect) [tiyise kerdela ok daree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an action happens, was happening or will be happening just before another that is as subordinated to it. It corresponds to the perfect in English.

The anterior aspect uses the preposed particle "al".

Ex:  
ixam al estú (I've already eaten; that is, I'm ready to do something else)  
va imwa al lusteyer abdida piyir (he's bought flowers before coming)  
arti tanda al awalketel (you'll be dead in a year)

4) **Posterior** (or prospective) [titise kerdela ok diree kerdela]

This aspect, the opposite of the anterior, that an action happens, was happening or will be happening immediately after and in relation to another, the former often a direct consequence of the latter.

The posterior aspect uses the preposed particle "di".

Ex:  
di estú (I'm going to eat; implying there is a reason why)  
va imwa lusteter aze di pitir (he will buy flowers and come (then))  
meldayal nume di awalkeyel (you fought the fight and died from it)

5) **Relative perfect** [kabdie kerdela ok suree kerdela]

The relative perfect (formerly bound perfect according to old terminology) is an aspect showing that an action has, had or will have happened, but without there being a dependancy to another action as with the anterior aspect.

The relative perfect aspect uses the preposed particle "su".
Ex:  

\textit{su estú} (I've just eaten)  
\textit{va imwa su lusteyer} (He'd just bought flowers)  
\textit{su awalketel} (you'll just have died)

6) **Relative prospective** [kadimie kerdela ok furee kerdela]

The relative prospective (formerly \textit{bound prospective}) is the exact opposite of the relative perfect. It shows that an action is was or will be going to certainly happen, is about to happen, but likewise without there being an idea of dependancy to another action.

The relative prospective aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{fu}".

Ex:  

\textit{fu estú} (I am about to eat)  
\textit{va imwa fu lusteyer} (he was about to buy flowers)  
\textit{fu awalketel} (you will be about to die)

7) **Inchoative** [vabdie kerdela ok toree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an action begins, began or will begin to happen.

The inchoative aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{toz}".

Ex:  

\textit{toz estú} (I begin, I start to eat)  
\textit{va imwa toz lusteyer} (he started to buy flowers)  
\textit{toz awalketel} (you'll begin to die, you'll wither away)

8) **Continuous** (or \textit{permansive}) [trenase kerdela ok waree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an action keeps, kept or will keep going, that it isn't finished and that there was no break in the process.

The continuous aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{wan}".

Ex:  

\textit{wan estú} (I keep eating, I'm still eating, I haven't finished eating)  
\textit{koe Paris wan irubar} (he's still living in Paris)

9) **Non-discontinuous** [voljoase kerdela ok duree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an action doesn't, didn't, will not stop going.

The non-discontinuous aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{dun}".

Ex:  

\textit{dun estú} (I'm eating and do not stop)  
\textit{va imwa dun lusteter} (he won't stop buying flowers, he'll buy flowers over and over)

10) **Discontinuous** (or \textit{pausative}) [waljoase kerdela ok noree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an action is, was, will be interrupted, and should resume later.

The discontinuous aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{non}".

Ex:  

\textit{non estú} (I cease eating, I stop (temporarily) eating)  
\textit{koe Paris non irubar} (he no longer lives in Paris (temporarily))

11) **Resumptive** (or \textit{reiterative}) [lintese kerdela ok giree kerdela]

This aspect shows that an interrupted action resumes, resumed, or will resume.

The resumptive aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{gin}".

Ex:  

\textit{gin estú} (I resume eating)  
\textit{koe Paris gin irubar} (he's living in Paris again)

12) **Terminative** (or \textit{cessative}) [vadimie kerdela ok teree kerdela]

This is the exact opposite of the inchoative. It shows that an action is, was or will be stopping for good.

The terminative aspect uses the preposed particle "\textit{ten}".

Ex:  

\textit{ten estú} (I finish eating)  
\textit{va imwa ten lusteyer} (he stopped buying flowers)  
\textit{ten awalketel} (you'll die at last)
G: Modalities [graycaveinda]

Verbal modalities express pseudo-modal meanings. They can occur with the two moods (indicative and relative-participial), four Kotava speech acts (declarative, exclamative, interrogative and injunctive), all polarities, all aspects, and conjugate for all tenses and persons. [examples beneath are in the indicative, unless otherwise noted].

Modalities are not aspects in that the latter express secondary temporal notions (durative, inchoative, anterior, instantaneous, etc.), whereas a modality expresses only a "position" with regards to the verb.

There is ten (chief) modalities in Kotava:
- Effective
- Abilitive
- Obligative
- Volitive
- Capacitive
- Creditive
- Apparent
- Conative
- Habitual
- Gnomic

Modalities, with the exceptions of the Effective and the Gnomic, have submodalities. They allow the expression of very specific concepts, if needed. Morphologically, modalities are distinguished with prefixes (with possible epenthetic consonants before vowel-initial radicals). Submodalities consist of an extension to the main prefix.

1) Effective [tise caveinda]

This is the main modality for verbs. **Effective modality is implicit**, that is, there is no particular marking. A bare verbal form will always be in the effective.

Effective is the modality of what simply is (done).

Ex:   
estú (I’m eating)  
va ní kiavar (he’s greeting you)  
va dulapafa neva belyil (you were reading a very interesting book)

2) Abilitive [rotise caveinda]

This modality shows that an action can take place, is possible. **Notion of "possibility"**. Four potential submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notions</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABILITIVE</td>
<td>Possibility, power, opportunity, right, authorisation</td>
<td>ro(t)-</td>
<td>rosuter (he can, may write)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>rotestur (he can, may eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical aptitude</td>
<td>Being able, physical aptitude</td>
<td>rode(f)-</td>
<td>rodevulter (he is able to run)</td>
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<td>rodefestur (he is ready, able to eat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-possibility</td>
<td>To allow oneself to, transgression, to dare</td>
<td>rove(b)-</td>
<td>rovesuter (he allows himself to, he dares write)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>rovestur (he allows himself to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External possibility</td>
<td>External permission, right, authorisation</td>
<td>rono(v)-</td>
<td>ronosuter (he is allowed to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ronovestur (he has the right to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circumstantial opportunity</td>
<td>Impersonal opportunity, circumstantial possibility, favourable situation</td>
<td>rovo(d)-</td>
<td>rovovulter (he may run, it is a good time to run)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>rovovestur (he may eat, this is a good time to eat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

3) Obligative [gonise caveinda]

This modality shows that an action must be done, is necessary. **Notion of "duty"**. Four potential submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBLIGATIVE</td>
<td>Obligation, necessity, duty, need</td>
<td>go(n)-</td>
<td>gosuter (he must write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>gonestur (he has to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical obligation</td>
<td>Obligation, need, physical or physiological need</td>
<td>gode(f)-</td>
<td>goddevulter (he physically needs to run)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>goddefestur (he physiologically needs to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral obligation</td>
<td>Moral obligation, self-imposed duty</td>
<td>gove(b)-</td>
<td>govesuter (he obliges himself to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>govebestur (he’s forcing himself to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External obligation</td>
<td>Obligation from the outside</td>
<td>gono(v)-</td>
<td>gonosuter (he is compelled to write, e.g. by his editor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impersonal obligation</td>
<td>General obligation that cannot be sourced to anything particular, necessity of doing</td>
<td>govo(d)-govovestur (he is forced to eat, e.g. as a child) govodestur (he rushes to eat)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

### 4) Volitive [djumese caveinda]

This modality shows that you want to take an action. **Notion of "will".** Five potential submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VOLITIVE</td>
<td>Will, desire, craving, wish, hope, appreciation, agreement, adhesion</td>
<td>dju(m)-</td>
<td>djusuter (he wants, likes to write) djumestur (he wants, likes to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolutive</td>
<td>Will, want, exigence, resolution, intent</td>
<td>djuku(r)-</td>
<td>djukuvulter (he demands to run) djukurestur (he's set to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desiderative</td>
<td>Desire, wish, craving</td>
<td>djuga(l)-</td>
<td>djugasuter (he desires, wishes to write) djugalestur (he craves to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciative</td>
<td>Appreciation, like</td>
<td>djuka(r)-</td>
<td>djukaser (he likes writing) djukanestur (he likes to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optative</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>djupo(k)-</td>
<td>djuposer (he hopes to write) djupokestur (he hopes to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourative</td>
<td>Favour, availability, adhesion, agreement</td>
<td>djupro(g)-</td>
<td>djuprosuter (he is disposed to, agrees to write) djuprogestur (he agrees, accepts eating)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

### 5) Capacitive [grupese caveinda]

This modality shows that you are able, know how to do an action. **Notion of "knowing how".** One potential submodality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPACITATIVE</td>
<td>Natural ability, gift, acquired capacity</td>
<td>gru(p)-</td>
<td>grusuter (he is capable of writing) grupestur (he knows how to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitive</td>
<td>Acquisition, learning</td>
<td>grura(v)-</td>
<td>grurasuter (he learns to write) gruravestur (he learns to eat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

### 6) Creditive [folise caveinda]

This modality shows that an action is believed to take place. **Notion of "belief".** One potential submodality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CREDITIVE</td>
<td>Belief, sensation, conviction</td>
<td>fo(l)-</td>
<td>fosuter (he believes, is persuaded to write) folestur (he thinks he's eating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-representation</td>
<td>Self-representation, image</td>
<td>foge(s)-</td>
<td>fogensuter (he sees himself writing) fogensestur (he's imagining himself eating)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

### 7) Apparent [nuvelase caveinda]

This modality expresses the appearance, the semblance of doing something. **Notion of "seemingness".** Two potential submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPARENT</td>
<td>Appearance, semblance</td>
<td>nu(v)-</td>
<td>nusuter (he seems to write) nuvestur (he seems to be eating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simulative</td>
<td>Simulation, pretence</td>
<td>nuji(d)-</td>
<td>nujusuter (he simulates writing, he does as if he writes) nujidestur (he feigns eating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attestative</td>
<td>Affirmation, attestation, pretension</td>
<td>nuru(y)-</td>
<td>nurusuter (he claims to be writing) nuruyestur (he pretends to eat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

### 8) Conative [lagase caveinda]
This modality shows the attempt, the striving of doing something. **Notion of “attempt”**. Three potential submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONATIVE</td>
<td>Attempt, try, task</td>
<td>la(g)-</td>
<td>la(s)uter (he tries to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lagestur (he’s trying to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exertative</td>
<td>Effort, implication</td>
<td>lasu(g)-</td>
<td>lasusuter (he strives to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lasigestur (he’s striving to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periculative</td>
<td>Risk, chance, exposition</td>
<td>laxu(y)-</td>
<td>laxusuter (he risks himself to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>laxuyestur (he takes the chance to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performative</td>
<td>Success, achievement</td>
<td>laju(p)-</td>
<td>lajusuter (he succeeds to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lajupestur (he achieves to eat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

9) **Habitual** [giltise caveinda]

This modality shows being used to do something. **Notion of “habit”**. Two possible submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality / submodalities</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HABITUAL</td>
<td>Habit, frequency</td>
<td>gi(l)-</td>
<td>gisuter (he uses to write)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>gilestur (he uses to eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consecrative</td>
<td>Dedication, time committed</td>
<td>gibe(d)-</td>
<td>gibesuter (he spends his time writing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>gibedestur (he does nothing but eat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimative</td>
<td>Interruption of an habit</td>
<td>gita(b)-</td>
<td>grisuter (he does not bear writing anymore)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>gitabestur (he’s had enough of eating)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

10) **Gnomic** [sokise caveinda]

This modality shows that an action or fact is something permanent, something absolute. It is used, for example, for physics, natural laws, scientific postulates, proverbs and sayings. No submodalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modality</th>
<th>Notion</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gnomic</td>
<td>Permanence, intangibility, general truth</td>
<td>so(k)-</td>
<td>sosuter (he writes, general truth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tawawa sokanamenir (the Earth spins, general truth)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* When the verbal radical begins with a vowel, prefixes have an epenthetic consonant to avoid hiatus.

**H: Voices** [graywoyok]

There are five marked voices in Kotava:
- Active
- Passive
- Reflexive
- Reciprocal
- Secondary

The five voices can be expressed alongside the four speech acts, two moods, three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (as well as submodalities) for all verbs, provided that the transitivity and the semantics check. [examples beneath are in the indicative, unless otherwise noted].

1) **Active voice** [tegis woyok]

This is the *implicit voice* for all verbs. Therefore, there is *no particular marking*.

All verbs have an active voice.

2) **Passive voice** [levgas woyok]

Passive voice inverts the notions of subject / object.

Only transitive verbs (those introducing a complement with the preposition “va”) have a passive voice.

The passive voice uses the preposed particle “zo”.

All verbal forms can be used with the passive, participle included though it has a special form.
3) Reflexive voice [kataces woyok]

Reflexive voice shows that the agent acts upon themselves.

Only transitive verbs (those introducing a complement with the preposition "va") have a passive voice, provided that the semantics allow it.

All verbal forms can be used with the reflexive, active participle included.

Reflexive voice is expressed by the preposition "va" followed by the reflexive personal pronoun: "va int".

Ex:  
va int tcaté (I wash (myself))  
va int tipokeson dankar (he sings while shaving (himself))  
ko situla va int disukel (you are looking at yourself in the mirror)

When the object is in a participial clause, the form is "va dil int".

Ex:  
va vegungik tildes va dil int me wil (you do not see the neighbour resting)  
va in tipokes va dil int disuké (I look at him shaving)

4) Reciprocal voice [waldaf woyok]

Reciprocal voice has at least two distinct agents, and they act upon each other.

Only transitive verbs have a reciprocal voice, provided that the semantics allow it.

All verbal forms can be used with the reciprocal, active participle included. But as there are multiple agents, there are only plural persons.

Reciprocal voice is expressed by the preposition "va" followed by the reciprocal personal pronoun: "va sint".

Ex:  
va sint disuked (they are looking at each other)  
va sint viliguyuc (you despise each other)

5) Secondary voice [tuvaras woyok]

Secondary voice inverts the notions of subject / secondary object (e.g. beneficiary).

Only ditransitive verbs (that is, allowing for two objects: one introduced by the preposition "va" and another introduced by the preposition "gu") have a secondary voice.

The secondary voice uses the preposed particle "mbi".

All verbal forms can be used with the secondary, participle included though it has a special form.

Ex:  
zilí (I give)  
va lupa mbi zilí (I am given a cake)  
dratceyel (you threatened)  
mbi dratceyel (you were considered a menace)  
dineter (he will demand)  
mbi dineter (he will be asked)

I: Persons [grayilkom]

Only the indicative, the personal mood (not, then, the relative-participial) requires person. This is expressed by suffixes that stay in the same form, regardless of tense, aspect, modality or voice.

1\textsuperscript{ère} person singular:  
stem + ' (acute accent)

2\textsuperscript{ème} person singular:  
stem + l

3\textsuperscript{rd} person singular:  
stem + r

1\textsuperscript{st} person plural inclusive:  
stem + t

2\textsuperscript{nd} person plural:  
stem + c

3\textsuperscript{rd} person plural:  
stem + d

1\textsuperscript{st} person plural exclusive:  
stem + v

Examples of conjugated verbs:  
TI (to be); ROJU (to defend)

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{ti} (I am) \rightarrow \textbf{rojo} (I defend)
\item \textbf{til} (you (sg) are) \rightarrow \textbf{rojul} (you (sg) defend)
\item \textbf{tir} (he, she, it is) \rightarrow \textbf{rojur} (he, she, it defends)
\end{itemize}
Kotava distinguished two types of we. The first is inclusive, i.e. includes the interlocutor: it has a -t ending. The second is exclusive, i.e. excluding the interlocutor: it has a -v ending.

J: Pragmatics (or specific prisms) [graysdjej]

Besides all of the above, Kotava has also verbal pragmatics; but they’re totally optional, with no implicit conformations.

Pragmatics are grammatical features, expressed by adverbial particles, giving supplementary information on a variety of levels. They’re classed in several families.

Families of pragmatics are:
- Irrealis
- Epistemicals
- Evidentials
- Reality considerers
- External deontics
- Uncertain
- Injunction grades
- Interrogative specifiers

Within each group, options are mutually exclusive. However, it is possible to stack options from different families. There are restrictions of occurrence for some, though. [examples beneath are in the indicative, unless otherwise noted].

1) Irrealis [megeltraca sodjey]

Irrealis are among the most frequent pragmatics. There are two of them:
- Conditional (or hypothetical)
- Inferential

In many languages these are moods on their own, like in French or Turkish, and thus are encoded in conjugations. Here they are a secondary feature, even if they erase the normal value of the indicative.

Irrealis pragmatics cannot be used in an injunctive speech act, nor with the relative-participial mood.

a) Conditional (or hypothetical) [kredaxa ok sazdaxa sodjejeyinda]

Introduces a condition or an hypothesis. It also shows eventuality and incertitude. It can be found after "ede" (if) and its derivatives "edeen", "edeme", "edevol".

Irrealis is indicated by the particle "co".

Ex: 
ede ko Montréal co pil pune va rin co di jandé (if you came to Montreal, then I’d take you in.)
va Paris lodam London co abdualbayav (we would have preferred Paris over London)

b) Inferential [kroaxa sodjejeyinda]

Shows that what is said is rather uncertain and has its source from hearsay, word of mouth, second-hand information, or hypotheses. Typical of journalistic speech.

Inferential is introduced by the particle "nuve".

Ex: 
bat greltokilik gan uik nuve zo adjubeyer (this tribal chieftain was allegedly murdered by a fanatic)
gazikya koe Montréal sieleledeon nuve tigitir (the Queen should be in Montreal tomorrow night)

2) Epistemicals [malyexa sodjej]

Epistemicals bring a judgement from the enunciator regarding the credibility and the veracity of their information. There are eight of them. The particles are frequently used alone, notably in exclamative speech acts and dialogs.

The emphasis put upon personal expression in Kotava and the pronounced tendency of its speakers to connote their utterances explain the wide use of epistemicals.

Epistemicals cannot be used in injunctive or interrogative speech act, nor with the relative-participial mood.
They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acke</td>
<td>normal, well, good, so be it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ae</td>
<td>well, amen, the truth is, I see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aje</td>
<td>too bad, our loss, unfortunately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ame</td>
<td>hem, doubtful, unlikely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anse</td>
<td>nonsense, wrong, lies!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ape</td>
<td>probably, presumably, surely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arse</td>
<td>absolutely, really, no doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strict neutrality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regret</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonable doubt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute doubt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured adherence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete adherence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex: **bat greltokilik gan ukik ame zo adjubeyer** (this tribal chieftain was allegedly murdered by a fanatic, but this is very doubtful)

3) **Evidentials** [vrutaxa sodjey]

Evidentials are used to bring precision about the source of an information. There are five of them. The particles are frequently used alone, notably in exclamative speech acts and dialogs.

Evidentials cannot be used in injunctive or interrogative speech act, nor with the relative-participial mood.

They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inc</td>
<td>I’ve seen it myself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuve</td>
<td>seemingly, it’s said that, it seems that, from hearsay, got it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soye</td>
<td>by necessity, it’s a (natural) fact that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
<td>obviously, naturally, it goes without saying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volinc</td>
<td>got it from a direct source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal witness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearsay, indirect information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postulate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural evidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct witness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex: **bat greltokilik gan ukik nuve volinc zo adjubeyer** (this tribal chieftain was murdered by a fanatic, I heard it from a personal witness)

The hearsay evidential *nuve* has also got an inferential irrealis value.

4) **Reality considerers** [guzekaxa sodjey]

Reality considerers shows an assumption, impression, confirmation or denial on the part of the enunciator as to the information. The particles are frequently used alone, notably in dialogs.

Reality considerers cannot be used with injunctive speech acts. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>awe</td>
<td>huh! I don’t know a thing, no idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cwe</td>
<td>seems to me, I got the feeling that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gue</td>
<td>yes, absolutely, I can confirm that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sye</td>
<td>it’s anticipated that, normally, it should be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tce</td>
<td>I suppose, supposedly, probably, I guess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volgue</td>
<td>yes it does, no it doesn’t, I deny that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling, impression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipation, foresight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supposition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex: **bat greltokilik gan ukik tce zo adjubeyer** (this tribal chieftain was murdered by a fanatic, I suppose)

5) **External deontics** [govodaskinga sodjey]

External deontics express some kind of general and ill-defined necessity that cannot be sourced to anyone or anything in particular. The particles can be used alone.

The emphasis put upon personal expression in Kotava and the pronounced tendency of its speakers to connote their utterances explain the weak use of external deontics.

External deontics cannot be used with the interrogative speech act. With the injunctive, they bring sort of an attenuation to an order, “justifying” it in a sense by imputing it to an external and ill-defined need. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fiste</td>
<td>it is necessary that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vode</td>
<td>it would be good to, it would be preferable to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volfiste</td>
<td>it is not necessary that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volvode</td>
<td>it would be bad that, better to not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External necessity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External preference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External refusal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External reticence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex: **bat greltokilik gan ukik fiste zo adjubeyer** (it was necessary that this tribal chieftain was murdered by a fanatic)

**bat greltokilik gan ukik vode zo adjubeyer** (it would have been better had this tribal chieftain been murdered by a fanatic)
6) **Uncertain** [rotire sodjey]

There is only one uncertain pragmatic. It expresses the general notion of incertitude. The particle is frequently used alone, notably in dialogs.

It can be used in all contexts and with all verbal forms and is therefore very frequent. It is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pragmatic</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rotir</td>
<td>maybe, it could be that, it is possible that</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ex:** *bat greitokilik gan ukik rotir zo adjubayer* (this tribal chieftain was maybe murdered by a fanatic)

7) **Injunction grades** (or imperative intensives) [dirgaxa sodjey]

Injunction grades, or imperative intensives, are restricted to the injunctive speech act. They bring nuanciation, with potentially three grades of distinct intensities.

Injunctive grades are much employed, as pragmatic particle or alone. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pragmatic</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vay !?</td>
<td>polite imperative, wishfulness, prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>djay !!</td>
<td>insisted imperative, simple command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xay !!</td>
<td>absolute imperative, absolute order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ex:**

- *estul vay !?* (eat, please!)
- *estul djay !!* (eat, I must insist!)
- *estul xay !!* (eat, that’s an order!)
- *vay ker !?* (if he would wait!)
- *djay ker !!* (let him wait!)
- *xay ker !!* (let him wait, that’s an order!)

A preposed injunctive pragmatic has a value of indirect address somewhat; postposed, it will rather function as a repetition of the order, as a direct address. The injunctive speech act is characterized by intonation, and its modulations will express different levels of insistence. In a polite imperative, it will barely rise, while on the other hand with an absolute imperative it will be powerful and sharp.

8) **Interrogative specifiers** [koeruxa sodjey]

Interrogative specifiers are restricted to the interrogative speech act. They are very generic. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pragmatic</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kas ?</td>
<td>is…, does… ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mex ?</td>
<td>isn’t it?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ex:** *(cf. supra chap. III § B3, for development and examples).*

K: **Relative-participial mood** [trendacave]

This is the only impersonal mood in Kotava, as opposed to the indicative, i.e. the participle has no subject argument.

It has two main functions:
- a purely modal one, making it sort of a relative mood introducing relative clause;
- forming verbal adjectives: active, passive and secondary.

As the indicative, the relative-participial mood inflects for all:
- tense: 3 tenses;
- polarity: 4 polarities;
- aspect: 12 aspects;
- modality: 10 modalities (plus the submodalities).

But not being a personal mood, it doesn’t inflect for person. And as for voices, even if it has potentially all five (provided the sense and transitivity match), they are forms distinct from those of the personal mood. These characteristic forms must be learnt, because they are fundamental.

So the forms are:

1) **Active participle** [tegisa trenda]

All verbs have an active participle.

It is built on the verbal radical with a suffix "-s".
The typical suffix "-s", which can be assimilated to an ending, will always be in final position, unless there is a vowel for euphonic agreement.

The active participle can be used in all three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (and all sub-modalities). On the other hand, it has only this one characteristic form instead of the seven persons.

2) Passive participle [levgasa trenda]

Only transitive verbs (that is with a direct object introduced by "va") have a passive participle.

It is built on the verbal radical with a suffix "-n".

Ex: ROJU (to defend) DOLE (to sell)
    rojus (defending) doles (selling (smth))
    rojuyus (having defended) doleyes (having sold (smth))
    rojutus (going to defend) doletes (going to sell (smth))

The typical suffix "-n", which can be assimilated to an ending, will always be in final position, unless there is a vowel for euphonic agreement.

The passive participle can be used in all three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (and all sub-modalities). On the other hand, it has only this one characteristic form instead of the seven persons.

3) Secondary participle [tuvarasa trenda]

Only ditransitive verbs (that is with first a direct object complement introduced by "va" and a secondary object complement introduced by "gu" or alternative prepositions like "pu", "bas", "ika", etc.) have a completive participle.

It is built on the verbal radical with a suffix "-mb".

Ex: ZILI (to give) GREWA (to thank)
    zilib (being given (smth)) grewammb (being thanked)
    zilypilimb (having been given (smth)) grewayamb (thanked)
    zilimb (going to be given (smth)) grewatamb (going to be thanked)

The typical suffix "-mb", which can be assimilated to an ending, will always be in final position, unless there is a vowel for euphonic agreement.

The secondary participle can be used in all three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (and all sub-modalities). On the other hand, it has only this one characteristic form instead of the seven persons.

4) Reflexive participle [katacesa trenda]

Only transitive verbs (that is with a direct object introduced by "va") with a potentially reflexive meaning have the reflexive participle.

It is built on the active participle, combined with the reflexive structure "va int" or the second form "va dil int" when the object is in a participial clause.

Ex: WI (to see) Tcate (to wash)
    va int wis (seeing self) va int tcates (washing)
    va int wisyis (having seen self) va int tcateyes (having washed)
    va int wits (going to see self) va int tcatetes (going to wash)

The reflexive participle can be used in all three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (and all sub-modalities). On the other hand, it has only this one characteristic form instead of the seven persons.

5) Reciprocal participle [waldafa trenda]

Only transitive verbs (that is with a direct object introduced by "va") with a potentially reciprocal meaning have the reciprocal participle.

Ex: WI (to see) Tcate (to wash)
    va int wis (seeing self) va int tcates (washing)
    va int wisyis (having seen self) va int tcateyes (having washed)
    va int wits (going to see self) va int tcatetes (going to wash)
It is built on the active participle, combined with the reciprocal structure "va sint".

Ex:

DISUKE (to look)
va sint disukes (looking at each other)
va sint disukeyes (having looked at each other)
va sint disukeles (going to look at each other)

The reciprocal participle can be used in all three tenses, four polarities, twelve aspects and ten modalities (and all sub-modalities). On the other hand, it has only this one typical form instead of the seven persons.

6) Modal use of the participles [unera va trendacave]

The relative-participial mood is largely used in Kotava, for example to make relative clauses.

The participle agrees euphonically with the name or pronoun it represents. The modally used participle is located, except for some stylistic effects (inversions), after the previous phrase.

Ex:
korik estus va beg tir nik (the person eating bread is a friend)
Rojusik atayan bak diffura batizze di zo kotawayad (the defenders killed in the battle have been buried here)
Yikya pitisa tir listafa (the young woman who’ll come is pretty)
Maria zilimba (va lupa) tir listaf yik (Maria who is given (a cake) is a pretty young woman)
Va bat prejayamb aal albapä (I like a lot this tree that I whispered to)

When the participle is used in apposition, it has an explanatory value:

Ex:
karvol, disukes va pisik, otcer (the cat, seeing the people coming, runs away)
Zveri, koribayani, me tir nuyafi (the bird who was locked in a cage is not free)
Emudera, grewamba, tiyir lacapafa (the welcome that I thanked you for was very warm)

7) Gerundive constructions [trendamuge]

Gerundive constructions are modal uses of the adverbial participles.

In the present tense, they serve to express simultaneity of actions and refer obligatorily to the same subject as the main clause.

The active gerundive uses the active adverbial participles.

Ex:  estuson pulvir (he talks while eating) [present, simultaneity]
      ranyeson kenibec (you sleep while standing)

The passive gerundive uses the passive adverbial participles.

Ex:  dizvenon dankar (he sings while he’s looked at)
      tipokenon bemil (you’re reading while you’re being shaved)

The secondary gerundive uses the secondary adverbial participles.

Ex:  belimbon va rupa komodel (you fall asleep while you’re being read a story)
      dratcembon gu ervolia va patecta bower (he rules the country although he’s being threatened to have the army latched on him)

The past gerundive introduces a causal notion. Contrariwise, the future gerundive introduces a goal notion.

Ex:  gildayason va inafa xialara rolaní (having understood her intentions, I can come) [past, cause]
      va bata neva gildatason va gaderopa beli (I read this book in order to understand politics) [future, goal]

L: Synthesis on the notion of verb

In the preceding paragraphs, the different elements of a Kotava verb and the forms they can take were reviewed. It should be kept in mind that, apart from the fairly specific participial mood, the verbal system is characterised by great logic and absolute regularity. There are no exceptions.

"rojú" (I defend), "ti" (I am), "dolé" (I sell) or "estú" (I eat) are the smallest usable forms. They are made up of all the verbal implicit plus the stem, that is to say:

- Declarative speech act
- Indicative mood
- Present tense
On the other hand, a form like "(in) nuve en al zo rostayar!" (he really could have been driven, they say!) has no implicit except for the indicative mood. It is to be analysed thus:

```
  (in) nuve en al zo STA ya r !
  ← personal pronoun (facultative)
  ← Inferential pragmatic particle
  ← Affirmative polarity particle
  ← Anterior aspect particle
  ← Passive voice particle
  ← Abilitive modality prefix
  ← verbal STEM
  ← Past tense suffix
  ← 3rd Person singular ending
  ← Indicative mood (implicit)
  ← Exclamative speech act punctuation
```

These elements are all rigidly ordered:

- 0: personal pronoun (facultative)
- 0bis: pragmatics (facultative)
- 1: polarity
- 2: aspect
- 3: voice
- 4: modality (or submodality)
- 5: STEM
- [5bis: general suffix → augmented stem]
- 6: tense
- 7: person
- 8: mood
- 9: speech act (punctuation)

### M: Transitive, ditransitive and intransitive verbs

In Kotava there are transitive, ditransitive and intransitive verbs. The latter are not fundamentally distinguished by their form from the former, unless they are assigned the intransitivating suffix.

#### 1) Simple transitive verbs [tanmukodaf gray]

Transitive verbs are those that admit an object complement with the transitive preposition "va". Among them, simple transitive (or bivalent) verbs comprise the majority and have but one essential complement, regardless of possible adverbial complements.

From an intransitive verb it is possible to build a simple transitive verb with factitive value with the specific suffix "-si" added to the stem (or, alternatively, it’s the active participle + -i) and create a new autonomous stem.

Ex:

- **KENIBE** (to sleep) → **KENIBESI** (to put to sleep)
- **LUBE** (to fall) → **LUBESI** (to fell, to make fall)
- **AELE** (to hunger) → **AELESI** (to starve)

Of course, it will be this new radical that must be taken into account to construct all the verbal forms studied above.

#### 2) Ditransitive verbs [tolmukodaf gray]

Ditransitive (or trivalent) verbs are transitive verbs requiring two essential complements. The object complement is introduced by the transitive preposition "va", while the secondary one is introduced by the secondary preposition "gu". Among those verbs are "zili" (to give), "grewà" (to thank for), "tioître" (to put off), etc.
3) **Intransitive verbs** [mukodiskaf gray]

Intransitive (monovalent) verbs contain the entire action within themselves, so they do not need nor accept any complement.

Non-derived intransitive verbs are quite few, but are not formally distinct from transitive verbs. At most, let’s note their relatively important number among verbs with stems ending in "-e" or "-u".

Derived intransitive verbs are built from transitive verbs to which a specific suffix has been added, that is "-wé" to the stem.

Ex:  
- **BETA** (to change (smth))  →  **BETAWÉ** (to change)  
- **TUEBELTA** (to blacken (smth))  →  **TUEBELTAWE** (to blacken)  
- **ESTU** (to eat)  →  **ESTUWE** (to feed oneself)

Of course, it will be this new radical that must be taken into account to construct all the verbal forms studied above.

N: **Impersonal verbs** [ilikomiskaf gray]

There is a small number of impersonal verbs in Kotava.

They are defective, with only five modalities (effective, capacitive, apparent, habitual or gnomic), the active voice, the two moods, three tenses, four polarities and twelve aspects, but only with the 3rd person singular without an apparent subject (the implied subject is the generic pronoun "coba").

Impersonal verbs belong to the category of verbs expressing an atmospheric or natural state. In dictionaries they are filed under their 3rd person singular form. They are:

- **abdar** it is wet  
- **afizar** it is day  
- **aftar** the weather is clear  
- **awaltar** it is sunny

Next: see Annexes (annex C.1) for a complete list of weather and natural state verbs

O: **Stative verbs** [sokaf gray]

These verbs, of intransitive nature, introduce subject complements.

They are few of them in Kotava. These are:

- **bevulá** to pass for  
- **foiki** to believe oneself to be  
- **ílpí** to cease to be  
- **ínulá** to act like  
- **níjú** to turn out to be  
- **nuvelá** to seem (to be)  
- **nuvelé** to pretend to be  
- **pesté** to feel  
- **rulé** to consider oneself

- **sipsé** to make oneself  
- **tí** to be  
- **trená** to keep being  
- **vanpi** to become  
- **vanýé** to behave as  
- **vi** to be doing (fine)  
- **vurolé** to be supposed to be  
- **zavzá** to stay, to remain

Next: see Annexes (annex C.2) for a complete list of sensation verbs

P: **Sensation verbs** [pestaleraf gray]

They are intransitive, and derived from substantives with a typical suffix "-e". They are:

- **aælé** to be hungry  
- **akolé** to be sick  
- **aundé** to feel frustrated

Next: see Annexes (annex C.2) for a complete list of sensation verbs

Q: **Motion verbs** [liziweraf gray]

There are a number of verbs in Kotava that are likely to be used in composition with any locative preposition (in any of its four forms). Cf. Annexes (annex A3) for a complete list of these prepositions.

These motion verbs thus become transitive et so build their object complements with the preposition "va". The locative idea remains entirely contained in the prefixed preposition.
Personal motion verbs are:

- **grablù** to hop
- **kildé** to slide
- **krafù** to roll
- **laki** to go (on some animal’s back)
- **laní** to go (by foot, by leg)
- **lapí** to go (by mechanical means)
- **pujé** to swim
- **rumkù** to move by suspension
- **talá** to fly
- **terigé** to crawl, to creep
- **vulté** to run
- **welvù** to leap

Examples of verbal compounds with personal movement verbs:

- *va mona kolani* (I’m entering the house)
- *va widava remtaír* (he flies through the town)
- *malvultel* (you run away)

There are also three non-personal motion verbs. These verbs normally concern only natural, abstract or immaterial phenomena and, except possibly metaphorically, do not apply to animated or tangible individuals. These are:

- **ni** to move tangible fluids, materials, liquids, autonomous objects (ex. water, lava, dust, dirt, mud, ice, vegetation, rock, blood, sap, star, asteroid, vehicle, plant, etc.)
- **stí** to move intangible fluids, waves, invisible objects (ex. electricity, radiations, wave, microbe, bacteria, energy, light, wind, air, gas, noise, etc.)
- **fi** to go, to pass abstract concepts, immaterial beings (ex. time, thought, idea, divinity, etc.)

Examples of verbal compounds with non-personal movement verbs:

- *lorik va swava kofír* (the god enters the spirit(s))
- *bixe va piluda dívniír* (sand flows from the beach)
- *suka va ewala remstrír* (the wind goes through the island)
Chapter IV: DETERMINATIVES

The determinative class plays a big role in Kotava. Indeed, it is largely from them that the living language is being shaped by the speaker.

All words used to qualify, determine or update a noun (or pronoun) are classified as determinative. However, they may also have an autonomous existence and syntactic role (cf. chap. XII Assertive demonstrativeness). Determinatives fall into two basic categories:
- adjectives (qualifying and verbal adjectives)
- actualisers or determiners (articles, demonstratives, indefinites, numerals, etc.)

Determinatives necessarily agree euphonically with the noun or pronoun they qualify and, generally, immediately precede it in the phrase or sentence.

A: Adjectives

Adjectives are words qualifying a substantive or a pronoun. There is a distinction in Kotava between qualifying and verbal adjectives.

1) Qualifying adjectives

There are derived and underived adjectives.

a) Root qualifying adjectives

They come from the basic lexicon. They are very numerous, but they are recognisable thanks to their typical ending. in "-f", always preceded by a vowel (in 90% of cases "a").

The adjective stem, an essential notion in Kotava, do not comprise the "-af" or "-f" (if the stem ends in a vowel other than "a") ending.

Ex:

- kiewaf (good) → KIEW
- solwif (distinct) → SOLWI
- laof (bold) → LAO
- klaaf (aged) → KLA

According to the rule of euphonic agreement, we may find:

- listaf mona (pretty house)
- batakaf zveri (white bird)
- sumef vo (the faraway native land)
- opaf sfi (acute rheumatism)
- afi bitej (shining star)

b) Qualifying adjectives derived from substantives, prepositions, etc.

All words in categories 1 and 4 in the morphological chart (substantives, prepositions, etc.) can build derived adjectives.

They are formed through the adjectivising suffix "-af", directly on the stem. If it ends in a vowel, the suffix is "-f".

Ex:

- tawava (Earth) → tawav (terrestrial)
- zubi (contract) → zubif (contractual)
- molt (port) → molaf (portuary)
- koe (in) → kof (internal)
- patectoy (landscape) → patectoyaf (relative to the landscape)

2) Verbal adjectives

These are participles used as adjectives. All of them can know this use.

Thus there are active verbal adjectives (suffix "-s"), with past, present or future meanings, passive verbal adjectives (suffix "-n") and secondary verbal adjectives (suffix "-mb"). cf. chap. III § K: relative-participial mood.

3) Gradation of the adjective

Gradation of the adjective comprises comparatives and superlatives.
a) Comparatives [dolunesa soreleka]

All adjectives can form comparatives. There are three degrees: superiority, equality and inferiority. Comparatives are formed with prefixes:

- superiority: lo- (lod- for vowel-initial adjectives)
- equality: li- (lid- for vowel-initial adjectives)
- inferiority: le- (led- for vowel-initial adjectives)

Ex: mantaf (wide) → lolmantaf (wider) → lelemantaf (less wide)
argan (bored) → lodargan (more bored) → ledargan (less bored)

In addition, it is possible to provide comparatives with a notion of progression, by repeating the comparative prefix.

Ex: mantaf (wide) → lolo mantaf (wider and wider) → lele mantaf (less and less wide)
argan (bored) → lolodargan (more and more bored) → leledargan (less and less bored)

To link the comparative to the comparee, the special conjunction "dam" (than) is used.

Ex: Karen tir lolistaf dam Staren (Karen is prettier than Staren)

b) Superlatives [vamoefa soreleka]

Superlative are built from the comparatives preceded by the definite article. Logically, the equality superlative does not exist, although its semantic impossibility has not been firmly established.

Ex: tel lolomantaf (the largest)  
tel lelemantaf (the least large)

The superlative complement is introduced by the preposition "ke" (of).

Ex: Karen tir tel lolistaf ke pula (Karen is the prettiest of her class)

4) Qualifying adjective complements [duvuusorelafa tuvaraxa]

Any adjective may be supplemented by a complement, provided there is a semantic basis for it. Subordinate propositional complements, introduced by various conjunctions or conjunctive adverbs, can thus be found. But also nominal (or pronominal) complements. Verbal adjectives (participles) follow a verbal logic and therefore have verbal government (cf. chap. III § K: participial-relative mood). On the other hand, with regard to qualifying adjectives, the rules and possibilities of nominal (or pronominal) complements are as follows:

a) Ordinary complement [unaykafa tuvaraxa]

The ordinary complement of a qualifying adjective is introduced by the specialised universal preposition "gu":

Ex: Anna tir kerafa gu vola (Anna is red in the face)  
Muktu tiyir kotrafu gu lava (The bucket was full of water)  
In tir lundaf gu ulura (He is prone to practice a sport)  
Bat okol tir cuzaf gu lakira (This horse is beautiful as to its gait)  
Orka tir kuvafa gu bitonik (The context is favourable to ambitious persons)

b) Complement of similarity [tuoltavasa tuvaraxa]

The complement of similarity of a qualifying adjective is introduced by the special conjunction, here with the value of a specialized preposition, "dum":

Ex: Anna tir kerafa dum luz (Anna is red like a tomato)  
Bonta tiyir kotrafa dum ato (The room was as full as an egg)

c) Complement of dissimilarity [tuvololtavasa tuvaraxa]
The complement of dissimilarity of a qualifying adjective is introduced by the special conjunction, here with the value of a specialized preposition, "voldum":

Ex:   Anna tir akolesafa voldum galik (Anna is prone to sickness, unlike a healthy person)  
Bonta byir viardafo voldum kiewatca (The room was empty, quite the opposite of a success)

d) Comparative complement [dolunesa tuvaraxa]

As said above (§3), the complement of a comparative adjective is introduced by the special conjunction "dam":

Ex:   Okol sotir lokaliaf dam jaftol (The horse is faster than the ox)

e) Superlative complement [vamoefa tuvaraxa]

As said above (§3), the complement of a superlative adjective is introduced by the preposition "ke":

Ex:   Cuskol sotir tel lokaliaf sulem ke moukdunoleem (The cheetah is the fastest of all mammals)

B: Determiners [tunoelaxa]

Actualisers (or determiners according to other terminology) are determinatives whose role is to update or instantiate a name or pronoun. Like all determinatives, they are subject to the rule of the euphonic agreement. The following are classified as actualisers: articles, possessive, demonstrative, interrogative, exclamative, indefinite and numerical determiners.

1) Articles [kordafa tunoelaxa]

Articles are considered determiners, close to demonstratives. Their use is by no means compulsory, except in certain specific circumstances. Thus, the definite article is required in the formation of superlatives and possessive pronouns. However, the indefinite article is of limited use. And the latter two articles are used only in very precise situations of overlapping of the various actants between the main and subordinate, participial or gerundive clauses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tel</td>
<td>the: definite article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tan</td>
<td>a, an: indefinite* article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dal</td>
<td>[in subordinate, participial, and gerundive clause, refers to the subject of the main clause]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dil</td>
<td>[in subordinate, participial, and gerundive clause, refers to the object of the main clause]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Relative / possessive determiners [dikirafa tunoelaxa]

Possessive determiners are derived from personal pronouns with the adjective suffix "-af":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Possessive Determiner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jinaf</td>
<td>my</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rinaf</td>
<td>your (singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inaf</td>
<td>his, her, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minaf</td>
<td>our (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>winaf</td>
<td>your (plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinaf</td>
<td>their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cinaf</td>
<td>our (exclusive)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are two more possessive determiners:

- reflexive possessive determiner: "intaf", from the reflexive personal pronoun. It is redundant with 1st et 2nd person singular possessives, but in the 3rd singular it refers obligatorily to the subject while "inaf" refers to a third party. With the plural persons, it refers to each individual taken in isolation (in the 3rd plural referring to subjects while "sinaf" is for third parties).

There are also secondary forms "dal intaf" or "dil intaf", distinguishing unambiguously the true antecedents in contexts with functional nesting of the various actants of a sentence or in presence of a complex participial or gerundive clause.

- reciprocal possessive determiner: "sintaf", from the reciprocal personal pronoun. It obligatorily refers to a plural subject considered collectively.

3) Demonstratives [danedisa tunoelaxa]

There are three of them:
In enumerations and oppositions, "bat" is for the first term and "ban" for the second.

4) Direct interrogative determiners [koerusa tunoelaxa]

One basic and two built off it, them being:

| tok  ? | which? (general interrogative) |
| tokoy  ? | how much, how many? (numbering)** |
| Tokeaf  ? | how many of it, which one? (position, rank)** |

5) Exclamative determiner [divierafa tunoelaxa]

There is only the one:

| man  ! | such a, what a! |

6) Indefinite determiners [metentuna tunoelaxa]

There is 220 of them*. They are reduced to the stem (not to be confused with the "full" adjectives which are derived from them, but are carrying an autonomous semantic value). They are obviously subject to the rule of the euphonic agreement with vocal endings. Many of them are quantitative determiners.

a) Quantitative indefinite determiners

| abic | few | small number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| konak | several, some | average number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| jontik | many | big number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| dik | too little of, too few of | insufficient number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| um | enough of | sufficient number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| slik | too much | excessive number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| vug | almost nothing of, the minimum of | minimal number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| cug | almost all, the maximum number of | maximal number quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| le | the minority of, the least number of | minority quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| li | half the, as many | equality quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| lo | the majority of, most of | majority quantitative [plural / partitive sense] |
| dat | an incalculable number of | infinitely big quantitative [plural / partitive sense]** |
| mat | an infinitesimal number of | infinitely small quantitative [plural / partitive sense]** |

b) Other indefinite determiners

| ar | another | alternative indefinite |
| kot | each, all | distributive collective indefinite |
| mek | no | simple negative indefinite** |
| mel | no, not one (absolute) | absolute negative indefinite** |
| kon | some | unitary indefinite |
| bet | any, any kind of | undifferentiated indefinite |
| lan | a certain, some | differentiated indefinite |
| tec | a sort of, like a | ungeneric indefinite** |
| yon | a number of | plural indefinite [simple plural] |

* Remark: the indefinite article tan could be considered likewise as a true indefinite determiner, falling within the category above. However, not belonging to the list of components involved in relative pronominal or adverbial series, besides its rare use, it remains classified outside.

** Remark: most of indefinite determiners are used as components for relative pronominal and adverbial series, with the exception of tokoy, tokeaf, dat, and tec. As for mek and mel, the share the simplified combining form me-.

7) Determiner enclisis [tunoelaxafa joara]

Determiners can fuse in Kotava, a possibility called enclisis. It’s chiefly used with non quantitative indefinites, demonstratives and possessives.
With enclisis, the first term is taken in its radical state, any euphonic agreement ending concerning only the second term.

Ex: \[ \text{bat (this)} + \text{ar (other)} = \text{batar (this other)} \]
\[ \text{ar (other)} + \text{yon (a number of)} = \text{aryon (other (pl))} \]
\[ \text{jinal (my) } + \text{yon (a number of)} = \text{jinyon (my (pl))} \]
\[ \rightarrow \text{batar widava (this other city)} \]
\[ \rightarrow \text{aryon zubi (other contracts)} \]
\[ \rightarrow \text{jinyone blucte (my dresses)} \]

8): Numerals [otuk]

a) The notion of root

Numerals are actualisers (or determiners) in Kotava. There are two kinds of numerals: cardinals and ordinals; not to mention the multiplicative or fractional numbers, which belong to the category of qualitative adjectives.

Each numeral has a cardinal and an ordinal. They are formed on the same stem.

Since Kotava has a decimal-based system, all numerals are derived from 21 basic numeral roots.

b) Basic numeral roots [otukzae]

There are 21 of them (including 5 for very big numbers), from which all the other numbers are built by compounding. They are:

1. \text{tan-}
2. \text{tol-}
3. \text{bar-}
4. \text{balem-}
5. \text{alub-}
6. \text{tev-}
7. \text{per-}
8. \text{anyust-}
9. \text{lerd-}
10. \text{san-}
100. \text{decem-}
1000. \text{decit-}
10000. \text{kun-}
100000. \text{vunt-}
1000000. \text{celem-}
10000000. \text{felem-}
10^{12}. \text{tung-}
10^{15}. \text{pung-}
10^{18}. \text{eung-}
10^{21}. \text{zung-}
10^{24}. \text{yung-}

It should be pointed out that there is also a root for zero, which is in no way involved in the composition of the other numerals:

0. \text{ned-}

c) Expression of numerals [otukafa muxara]

a. Cardinal numbers [otaf otuk]

Cardinal numbers are used to express quantities and counts. They are formed with the typical suffix "-oy" to the numeral stem.

Ex: \[ \text{one } = \text{tanoy (tan + -oy)} \]
\[ \text{four } = \text{balemoy (balem + -oy)} \]

Like all determiners, cardinals agree euphonically with the determined substantive or pronoun.

Ex: \[ \text{decemoy aal (a hundred trees)} \]
\[ \text{aluboya mona (five houses)} \]
\[ \text{baroye blucte (three dresses)} \]

b. Ordinal numbers [tirkaf otuk]

Ordinal numbers are used to express a rank, a position. They are formed by means of the typical suffix "-eaf" to the numeral stem.
Ordinals, like cardinals, agree euphonically with the qualified noun or pronoun.

d) Numeral compounding [otukafa ponara]

Except for the 21 basic numeral roots, all numbers are formed by compounding.

The number system is base-10. Numbers situated to the left of a power-of-10 numeral (san, decem, decit, kun, vunt, celem, felem, etc.) multiply the latter, and numbers to the right add up to it. In a compound numeral, only the last term receives the typical suffix, cardinal or ordinal, the others remaining in the radical state. The roots are linked by hyphens.

Ex:

12 = san-toloy (10+2) (or tan-san-toloy: 1x10+2) *
20 = tol-sanoy (2x10)
458 = balem-decem-alub-san-anyustoy ((4x100)+(5x10)+8)
34567890 = bar-decem-balem-san-alub-celem-alub-vunt-tev-kun-per-decem-per-san-lerdoy

* In compounds whose first term would be "tan" (one), the latter can be omitted, the following base 10 root being explicit enough.

Ex:

15 = tan-san-aluboy (or san-aluboy)
115 = tan-decem-tan-san-aluboy (or decem-san-aluboy)
1115 = tan-decit-tan-decem-tan-san-aluboy (or decit-decem-san-aluboy)

Negative numbers use the general prefix "vol-" on the number.

Ex:

-15 = voltan-san-aluboy (or volsan-aluboy)
-115 = voltan-decem-tan-san-aluboy (or voldecem-san-aluboy)
-1115 = voltan-decit-tan-decem-tan-san-aluboy (or voldecit-decem-san-aluboy)

Arithmetical expressions [otukaf patavaks]

In arithmetical expressions, only the first (principal) term takes cardinal or ordinal marking, other elements keep the stem form.

"=" is pronounced: dum (like)
"+" do (with, plus)
"-" bas (minus, less)
"x" jon (multiplied by, times)
"/" fuxe (out of, to)

Ex:

3 + 4 = 7 : baroy do balem dum peroy
4 - 3 = 1 : balemoy bas bar dum taroy
3 x 4 = 12 : baroy jon balem dum (tan-)san-toloy
9 / 3 = 3 : lerdoy fuxe bar dum baroy

Other expressions:

"." is pronounced: u (dot)
"^" ekon gu (to the power of)
"√" zaeon gu (root of)
"%»" fuxe decem (percent)

Ex:

3.3 = baroy u bar * (or baroy lumolk is baroyi lumki)
15.6 = san-aluboy u lev (or san-aluboy lumlok is tevroyi lumki)
3^4 = baroy ekon gu balem
3V_4 = baroy zaeon gu balem
3% = baroy fuxe decem
3% of 50 = baroy fuxe decem ke alub-sanoy

* Only the main element gets the numeral suffix.
f) **Numeral affixes** [otukosta]

There are some affixes (prefixes and suffixes) allowing, starting from a numeral stem, to form numeral expressions or derivatives, always keeping in mind that a cardinal or ordinal numeral remains above all a determinative and is therefore likely to receive any determinative affix. (*cf. infra chap. X, Affixes*).

Specific numerical affixes are:

- `-oy` cardinal suffix forms a determiner
- `-eaf` ordinal suffix forms a determiner
- `-a` collective creates a substantive
- `-e` numbered number creates a substantive
- `-da` annual period creates a substantive
- `-ka` daily period creates a substantive
- `jon-…-af` multiplicative forms a qualifying adjective
- `fuxe-…-af` divider forms a qualifying adjective

Examples of numeral expressions: *bar* (three)

- `baroy` (three)
- `baron` (thrice)
- `bareaf` (third)
- `bareaca` (a third)
- `bareon` (thirdly)
- `bara` (trio, threesome)
- `bare` (number three, a three)
- `barda` (set of three years)
- `bardaf` (three years old, three-yearly)
- `bardon` (during three years)
- `barka` (set of three days)
- `barkaf` (three days old)
- `barkon` (during three days)
- `jonbaraf` (triple)
- `jonbardon` ((multiplied) by three)
- `fuxebaraf` (divided by three, third)
- `jonbaron` ((divided) by third)
- `barbaron` (three by three)

**C: Attributive function** [duwotafa yordara]

Attributive determinatives agree euphonically with the substantive or pronoun they modify.

Ex: *va listafa mona digir* (he owns a pretty house)
    *bat gigal is listaf aal* (this big and beautiful tree)
    *va tane listafa blucte diskir* (he’s wearing one (of his) beautiful clothes)

The attributive determinative goes generally immediately before the name it qualifies.

The attributive determinative may qualify only one substantive at a time, except with the distributive use of linking conjunctions.

**D: Complement function** [sparayafa yordara]

Complement determinatives also agree euphonically with the substantive or pronoun they modify.

Ex: *bat okol tid listaf* (these horses are beautiful)
    *bate blucte tid listafe* (these cloths are beautiful)

With more than one referent, euphonic agreement follows the rightmost one:

Ex: *okolye is okolya tid listafa* (the stallion and the mare are beautiful)
    *bate blucte isu gem tid listaf* (these cloths and these dresses are beautiful)

The **absolute complement determinative** is a consequence of the demonstrativeness rule. This is the complement determinative used with an absent, but contextually obvious, referent.

Absolute complement determinative may not use the verb "*ti*" (to be). The euphonic ending is always "*a*", because of an underlying pronoun in "*coba*".

Ex: it’s beautiful = *batcoba tir listafa*, or simply = *listafa*
    it’s wide = *batcoba tir mantafa*, or simply = *mantafa*
Chapter V: PRONOUNS [ikayolt]

A: Personal pronouns [ilkomaf ikayolt]

There is a complete set of personal pronouns.

1st person singular  \( \text{jin} \)  \( \text{(jinya, jinye)} \)  = I
2nd person singular  \( \text{rin} \)  \( \text{(rinya, rinye)} \)  = you (singular)
3rd person singular  \( \text{in} \)  \( \text{(inya, inye)} \)  = he, she, it
1st person plural inclusive  \( \text{min} \)  \( \text{(minya, minye)} \)  = we (inclusive)
2nd person plural  \( \text{win} \)  \( \text{(winya, winye)} \)  = you (plural)
3rd person plural  \( \text{sin} \)  \( \text{(sinya, sinye)} \)  = they
1st person plural exclusive  \( \text{cin} \)  \( \text{(cinya, cinye)} \)  = we (exclusive)

In English, "we" covers two different meanings, translated in Kotava by "\( \text{min} \)" and "\( \text{cin} \)". "\( \text{Min} \)" is inclusive, that is to say the speaker includes the addressee(s) in the "we". On the other hand, "\( \text{cin} \)" is exclusive; addressees are excluded.

Ex:  
\[ \text{min betlize kenibeyet} \quad (\text{we slept anywhere. The addressee(s) is (are) included in this "we"}) \]
\[ \text{cin betlize kenibeyev} \quad (\text{we slept anywhere. The addressee(s) is (are) not included in this "we"}) \]

Personal pronouns are normally invariant, except in two particular cases:

a) When gender is insisted upon, the suffixes "\( -ya \)" and "\( -ye \)" may be added.

b) Euphonic agreement (only with "\( \text{in} \)" or "\( \text{sin} \)")) with the subject is allowed.

Ex:  
\[ \text{Perak koe werd terigeyer, mewison va vamoetalasi zveripi, in va ine ipeyer} \quad (\text{the snake crawled in the grass, without seeing the big bird twirling above. The latter [\( \text{in} = \text{zveripi} \), the big bird] rushed on it [\( \text{ine} = \text{perake} \), the snake])} \]

The use of personal pronouns is frequently omitted in Kotava, especially when in subject position, except for emphasis, or with the suffixes "\( -ya \)" and "\( -ye \)"", if gender is important. Subject pronouns are never repeated in the same sentence.

Ex:  
\[ (\text{rin}) \quad \text{va mona disukel nume kalil da listafa} \quad (\text{you look at the house and say it's pretty.}) \]

There is no such thing as politeness distinctions on pronouns.

1) Reflexive personal pronoun [kataces ilkomaf ikayolt]

The reflexive personal pronoun is "\( \text{int} \)". It is invariant (no feminine or masculine suffix). It is normally only used in complement position and refers obligatorily to the subject of the clause. In the first and second persons it is redundant with the regular pronouns, but for the third persons it always refers to the subject, whereas "\( \text{in} \)" or "\( \text{sin} \)" refer to third parties.

Ex:  
\[ \text{in icde int fereon pulvir} \quad (\text{he often talks about himself}) \]
\[ \text{in icde in fereon pulvir} \quad (\text{he often talks about him}) \]

In a participial or gerundive clause, it has the form "\( \text{dil int} \)" when referring to the complement of the main clause, if not the same as the subject.

2) Reciprocal personal pronoun [waldaf ilkomaf ikayolt]

There is a reciprocal personal pronoun "\( \text{sin} \)". It is invariant (no feminine or masculine suffix). Like the reflexive pronoun, it is normally only used in complement position, and refers obligatorily to a plural subject. It indicates that the action is done reciprocally by or for each of the subjects.

Ex:  
\[ \text{sin va sin disuked} \quad (\text{they look at them}) \]
\[ \text{sin va sint disuked} \quad (\text{they look at each other}) \]
\[ \text{sin va int disuked} \quad (\text{they look each at themself}) \]

B: Possessive pronouns [dikiraf ikayolt]

They are constructed on the basis of possessive determiners (themselves derived from personal pronouns) which are preceded by the definite article. Like all determinatives, they are subject to the rule of euphonic agreement. They are:
There is a reflexive possessive pronoun: tel intaf (his, hers, theirs, with a reflexive meaning). It also has the secondary forms tel dal intaf and tel dill intaf in some subordinate, participial and gerundive clauses.

C: Relative pronouns and others [skedaraf ikayolt isu ar]

There are 91 relative and other pronouns in Kotava (demonstrative, collective, indefinite, etc.), 85 of which belong to the pronominal series. These series are based on a compound relative pronoun and a component (on the same principle as the relative adverbial series).

Compound relative pronouns are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>coba</th>
<th>what, that what</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tan</td>
<td>one (unknown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel</td>
<td>one (known), this one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tol</td>
<td>either</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bat</th>
<th>this, the first</th>
<th>proximate demonstrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ban</td>
<td>that, the last</td>
<td>distal demonstrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil</td>
<td>same, this same</td>
<td>identity demonstrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ar</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>alternative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kot</td>
<td>each, all</td>
<td>collective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>no, none</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kon</td>
<td>some</td>
<td>unitary indefinite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bet</td>
<td>any, whichever</td>
<td>undifferentiated indefinite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lan</td>
<td>a certain, some</td>
<td>differentiated indefinite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>such</td>
<td>exclamative indefinite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yon</td>
<td>a certain number</td>
<td>plural indefinite [simple plural]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>konak</td>
<td>multiple, several</td>
<td>average number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abic</td>
<td>few</td>
<td>small number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jontik</td>
<td>many, much</td>
<td>big number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slik</td>
<td>too many, too much</td>
<td>excessive number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dik</td>
<td>to few</td>
<td>insufficient number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>um</td>
<td>enough</td>
<td>sufficient number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vug</td>
<td>a minimum of</td>
<td>minimal number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cug</td>
<td>a maximum of</td>
<td>maximal number quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le</td>
<td>less than</td>
<td>minority quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>li</td>
<td>as much/many</td>
<td>equality quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lo</td>
<td>more than</td>
<td>majority quantitative [plural, partitive sense]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tok ?</td>
<td>which?</td>
<td>direct interrogative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kas ?</td>
<td>is...? do...?</td>
<td>existence interrogative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete forms are thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>coba (what)</th>
<th>tan (one) (unknown)</th>
<th>tel (one) (known)</th>
<th>tol (either)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>batcoba (this)</td>
<td>battan (this one)</td>
<td>battel (this one)</td>
<td>battol (this one of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bancoba (that)</td>
<td>ban tan (that one)</td>
<td>bantel (that one)</td>
<td>bantol (that one of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milcoba (the same thing)</td>
<td>mil tan (the same person)</td>
<td>miltel (the same person)</td>
<td>miltol (the same of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arcoba (another thing)</td>
<td>artan (another one)</td>
<td>artel (another one)</td>
<td>artol (another than them two, a third party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kotcoba (all)</td>
<td>kottan (everyone)</td>
<td>kottel (everyone)</td>
<td>kottol (each of them two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mecoba (nothing)</td>
<td>metan (nobody, no one)</td>
<td>metel (nobody, no one)</td>
<td>metol (neither)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koncoba (something)</td>
<td>kontan (somebody)</td>
<td>kontel (somebody)</td>
<td>kontol (one of two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>betcoba (anything)</td>
<td>bettan (anybody)</td>
<td>bettel (anybody)</td>
<td>bettol (anyone of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lancoba (a certain thing)</td>
<td>lantan (a certain person)</td>
<td>lan tel (a certain person)</td>
<td>lantol (a certain one of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mancoba (such a thing)</td>
<td>mantan (such a person)</td>
<td>mantei (such a person)</td>
<td>mantol (such one of the two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound Pronoun</td>
<td>Gendered Suffixes</td>
<td>Gendered Suffixes</td>
<td>Gendered Suffixes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yoncoba (things, a certain number of th.)</td>
<td>yontan (a certain number of persons)</td>
<td>yontel (a certain number of persons)</td>
<td>yontol (both together, all two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abiccoba (few things)</td>
<td>abictan (few people)</td>
<td>abictel (few people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>konakcoba (several things)</td>
<td>konaktan (several people)</td>
<td>konaktel (several people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jontikcoba (many/much things)</td>
<td>jontiktan (many people)</td>
<td>jontiktel (many people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slikcoba (too many things)</td>
<td>sliktan (too many people)</td>
<td>sliktel (too many people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dikcoba (too few things)</td>
<td>diktan (too few people)</td>
<td>diktel (too few people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>umcoba (enough things)</td>
<td>umtan (enough people)</td>
<td>umtel (enough people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vugcoba (a minimum of things, almost nothing)</td>
<td>vugtan (a minimum of people, almost nobody)</td>
<td>vugtel (a minimum of people, almost nobody)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cugcoba (a maximum of things, almost all)</td>
<td>cugtan (a maximum of people, almost all)</td>
<td>cugtel (a maximum of people, almost all)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>licoba (half the things)</td>
<td>litan (half the people)</td>
<td>litel (half the people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>locoba (a majority, most of the things)</td>
<td>lotan (a majority, most of people)</td>
<td>lotel (a majority, most of people)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tokcoba ? (what?)</td>
<td>toktan ? (who?)</td>
<td>toktel ? (who?)</td>
<td>toktol ? (which one of the two?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kascoba ? (is there something that?)</td>
<td>kastan ? (is there someone who?)</td>
<td>kastel ? (is there someone who?)</td>
<td>kastol ? (is there one of the two who?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beyond these 85 compound pronouns, there are two more relative pronouns: "dan" (who, whom) and "dacoba" (that) more or less equivalent to "coba".

All serial pronouns with the compounds ".-tan", ".-tel" or ".-tol" are invariant and not expendable. However, like personal pronouns, the gendered suffixes ".ya" and ".ye" can be added when gender is insisted upon.

Pronouns with compound ".-coba" are absolutely invariant and not expendable. However, the isolated pronoun "dan" obeys the euphonic agreement rule and thus gets vocalic agreement suffixes.

The isolated relative pronouns "dan" and "dacoba" are seldom used and almost exclusively reserved for the introduction of indirect questions. Active, passive or even secondary participial constructions are preferred.

Ex:  
va zveri dani talar dizvé (I’m observing the bird who flies)  
va zveri talasi dizvé (I’m observing the flying bird; better)  
pruve va dane jin estú (the apple that I’m eating)  
pruve jinon estune (the apple eaten by me; better)
Chapter VI: ADVERBS

Adverbs are invariant words that describe a verb, a determinative, another adverb or a conjunction, or even an entire clause or sentence.

Many adverbs, especially relative adverbs and many of the root adverbs, also have a conjunctive vocation, i.e. they can introduce a clause, in the manner of a standard subordinate conjunction.

As a rule, adverbs go immediately before the qualified element.

There are three kinds of adverbs in Kotava: real or root (i.e. underived) adverbs, manner adverbs derived from determinatives, and finally adverbs with a relative value, belonging to the adverbial series.

A: Root adverbs, underived

There are not many, but widely used. They are:

- adim finally
- balte willingly, agreed
- berde this is a good time to
- dile it happens that, sometimes

Next: see Annexes (annex E.1) for the complete list of root adverbs

B: Adverbial series

There are in Kotava, in the same way as the pronominal series, 18 series of relative (or conjunct) adverbs, from the same components (kot, me, bat, ban, mil, lan, man, kon, bet, ar, tok, kas, yon, jontik, konak, abic, slik, dik, um, vug, cug, le, li, lo).

The 18 basic compounds of these series are relative (or conjunct) adverbs. They are:

- date, moment: viele when, as, at the moment when
- prior date: vieul since when, since what moment, since the moment when
- subsequent date: vieli until when, until which moment, until the moment when
- époque: ugale at what (point in) time, at the time when
- duration: edje how much time, how long, while
- cause: dume why, for what reason, for the reason that
- goal: enide why, for what purpose, in order to, so as to
- mean: kane how, by which mean, by the mean that
- quality, manner: inde what kind, how, in what manner, in the way that
- circumstance: tde in what case, in what circumstances, in what conditions, in case
- potentiality: las what chance, what potentiality that, what possibility that, if
- number, quantity: ote how many, how much, in what quantity
- degree, level: eke to what degree, to what point, at this point
- price, value: droe how much, what price, at the price
- place to go: liz whither
- place to come from: lizu whence
- place to pass through: lizo through where

Examples of compound adverbs (among 432 potential ones):

tokviele ? when? ardume for another reason

tokkane ? how? kotugale of all time, historically

batenide for this purpose medroe not for any price

laneke to a certain degree jontikote in very large numbers

kondume for some reason betviele anytime

toliz ? whither, where? (with movement) baniliz there (no movement)

manilizo by such a place arilizu from elsewhere

metode in no circumstances yoneke to some degrees, to some levels

tokejde ? for how much time? konakinde in many manners
cugeke to the highest degree vugote in minimal quantity

These relative adverbs can be used as conjunctions to directly introduce subordinate clauses. They are very frequently in this role.

Ex:

Widava wan divizewer kotliz lae tir azefe ok ticumansase (the city continues to expand wherever the ground is flat or gently sloping)

Laridagaben bulol ieyer cugeke jontiklan me rotcizayad (the pig having its throat cut was screaming so much that many could not bear it)

In koe bata mawa kenibeyer meviele kapamiel tiyir (he never slept in this room when it was party night)
C : Manner adverbs, derived from determinatives [baskafe muge]

These are all adverbs derived from adjectives or any other determinative. Their construction follows a simple and unique rule:

- from determinatives with the ending "-af" or "-f":
  Taking the stem of the determinative (that is without the specific ending), the adverbial suffix "-on" is added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinative</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kalais</td>
<td>kali</td>
<td>kalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>favais</td>
<td>favai</td>
<td>favion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laais</td>
<td>laai</td>
<td>laoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xuf</td>
<td>xuf</td>
<td>xuon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- from determinatives without an ending:
These determinative do not have the specific ending.
There as well, an adverbial suffix "-on" is added on the stem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinative</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bat</td>
<td>bat</td>
<td>baton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slik</td>
<td>slik</td>
<td>slikon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- from cardinal numbers:
There as well the stem serves as a base, i.e. without the typical "-oy" ending, to which the "-on", ending is added.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinative</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baroy</td>
<td>baro</td>
<td>baron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>san-aluboy</td>
<td>san-alub</td>
<td>san-alubon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- from a verbal adjective (participles):
Contrary to the general rule, the adjective is not taken in its radical form (which constitutes the verbal radical itself), but the adverbial suffix "-on" is added directly to the stem with the participial ending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinative</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meruptes</td>
<td>meruptes</td>
<td>merupteson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metentun</td>
<td>metentun</td>
<td>metentunon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pokolemb</td>
<td>pokolemb</td>
<td>pokolembon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All derived adverbs, like the adjectives, are susceptible to being subjected to comparative, superlative and progressive expansions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinative</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lokalf</td>
<td>lokalai</td>
<td>lokalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telefavlaf</td>
<td>telefavl</td>
<td>telefavlai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel lokaliat</td>
<td>tel lokai</td>
<td>tel lokalion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter VII: INTERJECTIONS [divieks]

They form a class of words set apart. Neither nouns, nor even adverbs, although they are syntactically closer to the latter, they are unclassifiable and are, obviously, invariant.
Chapter VIII: PREPOSITIONS

Adpositions are, like the conjunctions, closely related to the super-category of the so-called "introductory" tool words. Their role is absolutely fundamental, as the language has no declensions. Kotava knows no postpositions, only prepositions. These are classified into four categories: locative prepositions, temporal prepositions, miscellaneous prepositions and prepositive locutions on adverbs.

Most of the prepositions, locative and temporal ones chiefly, oppose themselves in meaning by pairs. Each preposition thus fulfills a very precise role and there is no catch-all preposition in Kotava (with the exceptions of the two tool words "gu" and "ic") that would be used to express all kinds of concepts.

A: Miscellaneous prepositions (neither locative nor temporal)

They come in all sorts. However, they are sometimes subdivided according to their meanings: cause, means, measure, etc. This will not be dealt with here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Opposite</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>without</td>
<td>dem</td>
<td>of (partitive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>for lack of</td>
<td>kan</td>
<td>by mean of, by, with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bas</td>
<td>from, off, less</td>
<td>pu</td>
<td>to (attribution)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bro</td>
<td>at the imitation of, like</td>
<td>kevie</td>
<td>unlike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>damo</td>
<td>despite</td>
<td>tornoce</td>
<td>considering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next: see Annexes (annex A.1) for the complete list of prepositions

B: Temporal prepositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Opposite</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abdi</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>radimi</td>
<td>after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arli</td>
<td>at the end of, after, in</td>
<td>runi</td>
<td>since, since the beginning of, since the opening of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba</td>
<td>at, at the moment of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>in (time used for)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bak</td>
<td>while, during, in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next: see Annexes (annex A.2) for the complete list of prepositions

C: Locative prepositions

There are 53 locative prepositions in Kotava. Each of them has actually four distinct forms:

- form 1: expresses where you go
- form 2: expresses where you are
- form 3: expresses where you come from
- form 4: expresses where you pass through

The basic form is form 1 and the 3 others are built off it:

- form 2 = form 1 + "e"
- form 3 = form 1 + "u"
- form 4 = form 1 + "o"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava</th>
<th>English translation</th>
<th>Opposite</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abdu</td>
<td>in front of, before</td>
<td>radim</td>
<td>behind, after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anam</td>
<td>around</td>
<td>ist</td>
<td>in the centre of, in the middle of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art</td>
<td>down, at the end of</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>at the doors of, at the start of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ben</td>
<td>à, après, sur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next: see Annexes (annexe A.3) for the complete list of prepositions

D: Adverbial prepositivisation (prepositional locutions)

There is a mechanism called "prepositivisation on adverb" in Kotava, which allows the creation of a locution with prepositive value from a determinative or an adverbialised noun. It is thus possible to express any locative relationships (absolute or relative, direction, size, etc.), and even others. In principle this can concern any term. However, usage and semantics restrict this ability to a relatively limited number of cases.
The principle consists in the use of an adverbialised form accompanied by one or the other of the two special prepositions gu or ic (ic/ice/icu/ico).

Their respective distributions are very clear:

1) The preposition “ic”

Ic (ic/ice/icu/ico) creates a locative prepositional locution. As with basic locative prepositions, there are 4 forms: where you go (ic), where you are (ice), where you come from (icu) and where you pass through (ico). This preposition never stands alone. It is always used in conjunction with an adverb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English keyword</th>
<th>English locative phrase</th>
<th>Kotava locative phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alignment</td>
<td>in the alignment of</td>
<td>conyon ic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corner</td>
<td>at the corner of</td>
<td>gentimon ic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opposite end</td>
<td>at the opposite end</td>
<td>arkuon ic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uprightness</td>
<td>perpendicularly</td>
<td>xuon ic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next: see Annexes (annex A.4) for a thorough list of locative prepositional locutions

**Examples:**
- Mona (tigisa) wexayon ice vosta tir savsapafa: the house overlooking the ravine is very ancient.
- Voklibon ico venta vultel !!: run through the top of the hill!
- Vwon ic keldega va situla rumkal !!: hang the mirror on the same level as the chimney!

2) The universal preposition “gu”

Gu is used whenever no locative meaning is involved. For example:

- Bata gola kobodon qu kelu tir wawapafa: this region in conflict with the capital is very poor.
- Emon gu retikeem in tir axarsaf: in terms of the ranking of candidates, he is too low.
- Tirka walvedeyon gu detce tir voldrikafa: considering the issue internationally, the position is difficult.
Chapter IX: CONJUNCTIONS [skedaxa]

There is a lot of conjunctions in Kotava. Most of them introduce subordinating conjunctions and some do coordination. Morphologically, there are two sorts of conjunctions: simple and compound (with "da" (that) or another primary conjunction). From a functional point of view, there are 6 types of conjunctions: primary subordinating conjunctions, compound subordinating conjunctions, special co-ordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs, appositive-substitutive conjunction and a special category of binding conjunctions, which function in a somewhat peculiar way.

A: Primary subordinating conjunctions [taneodafa dirgasa skedaxa]

- **beka** although, though
- **da** that, the fact that
- **dumede** as if
- **ede** if (hypothesis)
- **goke** if indeed it is that
- **kore** even though
- **larde** since, given that, as
- **ont** let’s picture that
- **osk** not only

These are the basic conjunctions. They introduce subordinate clauses, which must include a verbal form.

B: Compound subordinating conjunctions [ponana dirgasa skedaxa]

1) **Compound conjunctions with "da"**

- **abdidida** before
- **darpeda** as
- **kabidida** just before
- **kadimida** just after
- **kakinda** after
- **kerida** waiting for (it to)
- **levida** just before
- **moidida** just after

Those compound conjunctions are made of prepositions + "da" (that), in enclisis. They fulfil a role similar to that of primary subordinating conjunctions, introducing subordinate clauses. Everyone of these, save two, express temporal notions.

2) **Compound conjunctions with adverbial value**

A number of primary conjunctions (beka, dumede, ede, goke, kore, larde, teka, vaxede, wotce, zobe) can merge with some polarity (en, me, mea, men, vol) or pragmatics (awe, cwe, gue, sye, tce, volgue, soye, tire, fiste, vode, volfiste, volvode, rotir) particles, thus creating compound conjunctions with and adverbial value able to introduce subordinate clauses. Some examples:

- **edeen** if really, if yes, if that’s the case (then)
- **edeme** if not, if that’s not the case (then)
- **larderatir** since it’s possible (then)
- **korefiste** even though it was necessary (then)
- **tekatire** without it being evident (therefore)

Next: see Annexes (annex E.1) for a complete list of compound conjunctions with adverbial value

C: Special coordinative conjunctions [aptafa dobenplekusa skedaxa]

- **dam** than
- **dum** like, as, such as, in the way that, in the manner of; equal to
- **voldum** unlike what, contrary to what; different from what

There are only three of them, but they are special in that they can perform three different functions:

- simple preposition

  Ex:  
  *Paul tir lokaliaf dam Pierre* (Paul is faster than Pierre)  
  *Dum Paul, Pierre va Paris albar* (Like Paul, Pierre likes Paris)  
- adverb, modifying a preposition or another adverb

Ex:  
Paul tiyir dum kum rapor (Paul was as made of stone, [as petrified])
Paul dum lekeon estuyur (Paul was eating like in the old times)
Paul voldum lekeon estur (Paul is eating unlike in the old times)

- conjunction (verbs can be underlying)

Ex:  
Paul estursuyur dum ulinsiyir (Paul ate too much as he drank too less [as much as])
Paul estuyur voldum uliyir (Paul ate not like he drank [not as much as])
Paul estur loon dam doder (Paul is eating more than he’s paying for)
Paul estur leon dam Pierre (Paul is eating less than Pierre [is eating])

D: Conjunctive adverbs  
[mugefa skedaxa]

Adverbs in adverbial series have a conjunctive dimension and can therefore introduce subordinate clause. They have been studied above (cf. chap. VI: adverbial series).

E: Appositive-substitutive conjunction  
[ikaaykasa skedaxa]

i  
[apposition / substitution]

This lone conjunction is a peculiarity of the Kotava language. It makes it possible to use an element or complement that has already been expressed, assign a new expression to it, which therefore has the value of a substitutive apposition.

F: Coordinative conjunctions  
[kagluyasa skedaxa]

There are 13 coordinative conjunctions. Each of them has actually four distinct forms:

- form 1: expresses simple word coordination
- form 2: expresses distributive coordination
- form 3: expresses homosubjective clause coordination
- form 4: expresses heterosubjective clause coordination

Form 1 is the basic form upon which the three others are built:

- form 2 = form 1 + "-u"
- form 3 = form 1 + "-e"
- form 4 = form 1 + "-en"

is, isu, ise, isen  
and
ok, oku, oke, oken  
or (exclusive)
ik, iku, ike, iken  
and/or
mei, meiu, meie, meien  
neither
vols, volsu, volse, volsen  
but not, unlike
az, aze, azen  
and (then)
vox, voxu, voxe, voxen  
but, nevertheless, and yet
num, numu, nume, numen  
(and) so
kir, kire, kiren  
because
nek, neku, neke, neken  
however, although, even though
lodam, lodamu, lodame, lodamen  
rather than
lidam, lidamu, lidame, lidamen  
(just) as much as, as well as
ledam, ledamu, ledame, ledamen  
for lack of, for want of

1) Simple conjunctive forms

Simple conjunctive forms  
(is, ok, ik, mei, vols, az, num, kir, vox, nek, lodam, lidam, ledam)  
are used to link elements within a phrase or clause.

Ex:  
va atela is it estud (they are eating meat and fruits)
va Paris vols London albar (he likes Paris but not London)
va it kir fa estur (he eats fruits because they’re full of energy)
va it lodam atela estur (he eats fruit rather than meat)

2) Distributive conjunct forms

Forms in "-u"  
(isu, oku, iku, meiu, volsu, aze, numu, kiru, voxu, neku, lodamu, lidamu, ledamu)  
are "distributive". In a simple clause, when the various terms are each accompanied by the same determinatives, they make it possible
to avoid repeating and "distributing" those determinatives. Thus, the determinations qualifying the first term will also apply to the following terms linked by a conjunction in "-u".

Ex:  *listaf batakaf karvol isu vakol isu okol estud* (the pretty white cat, the pretty white dog and the pretty white horse are eating.)

Determinatives "*listaf*" (pretty) and "*batakaf*" (white) apply to the 3 linked substantives.

- *fentafa atela voxu kabayxa me tid kiewafa* (neither cold meat nor cold fish are good)
- *fentafa atela ledamu kabayxa tid kiewafa* (cold meat when there is no cold fish is good)

3) Clausal homosubjective forms

Forms in "-e" (*ise, oke, ike, meie, volse, aze, nume, kire, voxe, neke, lodame, lidame, ledame*), called "clausal homosubjective", are used to link clauses having the same grammatical subject.

Ex:  *karvol estur ise ulir* (the cat is eating and drinking)
- *va Paris albar volse va London ilkader* (he likes Paris but on the contrary hates London)
- *va Paris albar nume ko Franca fereon lapir* (he likes Paris and therefore travels frequently in France)
- *va Paris albar lidame ko London lapir* (he likes Paris as much as he likes going to London)

4) Clausal heterosubjective forms

Forms in "-en" (*isen, oken, iken, meien, volsen, azen, numen, kiren, voxen, neken, lodamen, lidamen, ledamen*), called "causal heterosubjective", are used to link clauses having different grammatical subjects.

Ex:  *karvol estur isen vakol ulir* (the cat is eating and the dog is drinking)
- *Romuald va Paris albar volsen Mario ilkader* (Romuald loves Paris but Mario hates it)
- *Romuald ko Paris lapitir voxen Mario koe London zavzagitir* (Romuald is going to Paris, but Mario will stay in London)
- *in va tanafe iaxe batlize vegeduyur numen widava toz laumayar* (he built here a first factory and the town then began to develop)

5) Meaning of the various coordinating conjunctions

The conjunction "*is*" is used to indicate a strict additive notion.

Ex:  *va atela is il estutur* (he will eat meat and fruits)

The conjunction "*ok*" is used to indicate a strict alternative notion.

Ex:  *va atela ok il estutur* (he'll eat meat or fruits, but not both)

The conjunction "*ik*" is used to indicate an uncertainty between addition and alternative. In a way, this conjunction reflects the two above-mentioned ones simultaneously.

Ex:  *va atela ik il estutur* (he'll eat meat and/or fruits; maybe meat, maybe fruits, maybe both)

"*ik*" is also used to express an interval within a value scale, the notions of "between x AND y" or "from x TO y".

Ex:  *kota pula va tol-sanoy ik bar-sanoy ravesik dadir* (each class has between twenty and thirty students)

The conjunction "*vols*" is used to indicate an absolute opposite without an alternative.

Ex:  *va atela vols il estutur* (he'll eat meat but not fruits; meat and only meat, excluding fruits absolutely)

The conjunction "*mel*" is used to indicate the exclusion of all terms.

Ex:  *va atela mel il me estutur* (he'll eat neither meat nor fruits)

The conjunction "*az*" is used to indicate succession.

Ex:  *va atela az il estutur* (he'll eat meat and then fruits; first meat and then fruits)

The conjunction "*vox*" is used to indicate an additive notion, marked with a simple opposition.

Ex:  *atelanya vox ilaj zo bildeyed* (good meat but also bad fruits were delivered)

The conjunction "*num*" is used to indicate consequence.

Ex:  *ko Paris num Franca lapitir* (he'll come to Paris and therefore to France)

The conjunction "*kir*" is used to indicate the cause.

Ex:  *va grivakirapafa kir fedafa atela albar* (he likes tasty (because fresh) meat)

The conjunction "*nek*" is used to indicate a concession and restriction.

Ex:  *va yona savsafa nek meuruma neva albar* (he likes old books despite them being out of fashion.)

The conjunction "*lodam*" is used to indicate a hierarchical addition. There is a strong emphasis on the first term.

Ex:  *va atela lodam il estutur* (he'll eat meat rather than fruits; he prefers meat to fruits)
The conjunction "lidam" is used to indicate an equal addition. The two terms are considered on the same level, equality is insisted on.

Ex: va atela *lidam* ilt estetur (he'll eat the meat as well as the fruits; meat and fruits are placed exactly on the same level)

The conjunction "ledam" is used to indicate a supplementary addition. The first term exists for lack of the second.

Ex: va atela *ledam* ilt estetur (he'll eat meat for lack of fruits; he’d have had fruits but he has meat, for lack of fruits)

6) Syntactical constraints

Coordinative conjunctions must be used as many times as there are coordinations.

Ex: karvol *is* yon vakol is okol estud (the cat, dogs and the horse are eating)
    karvol *estur aze ullr aze kenber* (the cat eats, drinks, then sleeps)

The coordinative conjunctions used within subject phrases (simple or distributive forms) have an influence on number agreement if the clause contains a conjugated verb. The rule, a very simple one, is the following: whatever the conjunction, there is plural agreement systematically, even if semantically the singular would have been expected.
Chapter X: AFFIXES [osta]

This is one of the most fundamental and interesting parts of Kotava grammar. It is the affixes that give the language its richness of expression (both quantitative and qualitative), as well as its remarkable flexibility.

In Kotava, are called affixes only those affixes that have a certain meaning in themselves and are used to constitute new words and not mere paradigms (especially verbal ones).

There are five types of affixes, defined by the categories of words to which they apply. Thus there are:

- general affixes
- verbalising affixes
- verbal affixes
- nominal affixes
- determinative affixes

Let us note at once that the affixes have no other limitation of use than that imposed by logic and clarity of expression.

A: General affixes [jadifa osta]

These affixes may modify any word from the first three morphological levels (substantives, verbs, determinatives and derived adverbs).

They are further organised in four prefixes and seven suffixes.

1) General prefixes [jadifa abduosta]

- *me-* negation  
  ex. favlaf (useful) → mefavlaf (useless)

- *vol-* contrary  
  favlaf (useful) → volfavlaf (harmful)

- *en-* reinforcement  
  favlaf (useful) → enfavlaf (essential)

- *tol-* repetition  
  WI (to see) → TOLWI (to see again)

2) General suffixes [jadifa radimosta]

They are formed with one or two significative consonants, with a post- or pre-posed linking vowel, varying in function of the class and/or shape of the words.

They are:

- *-m-* smallness, affective suffix
- *-p-* bigness, emphasising suffix
- *-j-* pejoration, pejorative suffix
- *-ny-* melioration, meliorative suffix
- *-rs-* excessiveness, excess suffix
- *-ns-* inadequacy, insufficient suffix
- *-ck-* normality, mean, middle suffix

They can in no circumstance change either the morphological nature nor the endings or final letters of a word. That is why their forms are varying, although regularly so. Thus:

- **with substantives**:
  Suffixes obey the euphonic agreement rule, thus the final letter of the substantive may call for an euphonic ending. Thus:

  - substantives ending in *consonants or semivowels* → *-am* - *-ap* - *-aj* - *-any* - *-ars* - *-ans* - *-ack*
  - substantives ending in "*a*" → *-ma* - *-pa* - *ja* - *nya* - *raa* - *nsa* - *cka*
  - substantives ending in "*e*" → *-me* - *pe* - *je* - *neye* - *rse* - *nsse* - *ckke*
  - substantives ending in "*o*" → *-mo* - *po* - *jo* - *noyo* - *rso* - *nsno* - *cko*
  - substantives ending in "*u*" → *-mu* - *pu* - *ju* - *nyu* - *rsu* - *nsu* - *cku*

  Ex: *molt* (port) → *moltap* (big port)
  *fortey* (blood) → *fortesany* (good blood)
  *mona* (house) → *monaja* (shack)
  *perake* (snake) → *perakesky* (small snake)
  *dili* (peace) → *dilicki* (standard, fair peace)

- **with verbs** (or verbal forms):
  Suffixes must again obey the euphonic agreement rule (like the tense suffixes), and are added directly on the verbal stem (do remember that for derived (in)transitive verbs, "-si" and "-we" are part of the stem).

All subsequent verbal forms (participles included) will then use this extended stem. Thus:
- verbs ending in "-a"   forms -ma -pa -ja -nya -rsa -nsa -cka
- verbs ending in "-e"   forms -me -pe -je -nye -rse -nse -cke
- verbs ending in "-i"   forms -mi -pi -ji -nyi -rsi -nsi -cki
- verbs ending in "-u"   forms -mu -pu -ju -nyu -rsu -nsu -cku

Ex :  
DANKA (to sing)    DANKANYA (to sing well)  
DOLE (to sell)    DOLEPE (to sell a lot)  
beil (I read)    beili (I read badly)  
estu (he ate)    estursuy (he ate too much)  
dizv (by observing)    dizvem (by observing a little)  
tunuyan (freed)    tunuyansan (inadequately freed)  

- with determinatives (except verbal adjectives):  
- adjectives stem ending in "-af":  
  forms: -am- -ap- -aj- -any- -ars- -ans- -ack-  
  between the stem and the final category suffix.  
Ex:  
favlaf (useful)    favlapaf (very useful)  
batakaf (white)    batakajaf (dubiously white)  
kali (fast)    kaliarsaf (too fast)  

- adjective stems ending in another vowel than "a":  
  forms: -ma- -pa- -ja- -nya- -rsa- -nsa- -cka-  
  between the stem and the final category suffix.  
Ex:  
ilaf (daring)    laopaf (very daring)  
xu (vertical)    xu (too vertical)  
solwi (distinct)    solwitchaf (well distinct)  

- determinatives without ending:  
  forms: -am- -ap- -aj- -any- -ars- -ans- -ack-  
  directly added to the stem.  

- with adverbs:  
  Only derived adverbs can receive general affixes.  
  General suffixes, as for the adjectives, go between the stem and the typical 
  "-on" ending.

B: Verbalising affixes [tugrayasa osta]  
These affixes create verbs, either from substantive, or from determinatives. There is one suffix and four 
circumfixes.

1) Verbalising suffix [tugrayasa radimosta]  
This is:  
- ú : to practice an activity, a sport  
Ex:  
nugaviputi (football, soccer)    NUGAVIPUTIU (to play, to practice football)  
lexa (music)    LEXU (to play, to make music)  

It applies directly to the substantive stem. When the latter ends with "-a", it disappears.  
Verbs thus created are intransitive. Suffixed "-u" is then an integral part of the new stem.

2) Verbalising circumfixes [tugrayasa abduosta]  
There are seven of them. Four apply to nominal stems, the other three to determiners.

- on nominal stems:  
  - ko- ... - * : to enter, to introduce  
  - div- ... - * : to out, to extract  
  - run- ... - * : to start, to open, to clench  
  - art- ... - * : to stop, to interrupt, to put out, to close  
  * with consonant, semivowel or "-o" -final substantive, the suffix part of the verbaliser adds an "-a" to obtain a 
  regular verbal ending. With any other vowel stems, the new stem only adds the prefix.  
Ex:  
tota (boat)    KOTOTA (to embark onto a boat)  
omaze (wagon)    KOOMAZE (to go onto a wagon)  
direm (car)    DIVDIREM (to exit from a car)  
pako (party)    DIVPAKO (to kick out of the party)  
av (light)    RUNAFI (to turn the lights on)
on determinative stems:
- fu- ... -á : to make something into something
- gri- ... -á : to cease a state
- gu- ... -á : to keep a given state

These three verbalising circumfixes apply to determinative stems, without their typical endings. The verbal stem thus created comprises prefix + determinative stem + suffixed "-á".

Ex: tumaf (holy) → TUTUMTA (to sanctify, to canonise)
kristevaf (christian) → GRIKRIEVA (to dechristianise)
garf (authentic) → TUGARIA (to authenticate)
ruptes (depending) → TURUPTESA (to make dependant)*
ar (other) → GRIARA (to make uniform)
parvuaf (clean) → GUARVUJA (to keep clean)

* with verbal adjectives, the entire participial stem is to be used, not just the verbal stem.

All verbs created with these seven circumfixes are transitive, and can get direct objects introduced by the preposition "va".

C: Verbal affixes [grayosta]

These affixes create substantives and adjectives (=participles) from verbal stems. Actually, they're only suffixes. Three form participles (cf. supra chap. III § K, participial-relative), two others resultative and permanent quality adjectives, and the last ten substantives. They build directly upon the verbal stem.

- mb secondary participle (secondary verbal adj.)
  Ex. ZILI (to give) → zilimb (receiving)
- n passive participle (passive verbal adj.)
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzen (produced)
- s active participle (active verbal adj.)
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warezos (producing)
- naf verbal result (timeless)
  Ex. BUDE (to close) → budenaf (closed)
- saf permanent quality
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzesaf (productive)
- ks result of the action
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzezs (product)
- mbik person secondary objet of the action
  Ex. ZILI (to give) → zilimbik (beneficiary, recipient)
- nik person undergoing the process
  Ex. RISTA (to oppress) → ristnik (oppressed person)
- ra verbal action (verbal noun)
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzena (production)
- sik agent, person doing the action
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzesik (a producer)
- siki instrument, implement used for
  Ex. MADA (to lift) → madasiki (lever)
- siko machine, apparel
  Ex. GLUYA (to bind) → gluyasiko (binder)
- xa object affected by the action
  Ex. IA (to make) → ixa (manufactured object)
- xe building in which the action takes place
  Ex. WARZE (to produce) → warzesxo (place of production)
- xo place of the action

D: Nominal affixes [yoltosta]

These affixes create new substantives or adjectives from substantives.

1) Nominalising suffixes [tuyoltasa radimosta]

There are twenty-eight of them:

- a numeral collective (on numeral stems)
  Ex. sanoy (ten) → sana (group of ten)
- ak container
  Ex. eip (salt) → eipak (salt shaker)
- akola sickness, inflammation
  Ex. nz (lung) → nzakola (pneumonia)
- ava language, dialect
  Ex. Franca (French) → Francaya (French)
- cek content, thing contained in
  Ex. art (mouth) → artek (a mouthful)
- da number of years (on numeral stems)
  Ex. san- (ten) → sanda (decade)
- eba profession
  Ex. tavesik (professor) → tavesikeba (professorate)
- eem collective, ensemble
  Ex. suterof (literary work) → suteroteem (literature)
- eka grade, level
  Ex. lave (water) → lave (water level)
- eva doctrine
  Ex. sel (society) → selleva (socialism)
- indica type, variety
  Ex. reiz (fairy tale) → reizinda (sort of fairy tail)
- ka number of days (on numeral stems)
  Ex. san- (ten) → sanka (decade)
- ki part, bit, piece of
  Ex. beg (bread) → bieghi (piece of bread)
- kril side (on numeral stems)
  Ex. tek- (six) → tekril (hexagon)
E: Determinative affixes [gotuxosta]

These affixes help to create substantives and the manner adverb from determinative stems. There are only five of them. They apply directly to the determinative stem (without the "-ar" or "-f" typical suffix). For verbal adjectives however, suffixes are added to the stem with the endings, not directly on the verbal stem. These five suffixes are:

-aca thing, action with the characteristic of
-e part of a whole with the characteristic of
-ik person with the quality of, the characteristic of
-on manner adverb
-uka quality

Ex: listaf (beautiful, pretty)
→ listaca (a pretty thing)
→ listuca (beauty)
→ liste (the beautiful part)
→ listik (a beauty, pretty person)
→ liston (beautifully, prettily)

ar (other)
→ araca (another thing, a difference)
→ arucu (the difference, otherness)
→ are (the other part)
→ arik (someone else)
→ aron (otherwise)

ruptes (depending)
→ ruptesaca (something depending)
→ ruptesuca (dependency)
→ ruptese (the depending part)
→ ruptesik (someone depending)
→ rupteson (dependingly)
Thus are called a number of suffixes that work on principles similar to those of productive suffixes, but whose use is lexical, i.e. the terms they allow to create from other radicals are not limitless and are fixed in the official lexicon. Even if their use is often extensive and very easy to understand, in reality all the nouns built using these suffixes should normally be indexed and described in the dictionary.

There are various sorts, particularly in scientific fields. But here are a number of them that are useful to know (all generate nouns):

- **-aal** tree [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. toresta (thorn)  
  → torestaal (thorny bush)
- **-bolk** system, network [economy, social]  
  Ex. skapa (economy)  
  → skapabolk (economic system)
- **-dunol** animal [zoology]  
  Ex. perake (snake)  
  → perakedunol (reptile)
- **-fay** seed [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. prua (apple tree)  
  → prue (apple)
- **-e** animal call [zoology]  
  Ex. xol (beanstalk)  
  → xofay (bean)
- **-imwa** flower [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. kramta (orange tree)  
  → kramtimwa (orange flower)
- **-kranav** pain [medicine]  
  Ex. relt (muscle)  
  → reilkranav (myalgia)
- **-nize** mania [medicine, social]  
  Ex. dubiera (theft)  
  → dubieranizde (kleptomania)
- **-pale** vegetal [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. voba (lemon tree)  
  → vobapale (citrus)
- **-sok** state, situation [general]  
  Ex. lika (banana tree)  
  → likatoka (banana leaf)
- **-too** leaf [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. lava (water)  
  → lavatral (hydroelectricity)
- **-uali** sport [culture, way of life]  
  Ex. nuba (hand)  
  → nubuli (boxing)
- **-vega** inflammation [medicine]  
  Ex. alma (skin)  
  → almavega (skin inflammation)
- **-veta** cancer [medicine]  
  Ex. larida (throat)  
  → laridaveta (throat cancer)
- **-zae** root [agronomy, botany]  
  Ex. bemta (mangrove)  
  → bemtazae (mangrove root)
Chapter XI: AFFIRMATIVE DEMONSTRATIVENESS  [ruyesa danedira]

There is a rule, known as the affirmative demonstrativeness rule, which allows to build a sentence without resorting to traditional syntactic constructions with a verbal clause. However, it has very specific effects and limitations.

A: Post-interrogative or post-affirmative statement  [radimikoerurafa ruyera]

These statements without verbs consist in answers to questions or affirmations.

Ex: — Do in estutul? — Volgue. (— Will you eat with him? —No.)
— Tokkane in lapiyir? — Kan direm. (— How did he came? — By car.)

B: Predicative statement  [pilkovoyafa ruyera]

Predicate determinatives generally are introduced by stative verbs, chief among them "TI" (to be). However, thanks to affirmative demonstrativeness, "TI" can be omitted. But only in the present tense, for generalities.

Ex: sin tid gruf (they are intelligent) or simply "sin gruf"
inya tir listafa (she is pretty) or simply "inya listafa"

C: Impersonal statement  [meilkomafa gotusa ruyera]

Although it is not much employed, impersonal clauses may be introduced with only a determinative and the conjunction "da" (that). The implied impersonal subject is "batcoba". The euphonic agreement on the determinative will therefore be "-a"

Ex: it is important that it rain = zolonafa da muvar (for batcoba tir zolonafa da muvar)

D: Absolute demonstrativeness  [belikafa ruyera]

The verb "TI" (to be) is normally used for it. But "TI" may be omitted. Thus, a determinative or a pronoun alone are frequently translated with "it is, that is". When it’s a determinative, it must take an agreement ending in "-a", because "batcoba" is implied.

Ex: it’s beautiful = batcoba tir listafa
or = tir listafa
or = listafa

that’s them = tid sin
or = sin

E: Focus  [ravlemafa tuanulara]

Along with the aforementioned, multiple tools are at disposal to foreground or stress a phrase or sentence component relative to the others. But there is specifically two particles specifically, known as focus particles, to highlight an element. They can be applied anywhere to any element, no matter what its nature: verbal form, determinative, substantive, adverb, preposition, etc.

The focus particle goes immediately before the affected phrase. "To" is positive focus, whereas "volto" is negative focus.

Ex: to battan va gazik adjubeyer = it was this person who murdered the king
battan va to gazik adjubeyer = it was the king whom this person murdered
battan va gazik to batlize adjubeyer = it was here that this person murdered the king
battan va gazik to adjubeyer = it was murdering the king that this person did

volto battan va gazik adjubeyer = it wasn’t this person who murdered the king
battan va gazik ba volto mializ adjubeyer = it wasn’t at noon that this person murdered the king
Chapter XII: COMPOUNDING

Compounding is a frequent process in Kotava, regulated by the following rules.

A: Simple compounding

It joins two substantives, along the following principles:

- The substantives keep their standalone shapes. However, if the determined begins with a vowel and the
determiner ends in "-a", the latter disappears;
- determiner before determined;
- the determined (final element) defines euphonic agreement;
- one of the compounded element must have with the other either a transitive relation (preposition "va"),
genitive of possession (preposition "ke"), genitive of content (preposition "dem"), destination (preposition "tori"), purpose (preposition "ta"), or matter (preposition "kum").

Ex:  
winkawidava = widava ke winka (provincial town)
tieiaxe = iaxe va tie (gas factory)
fadxabilaga = bilaga tori fadxa (coffee cup)
suterabruxa = bruxa ta sutera (quill for writing)
intakudja = kudja kum inta (wood statue)

B: Merger compounding

This is the compounding between a substantive and its attribute. 
The rules are:

- only one attribute;
- going before the substantive;
- the attribute is stripped to the stem (not the verbal adjectives);
- conservation of euphonic final "-a" on an attribute ending in -af if the substantive begins with a consonant.

Ex:  
pulodavertuma = pulodafa vertuma (parliamentary system)
bemanaveva = bemafa neva (schoolbook)

C: Adverbial compounding

Compounding is much used with an adverbial function, to express temporality or an idea of progression.

1) Temporal adverbial compounding

In the manner of adverbial series, it is possible to make an adverb from a determiner (demonstrative,
collective, indefinite, etc.) and a substantive with a temporal meaning, when the corresponding temporal
phrase would be introduced by the prepositions "ba" (at, in), "bak" (during) or "remi" (while).

The main affected substantives are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substantive</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bartiv</td>
<td>hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verast</td>
<td>second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wexa</td>
<td>minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gemelt</td>
<td>moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vula</td>
<td>instant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ugal</td>
<td>time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sare</td>
<td>age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viel</td>
<td>day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aksat</td>
<td>month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tanda</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nom</td>
<td>twilight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miamiel</td>
<td>midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miel</td>
<td>night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afiz</td>
<td>daytime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vanafiz</td>
<td>dawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gazda</td>
<td>early morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riel</td>
<td>morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miafiz</td>
<td>noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiel</td>
<td>afternoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and their derivates in "-cek" (content).

Ex:  
ktoba barta = ba kot bartiv (every hour)
ktogazo = ba kota gazda (every morning)
 backups = bak bete sare (from times immemorial, in any age)
bata vula = ba bata vula (in this instant)
mekgemelt = ba mek gemelt (in no moment)

It is also possible to combine the prepositions "mali" (since) and "kali" (until) with time adverbs.

Ex:  
maliarint = mali arintaf viel (since yesterday)
kalielde = kali eldef viel (until tomorrow)
2) **Distributive-iterative adverbial compounding**

Already seen a bit in previous chapters, reduplicative compounding expresses progression and repetition. The first term is stripped to the stem with an euphonic -a if need be (=second term beginning with a consonant), while the second gets the endings (e.g. adverbial).

Ex:  
- *barbaron* (three by three)  
- *abicabicon* (little by little)  
- *kalikalion* (making great strides)  
- *tuveltuvelon* (from door to door)
Chapter XIII: WORD ORDER [ravlemvura]

In Kotava, there is no strict word order, except for some particular cases seen in the preceding chapters. However, we can find some general tendencies:

- prepositions are necessarily in front of the governed noun phrase;
- verbal particles are necessarily in front of the verb;
- attributive adjectives are in front of the qualified noun phrase;
- the subject is in front of the verb;
- adverbs are in front of the governed element;
- verbal complements (transitive and secondary) come before the verb;
- the nominal complement object follows the noun or adjective that it expands;
- pronominal complements come generally before the verb.
Chapter XIV: PRINCIPLES OF EXPRESSION

The aforementioned rules make up the grammar, strictly speaking, of Kotava. However, spoken and written expression follows some number of big principles as well that must be kept in mind. These are, in sort of an order of importance:

1) **Contextuality**

The first of the big principles. That is to say, an utterance must always be considered in context, in relation to the people involved. Something that is obvious to them does not need to be clarified or repeated. This applies in particular to the notion of the definiteness/indefiniteness of phrases, hence the virtual absence of articles for example. Or the inferences in complements, nominal sentences, simple verbal forms.

2) **Minimality**

Principle which follows in part from the previous one. Among the many grammatical and lexical possibilities available, the simplest and shortest will always be preferred, unless there is a specific desire. Thus in the choice of certain affixes or modalities. Still according to this principle, everything that may appear redundant will be removed, the personal pronouns being a good illustration of this, since verbal endings already express person.

3) **Univocity**

Strict respect of the morphology

A strong principle in Kotava, the language does not admit the overriding of morphological nature. A word belongs to only one category at a time. Derivations like "verb → noun" or "noun → adjective" and other derivations must be based on specialized affixes.

4) **Persistence**

This principle applies above all to the expression of the third person subject. Within an entire paragraph, that is on a set of several sentences, until a new topic is explicitly stated, the actant is always the initial topic. This principle also explains the wide use of distributive forms of binding conjunctions.

5) **Unambiguity**

An essential characteristic of Kotava, expression is generally precise, taking into account the preceding principles. Speaking or writing in a vague way always seems to be a particular desire. Precision is implicit, hence the frequent use of forms, adverbs or affixes eliminating any risk of ambiguity.

6) **Position of enunciator**

Centred on the enunciator. Direct speech

Kotava use always favours direct and personalised expression, active voice, the enunciator's involvement. Impersonal forms, leaving aside inherently impersonal verbs like "to rain" or "to be night", are not very popular and complicated.

7) **Syntactical freedom**

Provided compliance with the mandatory constraints (preposition preceding substantives or Object-Verb order, for example), there is a good deal of freedom for word order in Kotava.
ANNEXES [yona notraca]

Below are exposed some lists of prepositions, classifiers, verbs, expressions, etc.

List of annexes:

A: Lists of prepositions
A.1: Miscellaneous prepositions
A.2: Temporal prepositions
A.3: Locative prepositions
A.4: Adverbial prepositivisation (prepositive locutions)

B: List of classifiers
C: Lists of verbs
C.1: Impersonal weather words
C.2: Sensation verbs

D: Lists of particles
D.1: Particles
D.2: Adverbial particles

E: List of conjunctions
E.1: Conjunctions derived from "ede"

F: List of adverbs
F.1: Root adverbs

G: Lists of expressions
G.1: "etc" phrases.
G.2: Partitive expressions "most of", etc.
G.3: Expression of the date, hour or numbered location

H: Abbreviations
H.1: Principles of abbreviation
H.2: Date notation

A: Prepositions [yaz]

A comprehensive listing of Kotava prepositions:

A.1: Miscellaneous prepositions (neither locative nor temporal) [meugalaf is mexof yaz]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava prep.</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Antonymic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>without</td>
<td>dem</td>
<td>of (partitive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arbe</td>
<td>for want of, for lack of</td>
<td>kan</td>
<td>by, with, by mean of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bas</td>
<td>from, off; less</td>
<td>pu; do</td>
<td>for (attribution); plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bro</td>
<td>at the imitation of, like</td>
<td>kevie</td>
<td>contrary to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dem</td>
<td>despite</td>
<td>tornoce</td>
<td>considering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defre</td>
<td>able to, in shape for</td>
<td>voldefre</td>
<td>unable to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dim</td>
<td>of (partitive)</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>with (comitative); plus</td>
<td>voldo; bas</td>
<td>without; less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dolge</td>
<td>regarding</td>
<td>vaxe, rade</td>
<td>to the exception of, apart from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don</td>
<td>included</td>
<td>jon</td>
<td>time(s), multiplied by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donne</td>
<td>by (propportion), divided by</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gu</td>
<td>by (agent)</td>
<td>tuke</td>
<td>thanks to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icde</td>
<td>because of (negatively)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ilg</td>
<td>of, to (adjective compl.; indirect)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ilie</td>
<td>about, on</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ika</td>
<td>instead of</td>
<td>wetce</td>
<td>as, in quality of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joke</td>
<td>to the profit of</td>
<td>kunte</td>
<td>to the detriment of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jon</td>
<td>by, multiplied by</td>
<td>fuxe</td>
<td>by (propportion), divided by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kabe</td>
<td>for lack of, for want of</td>
<td>kan</td>
<td>by, with, by mean of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kapbure</td>
<td>by, with; by mean of</td>
<td>arbe, kabe</td>
<td>for lack of, for want of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kare</td>
<td>in relation to, compared to</td>
<td>volkare</td>
<td>regardless of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ke</td>
<td>of (genitive, possessor)</td>
<td>volke</td>
<td>not pertaining to, not...’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kepte</td>
<td>to the point of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kev</td>
<td>against</td>
<td>mu</td>
<td>for, pro, benefitting, in favour of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kevie</td>
<td>contrary to</td>
<td>bro</td>
<td>at the imitation of, like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>krede</td>
<td>provided that, by means of</td>
<td>volkrede</td>
<td>without condition of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kum</td>
<td>in (material)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kunte</td>
<td>to the detriment of</td>
<td>joke</td>
<td>to the profit of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luke</td>
<td>not considering</td>
<td>oye</td>
<td>considering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luxe</td>
<td>as for, relatively to, concerning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A.2: Temporal prepositions [ugalaf yaz]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava prep.</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Antonymic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abdi</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>radimi</td>
<td>after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arti</td>
<td>by the end of, after</td>
<td>runi</td>
<td>since (the beginning of, the inception of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ba</td>
<td>at, at the moment of</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>in (time needed for)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| bak | during | bak | in the (exact) middle, mid-
| bai | on the occasion of | bai | (just) before |
| drumi | around (short time) | ezi | outside |
| ili | long after | ili | in the (exact) middle, mid-
| isti | in the (exact) middle, mid-
| kabdi | (just) before | kabdi | (just) after |
| kadimi | (just) after | kadimi | (just) before |
| kaiki | after | kaiki | after |
| kali | until | kali | until |
| keri | until, waiting for | keri | until, waiting for |
| kevi | towards, by (very soon) | kevi | towards, by (very soon) |
| koi | at, at the instant of | koi | at, at the instant of |
| levi | since | levi | since |
| moi | (just) after | moi | (just) after |
| moni | towards, by | moni | towards, by |
| poki | not long before | poki | not long before |
| radimi | after | radimi | after |
| remi | during, while, as | remi | during, while, as |
| runi | since (the beginning of) | runi | since (the beginning of) |
| sumi | long before (many times ago) | sumi | long before (many times ago) |
| teni | following | teni | following |
| tidi | at the end of | tidi | at the end of |
| titi | at the beginning of | titi | at the beginning of |
| tozi | preceding | tozi | preceding |
| vadbi | in the beginning of | vadbi | in the beginning of |
| vadimi | in the beginning of | vadimi | in the beginning of |
| vani | near, not long after | vani | near, not long after |
| varevi | (long) | varevi | (long) |
| voki | before and after ... | voki | before and after ... |
### A.3: Locative prepositions \[xof yaz\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kotava prep.</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Antonymic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abdu</td>
<td>in the front of, before</td>
<td>radim</td>
<td>behind, after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anam</td>
<td>around</td>
<td>ist</td>
<td>in the centre of, in the middle of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>art</td>
<td>down, at the end of</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>at the doors of, at the start of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ben</td>
<td>after, to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bid</td>
<td>perpendicularly to</td>
<td>vaken</td>
<td>parallely to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can</td>
<td>in the periphery of</td>
<td>ist</td>
<td>in the centre of, in the middle of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dad</td>
<td>diagonally of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>den</td>
<td>at...’s</td>
<td>ko</td>
<td>in, within</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>div</td>
<td>without, outside</td>
<td>kev</td>
<td>against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drum</td>
<td>close to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ez</td>
<td>away, outside, off from</td>
<td>vanmia</td>
<td>among</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ge</td>
<td>back to; south of</td>
<td>lent</td>
<td>facing; north of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geron</td>
<td>southeast of</td>
<td>lenttalt</td>
<td>northwestern of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>getalt</td>
<td>southwest of</td>
<td>lention</td>
<td>northeaster of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ic*</td>
<td>to, of (adverbial prep.)</td>
<td>van</td>
<td>towards (approach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il</td>
<td>far from</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>on the outskirts of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kabdu</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>kadam</td>
<td>behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kadam</td>
<td>behind</td>
<td>kabdu</td>
<td>before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kaik</td>
<td>beyond, across</td>
<td>vom</td>
<td>below, from this side of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kak</td>
<td>back against</td>
<td>kev</td>
<td>against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kai</td>
<td>till</td>
<td>mal</td>
<td>from (origin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>katic</td>
<td>upstream of, higher than</td>
<td>katic</td>
<td>downstream of, lower than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kabit</td>
<td>downstream of, lower than</td>
<td>katic</td>
<td>upstream of, higher than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ken</td>
<td>along</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kev</td>
<td>against</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ko</td>
<td>in, within</td>
<td>div</td>
<td>without, outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lent</td>
<td>facing; north of</td>
<td>ge</td>
<td>back to; south of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lentnorton</td>
<td>northeast of</td>
<td>getalt</td>
<td>in the southwest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lenttalltallt</td>
<td>northwest of</td>
<td>geron</td>
<td>in the southwest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lev</td>
<td>under (with contact)</td>
<td>mo</td>
<td>on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal</td>
<td>from (origin)</td>
<td>kai</td>
<td>till</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mo</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>lev</td>
<td>under (with contact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mon</td>
<td>in the vicinity of, near</td>
<td>sum</td>
<td>far from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pok</td>
<td>near</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>radim</td>
<td>in the rear of</td>
<td>abdu</td>
<td>in the front of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rem</td>
<td>through, across</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ron</td>
<td>to the right of; east of</td>
<td>tait</td>
<td>to the link of; to the west of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td>at the doors of, at the start of</td>
<td>art</td>
<td>down, at the end of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sum</td>
<td>far from</td>
<td>pok</td>
<td>near</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tait</td>
<td>to the link of;west of</td>
<td>ron</td>
<td>to the right of; to the east of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tic</td>
<td>on top of</td>
<td>tit</td>
<td>at the bottom of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tit</td>
<td>at the bottom of</td>
<td>tic</td>
<td>on top of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vabdu</td>
<td>at the front of</td>
<td>vadim</td>
<td>at the back of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vadam</td>
<td>at the back of</td>
<td>vabdu</td>
<td>at the front of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vage</td>
<td>in the south of</td>
<td>valent</td>
<td>in the north of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vageron</td>
<td>in the southeast of</td>
<td>vageron</td>
<td>in the southwest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vagerontalltalt</td>
<td>in the southwest of</td>
<td>vageron</td>
<td>in the southwest of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaken</td>
<td>parallelly to</td>
<td>bid</td>
<td>perpendicularly to, athwart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vakril</td>
<td>in the side of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valent</td>
<td>in the north of</td>
<td>vage</td>
<td>in the south of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valentnaltalt</td>
<td>in the northeast of</td>
<td>valentnalt</td>
<td>in the northwestern of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valentnortnalntalt</td>
<td>in the northeast of</td>
<td>valentnortnalntalt</td>
<td>in the northeast of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valev</td>
<td>under</td>
<td>vamo</td>
<td>over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vamo</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>valev</td>
<td>under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>van</td>
<td>towards (approach)</td>
<td>il</td>
<td>far from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vanmia</td>
<td>among(st)</td>
<td>ez</td>
<td>away, outside, off from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>varon</td>
<td>in the east of</td>
<td>vatal</td>
<td>in the west of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vartal</td>
<td>in the west of</td>
<td>varon</td>
<td>in the east of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vatic</td>
<td>in the top of</td>
<td>vatt</td>
<td>in the bottom of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vatit</td>
<td>in the bottom of</td>
<td>vatic</td>
<td>in the top of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vok</td>
<td>on either side of</td>
<td>wal</td>
<td>between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vom</td>
<td>on this side of</td>
<td>kaik</td>
<td>beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wai</td>
<td>between</td>
<td>vok</td>
<td>on either side of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A.4: Adverbial prepositivisation (prepositional locutions) [mugeyaz]

A (not comprehensive) listing of locative prepositional locutions based on adverbs, using the generic preposition ic (ic/ice/icu/ico).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English keyword</th>
<th>English locative location</th>
<th>Kotava locative location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>alignment</td>
<td>in the alignment of</td>
<td>conyon ic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angle</td>
<td>at the angle of</td>
<td>gentimon ic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SF/PAG / Kotava Grammar Complete English Version IV-03. April 2018 61/68
antipode at opposite ends of the earth from arkuk
sheer cliff on the sheer cliff of xuon
atmosphere in the atmosphere of alpozon
axis in the axis of lyon
azimuth at the azimuth of brogon
base at the base of omavon
edge, brim on the brim of, bordering domon
road on the way of, on the road to keldun
way halfway between, midway between keldalluk, keldackun
peak at the peak of volkibon
corner in the corner of alavon
coast in the coast of krimon
side on the side of, laterally to krilon
turn at the turn of darimon
curb in the curb of livon
recess in the recession of suxon
road in the strait of vedillon
face side on the face side of banton
flip side on the flip side of brongon
space in the space of darkon
floor in the floor of vegegon
expense in the expense of divatcegon, welmon
flank at the flank of elwem
bottom at the bottom of ludevon
level, height at a height with, level with wvon
horizon in the horizon of ziron
interval in the interval between walukon
junction in the junction between uzeson
lagoon in the lagoon of anodon
open sea off, at large from grocelon
width in the width of manton
straight in line with ronton
limit at the limit of kimon
edge at the edge of domon
length in the length of abrotcon
margin in the margin of rastgon
world in the world of tamavon
level in the level of wvon
orbit in the orbit of litokon
flatness in the flatness of azekon
profile in the profile of liton
depth in the depths of aludevon, xuon, titxuon
prolongation in the prolongation of lygon
linking at the linking of, at the junction of webokon
district in the district of kosiston
bank on the bank of domegon, krimton
direction in the direction of wayokon
threshold on the threshold of pikayon
top on top of, at the head of ontinegon, volkibon
surface on the surface of welmon
overhang overhanging over wexyon
land on the land of tawyon
territory on the territory of tawwvon
roof on the roof of kepaiton
turn, corner around the corner of viankon, darimon
hillside on the hillside of datcon
volume in the volume of krotcon

B: Classifiers [pulaxa]

Below is a non-exhaustive list of the main classifiers for proper nouns in Kotava:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of classifier</th>
<th>Classifier (Kotava)</th>
<th>Classifier (English term)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>ayik</td>
<td>human being, individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>guazik</td>
<td>old person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>jotik</td>
<td>youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>korik</td>
<td>person, individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rumek</td>
<td>little child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>velik</td>
<td>child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yik</td>
<td>young people and other words referring to individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinship terms</td>
<td>kosayik</td>
<td>cousin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ziavik</td>
<td>uncle, aunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and all other kinship words

| Politeness distinctions, titles | eyik | individual, citizen, sir
|                               | jiomik | lord
|                               | weltik | Mr., Mrs.
|                               | jadiwik | general; and all other military grades

| Places | bira | sea
|        | bost | big river
|        | kuksa | small river
|        | metta | mount
|        | uzda | lake
|        | and all other geographical words

| Geographic entities | dota | commune
|                    | gola | region
|                    | patecta | country
|                    | tadava | continent
|                    | winta | planet
|                    | and all other words for geographic or administrative entities

| Species | - tamava | - World
|         | -- blind | -- Kingdom
|         | --- dansok | --- Phylum
|         | ---- pula | ---- Class
|         | ----- veem | ----- Order
|         | ------ yasa | ------ Family
|         | -------- gret | -------- Tribe
|         | --------- oxi | --------- Genera
|         | --------- katca | --------- Species
|         | ---------- apta | ---------- Subspecies

| Groups, orders, enterprises | gesia | association
|                             | ja | enterprise
|                             | lospa | group, grouping
|                             | pako | party
|                             | sistu | company
|                             | veem | order
|                             | and other similar words

| Works of art, media | fela | journal
|                   | gabot | section
|                   | luz | chapter
|                   | neva | book
|                   | teliz | article
|                   | and other similar words

| Currencies | tal | currency
| Languages | ava | language

---

**c: Lists of verbs [gray]**

Below are some verbal categories grouped as such in Kotava:

**C.1: Weather verbs [sazaf ilkomiskaf gray]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Kotava</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>it is wet</td>
<td>abdar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is day</td>
<td>afizar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the weather is clear</td>
<td>aftar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is sunny</td>
<td>awaltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is thawing</td>
<td>bicar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a sandstorm</td>
<td>bixedar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a hurricane</td>
<td>cankar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is foggy</td>
<td>brar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is thunder</td>
<td>ediar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is chilly</td>
<td>fedar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is cold</td>
<td>fentar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a dust storm</td>
<td>gopadar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is hot</td>
<td>idular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a flood</td>
<td>kentar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the weather is good</td>
<td>kewar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is lightning</td>
<td>kofimarin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a sunny spell</td>
<td>ludjar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is night</td>
<td>mielar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is snowing</td>
<td>noldar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a blizzard</td>
<td>noldotar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is hailing</td>
<td>onotcar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is dark</td>
<td>orikar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is monsoon</td>
<td>rambar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is dry</td>
<td>rodar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a drizzle</td>
<td>rubikar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is cloudy</td>
<td>rujodar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is mist</td>
<td>selar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is thunder</td>
<td>selekar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is wind</td>
<td>sukar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the moon is here</td>
<td>taelar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is freezing</td>
<td>tapar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a shower</td>
<td>tcandar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a firestorm</td>
<td>teyadar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the sun goes up</td>
<td>ticawaltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the sun goes down</td>
<td>titawaltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there is a storm</td>
<td>xefaror</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note: there is an alternative to these impersonal verbs, the intransitive verb dú used with the names of the phenomena. For example: noldar (it is snowing) = nolda dur; mielar (it is night) = miel dur.

C.2: Sensation verbs

aelé to hunger  lité to have impressions
akolé to be sick  miavé to have a headache
aundé to have spite  modé to feel asleep
awalé to die  molé to have an appetite
bidgé to have delusions  multufé to decease
bogé to feel hate  namié to have a good memory
boré to cry  nigé to be grieving
broyé to be superstitious  nizdé to have manias
coré to get visions  ové to be right
cué to be tired  pikandé to have self-esteem
dezé to have cramps  puidé to be hurting, to feel sorry
djoré to have tics  polé to have angst
fenté to feel cold  rélé to be in a coma
fogré to get a cold  rieté to get ideas
folixé to have faith  rokélé to be err
forendé to feel empathy  roté to be in pain
gaelé to get breath  setné to get nightmares
galé to be healthy  sfianué to have rheumatism
gesté to have imagination  sidjé to get remorse
jialodé to be faced with a dilemma  siputé to thurst
kicé to smile  sundé to have good reflexes
kiemé to feel good  tacoké to fantasize
kiové to be in the wrong  veté to have a cancer
kipé to laugh  vorvé to twitch, to be in spasm
kloché to dream  vozé to run a fever
konjoté to faint  vudé to be afraid
korité to be moved, touched  wabergé to be traumatised
kranavé to feel some amount of pain  waeské to have tics
krezé to faint  wéné to be in ecstasy
kublé to feel the vocation  wolgé to have a tumour
laoné to hallucinate  zidé to be angry

D: Lists of particles [vragiz is mugeot]

Below are all the particle used in Kotava:

D.1: Particles [vragiz]

These are mostly verbal morphemes that cannot occur independently. There are only preposed particles, plus two circumposed ones and two obsolete postposed nominal particles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preposed verbal aspectual particles</th>
<th>Preposed verbal voice particles</th>
<th>Preposed presentative particles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aí</td>
<td>Secondary voice</td>
<td>batse Secondary presentative</td>
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<td>di</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preposed focus particles
- **ale** Thematic focus
- **to** Positive focus
- **volto** Negative focus

Circumposed digression and quotation particles
- **djak** Digression, incise
- **djam** Quote

Postposed obsolete nominal particles
- **se** Pluraliser (obsolete)
- **yo** Pluraliser (obsolete)

D.2: Adverbial particles [mugeot]

Unlike pure particles, adverbial particles may occur on their own, like adverbs.

**Polarity particles**
- **en** yes, indeed
- **me** no, not
- **mea** not ... anymore
- **men** not yet
- **vol** to the contrary

**Pragmatical particles**
- **co** it would
- **nuve** allegedly
- **acke** normal, well, good, so be it
- **ae** well, amen, the truth is, I see
- **aje** too bad, our loss, unfortunately
- **anse** nonsense, wrong, lies!
- **anye** oh, well, good, much better, luckily, super
- **ape** probably, presumably, surely
- **arse** absolutely, really, no doubt
- **inc** I’ve seen it myself
- **nuve** seemingly, it’s said that, it seems that, from hearsay, got it from an indirect source
- **soye** by necessity, it’s a (natural) fact that
- **tire** obviously, naturally, it goes without saying
- **volinc** got it from a direct source
- **awe** huh! I don’t know a thing, no idea
- **cwe** seems to me, I got the feeling that
- **gue** yes, absolutely, I can confirm that
- **seye** it’s anticipated that, normally, it should be
- **tce** I suppose, supposedly, probably, I guess
- **volgue** yes it does, no it doesn’t, I deny that
- **fiste** it is necessary that
- **vode** it would be good to, it would be preferable to
- **volliste** it is not necessary that
- **volvode** it would be bad that, better to not
- **rotrir** maybe, it could be that, it is possible that
- **vay** ? please
- **djay** !! go for it! I tell you! I insist!
- **xay** !! that is an order!
- **kas** ? is..., does... ?
- **mex** ? isn’t it?

E: Lists of conjunctions [skedaxa]

Below are all conjunctions in Kotava:

**E.1: Derived conjunctions with adverbial value [skedaxa]**

A certain number of primary conjunctions can attach to some particles and thus form derived conjunctions, with a chiefly “adverbial” value:
F: Lists of adverbs

Below is a list of all underived adverbs in Kotava:

### F.1: Underived root adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adverb</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>example</th>
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Examples of meanings:

- **ened**: if really, if yes, if it's the case (then)
- **eden**: if not, if it's not the case (then)
- **eneda**: if it's not the case anymore (then)
- **eden**: if it's not already the case (then)
- **edene**: if the contrary (then)
- **edese**: if that's a natural fact, natural truth (then)
- **edete**: if that's an evidence (then)
- **edete**: if nothing is known about it (then)
- **edetee**: if one has the feeling (then)
- **edete**: if it's confirmed (then)
- **edete**: if it should be (then)
- **edete**: if it is probable (then)
- **edete**: if it's found to be invalid (then)
- **edete**: if need be (then)
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- **edete**: if possible, if it's possible (then)
Some common phrases in Kotava:

**G.1: "etc." phrases**

"etc." (as in *et caetera*) may be translated six different ways, depending on the underlying coordinative conjunction.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| is, ise, isu    | and                                                  | is kot zavzaks | *lok ke irubaseikeem tir jotař* (most of the residents are young) [

Thus, the phrase (and the abbreviation retained) will be that induced by the conjunctions listed above.

**G.2: Partitive phrases**

Partitive phrases are introduced with:

- lok: most of, the majority of, the greatest number of, the greatest part of
- lik: half of
- lek: the minority of, a small number of, the smallest part of
- arak: the rest of, the remaining of
- kotak: the totality of
- mekak: the absence of
- cugak: almost all of, the vast majority of
- vugak: the near absence of, almost nothing of

The complements are introduced by the preposition "ke" (of).

* Ex: *lok ke irubaseikeem tir jotař* (most of the residents are young) [subject is: lok]
* lek ke yone rinafe blucte tir zionaf* (a small number of your cloths are dirty) [subject is: lek]
* lik ke zubi al zo skur* (half of the contract has been realised) [subject is: lik]
* arak ke ervolia di rembliyir* (the rest of the army survived) [subject is: arak]
* cugak ke ervolia zo kalvilar* (nearly all the army was annihilated) [subject is: cugak]

**G.3: Expression of date, hour and numbered location**

Although logically the expression of a date, a time or a numbered location should be with ordinal numbers (since it refers to a grade in a (time)scale), like in many languages cardinal stems are used instead, to which is added the suffix identifier "-e" which makes them self-designing nouns. These are then used directly or affixed with the appropriate classifier.
G.3.a Date
Ex: san-lerde (viel) ke pereaksat ke tol-decit-teve (ilana) = July 19th 2006
tane (viel) ke taneaksat ke dece (ilana) = January 1st of the year 1000
mali bare (viel) ke aksat kali teve = from the 3rd to the 6th (of the month)
ba tane ke kot aksat = the 1st of each month (ba taneaf viel can also be used)

G.3.b Hour
Ex: ba pere (bartiv) ke viel = at seven a.m.
ba pere (bartiv) is tol-sane (wexa) = at twenty past seven (7h 20)
ba pere (bartiv) is amu = at quarter past seven (7h 15)
ba pere (bartiv) is acku = at half past seven (7h 30)
ba pere (bartiv) is apu = at quarter to eight (7h 45)
mali pere (bartiv) kali lerd = from seven to nine
wail pere (bartiv) is lerd = between seven and nine

G.3.c Numbered location
These are expressions relating to an address, to a position referenced by a number.
Ex: in dene bar-sane (otuk) keve Lachine vawila irubar = he lives in the 30th, Lachine street
tol-decem-tev-san-lerd vorala moe liwot = the elevation 269 on the map
tol-decit-alub-san e winta = the planet n° 2050

H: Abbreviations [tuloliaks]
Below are presented shortening strategies in Kotava:

H.1: Principles of abbreviation

There is the possibility to shorten some common phrases in Kotava. Though there are no definite rules, it can be
seen that:
- the hyphenation of an abbreviated word is indicated by a hyphen ",-", in contrast to most written languages
  which use the dot.

Ex: J- P- Martin W- (Mr. J. P. Martin, for Jean Pierre Martin Weltik(ye))
pulv- (phone, for sumepulvisiki)
ikz- (etc., for is kot zavzaks)

- in the same fashion, numbers can be written symbolically and their suffix will then be noted after a hyphen ",-".

Ex: 100th (a century, for decemda)
5th (fifth, for alubeaf)
9th (September, for lerdeaksat)

H.2: Date notation

En Kotava, most dates are written symbolically, even in literary texts:

Ex: 10/07/2006 (July 10th 2006). First the day, then the month, then the year, separated by slashes.
It reads: sane (viel) ke pereaksat ke tol-decit-teve (ilana).
Note that the day and the year are in apposition as numeral substantives, that is to say with an -e
suffix, thus without ordinal or cardinal readings.