

## Sajem Tan Translation

Daniel Swanson

2020-08-31

Sasônâso kêvmê Nëmfik rek znenan kižütêtrâ tidyn dê:

Mu zëvet kê vnisyt dümukmunum sno du om gešekruc sno našëtmunumgân Sasônâso kê Nëmfik.

Sasônâso züt Nëmfikvmê gyznytnoc tücelitum vmidökvê.

Nëmfik züt Sasônâsovmê cetikafit zanum tükivê.

Roâvmê našëtnoc šmižünfê <dincifnövnin> tyk zütznök sno našëtnocêkfê roâ.

Do-joc, fmöxemmê lacšo Sasônâso kesasëkût vmat.

Gamyk navnyc zyšen vižitvmê vižitdin-zon tüt düdötfê ro.

Rovmê žüntüt züt vižitvmê fmatâ tücelitum kê zoâjot süzñömum Nëmfikžot.

Gamyk xukatmunfê Sasônâso kê fmatâ sidücfê ro nicvâ.

Fmatâ sazycžutfê ro nicvâ Nëmfikžot.

Nëmfik tan "Manfê xek kêžê xek, našötnuno."

Vmyndatmunfê Sasônâso.

Do-joc, fmatâdê žëjükfê roâ kê zoâ sidücfê roâ.

Vižitfunâ jüvnökum fmatâ.

Kygükfümöt gamikžën kyfixnümfê Nëmfik nicvâ kê risönfê ro.

Ro tan "Težnymfynittuc-xon sêvmê darëfimjotvmê zanežtnu jüvnökfê sê.

Fmatdê-xon vižitfun misnemfê kê fikfê sê.

Tidyn sêvmê darëfimjot fikfê mân ro težnymfê sê.

<Dom jüvet janukmunfê sê dotê>."

Rovmê lek deketfêsun.

Kesasëkût-xân valnümfê ro kê gamyk xukatmunfê ro.

Žo fmageynfê ro kê ro fmageynmunfê ro țefam-țâk kê ro fikfê do-țok.

## **Sajem Tan Ethnographic Notes**

Sajem Tan is a semi-constructed koine used for communication between the various societies in the region of Sajem Din. The region is bordered to the east and south by oceans, and to the west by the Fog Mountains. The northern extent of Sajem Din is disputed by cartographers and we shall not attempt to settle the matter here. The Fog Mountains are primarily inhabited by the Foglandic civilization. Foglandic habitation extends south from the mountains into the Boglands. It is unknown what lies to the west of the Fog Mountains.

The area of interest to us is the hilly region between the mountains and the bogs known as Tözenšömak or The Fogless Pass. Two rivers flow south from the mountains and meet at the city of Cicâ before continuing on into the bogs.

The region around Cicâ rarely experiences fog and not many Foglanders live there. It is a trading center inhabited by a mixture of the various ethnicities from across Sajem Din. Cicâ nominally governs much of the area around it, though this rarely has any practical effects on the lives of anyone involved. Despite its occasional claims to be the capital of the region, it is for all intents and purposes an independent city-state depending on foreign trade for its continued prosperity.

Being a mix of so many cultures, there is little that can be said about Cicâ as a whole. Much of what goes on in the city is structured around what might reasonably be called family units, though what these groups actually are varies widely. Some are small biological families (often no more than a dozen people in all). Others, particularly among the upper classes, are massive conglomerations of a few hundred people, most of whom share an ancestor 5 or 6 generations back, but many of whom have been incorporated in by a process somewhere between adoption, employment, and indentured servitude, the details of which vary from family to family. Finally there are found family groups with no biological connection whose size typically varies between 5 and 20 people.

Leaving one's family of origin to join or form a new family is generally accepted and what sort of family someone is a part of is typically a matter of individual choice except among relatively recent immigrants.

## **Sajem Tan Grammar**

Sajem Tan is OVS in sentences with an active or agentive subject and OSV when the subject is an experiencer or an undergoer.

Adjectives, adverbs, and relative clauses precede the nouns or verbs they modify. Postpositional phrases generally precede, though if modifying a clause they can also be placed afterwards.

Parts of speech in Sajem Tan are extremely fluid and zero-derivation between nouns, adjectives, and verbs is common.

The morphology of Sajem Tan is almost exclusively suffixing. Verbs take aspect suffixes sometimes followed by valency-changing operators (such as passivization). Nouns are marked for number and case. The entries in the lexicon labeled “pseudo-cases” are borderline between postpositions and case markers and are usually written with a hyphen.

When a case marker is applied to multiple nouns, it is expressed on the conjunction, rather than on the nouns themselves.

Verbs that take entire clauses as their objects often function like postpositions and are not marked for aspect.

“X is Y” accompanied by something in the comparative case means “X is as Y as Z”.

## Sajem Tan Lexicon

### Abbreviations:

adj - adjective  
cnj - conjunction  
n - noun  
p.c. - pseudo-case  
post - postposition  
prn - pronoun  
v - verb

### Lexicon:

â - plural  
cetikaſit - adj. strong  
cifnövnin - n. leader  
darëfim - n. child  
deket - v. delete, remove, erase  
dê - prn. 1st neutral, this  
din - n. house, home  
dom - cnj. because  
do - prn. 2nd neutral, that (near)  
düdöt - v. witness, observe, notice  
düm - adj. old  
du - prn. 3rd neutral, that (far)  
êk - become  
êt - habitual aspect  
fê - perfective aspect  
fik - v. die  
fmamegyn - v. throw  
fmat - n. seed, egg  
fmöxem - n. destiny, fate  
fun - small  
gamikțën - adj. sudden  
gamyk - n. tree  
gân - reciprocal  
geſekrüc - n. time period, season  
gyznyt - v. smell  
jan - v. care about, take interest in  
-joc - p.c. after, following, behind  
jot - future tense  
jüvet - n. name  
jüvnök - v. contain, hold, keep  
kê - cnj. and  
kesasëkût - n. forest  
kižüt - v. tell a story  
kyfixnüm - v. hug  
kygûkfûmöt - n. stomach  
lac - v. walk  
lek - adj. happy

mân - conj. when, while  
man - v. thank (perfective manfê is often used like an interjection)  
mêt - adjectival suffix  
misnem - v. be injured by another's carelessness  
mun - intensifier  
mu - relative clause  
našët - n. love  
našëtnoc - n. marriage, adj. married  
našöt - n. like  
navnyc - post. upon  
nëm - v. see  
nic - n. hand  
noc - result  
nun - marker of affection  
om - end of relative clause  
o - vocative case  
râ - impersonal valency  
rek - adj. sad, depressed  
risön - n. fear, panic  
ro - prn. 3rd animate  
sasön - n. applause  
sazyc - v. go, travel  
sê - prn. 1st animate  
sidüc - v. lift, raise, lead  
šmiṭün - v. allow, permit  
sno - post. during, in the time of  
so - one who has X  
šo - continuous aspect  
sun - passive voice  
sûžnöm - adj. pleasant  
-ṭâk - p.c. to, towards  
tan - v. say, speak, vomit  
tê - causative case  
ṭefam - n. stone  
teṭnym - v. conceive, bear, give birth to  
teṭnymfynittuc - n. womb  
tidyn - conj. like, similarly to  
ṭnu - process  
-ṭok - p.c. at, adjacent to  
ṭot - dative case  
tücelit - n. beneficial thing  
ṭûkit - n. oak tree  
ṭüntüt - n. opinion  
tüt - n. object, thing  
tyk - conj. so, as a result  
ukmun - negation  
um - gnomic aspect  
vâ - instrumental case  
valnüm - v. cease, flee

vê - comparative case  
viřit - n. bird  
vmat - n. seed, egg  
vmê - genitive case  
vmidök - n. rose  
vmyndat - v. smile  
vnisyt - n. moon  
-xân - p.c. into  
xek - num. 6  
-xon - p.c. in  
xükat - v. climb  
zaneč - v. grow, develop  
zan - v. be  
žê - focus case  
žějûk - v. boil  
zëvet - n. sun, star  
znenan - n. story  
-zon - p.c. near  
zo - prn. 3rd inanimate  
žo - prn. reflexive, self  
žut - cause to be  
züt - post. after, according to, in the opinion of  
zütznök - n. tomorrow, the next day  
zyřen - adj. cute

## Translation of Kooskeve Torch

The sad story of Sasāsās and Nefemme is traditionally told like so:

In the season when the sun and moon were young, Sasāsās and Nefemme loved each other very much.

Sasāsās thought Nefemme was as fragrant as a rose.

Nefemme thought Sasāsās was as strong as an oak.

The head of the household said that Nefemme would marry Sasāsās so after a day they got married.

Later, Sasāsās was walking in the forest (fatefully).

He noticed something by the nest of the cute sparrow on the surface of the tree.

He considered the sparrow eggs beneficial and believed Nefemme would be pleased by them.

Sasāsās climbed high up the tree and took the eggs in hand.

He carried the eggs to Nefemme.

Nefemme said "Thank you for the 6 and 6, my favorite one".

Sasāsās smiled a lot.

Later, these boiled eggs broke open.

The eggs held little sparrows inside them.

Nefemme suddenly held her stomach in her hands and was afraid.

She said "I contain the growth of my child in my womb.

I carelessly took this egg so that the cute little sparrow died because of me.

So my child will die when it is born.

This is because of the name I threw away because of you."

This person's morale was entirely gone.

She fled into the forest and climbed high in a tree.

She threw herself and threw herself down onto a rock and died there.

## Translation of Sajem Tan Torch

The sad story of Sasônâso [he who has applause] and Nëmfik [looks at death] is generally told like this: In the time in which the sun and moon were young, Sasônâso and Nëmfik loved each other very much. According to Sasônâso, Nëmfik's aroma was as pleasing as a rose. According to Nëmfik, Sasônâso was as strong as an oak tree. <The house-leader> permitted their marriage and so the next day they got married.

After that, Sasônâso was fatefully walking in the forest. Upon a tree near a cute bird's nest he noticed something. In his opinion, the bird's eggs were beneficial and would be pleasing to Nëmfik. Sasônâso very much climbed<sup>1</sup> the tree and he lifted the eggs with his hands. He transported the eggs to Nëmfik. Nëmfik said "Thank you for 6 and 6, my love<sup>2</sup>." Sasônâso smiled greatly.

After that, they boiled the eggs and they opened them. The eggs contained little birds. Nëmfik suddenly hugged her stomach with her hand and she was afraid. She said "In my womb I hold the growth of my child-to-be.<sup>3</sup>" The little bird in this egg was injured by carelessness and died because of me. Similarly, my child-to-be will die when I have given birth to him. <Because I have disregarded a name due to you.>"

Her happiness was erased. She fled into the forest and she very much climbed<sup>4</sup> a tree. She threw herself and she very much threw her onto a rock and she died on it.

---

1 The use of the intensifier in this instance is ambiguous between "climbed high", "climbed quickly", and "climbed well".

2 Literally "like-affection-vocative" which I have no idea how to actually render in English. Strictly, "my love" would be the translation of "sêvmê našëtžnuo".

3 Or "I will hold the growth of my child."

4 See footnote 1.



## **Cultural Footnotes**

<*The house-leader*>

A head-of-household as a formally designated role would be extremely rare. Typically family governance defaults to a consensus-based system among the adults. As with any human society, some form of hierarchy will almost invariably develop, but regardless, this individual or group would not be in a position to approve or deny a potential marriage.

<*Because I have disregarded a name due to you.*>

I actually have no idea what this means and it's entirely possible that I mistranslated it.

Names in Sajem Tan tend to be ordinary nouns and it is common to have multiple names and to use different ones in different contexts.

The fact that the nearest approximations of the characters' names in Sajem Tan gave dramatically appropriate meanings was entirely coincidental.