

# *Xwibe tuyataq*

A grammar sketch of the Xwibe language,  
an indigenous language of Kazujisha

**(( This is not an actual language of Kazujisha, I just wanted  
somewhere to base it in to make it seem more realistic**

**Latest update: June 14 @ 21:10))**

Yanyihalal Tlihacoayin and Keasarui Terjaneka  
Tadebin Institute of Linguistics  
2007

Xwibe tuyataq – grammatikavāeishinafei vorde Xwibesha, amizyolansha Kazujisha  
Tlihacoayin Yanyihalal ja Terjaneka Keasarui  
Shakaetetafei Tadebin  
Raknashyn 2007

The number of native Xwibe speakers is dwindling. A current estimate (2006) lies at 3,700. In 1995, the number was estimated to be 5,400.

Xwibe is a barely documented language. Most likely, this is due to long-lasting discrimination towards the Xwibe people.

With this sketch, we want to provide a small hope for the language. Whereas language death cannot be prevented, preservation brings a small hope of revival.

Yanyihalal Tlihacoayin and Keasarui Terjaneka  
Tadebin Institute of Linguistics, Tadebin  
2007

Copyright © 2007 Yanyihalal Tlihacoayin and Keasarui Terjaneka  
Tadebin Institute of Linguistics, Kazujisha  
xwibeshka@sta.tau.ka

Published in 2007  
Printed in Tadebin  
by Tadebin University Press

# Table of Contents

Abbreviations

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Phonology

2.1 Phonemes and allophonic variation

2.X.X Epenthesis

## X. Nominal morphology

X.1 Nouns

X.1.1 Nominative case

X.1.2 Accusative case

X.1.3 Locative case

X.1.4 Adpositional case

X.1.X Plurality

X.X Possession

X.X Adjectives

X.X.1 **la** adjectives

X.X.2 **ta** adjectives

X.X.3 **qu** adjectives

X.X.4 Abstract adjectives

## X. Verbal morphology

X.1 Verb groups

X.1.1 **-qi** verbs

X.1.2 **-na** verbs

X.1.3 **-yin** verbs

X.1.X Irregular verbs

X.2 Object marking

X.X Tense

X.X.1 Present tense

X.X.2 Past tense

X.X.3 Non-present tense

X.X.4 Future tense

X.X Aspect

X.X.1 Habitual aspect

X.X.2 Imperfective aspect

X.X.3 Iterative aspect

X.X Mood

X.X.1 Imperative mood

X.X Derivation

X.X.1 Generic agentives

X.X.2 Relative agentives

X.X.3 Verbal nouns

X.X.4 Adjectives

**X. Numbers**

X.1 Cardinal numbers

**X. Pronouns**

X.1 Personal pronouns

X.2 Demonstrative pronouns

X.3 Interrogative pronouns

X.4 Relative pronouns

**X. Syntax**

X. Relative clauses

**Appendices**

A.1 Irregular verbs

## ***Abbreviations***

1ps	first person singular
1pl	first person plural
2ps	second person singular
2pl	second person plural
3ps	third person singular
3psf	third person singular feminine
3plf	third person plural feminine
3psm	third person singular masculine
3plm	third person plural masculine
3psi	third person singular inanimate
3pli	third person plural inanimate
4ps	fourth person singular
4pl	fourth person plural
ACC	accusative case
ABS	abstract adjective
ADJ	adjective
ADP	adpositional case
COMP	comparative
GNAG	generic agentive
IPFV	imperfective aspect
ITER	iterative aspect
NOM	nominative case
POSP	possessive particle
TOP	topic marker

## 1. Introduction

Xwibe (**Xwibe tuyataq**, ‘*Xwibe language*’ – Kazujishan **Xwibesha** or **Maziraansha** ‘*language of those not like us*’, derogatory) is spoken in the northern Tekaja region of Kazujisha. It seems to be a language isolate, showing no signs of being related to the other languages spoken on the Kazujishan islands – Kazujisha, Zhütjetji and Tazjakuu. It is possible that languages related to Xwibe existed in the past, though the strongest evidence for that are the stories of elders about “*a third people, descendants of northern mountains, not of the honorable Zhütjetji, not of those not like us (the Xwibe), but related to them...*”. There are two main dialects, the northern and the southern, with further divisions.<sup>1</sup> The northern variant is the largest one, with around 2,500 speakers. Single dialects are usually confined to a village and there may be many differences between two close villages.

The numbers of people identifying themselves as Xwibe speakers is approximately 3,700 (2006 survey). However, it is unclear whether these are native speakers and what their level of skill is. Also, there is certainly a high number of Xwibe denying their heritage after countless years of discrimination from the Kazujishan people and government. Lately, these views have changed, especially among the young, but it is not good enough. Many Xwibe wish that they could adopt a Kazujishan name, move to the cities and simply forget about who they are, which is hard because the process of registering a new family name in Kazujisha is lengthy and must be performed when one is married. Also, Kazujishan newspapers have recently revealed that sometimes Xwibe couples requesting a new family name are denied for no reason at all.

The future of the Xwibe language is dark. Few children learn to speak the language, though the numbers have recently increased. Xwibe will most likely be extinct in the near future. The help from the government is too late.

---

<sup>1</sup> There were three highland villages (Xiuhala, Tlahala, Watlala) that spoke the highlander dialect with features unlike the northern and southern dialects, most notably /t/ becoming [l] and /l/ shifting to [t]. It became extinct in 2002.

## 2. Phonology

### 2.1 Phonemes and allophonic variation

Xwibe has 20 consonant phonemes as seen in Table 1 below. The absence of /d/ is remarkable as the language has /b g/ in addition to their voiceless counterparts.

	Labial	Lab.dental	Dental	Postalve.	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t			k g	q	
Nasal	m		n					
Fricative		f	s z	ʃ ʒ		x		h
Affricate			ts	tʃ				
Approx.	w		l					j

Table 1: Phonemic consonants in Xwibe.

The vowel inventory is a standard five-vowel system:

	Front	Back
	Unrounded	Rounded
Close	i	u
Close-mid	e	o
Open	a	

Table 2: Phonemic vowels in Xwibe.

All phonemes are spelled as their IPA representation, with the exceptions:

/ʃ/ **sh**, /tʃ/ **ch**, /ʒ/ **zh**, /j/ **y**, /k/ **c** and /ts/ **tz**.

Common allophones used by almost all speakers include:

initial <b>y</b> – [dj] ~ [dʒ <sup>j</sup> ]	<b>yalanec</b>	[ˈdʒ <sup>j</sup> alanek]
final <b>m</b> – [m <sup>j</sup> ]	<b>nam</b>	[ˈnam <sup>j</sup> ]
<b>CuV</b> – [CwV]	<b>tlahuac</b>	[ˈtlahwak]
<b>teV</b> – [t <sup>j</sup> V]	<b>atlateaw</b>	[ˈatlat <sup>j</sup> aw]
<b>ci</b> – [k <sup>j</sup> i] ~ [ci]	<b>ciqetaqi</b>	[ˈk <sup>j</sup> iqetaqi]
<b>sha, zha</b> – [ʃa], [ʒa]	<b>zhaltzihua</b>	[ˈʒaltsihwa]

Common in the southern dialects:

<b>tl</b> – [t <sup>ɬ</sup> ]	<b>tatlahuatl</b>	[ˈt <sup>h</sup> at <sup>ɬ</sup> ahwat <sup>ɬ</sup> ]
initial <b>tV, pV, cV</b> – [t <sup>h</sup> V p <sup>h</sup> V c <sup>h</sup> V]	<b>ta pan cue</b>	[ˈt <sup>h</sup> a p <sup>h</sup> an k <sup>h</sup> we]
<b>cha</b> – [tʃa]	<b>cuyachaci</b>	[ˈk <sup>h</sup> ujatʃ ak <sup>j</sup> i]

Common in the northern dialects:

x – [k]

**taxlihue** ['taklihwe]

## 2.X.X Epenthesis

Epenthesis is the addition of a sound to a word. As Xwibe uses compounding frequently to make new words, epenthesis is important to avoid clusters that are not allowed by the phonological constraints.

When a word ending in a consonant is compounded with a word starting in a consonant, –i– is added in between: **lahihala** 'land' (big village).

## X. Nominal morphology

### X.1 Nouns

Nouns behave in a fairly regular way in Xwibe. There are four noun cases: nominative, accusative, locative and adpositional.

#### X.1.1 Nominative case

The nominative case is the basic form of all nouns, used as the dictionary form. It is used for the subject in a sentence, the standard of comparison in comparatives...

*Tzalat supilawtana-h.*  
girl.nom fly.in.airplane-3ps  
'The girl flies in an airplane.'

#### X.1.2 Accusative case

The accusative case is used as the object in sentences. Also, a few adpositions govern it, such as **natu** 'on'. It is formed by adding –(a)**bi** to the nominative, though there are a few irregular nouns.

*Xiw tzulu-netl tlay-abi natu.*  
3psf exist-3ps tree-acc on  
'She is in the tree.'



### X.1.3 Locative case

The locative case is used with most adpositions and it is also used as a vocative and to mark the indirect object of a verb. It is formed by adding **-(a)tlan** to the nominative, with the exception of **hatl** 'place' which becomes **hatl-alan**.

*Lan tzulu-netl cut-atlan qaz.*  
boy exist-3ps house-loc in  
'The boy is in the house.'

### X.1.4 Adpositional case

The adpositional case is only used with the select prepositions **neh** 'with', **geneh** 'without' and the postpositions **uma** 'in front of; before', **alah** 'outside', **etl** 'from'. Also, it is used with numbers when telling time. It is formed by adding **-(e)tay** to the noun, unless the noun ends in **-a**, **-ge** or **-tl**, where the suffix is **-(e)taz** instead.

*Wo lan neh tzalal-etay hatl-etaz uma.*  
1PS be.1PS with girl-ADP place-ADP in.front.of  
'I am with a girl outside the place.'

*Nez-etay i yetl-etaz.*  
four-ADP and three-ADP  
'The time is four [am/pm] and three minutes.'

### X.1.X Plurality

Xwibe distinguishes between singular, plural, cardinal plural and partitive. The plurality suffixes are placed at the end of a noun, before any case markers.

The singular is unmarked and is used when the noun is singular or dual. Note that as Xwibe marks singular and plural on verbs, there is no ambiguity:

*Tlay tzulu-zat.*  
tree exist-3pl  
'The two trees exist [are somewhere].' (\*one tree)

The plural is marked by adding **-itla-** and is used for when the subject or object are more than two and a whole.

*Tlay-itla laneya watl qu.*  
tree-pl be.3pl green adj  
'The trees are green.'

The cardinal plural is formed by adding **-(a)ya-** in between the noun and the case ending and is used for all nouns modified by a cardinal higher than two.

*Tzulu-zat yetl tlay-a. (\*tzuluzat tlaya)*

exist-3pl three tree-pl

'There are three trees.'

The partitive is formed by adding **-itlu-** and is used when the subject or object is a part of something or a part of a group, or several parts of something/a group.

*Na! Tlay-itlu setzu-zat la!*

hey! tree-part blue-3pl adj

'Hey, look! Some of the trees are blue!'

## **X.X Possession**

Possession is marked by using the irregular verb **caziqi** 'to walk' and putting what is possessed in accusative case:

*Wo catli egetl-abi.*

1ps walk.1ps fruit-acc

'I have a fruit.'

A possessive pronoun may be formed by using the particle **ie** and by marking the possessed noun with the topic marker **na**:

*Natli egetl na catli ie laneya, gei cal ie.*

this fruit TOP walk.1PS POSS be.3PL, NEG walk.2PS POSS

'These two fruits are mine, not yours.'

## **X.X Adjectives**

There are three types of adjectives in Xwibe: **la**, **ta** and **qu**. The **qu** group is the one the closest to English adjectives, whereas **la** behave much like verbs, and **ta** is somewhere in between.

### **X.X.1 la adjectives**

The **la** adjective group is the only productive group of adjectives (with the exception a few derivations that result in **la** adjectives), as well as the largest one. Some linguists call **la** adjectives a verb group, however we have chosen not to as they exhibit properties unique to the adjectives.

When used as attributes, **la** adjectives drop the **la** and add **-(u)ta** to the end of the actual adjective – identical to how adjectives are formed out of verbs (X.X.4):

*Zhiyan-uta tzalal a xoya-tihi-he.*  
cute-ADJ girl 3PS eat. ITR-IPFV-3PS  
'A cute girl is eating.'

When used as predicates, **la** adjectives are used as verbs, and the stem is conjugated by subject. The subject markers are the same as the **-yin** verb class (X.1.3, **-yin** verbs) subject markers. The copula **lan** is not used; instead, the topic marker **na** is used (see X.X, The topic marker **na**):

*Ichi-ta-yitl la...*  
hunt-ADJ-1PS ADJ  
'I'm hunted...'

**la** adjectives are compared by adding the standard of comparison (what is being compared against) as an object marker on the adjective:

*(Wo na) sa-zhiyan-yitl la!*  
(1ps top) 2ps-cute-1ps adj  
'I'm cuter than you!'

**la** adjectives form the superlative by adding the iterative aspect marker **ima-** to the **la**.

*(Lan na) men-yitl ima-la.*  
(3psm top) tall-3ps iter-adj  
'He is the tallest.'

## **X.X.2 ta adjectives**

The **ta** adjectives are the next to largest adjective group. They exhibit both verb and adjective qualities, being somewhat in between **la** and **qu** adjectives. Both **lan** and **na** are used with **ta** adjectives. These adjectives do not in any way agree with the subject.

When used as attributes, **ta** adjectives drop the **ta** and add **-(u)ta** to the end of the actual adjective – identical to how adjectives are formed out of verbs (X.X.4):

*Ya-ta yutal y-a ciqeta-tihi-he.*  
new-ADJ page PASS-3PS write-IPFV-3PS  
'A new page is being written.'

**ta** adjectives are compared by adding the standard of comparison as an object marker on the **ta**:

*Wo (lan/na) sini sa-ta!*  
1ps (cop.1ps/top) kind 2ps-adj  
'I'm nicer than you!'

**ta** adjectives form the superlative by adding the iterative aspect marker **ima-** to the **ta**.

*Xiwba (laneya/na) sini ima-ta.*  
3plf (cop.1pl/top) kind iter-adj  
'They (f) are the nicest.'

### X.X.3 qu adjectives

Out of all adjective groups, the **qu** one is the smallest; however, it is frequently seen as it contains several commonly used adjectives, such as **lah** 'big', **xiha** 'good' and all colors except 'blue' (**setzu la**, from Kazujisha **setsurun**). It is also the only group with irregular adjectives.

**qu** adjectives are compared by adding the particle **ya** in between the adjective and the **qu**. The standard of comparison is usually put after the **qu**, but it may be placed anywhere except for between adjective + **ya qu**:

*Tlay lah/na watl ya qu san. (\*watl san, \*ya san)*  
tree cop.3ps/top green comp adj 2ps.obj  
'The tree is greener than you.'

**qu** adjectives form the superlative by adding the superlative marker **miz** in between the adjective and the **qu**:

*Egetl lah/na watl miz qu.*  
fruit cop.3ps/top green supr adj  
'The fruit is the greenest.'

### X.X.4 Abstract adjectives

When an adjective is describing something abstract (such as feelings, thoughts) or a scene (a boy eating ice cream, a truck driving on the road), a special adjective group called the abstract adjectives are used. Any adjective can be made abstract by adding **-ne** to the adjective marker (**la**, **ta**, **qu**), though a number of adjectives have irregular abstract forms:

**xiah qu** 'good' > **xiayo**  
**zhiyan la** 'cute' > **zhan la**

*Catli ime-bi na xiayo ya cahin ie.*  
walk.1ps thought-acc top good.abs comp walk.2pl postp  
'My thoughts are better than theirs.'

## **X. Verbal morphology**

### **X.1 Verb groups**

Xwibe has four verb groups: **-qi**, **-na**, **-yin** and irregular verbs. The main difference between them is how the subject is marked, in addition to a few morphological differences. The stem of all regular verbs is determined by simply removing the verb class suffix.

#### **X.1.1 -qi verbs**

**-qi** verbs comprise the vast majority of Xwibe verbs. The personal suffixes are fairly straightforward (Table X), with the exceptions of verbs ending in **-iqi** (Table X), where the stem-final **-i** is changed to **-e** in the second and third persons. All loan words not ending in **-i**, **-ta**, **-wa**, or **-ha** become **-qi** verbs (English **to surf (the web)** – Xwibe **sulfuqi** 'to surf the web').

	Singular	Plural
First	xoyo-tli	xoyo-tliha
Second	xoyo-nec	xoyo-hin
Third	a xoyo-he	a xoyo-henatl
Fourth	xoyo-nawa	xoyo-yala

*Table X: Personal suffixes on -qi verbs; example verb xoyoqi "to eat"*

	Singular	Plural
First	ichi-tli	ichi-tliha
Second	iche-nec	iche-hin
Third	a iche-he	a iche-henatl
Fourth	ichi-nawa	ichi-yala

*Table X: Personal suffixes on -iqi verbs; example verb ichiqi "to hunt"*

*(Woya) cepele-tlan naw ichi-tliha.*  
1pl morning-loc during hunt-1pls  
'We hunt during the morning.'

### X.1.2 –na verbs

–na verbs are similar to –qi verbs in their conjugation; however, in contrast to –qi verbs, they retain the infinite –na marker in most, though not all, derivations. Loan words ending in –ta, –da, –wa, –va or –ha become –na verbs (Kazujisha **spirouta** ‘to fly’ – Xwibe **supilawtana** ‘to fly (in an airplane)’).

	Singular	Plural
First	ahayi-natl	ahayi-natl
Second	ahayi-nec	ahayi-nahi
Third	ahayi-nah	ahayi-nahe
Fourth	ahayi-nawa	ahayi-tzala

Table X: Personal suffixes on –na verbs; example verb **ahayina** “to create; to make”

*Qete zaw-ahayi-nawa?*  
who 3pso-create-4ps  
‘Who is creating it?’

### X.1.3 –yin verbs

–yin verbs comprise a fairly large group of verbs, religion-related ones in particular. They are fairly different from the –qi and –na verbs in their conjugations and the conjugations of –yin and –Cyin verbs are slightly different. Loan words ending in –i or –j become –yin verbs (Kazujisha **tarbei** ‘to paint’ – Xwibe **talbeyin** ‘to make art’).

	Singular	Plural
First	galu-yitl	galu-yitl
Second	galu-zat	galu-yin
Third	galu-netl	galu-zat
Fourth	galu-yin	galu-tzay

Table X: Personal suffixes on –yin verbs; example verb **galuyin** “to take”

	Singular	Plural
First	mal-yitl	mal-ayitl
Second	mal-eza	mal-ayin
Third	mal-eza	mal-izat
Fourth	mal-yin	mal-tzay

Table X: Personal suffixes on –Cyin verbs; example verb **malyin** “to become; to mean”

*“Teqwe” za-mal-eza “nāei” Qazuyisha-lan qaz.*  
*“teqwe” 3ps-become-3ps “see” kazujisha-loc in*  
*“To see” is “nāei” in Kazujisha.*

## X.1.X Irregular verbs

There are a number of irregular verbs in Xwibe, the most common ones being **lan** ‘to be’, **caziqi** ‘to walk’ and **teqwe** ‘to see’. See Appendix 1 for a listing of irregular verbs and their conjugations.

## X.2 Object marking

Object marking is regular in all verb groups (with certain irregularities in irregular verbs and **-qi** verbs) and required when a verb takes an object. It is performed by adding a prefix to the verb, with exceptions and further notes listed below.

me	<b>wa-</b>	us	<b>wi-</b>
you (sg)	<b>sa-</b>	you (pl)	<b>la-</b>
her	<b>iwa-</b>	them (f)	<b>iga-</b>
him	<b>li-</b>	them (m)	<b>iga-</b>
it	<b>za-</b>	them (in)	<b>zan-</b>
fourth sg	<b>naw-</b>	fourth pl	<b>nah-</b>

*Table X: Object marking in Xwibe.*

If the verb begins with a vowel, all prefixes lose their final vowel with the exception of **wi-** which becomes **an-**, **za-** which becomes **-zaw**. **zan-**, **naw-** and **nah-** are unchanged. If the verb begins with a consonant, **zan-**, **naw-** and **nah-** lose their final consonant.

In case of **-qi** verbs in the third person (**a -he**, **a -henatl**), the prefix is attached to the **a** and not the actual verb:

**Xiw l-a taycla-he.**  
 3PSF 3PSM-3PS fear-3PS  
*‘She fears him.’*

## X.X Tense

### X.X.1 Present tense

The present tense is formed by simply taking a verb and attaching a subject marker to it. The subject markers have been described in the part about verb groups.

## X.X.2 Past tense

The past tense is formed by adding the prefix **tz(a)**- to the verb. Verbs beginning with **a**- shifts it into **i**- (**ahayina** - **tzihayina**). This way of forming the past tense is fairly rare, usually found in relative agentives (as you cannot form a past relative agentive in any other way).

*Tza-s-axizhi-tihi-tli* <- to be translated~

## X.X.3 Non-present tense

The non-present tense is formed by adding the prefix **e(w)**- to the verb. It is a past tense when alone, such as in nominalized verbs (**ewahayinacoah** "creating in the past"). However, when combined with certain temporal adverbs and other words, it may mark future as well.

## X.X Aspect

Xwibe uses X aspects: the habitual, the imperfective, the iterative... They are marked by adding infixes between the verb stem and the subject marker.

### X.X.1 Habitual aspect

The habitual aspect is the standard, unmarked aspect. It marks that an action is habitual or that the end of the action is not planned or close. Compare the following sentences and their possible translations.

*Wo ca-tli hatl-alan qaz.*

1ps walk-1ps place-loc in

*'I walk about at the place [with no decided destination].'*

*'I walk at the place usually [every hour, day, week...].'*

*Wo ca-tihi-tli hatl-alan qaz.*

1ps walk-prog-1ps place-loc in

*'I walk at the place [and have a decided destination where I will stop].'*

### X.X.2 Imperfective aspect

The imperfective aspect is formed by using the infix **-tihi-** (**-yin** verbs: **-ti-**) and indicates that something is happening currently or that something was happening or will happen during a certain time, and the action *has a planned end*. In order for a verb to take imperfective aspect, it must not be an action that is performed in one single



moment; it has to be prolonged, as an instant action (such as **sucahqi** 'to cough') ends instantly.

*Tequila ca-tihi-z qui-hatl-alan wa.*

priestess walk-prog-3ps offering-place-loc to

'The priestess walks to the place of offering [and will stop once she is there].'

### **X.X.3 Iterative aspect**

The iterative aspect is marked by using the infix **-(i)m(a)-** and marks that the action is repeated. It is similar to the English **re-** verbs (**ciqeta-ma-** 'rewrite').

*Tequila ca-ma-z qui-hatl-alan wa.*

priestess walk-iter-3ps offering-place-loc to

'The priestess walks again (re-walks) to the place of offering.'

## **X.X Mood**

### **X.X.1 Imperative mood**

The forming of the imperative mood depends on the degree of formality intended and whether the verb is transitive or intransitive.

The **normal imperative** is the one used with strangers and people you are inferior to in the social hierarchy, as well as between family members. With transitive verbs, this is formed by using the encouragement particle **ya** and a present tense subject marked verb:

*Ya (ca) xoyo-nec!*

enco (2ps) eat-2psu

'(You) eat!'

With intransitive verbs, the normal imperative is formed by marking subject and object of who is being commanded. Do note that accusative pronouns may not be used with intransitive imperative despite an object marking:

*(Woya) an-awana-tliha! (\*anawanatliha win)*

(1pl) 1plo-hurry-1pls

'We must hurry!'

Other ways of forming imperative are by using the adverb **miteqi-na...**

## X.X Derivation

Agentive nouns are derivations important in the Xwibe language. They are used as names and nicknames, as well as...

### X.X.1 Generic agentives

Generic agentives are very much like the English **-er**, **-or**, **-ist**, or **-ian** and the Kazujishan **-má** suffixed agentives. They are not used as titles and cannot be relative clauses. They are created by adding the suffix **-tlan** to the verb stem:

*Ichi-tlan az-a tuyu-he cuza-bi.*  
hunt-gnag 3psio-3ps stalk-3psu animal-acc  
'The hunter stalks the animal.'  
*Ahayi-tlan na sini la.*  
create-gnag top kind adj  
'The creator is kind.'

### X.X.2 Relative agentives

Relative agentives are agentives that can function as relative clauses and pronouns. In addition, they are commonly used as names, nicknames and titles. They are created by adding a personal suffix to the verb stem (to the infinitive form of **-na** verbs):

I who	<b>-teq</b>	we who	<b>-tey</b>
you (sg) who	<b>-nal</b>	you (pl) who	<b>-nay</b>
she who	<b>-lal</b>	they (f) who	<b>-lao</b>
he who	<b>-naz</b>	they (m) who	<b>-nao</b>
it who	<b>-zat</b>	they (in) who	<b>-zay</b>

Table X: Xwibe relative agentive marking.

<b>ichinal</b>	'you who hunt'	<b>teqizay</b>	'they (in) who see'
<b>ahayinalal</b>	'she who creates'	<b>lanetey</b>	'we who are (smth)'

### X.X.3 Verbal nouns

Verbal nouns are formed by using the suffix **-coah**:

*Talbe-y-ahayina-coah tatzimata-netl la.*  
art-0-create-nom time.consuming-3ps adj  
'Creating art is time-consuming.'

## X.X.4 Adjectives

Any verb may be made into an adjective by adding the suffix **-(u)ta** to the stem, or to the end of a **-na** verb. The formed adjective behaves like a **la** group adjective (see X.X.1).

**ichiqi** 'to hunt' > **ichita la** 'hunted'

**ahayina** 'to create' > **ahayinata la** 'created'

**galuyin** 'to take' > **galuta la** 'taken'

## X. Numbers

Xwibe uses a base 10 system.

### X.1 Cardinal numbers

With the cardinals 'one' and 'two', the singular is used. For all above those, the plural-partitive is used.

<b>teo</b>	one	<b>quete</b>	six ('five-one')
<b>ban</b>	two	<b>neyetl</b>	seven ('four-three')
<b>yetl</b>	three	<b>alaceba</b>	eight ('ten minus two')
<b>nez</b>	four	<b>alacete</b>	nine ('ten minus one')
<b>que</b>	five	<b>alatzu</b>	ten ( <b>alatzu</b> 'whole; entire')

Table X: Xwibe cardinal numbers.

## X. Pronouns

### X.1 Personal pronouns

Xwibe has a number of personal pronouns with varying degree of formality.

I	<b>wo</b>	we	<b>woya</b>
you (sg)	<b>ca</b>	you (pl)	<b>cani</b>
she	<b>xiw</b>	they (f)	<b>xiwba</b>
he	<b>lan</b>	they (m)	<b>lanya</b>
it	<b>za</b>	they (in)	<b>zay</b>

Table X: Xwibe nominative case personal pronouns.

**Wo tzulu-yitl.**

1ps exist-1ps

'I exist.'

Object (accusative case) personal pronouns are rarely used but exist.

I	<b>wan</b>	we	<b>win</b>
you (sg)	<b>san</b>	you (pl)	<b>sani</b>
she	<b>xiuh</b>	they (f)	<b>xiuhba</b>
he	<b>lana</b>	they (m)	<b>layan</b>
it	<b>zan</b>	they (in)	<b>zan</b>

Table X: Xwibe accusative case personal pronouns.

*Wo sa-teqtli san...*

1PS 2PS-see.1PS 2PS

'I see you...'

The locative and adpositional cases are based upon the accusative forms, with the peculiarity that the locative ending is shortened to **-atl**:

*Wan-etay etl, san-atl wa...*

1ps.ACC-ADP from, you.ACC-LOC to

'From me, to you...'

## X.2 Demonstrative pronouns

The Xwibe demonstrative pronouns have three levels of deixis: this, that, and that over there. They use the third person conjugation.

	this	that	that over there	
<i>stem</i>	<i>nate-</i>	<i>tate-</i>	<i>zuaye-</i>	
nom	<b>natli</b>	<b>tatli</b>	<b>zuayec</b>	
acc	<b>natebi</b>	<b>tatebi</b>	<b>zuayebi</b>	
loc	<b>natetlan</b>	<b>tatetlan</b>	<b>zuayetlan</b>	
adp	<b>natetay</b>	<b>tatetay</b>	<b>zuayetay</b>	
inter	<b>natlu?</b>	<b>tatlu?</b>	<b>zuayu?</b>	( <i>natlubi, natlutlan, natlutay</i> )

Table X: Xwibe demonstrative pronouns.

*Za-teqin zuaye-bi ma?*

3PS-see.2PS that2-ACC Q

'You see that thing over there?'

The interrogative demonstratives are used when it is not known what the noun is:

*Natlu? (Natli?)*

this.what

'What is this thing?' ('You mean this one?')

### X.3 Interrogative pronouns

Interrogative pronouns distinguish between animate and inanimate, like the personal pronouns. In addition, they do not use the third person forms of verbs but the fourth person. Using the question marker **ma** is optional.

<b>Qete?</b>	<i>Who (subject)?</i>	<b>Qete teqawa (ma)?</b>	<i>'Who sees?'</i>
<b>Qetz(i)?</b>	<i>What (subject)?</i>	<b>Qetz xoya-nawa (ma)?</b>	<i>'Who eats?'</i>

As few other constructions use the fourth person, the pronoun is droppable (which in turn drops the animate-inanimate distinction).

**Zaw-ichi-nawa (ma)?**  
3PS-hunt-4PS (Q)  
*'Who/what is hunting it?'*

**Nas?** is an unspecified interrogative pronoun, meaning *'what?'*. It can also be used to express disbelief and surprise.

<b>Nas lah?</b>	<i>'What is it?'</i>	<b>Oma, nas?</b>	<i>'Now what?'</i>
<b>Nas ya?!</b>	<i>'Really?!'</i>		

### X.4 Relative pronouns

## ***Appendices***

### **A.1 Irregular verbs**

The verbs are listed as such:

	<b>infinitive</b>	<i>'translation'</i>		stem: <b>stem-</b>
person		present	past	progressive
		<b>catli</b>	<b>tzicatli</b>	<b>catihitli</b>

With the exceptions of **lan** and **teqwi**, all irregular verbs have the same subject marking for all tenses and aspects.

	<b>caziqi</b>	<i>'to walk'</i>		stem: <b>ca-</b>
wo	<b>catli</b>	<b>tzicatli</b>	<b>catihitli</b>	
ca	<b>cal</b>	<b>tzical</b>	<b>catihil</b>	
xiw	<b>caz</b>	<b>tzicaz</b>	<b>catihiz</b>	
fourth	<b>canaw</b>	<b>tzicanaw</b>	<b>catihinaw</b>	
woya	<b>catla</b>	<b>tzicatla</b>	<b>catihitla</b>	
cani	<b>cahin</b>	<b>tzicahin</b>	<b>catihitla</b>	
xiwba	<b>cahe(natl)</b>	<b>tzicahe(natl)</b>	<b>catihihe(natl)</b>	
fourth	<b>cayal</b>	<b>tzicayal</b>	<b>catihiyal</b>	

	<b>lan</b>	<i>'to be; copula'</i>		stem: <b>lane-</b>
wo	<b>lan</b>	<b>elan</b>	<b>latin</b>	
ca	<b>la</b>	<b>ela</b>	<b>lati</b>	
xiw	<b>lah</b>	<b>elah</b>	<b>latih</b>	
fourth	<b>lana</b>	<b>elana</b>	<b>latina</b>	
woya	<b>latlih</b>	<b>elat</b>	<b>latitih</b>	
cani	<b>la</b>	<b>elaw</b>	<b>lati</b>	
xiwba	<b>laneya</b>	<b>elahe</b>	<b>latine</b>	
fourth	<b>layan</b>	<b>elayan</b>	<b>latiya</b>	

<b>teqwi</b>	<i>'to see'</i>		stem: <b>teqi-</b>
wo	<b>teqtli</b>	<b>eteqtli</b>	<b>teqtitli</b>
ca	<b>teqin</b>	<b>eteqin</b>	<b>teqtin</b>
xiw	<b>teqwe</b>	<b>tzateq</b>	<b>teqtiwe</b>
fourth	<b>teqinawa</b>	<b>eteqinawa</b>	<b>teqtinawa</b>
woya	<b>teqtli</b>	<b>eteqtlih</b>	<b>teqtitli</b>
cani	<b>teqihin*</b>	<b>tziwa</b>	<b>teqtihin</b>
xiwba	<b>teqihewe*</b>	<b>tziwahi</b>	<b>teqtihewe</b>
fourth	<b>teqala</b>	<b>eteqala</b>	<b>teqtala</b>

\* When used for marking future, *asewati* and *asewahe* are formal synonyms respectively.