

Jutean

Jutean

Coastal Jutean

Tahivi a net / Jute

Pronunciation /tahivi a net/ / /jute/

Created by –

Setting –

Coastal Juteans (native),

Ethnicity River Juteans, Klambari, Samwati
(common second language)

Native speakers 1,570,000 (no date)

[Juto-Ngutanic](#)

Language family

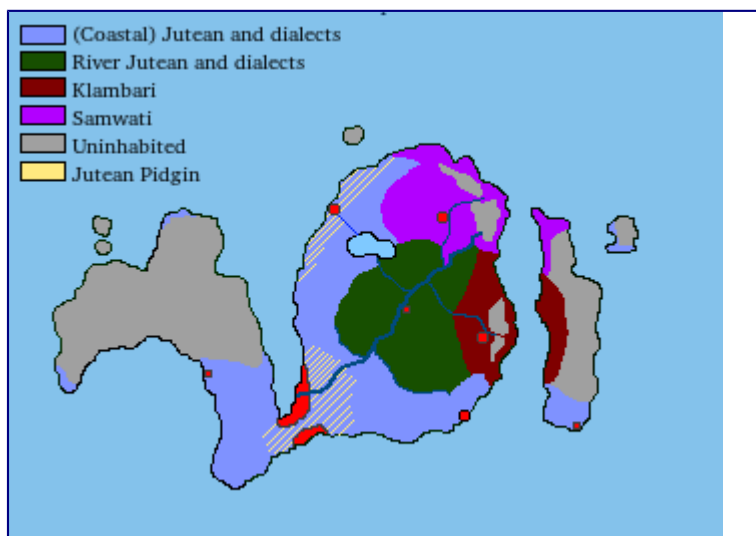
- Proto-Jutic
- Ancient Jutean
- Middle Jutean
- Reformed Jutean
- Colonial Jutean
- **Jutean**

Dialects Sitti, Laina

Official status

Official language in Jute

ISO 639-3 –



Background

Origin and goal

Started out as a language developed for a nation on Nationstates (a political simulator and rp platform for nation-rps). It can be found at nationstates.net/jute. The goal was (and is) to create a language that can be used for most purposes and that at least short texts can easily be translated to it to give the nation more depth.

Setting and inspiration

Since it's a tropical island and I had gotten interested in Hawaii and Hawaiian, the compact phonology is inspired by it, though of course with some changes. For example, it lacks the glottal stop, but has a /j/ and a /v/.

Peculiarities

To make sure the language doesn't up being too similar to Indo-European ones, the Austronesian alignment from Tagalog was adopted, adjectives as a separate part of speech dropped, as well as marked tense, articles, and number (except for pronouns). Later on, separate voices were dropped in favor of triggers.

Possessive pronouns were excluded, too, in an effort to show the different concepts of the speakers of the language regarding ownership. A genitive-like construction is solely used for inalienable possession, for alienable ones relative nominalizations are used, such as "the land I live on", or "the boat I'm sailing" rather than "my land" or "my boat".

The language has three genders, or noun classes. Common, abstract/immaterial and "wilderness". Common includes everything related to daily life in a village or city, humans, and things made by humans. Abstract/immaterial is largely self-explaining, used for ideas and concepts, intangible as well as unknown things or sometimes for generic terms. "Wilderness" includes everything that has to do, or can be found with the jungle, the ocean or anything else seen as "wild". This includes animals, plants as well as some inanimate items. It can also be used in a more poetic way, for example for the subconscious, the "wild, untamed" part of the mind.

Personal pronouns, while having the standard 1st/2nd/3rd person, are unusual when it comes to other aspects. There are three numbers (arguably four in 1P), clusitivity, gender and animacy distinctions. See below, 3.6 Pronouns.

Phonology

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m			n			[ŋ] ¹	
Plosive				t, d			k	
Fricative		f		s, [z] ²	[ʃ] ³			h

Approximant		ʋ				j		
Lateral app.				l				

¹at codas when followed by /k/, allophone of /n/

²at syllable onsets before long vowels, allophone of /s/

³in a few dialects, allophone of /s/

Vowels

	Front	Near-front	Central	Near-back	Back
Close	i, i:				u, u:
Near-close					
Close-mid	e, e:				
Mid					
Open-mid					
Near-open			ɐ ɐ:		
Open	[a:] ¹				ɑ, ɑ:, [ɒ:] ²

¹in some dialects, allophone of /ɐ:/

²in some dialects, allophone of /ɑ:/

Diphthongs

ai ae au ie ie ia iu ui ue ue ua ea eu ei ee eu ei ee

Triphthongs

ia: e:a

Phonotactics

Syllable Structure

(C)V(V)(V/C), though CVC, CVVC and particularly CVVV are used sparingly. CV or VC are preferred.

Consonant clusters can thus only appear at syllable boundaries, and only the geminations of /t/, /k/, /m/, /n/ and /l/ as well as two-consonant clusters starting with /n/, /m/ or /l/ are allowed.

VV are either long vowels or vowel diphthongs, and VVV are long diphthongs.

Stress information Mostly on the penultimate syllable, sometimes on the last syllable with a long vowel/diphthong, but it's not fixed and can also be used to emphasize a part of a word, for example the negating suffix '-l' or '-al'.

Orthography

Aa /a/ **Dd** /d/ **Ee** /e/ **Ff** /f/ **Hh** /h/ **Ii** /i/ **Jj** /j/ **Kk** /k/

Ll /l/ **Mm** /m/ **Nn** /n/, /ŋ/ **Oo** /ɑ/ **Ss** /s/, /ʃ/ **Tt** /t/ **Uu** /u/ **Vv** /v/

First word of a sentence has a capital letter, as do names.

Morphology

To be expanded.

Nouns

Nouns have a gender and decline for three cases, with some exceptions.

Gender	Common	Abstract (-i)	Wilderness (-u)
Noun	dova (tree)	dovi (tower, height)	dovu (jungle tree)

Gender is mostly predictable if you either know the meaning of a word or the spelling of it, however not all words ending in -i are of the "abstract" gender, nor are all nouns of that gender ending in -i, and the same is true for the other two classes.

Case	Direct	Indirect	Oblique
ending in consonant	dovan (forest)	dovaniti	dovanede
ending in vowel	saini (person, mind)	sainiti	sainide

The direct case more or less equals the absolutive or nominative (depending on the trigger used, see below for more information regarding them), where as indirect and oblique roughly correspond with the direct and indirect object respectively, however they can also have other functions. Most notably, words answering the question "where to?" need the indirect case, whereas the oblique one is used for inalienable possession, relationship or authorship.

Adjectives

They don't have a distinct morphology and are seen as nouns. The only difference is that most adjectival nouns don't decline, like for example *haad* "bigness".

To intensify them, a *haada* "of bigness", is used, so *hohi a haada* would translate to "very new" (literally "newness of bigness"). An exception would be "very big", where just *haada* would be used.

Comparative of a adjectival noun is formed by adding a *haada* "of bigness", and either *hehe* "still, even" to the end of the sentence, or adding a construction with *ehe* "than", like for example: *No ta a nihaa a haada ehe he na* "I am older than you" (literally "I am of oldness of bigness than you")

The superlative is constructed with a *haadat* "of biggestness" after it, as in *Nuno ta an mihonode a nihaa a haadat*. "I live in the oldest house" ("I live in the house of oldness of biggestness")

Negation

Negation of a noun or verb is formed by adding -l (if the word ends in a vowel) or -al (if the word ends in a consonant) to the end of the word. If the verb already has a mood or trigger suffix, the 'al' particle is postponed instead. This can also be done with nouns with a case ending or gerund forms, however it is also possible to add -l to the end (however this is somewhat uncommon with declined

nouns)

Verbs

Verbs in Jutean are usually sorted into two (or three) categories, objectless (the more scientific term being unaccusative or unergative), and split (or ergative). Object-taking or transitive verbs are not always classified as a separate verb class.

The first category refers to verbs which, like their name implies, take no object, are therefore always intransitive, and in addition usually imply at least a vague sense of agency. These are usually verbs of motion, like *to* ('go'), *ato* ('come') or static, like *nisaido* ('feel energized'), though there are some other ones, like *mihinido* ('sleep') or *moo* ('meditate'). Unaccusative verbs (agent-lacking ones) are also usually in this category, such as *no* ('live, exist').

Of course these can all still use adverbs, as in *to li tan* ('to go to my home').

These also can't ever convey a passive meaning, aside from more convoluted constructions such as *noitono mihinido* ('be made to sleep', literally 'be lead to sleep'), which use a patient suffix as a trigger on an auxiliary verb, but more on that later.

The second, 'split' or 'ergative' variety refers to more complicated ones. These can both stand in objectless (intransitive) sentences as well as sentences with objects (transitive ones), and depending on which is used convey either a passive or active meaning, similar to for example the English verb *to break* in *The door broke* and *I broke the door*. An example in Jutean would be *hemo* ('to eat'), where *Hemo fal* would translate to 'They are all eaten', but *Hemo fal kiove* would mean 'They all eat something'.

The third one, called 'transitive', covers the verbs who always need an object, such as *to learn about*. These are rare and often homonyms or additional meanings of ergative verbs, so they aren't always seen as a distinct category. A lot of secondary meanings of [daho](#) (base intransitive meaning: 'to have space'), such as '[to accommodate](#)', '[to make room](#)', '[to send into space](#)', to name a few, are transitive.

There are also five moods, Indicative, Imperative, Conditional, Subjunctive and Hortative.

Indicative

Used for describing reality, general truths and statements proven or, based on some kind of evidence, very likely to be true. It is the default mood and has no suffix.

<p>Vuho vuha ido vuhade a ji. <i>The sun shines at this day</i> Shine sun at.ABST day-OBL of this.ABST</p> <p>No nova un havande. <i>Animals live in the wilderness</i> Live animal in.DANG wilderness-OBL</p> <p>Saiho ta, ivusaie no ta. <i>I think, therefore I am.</i> Think 1S, therefore be 1S</p>
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Imperative

For commands and urges. It is formed by reduplicating the first two syllables of the infinitive, however some verbs are irregular here and only reduplicate part of the second syllable. The personal pronoun can be omitted in this case, or included for emphasis or clarification.

Atoato (na) li hen! *Come here!*

IMP-come (2S) towards here

Tatatataimo (fan) a he la! *Forget about him! (formal 'you')*

IMP-forget (3.COL.INCL) of IDR 3S

Foofool / Foofoo al (fan) maja a me fan ma! *Don't open your (pl) eyes!*

IMP-open-NEG / IMP-open NEG (3.COL.INCL) eye of OBL 2.COL OBL

Conditional

In Jutean it's used for the hypothetical result of an assumed change in conditions of the world, or, in some cases, for the polite expression of instructions or wishes you don't have much confidence or interest in becoming reality or that are more or less impossible. It's generally seen as the "humble" mood used when talking to someone of high respect or someone you just like that much. It can also be used for exaggerations that are supposed to be a proof of that or just joking. Formed by adding -ke to the end of the infinitive, which becomes -k in front of words starting with 'h' or in front of verbal particles.

Hokedo no mekoi nuhe hemedede ajavi, saimoke to na li saanuti, teoke teko na he uvuf a saanuvade. *For there to be fish for food today, you would want to go to the sea, and [there] you would need to get them from below the surface.*

Be-able be fish for food-OBL today, want-COND go 2S to sea-IDR, need-COND retrieve 2S IDR ANIM-PL of below.surface.sea-OBL

Saimoke to ta li neteti. *I would like to go to the coast [but if it's not possible, that's fine, too]*

Want-COND go 1S to coast-IDR

Hedoke la ooneti nuhe me ta ma. *He/She/Sg. They would take down the moon for me.*

Take-COND 3S moon-IDR BEN OBL 1S OBL

Subjunctive

Among other things used for energetic proposals, declarations, resolutions, or wishes you have absolute or near absolute faith in becoming true at some point or the time you mentioned. Also a more polite way to command someone to do something. Formed from infinitives with the -t suffix

Not ta a meoduki te. *I shall be honest from now on.*

Be-SBJV 1S of honesty onwards

Not na vunamoena hen! *You shall become governor here! (I support you in doing so and are sure you will succeed, but it's not certain yet)*

Be-SBJV 2S elder here

Hortative

This mood can often be seen as being somewhere between the two last ones, used for example for unbinding, but nevertheless assertive or affirmative suggestions, reminders or instructions. This would be translated into English with an auxiliary like "let" or "should". Formed with the -fe suffix attached to the infinitive.

Tofe fa tuuve.	<i>Let us go down</i>
Go-HORT 1.COL.INCL down	

Saavof na ja.	<i>You should clean this.</i>
Clean-HORT 2S this.C	

Aspects

Aspects such as habitual, progressive/continuous and perfective are usually indicated by adverbs, but sometimes verbs or nouns can also be used for that. They are not shown by affixes or particles on the verb or directly following or preceding it.

Examples for aspect-indicating adverbs:

<i>he</i>	'now'	progressive aspect
<i>lomohe</i>	'already'	perfective aspect
<i>anti</i>	'commonly, usually'	habitual aspect

Triggers

Since Jutean has the Austronesian alignment, it uses triggers to mark the focus of a sentence. These can also be used to express what other languages use voices or cases at nouns for.

To put it shortly, triggers are used in transitive sentences to signify a change in the morphosyntactic alignment from nominative-accusative or ergative-absolutive or vice versa, or highlight specific objects.

The two most common triggers are patient (-no), agent (unmarked by default, but -mo can be used to emphasize/intensify). Instrumental (-de) and Locative (-hen) exist, but are rather uncommon. They are all also attached to the verb, unless it already has mood or gerundive marking. (See chapter "Suffixation" for more information)

Examples for the ergative verb *joo* (to see)

Joo ta ja	<i>I see this.</i>	See 1S this.C
Joono ja he ta	<i>This is seen by me / This is what I see</i>	See-PV this.C IDR 1S
Joodo dovauhi he ta.	<i>The glasses are what I use to see.</i>	See.INSV glass IDR 1S
Joohen saanu he ta	<i>The sea is where I see.</i>	See.LOCV sea IDR 1S

Valency and transitivity

Valency can be used to express subject and object role in Jutean.

In intransitive sentences the meaning is by default understood as patientive. Here the agentive trigger/suffix *-mo*, otherwise used, as mentioned before in, in transitive sentences for emphasis, is used to make the subject agentive.

Joo ta. *I am seen.* See 1S

Joomo ta *I see.* See-AV 1S

The instrumental and locative trigger-suffixes are also repurposed and can be used to make an intransitive sentence have an implied impersonal subject:

Mihinidohen mihinon. *The bed is where you sleep/one sleeps*
sleep-LOCV bed

Joohen maja. *The eye/Eyes is/are with what you see/one sees.*
see-LOCV eye

On the other side, the opposite is true for transitive sentences, where the subjects are by default agentive. As an alternative to turning it intransitive to make it have a patientive meaning as well, the patient trigger *-no*, as mentioned above, can be used as well.

Voices

How many voices Jutean has is up to discussion. Colloquially, all inflections that aren't moods, negations or gerund forms have been called triggers.

However, technically the triggers only refer to focus-changing inflections in transitive sentences, so causative (*-vo*), reciprocal (*-hut*) and reflexive (*-he*) "triggers" should more properly be analyzed as voices.

Joovo ta he na *I'm making you see.* See-CAUS.trigger 1S IDR 2S

Joohut fa *We all see each other* See.RECP 3.COL.INCL

Joohe fa *We all see ourselves* See.REFL 3.COL.INCL

In addition, the intransitive agentive suffix *-mo* is usually regarded as an antipassive by my most grammarians nowadays, with some of the confusion stemming probably from the fact that it is also used in transitive sentences as an intensifier/emphasizing particle for agentive subjects.

Gerund

A gerund form exists, formed via suffixing *-hi*, and used to create nominalized subclauses. (See below)

Suffixation

If multiple suffixes would have to be added, for example mood and trigger or trigger and negation, only one of them is attached to the verb, with the other ones forming a particle.

An exception is the gerund suffix, which never becomes a particle, but gets added after a mood if one is marked on the verb (with an -e- added between mood and gerund suffix), and the imperative, where the negation suffix can still be added, since it uses a (reduplication) prefix rather than a suffix. However, the negation particle can also always be made a separate particle to mark emphasis or urgency.

Which one is added to the verb is decided based on their position in this order: Mood < Gerund suffix < Trigger < Negation, meaning that if a mood morpheme is present, it will be the one added to the verb, with the other one or two forming a particle.

If only the trigger and the negation are present, the trigger will be attached and the negation becomes a particle directly after the verb.

Adverbs

To follow.

Pronouns

Personal pronouns are rather complex, and some forms are thought to be almost unique to Jutean. The inanimate pronouns are gendered, the 3rd person pronoun referring to humans (and other sentient beings) however doesn't make distinctions.

Person	1st	2nd	3rd	3rd (plants and animals)	3rd (inanimate)
Singular	ta	na	la	uvu	ehi, aha, ohu
Plural	fa (incl.), fanal (excl. of 2SG), fanafal (excl. of 2PL)	naf	laf	uvuf	ehif, ahaf, ohuf
Collective	fa (incl.) fafanal (excl.)	fan	fal	uvuf, (fuvu)	ehif, ahaf, ohuf (a af/efi/uf)

For the indirect case, the particle he is put in front of the pronoun, for the oblique case the circumferential particle me ... ma is used.

Example: *ta I*

he ta me, to me

me ta ma for me, of me, by me (etc.)

Demonstrative pronouns

They are distinguished by gender and distance (proximal, medial and distal).

Gender	Common	Abstract/Immaterial	Wilderness
Proximal	ja	ji	ju
Medial	jam	jim	jum

Distal	jaha	jahi	jahu
---------------	------	------	------

Possessive pronouns don't exist. See "Possession" below on how possession is expressed.

Other pronouns to follow.

Adpositions

These can sometimes be gendered as well, for example *ado/ido/udo* **at, by**, etc.

Question particles

To form a question, these are attached at the end of a sentence, separated by a comma. They are usually formed by taking the basic particle *haa* and adding the thing/concept/detail in question to it, however making new forms "on the fly" is uncommon and very informal.

Examples:

haaja/-ji/-ju "what?" *haan* "where?" *haasin* "who?" *hasooni* "when?" *haava* "made of what?"
haatoni "how?" *haano* "why?"

Derivational morphology

In general, these affixes can be used to derive nouns from other nouns or verbs. For adverbs, *-e* is usually added to the end, while verbs take *-o* or *-ho*, barring some exceptions.

Gender-changing derivations

-a Generic noun suffix for common, physically existing things not related to the wilderness.

Derived from the ending of most Common-gender nouns, *-a*

Known synonymous suffixes: (tba)

Examples: *donosani* 'experience' → *donosana* 'experienced person' *niooni* 'dream' → *nioona* 'picture, illustration'

-i Generic noun suffix for immaterial and/or abstract things, ideas, concepts etc., also used for some generic nouns and for deriving nouns from verbs. Derived from the ending of most Abstract/Immaterial-gender nouns, *-i*.

Known synonymous suffixes: *-hi* (particularly used when the word already ends in *-i*)

Examples: *nesano* 'to know' → *nesani* 'knowledge, knowing' *vuha* 'sun' → *vuhi* 'light'

-u Generic noun suffix for all wilderness-related things that physically exist, such as things to be found in jungles, oceans or other worlds, sometimes also outer space. Also has a few metaphorical uses. Derived from the ending of most Wilderness-gender nouns, *-u*

Known synonymous suffixes: (tba)

Examples: *dova* 'tree' → *dovu* 'jungle tree' *saini* 'mind, person, people' → *sainu* 'instinct, subconscious'

Changes in size or mightiness

-at General augmentative suffix, mostly quantitative. Derived from *haadat*, "biggestness"

Known synonymous suffixes: *-aha*, *-haa*, *-haad*, *-ahad*

Examples: *saanu* 'sea' → *saanuahad* 'ocean, ocean surface' *seda* 'pot' → *sedaat* 'cauldron'

-it Qualitative augmentative suffix, used when something exceeds something else in a defining quality, for example "magnifying glass" → "microscope". Derived from combining *-at* with *-i*.

Known synonymous suffixes: *-at* (rarely)

Examples: *vunojahivo* 'magnifying glass' → *vujahivit* 'microscope' *dooni* 'time' → *doonat* 'special occasion, celebration'

-fi General diminutive suffix. Etymology unclear.

Known synonymous suffixes: *-fe* (when used with adverbs), *-ihame* (for persons, rare, no longer productive), *-ila/-ilu/-ili* (gendered variants, rare, no longer productive)

Examples: *dooni* 'time' → *doonifi* 'moment' *favefa* 'meal, dish' → *favefafi* 'snack'

Instrumentals and resultatives

-ivo General instrumental suffix, for things that are needed or very useful for something. Probably related to *vo* 'use'

Example: *hotio* 'to write, be written' → *hotivo* 'pen, quill, writing implement'

vaili- Tool or machine derivation prefix, used for tools or machines that, rather than making a job easier, complete it for the most part themselves, like soap vs. washing machine.

Example: *to* 'to go' → *vailita* 'vehicle'

To be expanded.

Possession

Since possessive pronouns are nonexistent, *a* + personal pronoun in the oblique case are used for inalienable possession, relationship or authorship.

Vunam a he laf ha "**Their parent**" ("Parent of them")

Hotif a he ta ha "**My book**" [**a book that I wrote**] ("Book of me")

Ova a vuhatatede "**The top of the mountain**" ("Top of mountain")

For alienable possession, a relative nominalization is used, for example *vailita a vohi a me ha ma* "**vehicle that I use**" (literally "vehicle of using of me").

Syntax

Mainclauses

Strictly VSO, including in questions. Adverbs come last, with locations preceding time adverbs. Auxiliary verbs precede the other verb directly. Subclauses are usually nominalized, especially relative ones.

The complete order would be:

1. Conjunction (if two main clauses are connected)
2. Auxiliary verb
3. Auxiliary verb particle
4. Verb
5. Verb particle
6. Subject (Noun/pronoun in direct case)
7. Direct object (takes the indirect case)
8. Oblique/indirect object (usually takes the oblique case)
9. Adverbs (manner - place - time)
10. Question particle (separated by comma)

However, if the oblique object is animate, and the direct object is inanimate, sometimes the oblique object can come before the direct object.

Subclauses

Subclauses are usually avoided, often by turning them into main clauses, where possible. These are linked with a conjunction, (most of the time "u", "and").

In other case, when a subclause is needed, a nominalization is used, as is the case with, for example, relative clauses.

Multiple subclauses in a single sentence are almost always avoided, since they can easily become confusing for the listener or let the speaker "trip" over their own words and cause you to lose your train of thought. This still applies, albeit less so, for written language.

Word order in nominalized subclauses is still VSO and otherwise unchanged as well, though there is no need to always have a distinct subject, as subclauses can refer back to the subject of the main clause. They are usually introduced by "a", "of, from, by, about", followed by the gerundive form of the verb.

Numerals

Jutean uses a base-5 counting system, so "ten" would be literally translated as "two five". Ordinal numbers (first, second, third) are formed by adding the oblique case ending -ede/-de. Numbers

aren't declined.

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal
1	iki	ikide
2	leke	lekede
3	kiuki	kiukide
4	kihaki	kihakide
5	kiif	kiifede
6	kiif-iki	kiif-ikide
7	kiif-leke	kiif-lekede
8	kiif-kiuki	kiif-kiukide
9	kiif-kihaki	kiif-kihakide
10	leke-kiivi	leke-kiivide
11	leke-kiivi iki	leke-kiivi ikide
12	leke-kiivi leke	leke-kiivi lekede

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