A Complete Guide to *Kakisti*

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1 Grammar

1.1 Phonetic Inventory

Kakisti's Phonetic Inventory is best described as a conglomeration of Spanish Vowels, English Consonants, and a smattering of Italian and Nahuatl Affricates. In total, the language has twenty consonants and five vowels.

1.1.1 *Kakisti's* Consonantal Inventory

	Bilabial		Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar		Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal		Velar		Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal	
Plosive	p	b			t	d					k	g			ʔ	
Nasal			ɱ						ɲ							
Trill						r										
Tap or Flap																
Fricative			f	ð	s						ʍ					
Lateral fricative					ɬ											
Lateral approximant										ʎ						
Lateral affricates					t͡ɬ											
Silibant affricates					t͡s				t͡ʃ							
Non-silibant affricates									ɟ͡ʝ							

* Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

1.1.2 *Kakisti's* Vocalic Inventory

Kakisti has a mixture of rounded and unrounded vowels. They are spread evenly positionally throughout the buccal cavity. The circled phonemes are those found in *Kakisti*.

The right item in pairs represents a rounded vowel.
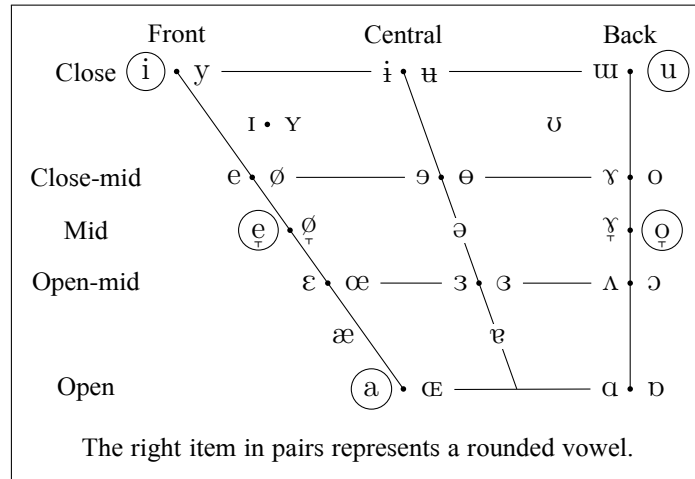
The following table more explicitly shows *Kakisti's* phonemes and their names according to the International Phonetic Alphabet:

Consonants	Vowels
Voiced bilabial plosive: b	Open front unrounded vowel: a
Voiced dental plosive: d	Mid front unrounded vowel: e̞
Voiceless labiodental fricative: f	Close front unrounded vowel: i
Voiced velar plosive: g	Mid back rounded vowel: o̞
Voiced palatal affricate: ɟʝ	Close back rounded vowel: u
Voiceless velar plosive: k	
Voiced labiodental nasal: ɱ	
Voiceless labial plosive: p	
Voiced alveolar trill: r	
Voiceless alveolar fricative: s	
Voiceless dental plosive: t	

Voiceless alveolar lateral affricate: t͡ɬ	
Voiceless dental and alveolar lateral fricatives: ɬ	
Voiced palatal nasal: ɲ	
Voiceless postalveolar affricate: t͡ʃ	
Voiced dental fricative: ð	
Voiceless labial–velar fricative: ʍ	
Voiced palatal lateral approximant: ʎ	
Voiceless alveolar affricate: t͡s	
Glottal stop: ʔ	

1.2   Syllabic Structure

1. In the language *Kakisti*, a syllable can take any of the following forms: **V**, **CV**, **VC**, or **CVC**. This allows the language to have one-letter words but excludes consonants from formulating full words. *Kakisti* was constructed this way to facilitate pronunciation and eliminate the possibility of large consonant clusters within words between words. That being said, the nucleus of the syllable is restricted to the five vowels, and if two vowels are together in a word they are placed in separate syllables.

2. In principle, not every consonant can succeed the nucleus. The following consonants cannot end a syllable: ʍ, j͡j, ɲ.

3. Conversely, any consonant can precede the nucleus. This means that it is important to note the way in which compound words such as Icebox from *This Is Just To Say* are made. This is achieved by simply combining the translation of each individual word in succession. Generally, if two consonants appear next to each other in a word, this denotes a break between two syllables.

1.3   Proto-language Sound Changes

In the process of proto-*Kakisti* becoming the *Kakisti* we know and love today, four notable changes occurred:

1. Many vowel sounds were drastically changed from the proto-language. More precisely, all central vowels that shifted forward became unrounded regardless of being rounded or not at the time, and the central vowels that shifted back became strictly rounded.

   (a) ə, ɜ, ɞ ⇒ e̝
   (b) ä, ɐ ⇒ a
   (c) ɨ ⇒ i
   (d) ɵ, ɘ ⇒ o̝
   (e) ʉ ⇒ u

2. As a simplification to pronunciation, voiced affricates became voiceless with the exception of the palatal affricate. More generally, this means that sibilant affricates go from voiced to voiceless. Similarly, labial-velar sounds became voiceless.

   (a) d͡z ⇒ t͡s
   (b) d͡ʑ ⇒ t͡ʃ
   (c) w ⇒ ʍ

3. In an opposing simplifying move, voiceless nasals became voiced, and voiceless dental fricatives became voiced.

   (a) ŋ̊ ⇒ ŋ
   (b) ɲ̊, n̪̥ ⇒ ɲ

4. Glottal stops at the beginning of words became voiceless plosives because they are similar sounds at similar locations, but they flow better into vowels.

   (a) ʔ ⇒ k

   These sound changes occur in the order in which they have been listed.

1.4   Morphemes

Four morphemes of *Kakisti*:

1. The bound suffix -pi will attach to a noun root and be used to denote the plurality of a noun. Thus this is an inflectional morpheme.

   - Plum = kuato̝ ⇒ Plums = kuato̝-pi

2. The bound suffix -uʔ will attach to a verb root and be used to denote the past tense of a verb, again rendering this an inflectional morpheme.

   - Have = ɲudis ⇒ Had = ɲudis-uʔ

3. The free prefix ŋo̞ɬ- is an inflectional morpheme that will attach to a noun and be used to denote the consumption of said noun.

   - Bird = t͡ʃigo̞ ⇒ Eaten bird = ŋo̞ɬ-t͡ʃigo̞

4. The bound prefix is ðuru- a derivational morpheme that means the earliest recollection you have of the bound root. It can attach to any part of speech.

   - Green = ɲagit͡s ⇒ The first time that I can remember green = ðuru-ɲagit͡s

1.5 Borrowed Words

Kakisti has borrowed words from the language *Wordl* that is currently being developed by Audrey Douglas.

1. Clear = bɹite ⇒ brite̞
   For the vowel change, it simply slides toward the nearest vowel available. In this case the Close-mid front unrounded vowel slides open into the Mid front unrounded vowel. Similarly, the non-native sound ɹ becomes a trill in *Kakisti* and turns into r.

2. Close = skœɹg ⇒ ske̞rg
   For this vowel change, the vowel now slides closed from the Open-mid front rounded vowel again to the Mid front unrounded vowel. Also, the ɹ becomes r.

3. Rayon = ʃamɵa ⇒ ɬaɱða
   For this word there's a change from the non-existent consonant Voiceless postalveolar fricative, to the nearest approximate, the Voiceless dental and alveolar lateral fricative. Further, the Voiced labiodental nasal replaces the Voiced bilabial nasal because of the extremely similar mechanics between the two sounds. Finally, *Kakisti* does not have a Voiceless dental fricative, but it does have a Voiced dental fricative, so this becomes the replacement for that sound.

4. Frank = geøɹʃ ⇒ ge̞rɬ
   Perhaps the most involved transition, an entire vowel is dropped from this word. Because both vowels are at the same location but vary only by the roundedness of the mouth, in *Kakisti* they are the same letter. Therefore, the Close-mid front unrounded vowel slides open into the Mid front unrounded vowel as before. Then the Voiced alveolar and postalveolar approximants is replaced by the Voiced alveolar trill, and the Voiceless dental

and alveolar lateral fricative once again replaces the Voiceless postalveolar fricative.

1.6   Writing System

Kakisti uses the Armenian alphabet for its writing system. It has both upper and lowercase letters. *Kakisti's* words are written right to left on a line, but the letters in each word are written left to right in a zigzag pattern. The vertical order is from the top of the page down to the bottom. Furthermore, the language marks word boundaries using a single space. Paragraphs are anti-indented, such that the top line of the block of text is closer to the right edge of the page than the subsequent lines.

IPA	*Kakisti* Symbols
a	Ա ա
b	Բ բ
t͡ʃ	Ձ ձ
d	Դ դ
e̞	Ե ե
f	Ֆ ֆ
g	Գ գ
i	Ի ի
j͡j	Ջ ջ
k	Կ կ
ɬ	Լ լ
ɱ	Մ մ

ɲ	Ն ն
o̞	O o
p	Պ պ
r	Ռ ռ
s	Ս ս
t	Տ տ
t͡ɬ	Խ խ
u	Ւ ւ
ð	Շ շ
ɰ	Ո ո
ʎ	Ը ը
t͡s	Փ փ
ʔ	Թ թ

1.7   Word Order

1. *Kakisti* has a rather conventional order for its subjects, objects, and verbs. It follows an SVO scheme, much like English does.

2. Unlike in English, however, adjectives are placed after the noun which they modify.

   - Փա գտիրա բրիտե ⇒ The box *clear*.

3. In terms of adpositions, *Kakisti* has both prepositions and postpositions. This is dictated by the relationship that the adposition conveys. If the

relationship is submissive, it is a postposition. If the relationship is domineering, it is a preposition. If no such relationship is connoted, the temporal relationship determines this in the same manner, and if neither exists, the language defaults to prepositions.

Examples of this phenomenon are:

(a) Out (of) ⇒ In

(b) Before ⇒ After

(c) On ⇒ Under

(d) Between ⇒ Beside

(e) Above ⇒ Below

4. In *Kakisti*, complementizers go at the beginning of any embedded clause.

5. Adverbs go in front of the verb or adjective which they modify, unlike adjectives.

1.8 Agreement

Agreement in *Kakisti* is only between the verb and the subject. A direct parallel can be drawn between agreement in *Kakisti* and verb conjugation in *Italian*.

This is how the verb *sleep* conjugates:

	Singular	**Plural**
1st Person	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-ǫ	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-iamǫ
2nd Person	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-i	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-itẹ
3rd Person	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-ẹ	at͡ʃit͡ʃ-ǫnǫ

Notably, when a verb is not in the present tense, the morpheme for the tense will go before the verb agreement morpheme.

1.9 Case

1. *Kakisti* does not have a nominative/accusative or ergative/absolutive case that is explicitly marked by any overt morphology. I & me are the same word, so the order in which they are placed around the transitive verb denotes the agent and the object.

2. However, *Kakisti* does have an attributive/genitive case. The morpheme is -ɲi such that:

(a) My dog ⇒ a-ɲi tadi

(b) Your dog ⇒ ẹ-ɲi tadi

(c) His dog ⇒ ʍẹ-ɲi tadi

(d) The dog's cat ⇒ t͡sa tadi-ɲi tadǫ

1.10   Questions

In terms of punctuation, questions in *Kakisti* use the following marking at the end to replace the English Question Mark: ꝺ, and it is also placed at the end of the last word in the sentence. Because of *Kakisti's* writing system, this means that the mark will be to the right of the word, but on the left-most word in the question on the current line.

1. Wh-Questions:
   These questions are created by adding the Wh-Question word at the beginning of the sentence and prepending a particle, t͡ɬi, to the Wh-Question word.

   (a) You ate the plum. ⇒ Who ate the plum?

   ẹ m̥o̧ɬuʔ t͡sa kuato̧ ⇒ it͡sẹ-t͡ɬi t͡sa kuato̧

   (b) The language is this one. ⇒ Which language is this one?

   t͡sa ɲo̧ɬo̧r kẹgẹ t͡su aku ⇒ t͡ɬi-ut͡sẹ ɲo̧ɬo̧r kẹgẹ t͡su aku

2. Yes/No Questions:
   In *Kakisti*, Yes/No questions are formulated by adding a particle, t͡ɬi, to the beginning of the sentence. This is done because the languages makes a concerted effort to announce to the listener that the upcoming string of words will be a question.

   • You are cold. ⇒ Are you cold?

   daro̧t͡ɬi ẹ ɟ͡ɟura ⇒ t͡ɬi daro̧t͡ɬi ẹ ɟ͡ɟura

1.11   Relative Clauses

In *Kakisti*, relative clauses begin with relative pronouns, such as which and who. They are placed after the noun or pronoun which they modify.

   • Ice <u>that is clear</u> is cold. ⇒ ðo̧baf <u>t͡sẹ kẹgẹ britẹ</u> kẹgẹ ɟ͡ɟura

1.12   Negation & N-Words

In *Kakisti* words and phrases are negated through the use of "no" and "not." When what is being negated is a noun, ɲuʔ (no) is placed in front of the word. On the other hand, when what is being negated is a verb, such as would be the case for a scenario in which we wish to indicate our inability to do something, we can place ɲu (not) in front of the verb. The negating particle is placed before the negated item because *Kakisti*, at the risk of anthropomorphizing it, wishes to impart expectations to the listener as soon as possible to expedite communication and comprehension.

   (a) No men are smart. ⇒ ɲuʔ ɟ͡ɟȩ̣ɱuɬpi daro̧t͡ɬo̧ɲo̧ ɟ͡ɟat͡ɬis

   (b) No physics problems are clear. ⇒ ɲuʔ bo̧kẹt͡ʃẹ bo̧rʍȩɬpi daro̧t͡ɬo̧ɲo̧ britẹ

   (c) All birds are not the same. ⇒ o̧gibẹ t͡ʃigo̧pi ɲu daro̧t͡ɬ t͡sa t͡ʃo̧ɬu

1.13   Numbers

Kakisti is base 3. This means it only has the numbers zero (no), one, and two. Three had great religious and historical meaning to the speakers of proto-*Kakisti*, and the language has not developed since past this numeral. Furthermore, the language has a highly regular number system such that any number is created by appending additional 0s, 1s, or 2s to the right of the number. Since individual words in *Kakisti* are written left to right, this means that the number is built up from zero to the highest order of three.

2 Dictionary

2.1 Lexicon

Kakisti	English
a	I
akițo̦re̦ło̦	Probably
aku	One
am̦o̦t͡ł	Book
at͡ʃit͡ʃ	Sleep
bart-ițe̦	Found
bij͡jo̦d	Old
bo̦ke̦t͡ʃe̦	Physics
bo̦rʍe̦ł	Problem
bo̦t͡łe̦ro̦	Song
brițe̦	Clear
buf	See
burt͡łe̦	Anybody
dak	To
dant͡so̦ŋ	Dance
daro̦t͡ł	Are
ðife̦r	Can
ðo̦baf	Ice
ðo̦bafguriʎa	Icebox
ðo̦pe̦ŋ	Sweet
e̦	You
e̦t͡se̦	What
fad	Do
fus	Small
gago̦t͡si	Saving
ge̦rł	Frank

Kakisti	English
guriʎa	Box
ira	Two
it͡se̦	Who
j͡jat͡łis	Smart
j͡je̦ŋ	Person
j͡je̦ŋił	Woman
j͡je̦ŋuł	Man
j͡jura	Cold
kak	Hack
ke̦g	Is
ke̦ta	Steal
ko̦pure̦ði	Delicious
ko̦ri	With
kuato̦	Plum
kuse̦	Thing
łaŋða	Rayon
łase̦t͡s	Leave
ʎabiso̦	Damage
ʎape̦t	Talk
ʎebiko̦	Table
ʎife̦ʎ	Paper
ŋao̦	We
ŋe̦bag	House
ŋifutapus	Hunter
ŋiłi	Better
ŋo̦łuʔ	Eaten
ŋure̦	Love

ɲagit͡s	Green		sit͡ɬa	Smarter
ɲakat͡ɬ	Rabbit		ske̥rg	Close
ɲat	So		so̥ðu	Under
ɲo̥ɬo̥r	Language		suf	Big
ɲu	Not		suɬe̥	alone
ɲudis	Have		tadi	Dog
ɲuʔ	No		tado̥	Cat
o̥	Or		t͡ɬo̥	A
o̥drare̥g	Mexico		t͡sa	The
o̥gibe̥	All		t͡se̥	That
o̥go̥ɬ	Place		t͡su	This
o̥re̥pide̥	Breakfast		t͡ʃigo̥	Bird
o̥t͡ɬika	Hear		t͡ʃo̥ɬu	Same
pe̥pe̥t	Chase		u	And
pipa	How		ut͡se̥	Which
put͡ʃe̥	Cloud		ʍe̥	He
rat͡sa	Girl		ʍe̥ʍi	They
re̥ɲiɟ͡ʝu	Think		ʍi	She
re̥p	For		ʍiba	Many
re̥po̥re̥	Forgive		ʍike̥	In
rista	Word		ʍuʎib	Live

2.2 Glosses

Abbreviation	Morpheme	Meaning
1	-ǫ̭	1st Singular *agreement*
2	-i	2nd Singular *agreement*
3	-ę̭	3rd Singular *agreement*
1SG	a	1st Singular *pronoun*
2P	-itę̭	2nd Plural *agreement*
2SG	ę̭	2nd Singular *pronoun*
3P	-ǫ̭ɲǫ̭	3rd Plural *agreement*
3PL	ʍę̭ʍi	3rd Plural *pronoun*
3SG.F	ʍi	3rd Singular Feminine *pronoun*
3SG.M	ʍę̭	3rd Singular Masculine *pronoun*
ADZ	-ę̭ɬǫ̭	Adverbizes *adjectives*
AGN	ŋjifu-	Agent nominalization of *verb*
:COMP	*Various*	Comparative *adjective*
CORJ	u, ǫ̭	Coordinating *conjuctions*
DART	t͡sa	Definite *article*
DET	t͡sę̭	Determiner
IART	t͡ɬǫ̭	Indefinite *article*
PLU	-pi	Pluralization of *noun*
PRET	-uʔ	Preterite *verb*

3 Translations

3.1 Examples

փսա ժիզօ ոենիջւթե փիե ոե ըւֆւթե խօ տաղօ
t͡sa t͡ʃigo̝ re̝ɲiĵ-uʔ-e̝ t͡se̝ ʍe̝ buf-uʔ t͡ɬo̝ tado̝
The bird think-PRET-3 that 3SG.M see-PRET-3 IART cat

"The bird thought that he saw a cat"

փսա միֆւտասպս պեսյետւթե փսա նակախ
t͡sa ɲifu-tapus pe̝pe̝t-uʔ-e̝ t͡sa ɲakat͡ɬ
DART AGN-hunt chase-PRET-3 DART rabbit

"The hunter chased the rabbit"

փսա տաղի կեգւթ փսա աժիժե ըեկիբօ սօչւ
t͡sa tadi ke̝g-u-ʔ at͡ʃit͡ʃ-e̝ t͡sa ʎe̝kibo̝ so̝ðu
DART dog is-PRET sleep-3 DART table under

"The dog was sleeping under the table"

փսա ոափսա օգօլե փսա բիջօղ ամօխսպի խօ ււֆ գւտիրա ոիկե
t͡sa rat͡sa o̝go̝ɬ-uʔ-e̝ t͡sa biĵĵod aɲo̝t͡ɬ-pi t͡ɬo̝ suf guriʎa ʍike̝
DART girl place-PRET-3 DART old book-PLU IART big box in

"The girl placed the old books in a large box"

ա նւղիսօ խօ տաղօ
a ɲudisj-o̝ t͡ɬo̝ tado̝
1SG have-1 IART cat

"I have a cat"

ա կեգե խօ տաղօ
a ke̝g-o̝ t͡ɬo̝ tado̝
1SG is-1 IART cat

"I am a cat"

ոի կեգե սիիսա ե
ʍi ke̝g-e̝ sit͡ɬa e̝
3SG.F is-3 smart:COMP 2SG

"She is smarter than you"

փիե ջեմւ կեգե ըասպետ ղակ ժօլւ ոե
t͡se̝ ĵĵe̝ɲuɬ ke̝g-e̝ ʎape̝t dak t͡ʃo̝ɬu ʍe̝
DET man is-3 talk to same 3SG.M

"That man is talking to himself"

ա ևи չիֆեռ օխիկաօ եպի
a ɲu ðifę̞r o̞tłka-o̞ ę̞-pi
1SG not can hear-1 2SG-PLU
"I can't hear you"

ա ևи րиֆօ րидиֆе
a ɲu buf-o̞ burt͡łę̞
1SG not see-1 anybody
"I don't see anybody"

ևдֆ րидиֆе идрироևо ریک ф мераg
ɲuʔ burt͡łę̞ ʌuʎib-o̞ɲo̞ ʌike̞ t͡sę̞ mę̞bag
no anybody live-3P in DET house
"Nobody lives in that house"

դаևфоидиֆе կори ա
dant͡so̞m-itę̞ ko̞ri a
Dance-2P with me
"Dance with me!"

լуаидիфиֆе կидեпи ปипа радրодиֆе ռири о риди
łase̞t͡s-itę̞ kusę̞-pi pipa bart-itę̞ ʌe̞ʌi o̞ ɲiłi
Leave-2P thing-PLU how found-2P 3PL CORJ good:COMP
"Leave things as you found them – or better"

լуаидիֆե ևдֆ դардиоо
łase̞t͡s-itę̞ ɲuʔ ʎabiso̞
Leave-2P no damage
"Leave no damage"

ևдֆ идեկаиֆе կид
ɲuʔ ke̞ta-itę̞ kusę̞
No steal-2P thing
"Do not steal anything"

ևдֆ կаկиֆе иде
ɲuʔ kak-itę̞ sułę̞
no hack-2P alone
"Do not hack alone"

3.2 *This is Just to Say* by William Carlos Williams

ա   նղիս   ʍolրթ
a   ɲudis   ŋoɬ-uʔ
1SG   have   eat-PRET
"I have eaten"

ʍolրթ   փա
t͡sa   kuatǫ-pi
DART   plum-PLU
"the plums"

փե   դառoխoնo   ոիկե
t͡sȩ   darǫt͡ɬ-uʔ-ǫɲǫ   ʌikȩ
that   are-PRET-3P   in
"that were in"

փա   ȝoրա𝔣գւոիրա
t͡sa   ðǫbafguriʎa
DART   icebox
"the icebox"

ւ   ւփե
u   ut͡sȩ
CORJ   which
"and which"

ե   դառoխւթիստ   ակիխոոթլo
ȩ   darǫt͡ɬ-uʔ-itȩ   akitǫr-ȩɬǫ
2SG   are-PRET-2P   probably-ADZ
"you were probably"

գագoփի
gagǫt͡s-i
save-2
"saving"

ռեպ   oռեպիդե
rȩp   ǫrȩpidȩ
for   breakfast
"for breakfast"

ոեպօոե   ա
rȩpȯrȩ   a
Forgive   1SG
"Forgive me"

ոեոի   դաոoխıթoնo   չoպեմ
ᴍȩᴍi   darǫt̶̂-uʔ-ǫɲǫ   kǫpurȩði
3PL   are-PRET-3P   delicious
"they were delicious"

չoպեմ   նաm
ðǫpȩɲ   ɲat
sweet   so
"so sweet"

ı   ցıռա   նաm
u   ɟ̂jura   ɲat
CORJ   cold   so
"and so cold"