

KALAALLISUT: ESKIMO-ALEUT

**Appaliarsuit**  
"Little auks"

BIOLOGY (natural history):

In L. Møller Lund ed., 1976, *Kalaallisut* 1, pp. 64–65, Ministeriet for Grønland. TRANSCRIPTION, GLOSSES & TRANSLATION by M. Bittner (9/20/2005): Transcription and glosses as in Bittner (2005) 'Future Discourse in a Tenseless Language' *Journal of Semantics* 22(4). Paragraphs (§) as in the original.

TOPOLOGY: *if* initial field, *ib* initial boundary, *mf* middle field, *fb* final boundary, *ff* final field. Kalaallisut uses these fields roughly as follows:

*if*: anaphoric link to prior discourse and/or set up the primary topical referent ( $\top$ );

*ib*: elaborate  $\top$  and/or:

(i) set up a secondary topical referent ( $\top'$ ), or (ii) set up a backgrounded referent ( $\perp$ );

*mf*: background information about main verbal comment;

*fb*: main verbal comment about current topic(s) (*if*- $\top$  & *ib*- $\top'$  if present; otherwise  $\top$  from last S)

*ff*: elaborate and/or set up a new backgrounded referent ( $\perp'$ ) to be picked up by the upcoming *if*.

Only *fb* must be instantiated (by the main verb or complex predicate NV); all other topological fields are optional and, if instantiated, may be multiply instantiated (unlike syntactic nodes).

§1. *A little seabird*

- (1) Appaliarsuk *if*  
*little.auk.sg*  
The little auk...  
  
miki-su-u-vu-q. *fb*  
*be.small-iv\cn-be-IND.IV-3s*  
...is small.
- (2) Mit-sima-til-lu-ni *if*  
*land-prf-DUR-ELA $\top$ -3s $\top$*   
After landing, ...  
  
nuna ajappas-sima-sar-pa-a. *ib, fb*  
*ground.sg touch.with.hands-prf-habit-IND.TV-3s.3s*  
...it touches the ground with its wingtips [= 'hands'].
- (3) Imma-p ilu-a-nut allur-lu-ni *if*  
*sea-sg.ERG interior-3s.sg-DAT dive-ELA $\top$ -3s $\top$*   
Diving into the sea, ...  
  
niri-sa-ssar-siur-tar-pu-q. *fb*  
*eat-tv\m-expected-seek-habit-IND.IV-3s*  
...it seeks food [*lit.* items it expects to eat].

- (4) Niri-sar-pa-i *fb*  
*eat-habit-IND.TV-3s.3p*  
 It eats...
- uumasu-ara-nngu-it illiqqa-t *ff*  
*animal-tiny-little-pl krill-pl*  
 ...tiny little animals [called] krill.
- (5) Allur-sima-til-lu-ni *if*  
*dive-prf-DUR-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>T</sub>*  
 While diving...
- at-sis-su-mut pi-niq ajur-pu-q *ib, fb*  
*bottom-be.at-iv\cn-sg.DAT get-v\cn never.do-IND.IV-3s*  
 ...it never goes far down, ...
- imma-p qa-a-ta ati-nngu-a-ni=ig-innar-tar-a-mi *ff*  
*sea-sg.ERG surface-3s.sg-ERG bottom-little-3s.sg=be-just-habit-FCT<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...staying just under the surface of the sea,...
- niri-nia-kka-ni qav-vasit-ta-qi-mm-ata  
*eat-intend-tv\rn-3s<sub>T</sub>.pl surface-be.close.to-habit-very-FCT<sub>1</sub>-3p<sub>1</sub>*  
 ...because the [animal]s it wants to eat stay very close to the surface.
- (6a) Piara-qa-lir-vim-mi nala-a-ni *if*  
*young-have-begin-loc.of-3s<sub>T</sub>.sg.ERG vicinity-3s<sub>1</sub>.sg-LOC*  
 Around the time when the chicks get hatched, ...
- piaqqa-mi niri-sa-ssa-an-nik katirsu-i-sil-lu-ni *ib*  
*young-3s<sub>T</sub>.sg.ERG eat-tv\rn-expected-3s<sub>1</sub>.pl-MOD gather-apass-DUR-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...while gathering food for its chick [*lit.* items it expects its chick to eat], ...
- iggissa-mi ila-a im-mir-tar-pa-a *mf, fb*  
*throat-3s.sg.ERG part-3s.sg content-link.to-habit-IND.TV-3s.3s*  
 ...it fills a (specific) part of its throat [= its crop]
- (6b) piaqqa-ni=lu qirru-ni=it-tu-q tikik-kaanga-mi-uk *if*  
*young-3s<sub>T</sub>.sg=and rock.cliff-pl.LOC=be-iv\cn-sg come-HAB<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>1</sub>*  
 ...and when it comes back to its chick, which is [up] on the rock cliff, ...
- taakku-ninnga niri-sit-tar-pa-a *mf, fb*  
*those-pl.MOD eat-cause-habit-IND.TV-3s.3s*  
 ...it feeds it [*lit.* lets it eat] with those.

## §2. Flock behavior & daily rhythm

- (1) Imma-mi ataatsi-muur-lu-tik *if*  
*sea-sg.LOC one-go.to-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 Gathering into flocks [*lit.* groups] on the sea...
- katirsa-kkuutaar-lu-tik mit-sima-gajut-tar-pu-t *fb*  
*flock-act.in.units.of-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub> land-prf-often-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 ...they often stay together as a flock after landing, ...
- allur-ur-tar-lu-tik *ff*  
*dive-activity-habit-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...diving again and again.

- (2) Qut-sis-su-kkut ingirla-niq ajur-pu-t *ib, fb*  
*top-be.at-iv\cn-sg.VIA travel-v\ñ never.do-IND.IV-3s*  
 They never fly high ...
- niri-niar-til-lu-tik *ff*  
*eat-intend-DUR-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...while feeding [*lit.* intending to eat], ...
- aatsaat niri-niar-iir-sima-til-lu-tik *if, ib*  
*first eat-intend-be.done-prf-DUR-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...first when they've finished feeding [*lit.* already done intending to eat]
- qullar-lu-tik ini-qar-vim-min-nut utir-tar-lu-tik. *mf, fb*  
*go.up-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub> place-have-loc-3p<sub>T</sub>.pl-DAT return-habit-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...do they fly up and go home to roost.
- (3) Ullaa-ssa-kkut *if*  
*morning-expected-VIA*
- ini-qar-vim-min-nu=ka-a-sar-pu-t *fb*  
*place-have-loc.of-3p<sub>T</sub>.pl-DAT=go-en.masse-habit-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 They go [back] to their roosting places together at dawn...
- taama=lu *ff<sub>if</sub>*  
*thus=and*  
 ...and then...
- ullaa-kkut ullu-p=lu ila-a-tigut *ff<sub>ib</sub>*  
*morning-VIA day-ERG=and part-3s<sub>⊥</sub>.sg-VIA*
- ini-qar-vi-tik najur-tar-lu-git. *ff<sub>mf, fb</sub>*  
*place-have-iv\ñ-3p<sub>T</sub>.pl stay.at-habit-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 ...stay there throughout the morning and part of the day.
- (4) Unnuk-kiartu-lir-aang-at *if*  
*be.night-go.to-begin-HAB<sub>⊥</sub>-3s<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 At dusk...
- niri-niar-vim-min-nu=ka-a-lir-sar-pu-t. *fb*  
*eat-intend-loc-3p<sub>T</sub>.pl-DAT=go-en.masse-begin-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 ...they start heading together [back] to their feeding grounds.
- (5) Kisianni aamma *if*  
*but also*  
 But [they] also...
- sila najuqqutar-i-sa-qa-a-t *ib, fb*  
*weather guideline-have.as-habit-very-IND.TV-3p.3s*  
 ...are very much guided by the weather, ...
- tassa sila-gi-tsil-lu-gu *ff<sub>if</sub>*  
*that.is weather-be.good-DUR-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3s<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 —that is, when the wheather is good, ...
- ini-qar-vim-min-ni=ik-kuma-niru-sar-lu-tik *ff<sub>fb</sub>*  
*place-have-loc.of-3p<sub>T</sub>.pl-LOC=be-want-more-habit-ELA<sub>T</sub>-3p<sub>T</sub>*  
 ...they prefer to stay in their roosting places.

§3. *Eggs*

- (1) Qirru-ni ujaqqa-t ata-an-ni *if, ib*  
*rock.cliff-pl.LOC stone-pl.ERG under-3p<sub>⊥</sub>.pl-LOC*  
 They lay eggs on rock cliffs under stones.
- manni-liur-tar-pu-t. *fb*  
*egg-make-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 They lay eggs on rock cliffs under stones.
- (2) Manni-qar-tar-pu-t ataatsi-mik, *fb, ff*  
*egg-have-habit-IND.IV-3p one-sg.MOD*  
 They usually have one egg, ...
- qaqutigut marlun-nik. *ff<sub>ctd</sub>*  
*occasionally two-pl.MOD*  
 ...occasionally two.
- (3) Manni-i *if*  
*egg-3p<sub>⊥</sub>.pl*  
 Their eggs...
- 3 cm qaangi-laar-lu-git angissusi-qar-tar-pu-t *mf, fb*  
 3 cm *pass-a.little-ELAT-3p<sub>⊥</sub> size-have-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 ...are a little over 3 cm [long],
- mila-qar-a-tik *ff*  
*spot-have-NON<sub>⊥</sub>-3p<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 ...have no spots ...
- tungujur-tu-q=qaama-su-mik qalipaati-qar-lu-tik *ff ctd*  
*be.blue-iv\cn-sg=be.light-iv\cn-sg.MOD colour-have-ELAT-3p<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 ...[and] are light blue in colour.
- (4) Ujara-nngu-it itir-si-laa-ginnar-lu-git *if*  
*stone-little-pl depression-get-a.little-just-ELAT-3p<sub>⊥</sub>*  
 They just make a small depression among little stones to...
- ullu-qar-tar-pu-t. *ib*  
*nest-have-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 ...use as a nest.
- (5) Juuni-p qiqq-a-ta missa-a-ni *if*  
*June-ERG middle-3s<sub>⊥</sub>.sg-ERG nearby-3s.sg-LOC*
- manni-liu-lir-sar-pu-t. *fb*  
*egg-make-begin-habit-IND.IV-3p*  
 They start laying eggs around the middle of June.