Supplement to Grammatical Notes: Directional Suffixes

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Certain verbs in Satawalese, such as *yit* 'to go' and *riki* 'to walk', always carry one of the directional suffixes listed in Table 9. On Satawal Island, the residential area is in the west of the island, while the forest is in the east. Thus, *yit-tae* and *riki-tae*, which literally mean 'to go eastward' and 'to walk eastward' respectively, imply that one is going to the forest, while *yit-tiw* 'to go westward' and *riki-tiw* 'to walk westward' are used to express that one is going back to the residential area. Likewise, *yit-tae* 'to go eastward' by canoe implies that one is sailing to Puluwat Atoll or Chuuk Islands, and *yit-tiw* 'to go westward' by canoe means that one is going to Lamotrek Atoll or Yap Island.

Table 9   Directional suffixes (Sudo and Sauchomal 1981: 658)

FORM	MEANING
-to	'hither, toward me'
-noa	'thither, farther away'
-tae	'upward, toward the east, toward the windward side of a canoe'
-tiw	'downward, toward the west, toward the leeward side of a canoe'
-nong	'toward the inside, toward the land'
-wow	'toward the exterior, toward the sea'

It should be noted that while the east-west opposition is expressed with *-tae* and *-tiw*, there is no equivalent indicating a north-south opposition. East-westward movements (including north-east, south-east, south-west) are typically expressed with *-tae* and *-tiw*, while north-south movements are expressed with *-wow* and *-nong* as can be seen in Figure 1.

However, it should be noted that the forms *-nong* and *-wow* are not associated with absolute directions. Examples contrasting the use of these forms indicating opposite directions are presented in (1) and (2).

(1) *yiti-wow*   'go to the south end of the island'
    yiti-nong   'return from the south end of the island'

(2) *yiti-wow*   [by canoe] 'go to West Fayu Atoll (located in the north)'
    yiti-nong   [by canoe] 'return from West Fayu Atoll (movement towards the south)'
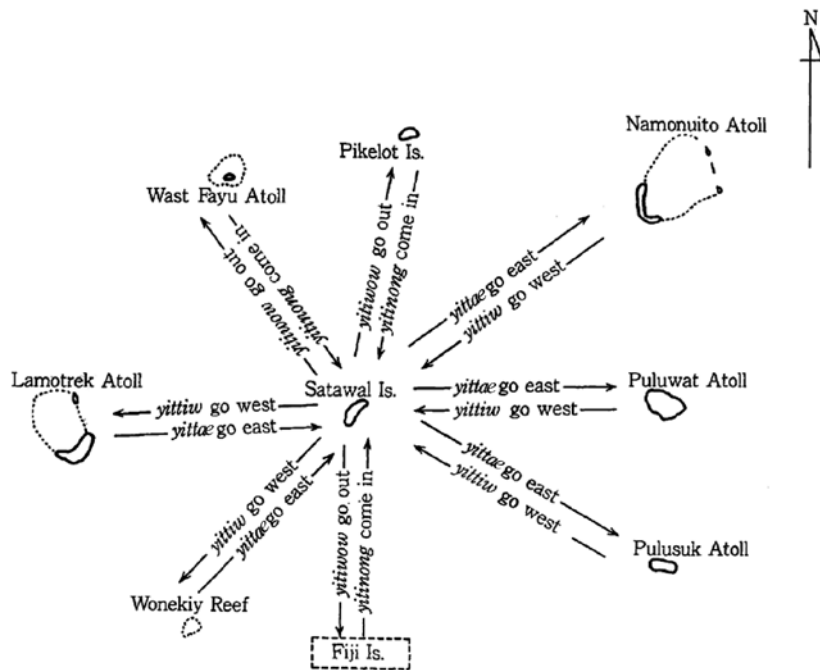
Figure 1 Directional reference to other islands (Sudo and Sauchomal 1981: 659)

Note

1) Directional suffixes form an important part of the Satawalese language. Information provided in this section is based on Sudo and Sauchomal (1981: 657–660). The analyses and terms follow the original, while contents have been reorganized and summarized by the author.