

## NUMERATION IN CAR NICOBARESE

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1. In the Car dialect of Nicobarese<sup>1</sup> the series numerals (as opposed to non-series numerals, see sec. 2) comprise most of the numerator class. They themselves constitute a subclass due to their occurrence in sequence in counting. The system is essentially decimal, with single words for the numbers from one to nine, and for ten, times ten, hundred, and thousand. Competing systems occur for the numerals from ten to twenty.

The unit numerals consist of two words for one, namely {kahó·k},<sup>2</sup> which is used only in numeration, and {hén}, which is used both in numeration, and in indefinite situations where 'a' would be a better translation; a subclass N<sub>1</sub> consisting of the numerals from two to nine, respectively {né·t, lú·y, fé·n, taný, tafú·l, sát, hévhəřē, macúhtəřē}; and the numeral for ten, {sí·n}.

Allomorphy: {hén} : hén ∞ hén̄ ∞ hé·n̄  
hén̄ occurs with {ka-} 'distributive', i.e./kahén̄/'one at a time'  
hé·n̄ occurs with {ta-} 'nominal', i.e./tahé·n̄/'other, another'  
hén̄ occurs elsewhere, e.g./təhén̄/'one' (adj.); /hén̄/'one' (num.)

{kahó·k} : kahó·k ≡ kahúk 'one'  
{né·t} : né·t ∞ ?ané·t 'two'

né·t occurs unprefixated and with {tə-} 'adj.' i.e. né̇·t 'two'; tənē̇·t 'which is two'

?ané·t occurs elsewhere, e.g. ka?ané̇·t 'two at a time'

{hévhəřē} : hévhəřē ≡ hé·vəřē 'eight' (hévhəřē preferred)  
{macúhtəřē} : macúhtəřē ∞ macú·təřē 'nine'

(while /macúhtəřē/ was given as the only acceptable form by Mr. James<sup>3</sup>, /macú·təřē/ was given as a freely varying alternant by Mr. Matthew<sup>4</sup> and as the only form by Whitehead<sup>5</sup>).

{sí·n} : -sí·n ∞ s̄ím 'teen, ten'

s̄ím occurs when {sí·n} is preceded by word juncture, eg. /s̄ím/'ten', /s̄ím kəñ/'ten thousand'