Nąngąsánshų

1 Phonology 1
1.1 Consonants . . . 1
1.2 Vowels . . . 1
1.3 Phonotactics . . . 1

2 Grammar 2
2.1 Work Order . . . 2
2.2 Work Order Marking . . . 3
2.2.1 Work Order and Elision . . . 3
2.3 Adjectives . . . 4
2.3.1 Adverbs . . . 4
2.3.2 Standalone Adjective Phrases (SAPs) . . . 4
2.3.2.1 Invoice . . . 4
2.3.2.2 Extraposition . . . 5
2.3.2.3 SAP Contraction . . . 6
2.3.3 SAPs and Work Order . . . 6
2.4 Nouns . . . 7
2.4.1 Nouns at Work . . . 7
2.4.2 Clause Complements . . . 7
2.5 Compounds . . . 7
2.5.1 Appositions . . . 7
2.6 Pronouns . . . 8
2.6.1 Demonstrative Pronouns . . . 8
2.6.2 Personal Pronouns . . . 8
2.6.2.1 Full Personal Pronouns . . . 9
2.6.2.2 Abridged Personal Pronouns . . . 9
2.6.2.3 Usage Notes . . . 9
2.6.2.4 Disinguishing Personal and Demonstrative Pronouns . . . 9
2.6.3 Numbers . . . 10
2.7 Verbs . . . 10
2.7.1 Tense, Aspect, Mood . . . 10
2.7.2 Dependent Clauses . . . 11
2.7.3 Copula . . . 11
2.7.4 Aspect . . . 11
2.7.5 Moods . . . 12
2.7.6 Evidentiality . . . 12
2.7.7 Compound Verbs . . . 12
2.7.8 Elision . . . 12
2.8 Derivation . . . 12
2.8.1 Vowel Swapping . . . 12
2.9 *-rų* . . . 12
2.10 Syntax . . . 13
2.10.1 Relative Clauses . . . 13

3 Literary Elvish 13

4 Examples 14
4.1 Simple Glosses . . . 14

4.2 Ferrule Verse . . . 14
4.2.1 Original English Text . . . 14
4.2.2 Poetic English Rendition of the Elvish Adaptation . . . 14
4.2.3 Elvish Adaptation . . . 15
4.2.4 Gloss of the Elvish Adaptation . . . 15
4.2.5 Notes . . . 16
4.2.6 Notes to add to the grammar. . . . 17
4.2.7 Literal Translation of the Elvish Adaptation . . . 17

5 Appearance and Culture 17
5.1 Gender . . . 17
5.2 The Carbonators . . . 18
5.3 Elvish Upper Class . . . 18
5.4 'Retirement' . . . 18
5.5 Refurbishment . . . 18
5.6 Sleep . . . 19
5.7 Physical Description . . . 19
5.8 Idioms . . . 19

6 Dictionary 20

1 Phonology

Elvish has no rounded vowels or labial consonants as Elves have no lips. They also have a rather stiff tongue, which leads to a lack of apical sounds as well as the palatal and velar places of articulation collapsing together.

All Elvish consonants are egressive, and all vowels are ingressive. This means that the articulation of an Elvish word requires the speaker to constantly flip-flop between breathing in and breathing out.

Due to their extensive and perpetual involvement in and with the Coal mining process, the mouth of an Elf is exceedingly dry and covered in Coal dust, rendering Elvish articulation particularly chalky, grating, and stunted.

1.1 Consonants

	Alveolar	Palato-Velar	Uvulo-Glottal
Nasal			ɴˀ ⟨n⟩
Stop	d̪ t̪ ⟨d t⟩	c͡k ɟ͡g ⟨c g⟩	ʔ ⟨'⟩
Fricative	s̪ s̪ʰ ⟨s sh⟩	ç͡x ç͡xʰ ⟨ch x⟩	
Affricate	t͡s̪ t͡s̪ʰ ⟨ts tsh⟩	c͡kç͡x c͡kç͡xʰ ⟨tch tx⟩	
Trill		r̪͡ʀ̥ ⟨r⟩	

◇ *r* /r̪͡ʀ̥/ is a coarticulated palatal-velar trill (yes, Elves can do that)

1.2 Vowels

	Front	Back	Click
Close	i↓ ɪ↓ ⟨i í⟩	ɯ↓ ɯ̆↓ ⟨u ú⟩	
Open	a↓ ɐ↓ ⟨a á⟩		
Palato-velar			ᵏǂ ⟨o⟩

◇ Tense/lax distinction. Lax vowels are marked with an acute.

◇ Ingressive sounds are considered vowels, and thus, the palatal-velar click is a vowel.

◇ Any vowel can be followed by ʃ͡g ⟨◌̟⟩, which signifies the 'velar quality', e.g. *ɥ́* /ɯ̆ʃ͡g↓/.

1.3 Phonotactics

Classes

```
C = d, t, c, g, s, sh, ch, x, r, n
A = ts, tsh, tch, tx
V = i, í, u, ú, a, á, o
Q = ̟
```

Phonotactics

```
[C|A]V(Q)((n|r)([C|']V(Q)))|V(Q)[(n|r)C]V(Q)
```

Example word

tshǫ'ǫ /t͡s̪ʰkǂʃ͡gʔkǂʃ͡g/ 'ribbon'

2 Grammar

2.1 Work Order

Animacy is vital to determining word order in Elvish. The highest animacy, and thus primacy in a clause, goes to that which is working the hardest. This is 'Work Order.' From highest work order to lowest, the classes are as follows:

1. The Chimney Man (w1)
   In any circumstance in which The Chimney Man is referenced, He will always have the highest Work Order, for He is always working the Hardest. Except for the day after Christmas.
   Any *constituents* containing a w1 word are placed at the very start of the sentence even before the verb and its markers. This excludes any nested phrases with lesser work order, which must be extraposed using SAPs.
2. Coal (w2)
   Coal is considered the most important aspect of Elvish society and thus placed just below The Chimney Man. It is also considered capable of performing more work than any Elf as it generates a lot of energy when burnt (unlike Elves). Amongst Elves, only the Grand Carbonator is assigned a work order of 2 (see § 5.2).
3. Master Carbonator (w3)
   The highest social status that a normal Elf can obtain; the council of Master Carbonators rules over Elvish society and reports directly to the Grand Carbonator (see § 5.2).
4. Collier (w4)
   Highly experienced Elves that have been working in the Coal industry for at least 100 years; these are typically regional overseers. Only Elves at the class of Collier or above enjoy the privilege of having their names capitalised in writing, and only they are entitled to wear cloaks (see § 5.3).
5. Head Miner (w5)
   Elf in charge of a Coal mine.
6. Canary (w6)
   Used for both the lowest class of Elves (i.e. the common Coal miner) as well as the bird.
7. Human Coal Miners (w7)
   Used for human Coal miners.
8. Human Adults (w8)
   Used for any other human adult.
9. Animals (w9)
   Used for any animal.
10. Human Children (w10)
    Used for human children (that are not Coal miners). While important to Elvish society as the benificiaries of their toils, they are deemed the laziest of beings.
11. Everything Else (w11)
    Genreally, any inanimate object other than Coal, abstract concepts, etc.

Some words may have work orders that aren't obvious from their semantics, e.g. the word *shǘną* /s̪ʰʉ̌ɾ͡ɡ↓ɴˀa͡ɡ↓/ 'retirement' has work order 4 as it is considered a culturally important part of Elvish society.

2.2 Work Order Marking

There are two ways in which work order may be expressed. First, most lexical words (except verbs) have an inherent work order, e.g. *dígá* /d̪ɪ͡ɡ↓ɟ͡ɡɐ↓/ 'cane' always has work order 11. In addition to this, there is also a set of work order markers that may be placed before a word to raise or lower its default work order. These affixes are as follows:

±	Raising Affix	Lowering Affix
1	*natá* /nˀa↓t̪ɐ↓/	*tchichá* /c͡ʃk͡çx̟i↓ç͡xɐ͡ɡ↓/
2	*cíchą* /c͡ʃkɪ͡ɡ↓ç͡xa͡ɡ↓/	*tsąn'o* /t̪s̪a͡ɡ↓nˀʔᵏǂ/
3	*úncho* /ʉ̞ɪ͡ɡ↓nˀç͡xᵏǂ/	*tchąn'ú* /c͡ʃk͡çx̟a͡ɡ↓nˀʔʉ̞ɪ͡ɡ↓/
4	*tchixi* /c͡ʃk͡çx̟i↓ç͡xʰi↓/	*cáru* /c͡ʃkɐ↓ɾ̪ɹ̝ɯ↓/
5	*txúnsha* /c͡ʃk͡çx̟ʰʉ̞ɪ͡ɡ↓nˀs̪ʰa↓/	*shindú* /s̪ʰi͡ɡ↓nˀd̪ɯ͡ɡ↓/
6	*xúnną* /ç͡xʰʉ̞ɪ↓nˀnˀa͡ɡ↓/	*xúnrá* /ç͡xʰʉ̞ɪ↓nˀɾ̪ɹ̝ɐ↓/
7	*txadá* /c͡ʃk͡çx̟ʰa↓d̪ɐ͡ɡ↓/	*gincú* /ɟ͡ɡi͡ɡ↓nˀc͡ʃkʉ̞ɪ͡ɡ↓/
8	*xíntí* /ç͡xʰɪ͡ɡ↓nˀt̪ɪ↓/	*shatú* /s̪ʰa↓t̪ʉ̞ɪ↓/
9	*shítǫ* /s̪ʰɪ͡ɡ↓t̪ᵏǂ͡ɡ/	*xǫnchu* /ç͡xʰᵏǂ͡ɡnˀç͡xɯ͡ɡ↓/
10	*shindí* /s̪ʰi↓nˀd̪ɪ↓/	*oxa* /ᵏǂç͡xʰa↓/

Table 1: Work Order Markers

For example, forming *xúnną dígá* has the effect of raising the work order of *dígá* to w5 (since $11 - 6 = 5$); thus, this phrase is suitable for referring to a cane that performs as much work as a Head Miner (whatever that means). There are a few things that one needs to keep in mind here:

- Attempting to raise/lower the work order of a noun below the minimum (w11) above the maximum (w1) work order is ungrammatical.
- The 'lowest' work order is 11 and the 'highest' is 1, thus 'raising' counterintuitively occurs from a larger number to a smaller number, and 'lowering' from a smaller number to a larger number, e.g. work order 5 can be 'raised' to 4 or 'lowered' to 6.
- Lowering the work order of a noun with default work order w1 is generally done to refer to people who have an inflated self of ego, e.g. a Master Carbonator who starts trying to order around the rest of the council as though it were the Chimney Man Himself may be referred to as an *tsąn'o sąntą* /t̪s̪a͡ɡ↓nˀʔᵏǂ s̪ɐ͡ɡ↓nˀt̪ɐ͡ɡ↓/ 'Master Carbonator who acts as though it were The Chimney Man' (lit. 'Chimney Man' lowered to work order w3).
- Note that in this sense, lowering generally has the effect of expressing disdain, denigrating something, or making something seem less important or fake (this is known as 'derogatory lowering'), whereas raising is typically a form of praise.
- The inverse is generally acceptable, e.g. *shindí dígá* /s̪ʰi↓nˀd̪ɪ↓ d̪ɪ͡ɡ↓ɟ͡ɡɐ↓/ 'A cane made personally by The Chimney Man.'
- As we just saw, work order raising/lowering can be used to communicate that an otherwise low-status being or object (or high-status being or object) is in some manner closely associated with something or someone of higher status (or lower status), e.g. *xúnną dígá* can also refer to a cane that belongs to a Head Miner.

2.2.1 Work Order and Elision

Generic nouns such as *xąngá* /ç͡xʰɐ͡ɡ↓nˀɟ͡ɡɐ↓/ 'thing' as well as numbers can be combined with a work order marker to refer to something in the context that has that work order. For example, an

ǵnú /rʲ↓ɴˀŭɪ↓/ ‘minecart’, which has work order w6, may be referred to later on as *txúnsha xąngá* /t͡ʃk͡ʃx͡ʃʰŭʲ↓ɴˀs̪ʰa↓ ɕx͡ʃʰɐʲ↓ɴˀɟ͡ʒɐ↓/ ‘the thing with work order w6’. This is an alternative to SAPs (see § 2.3.2) and is especially common with numbers and things that have a relatively high work order.

2.3 Adjectives

In sequences of adjectives (which Elves are particularly prone to), the following categories of hierarchy of importance determines the order at which they are uttered:

1. Christmas
2. Coal
3. Elves
4. Work
5. Humans
6. Rest

Adjectives precede the noun they qualify.

2.3.1 Adverbs

Adverbs follow the verb.

2.3.2 Standalone Adjective Phrases (SAPs)

A very common idiom in Elvish is to refer to a noun (phrase) in the domain of discourse by an adjective that describes it, optionally preceded by a work order marker that agrees with the work order of the noun (phrase). Such phrases are known as *standalone adjective phrases* (SAPs) this largely replaces pronouns in Elvish.

SAPs consist of an adjective preceded by a so-called *invoice particle* (see § 2.3.2.1); syntactically, SAPs are treated as though they were nouns; in particular, they may be preceded by the usual noun particles and even other adjectives.

In writing, it is common for the first mention of a noun phrase to be accompanied by one or more adjectives that may later on be used to refer to it.[1] For example, a fat Elf with the name *txǫncụ* /t͡ʃk͡ʃx͡ʃʰkɨʲɴˀt͡ʃkɯʲ↓/ might be introduced as *txúdí txǫncụ* ‘Fat Txǫncụ’ and then later on referred to as *sį́ txúdí* /s̪rʲ↓ t͡ʃk͡ʃx͡ʃʰŭʲ↓d̪ɪ↓/ ‘the fat one’, where *sį́* is one of the possible invoice particles.

SAPs are capitalised if they refer to a noun that is capitalised.

2.3.2.1 Invoice

The *invoice* is a construction used primarily as part of a SAP. An invoice operates in a similar way to adjective-noun agreement, except that it is really clause-noun agreement. That is, each noun is assigned a ‘tense’ based on its initial phoneme (see Table 2), and the appropriate invoice particle depends on the noun’s inherent tense as well as the syntactic tense of the clause. Tenses are assigned an integer value v between 1 and 5.

[1] This is omitted in spoken language when the noun phrase is something that is clearly visible to all interlocutors.

Tense	v	Phonemes
Awake	1	*d, tx, x, ts, í*
REM	2	*n, t, s, ch, o*
Non-REM 1	3	*sh, ', r, u*
Non-REM 2	4	*c, g, tsh, tch*
Non-REM 3	5	(all vowels other than *u, í, o*)

Table 2: Association Between Initial Phonemes and Noun Tense

There are five invoice particles, which are assigned an integer value between -2 and 2:

v	Particle
-2	*cúr* /t͡ʃkʉ̆ʉ̞ʃ͡ɡ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐ/
-1	*so* /s̪kɨ/
0	*túr* /t̪ʉ̆ʉʃ͡ɡ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐ/
1	*sí* /s̪ɪʃ͡ɡ↓/
2	*árxí* /ɐ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐçx͡ʰɪʃ͡ɡ↓/

Table 3: Invoice Particles by Value

Intuitively, the invoice particle adjusts the tense of the noun to match the syntactic tense of the clause. That is, the appropriate invoice particle for a noun is selected as follows: let $d := T(C) - T(N)$ where $T(C)$ is the syntactic tense of the clause, and $T(N)$ the tense of the noun. The value v of the appropriate invoice particle is then given by the formula

$$v := \begin{cases} d, & \text{if } |d| < 3 \\ -\mathrm{sgn}(d) \cdot (5 - |d|), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For instance, recall our example of the fat Elf *txúdí txǫncu̯* above. The noun *txǫncu̯* /t͡ʃk͡çx͡ʰkɨʃ͡ɡnʔt͡ʃkʉʃ͡ɡ↓/ is of the Awake Tense since it starts with *tx*. In a sentence in the REM Sleep Tense, the formula above gives

$$d = T(\textsc{rem}) - T(\textit{txǫncu̯}) = 2 - 1 = 1$$

whence $v = d = 1$. Thus, the appropriate invoice particle is the one with value 1, i.e. *sí* /s̪ɪʃ͡ɡ↓/, and the appropriate SAP is *sí txúdí* /s̪ɪʃ͡ɡ↓ t͡ʃk͡çx͡ʰʉ̆ʉʃ͡ɡ↓d̪ɪ↓/. By contrast, in a sentence in the Non-REM Phase 2 Tense, we have

$$d = T(\textsc{nr2}) - T(\textit{txǫncu̯}) = 4 - 1 = 3$$

which means the second case above applies, whereby

$$v = -\mathrm{sgn}(3) \cdot (5 - |3|) = -1 \cdot 2 = -2$$

Thus, the appropriate SAP is *cúr txúdí* /t͡ʃkʉ̆ʉʃ͡ɡ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐ t͡ʃk͡çx͡ʰʉ̆ʉʃ͡ɡ↓d̪ɪ↓/.

2.3.2.2 Extraposition

SAPs are also used to ensure a clause or phrase observes proper work order. This phenomenon is known as *extraposition*. For instance, suppose we want to say 'three ferrules for the Master Carbonators under the mine', containing the PP *tsírǫ nąn* /t̪s̪ɪ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐkɨʃ͡ɡ nʔɐʃ͡ɡ↓nʔ/ 'under the mine(s)'.

***ún xúsu̯rǫngi tsírǫ nąn tchú'i ta-ru̯tí·**

ún	*xúsu̯rǫngi*	*tsírǫ*	*nąn*	*tchú'i*	*ta-ru̯tí*
ʉ̆ɪ↓nʔ	çx͡ʰʉ̆ɪ↓s̪ʉʃ͡ɡ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐkɨʃ͡ɡnʔʝ͡ɡi↓	t̪s̪ɪ↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐkɨʃ͡ɡ	nʔɐʃ͡ɡ↓nʔ	t͡ʃk͡çxʉ̆ʉʃ͡ɡ↓ʔi↓	t̪a↓ɾ̪ɽ̩͡ʐʉʃ͡ɡ↓t̪ɪ↓
for	Master Carbonator	under	mine	three	POSS-ferrule
(ungrammatical)					

This phrase is ill-formed because *nąn* /nˀɐ͡ᶠᵍ↓nˀ/ ‘mine’, a noun with work order 6, precedes *rụtí* /r̪͡ʀ̪ɯ͡ᶠᵍ↓t̪ɪ↓/ ‘ferrule’, a noun with work order 4. To correct this, we need to move ‘mine’ to the end of the clause, but we can’t simply move the entire enclosing PP as that would change the meaning of the phrase:

ún xúsụrǫngi tchú’i ta-rụtí tsírǫ nąn·

ún	*xúsụrǫngi*	*tchú’i*	*ta-rụtí*	*tsírǫ*	*nąn*
ŭ↓nˀ	ç͡xʰŭ↓s̪ɯ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ‡ᶠᵍnˀʒ͡gi↓	ck͡çx̌ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓ʔi↓	t̪a↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɯ͡ᶠᵍ↓t̪ɪ↓	t̪͡s̪ɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ‡ᶠᵍ	nˀɐ͡ᶠᵍ↓nˀ
for	Master Carbonator	three	POSS-ferrule	under	mine

‘three ferrules under the mine for the Master Carbonators’

While well-formed, this movement has changed what NP the PP qualifies. Instead, the proper solution is to replace the problematic noun in the PP with a SAP. The noun is then left stranded as far back in the clause as possible, but of course preceding any nouns with lower work order. If there is no adjective qualifying the noun, the adjective *xún* /ç͡xʰŭ↓nˀ/ ‘proper’ is used instead. This adjective has no meaning in this context and only serves to provide something the invoice particle can be attached to. Thus, a grammatical rendition of the above might be:

ún xúsụrǫngi tsírǫ túr xún tchú’i ta-rụtí nąn·

ún	*xúsụrǫngi*	*tsírǫ*	*túr*	*xún*	*tchú’i*	*ta-rụtí*	*nąn*
ŭ↓nˀ	ç͡xʰŭ↓s̪ɯ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ‡ᶠᵍnˀʒ͡gi↓	t̪͡s̪ɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ‡ᶠᵍ	t̪ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪	ç͡xʰŭ↓nˀ	ck͡çx̌ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓ʔi↓	t̪a↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɯ͡ᶠᵍ↓t̪ɪ↓	nˀɐ͡ᶠᵍ↓nˀ
for	Master Carbonator	under	INVC.0	NULL	three	POSS-ferrule	mine

‘three ferrules for the Master Carbonators under the mine’

2.3.2.3 SAP Contraction

Elvish relative clauses (see § 2.10.1) precede the noun they qualify; Elvish NPs are placed after the verb and thus frequently occur at the end of a clause; adjectives precede the noun they qualify and invoice markers in turn precede adjectives. All of these factors combined can lead to a peculiar constellation wherein a SAP directly precedes the NP it refers to, with the same adjective occurring twice in a row. For example, the phrase ‘mortal men who are doomed to retire’ expressed naively in Elvish would end up being:

%dun cą sán túsą ụxí shąnú dun túr shardo shardo núgí

dun	*cą*	*sán*	*túsą*	*ụxí*	*shąnú*	*dun*	*túr*	*shardo*	*shardo*	*núgí*
d̪ɯ↓nˀ	c͡kaᶠᵍ↓	s̪ɐ↓nˀ	t̪ŭ↓s̪aᶠᵍ↓	ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓ç͡xʰɪᶠᵍ↓	s̪ʰaᶠᵍ↓nˀŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓	d̪ɯ↓nˀ	t̪ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪	s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡	s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡	nˀŭ↓ʒ͡gɪᶠᵍ↓
NWK	REL	VER	be.destined	MAN	retire	NWK	INV.0	mortal	mortal	human

‘mortal men who are doomed to retire’

This is rather awkward, for which reason most Elves instead opt to omit the duplicate adjective:

dun cą sán túsą ụxí shąnú dun túr shardo núgí

dun	*cą*	*sán*	*túsą*	*ụxí*	*shąnú*	*dun*	*túr*	*shardo*	*núgí*
d̪ɯ↓nˀ	c͡kaᶠᵍ↓	s̪ɐ↓nˀ	t̪ŭ↓s̪aᶠᵍ↓	ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓ç͡xʰɪᶠᵍ↓	s̪ʰaᶠᵍ↓nˀŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓	d̪ɯ↓nˀ	t̪ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪	s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡	nˀŭ↓ʒ͡gɪᶠᵍ↓
NWK	REL	VER	be.destined	MAN	retire	NWK	INV.0	mortal	human

‘mortal men who are doomed to retire’

In this phrase, *shardo* /s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡/ ‘mortal’ does double duty and is part both of the SAP *túr shardo* /t̪ŭ͡ᶠᵍ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡/ ‘the mortal ones’ as well as the NP *shardo núgí* /s̪ʰa↓r̪͡ʀ̪d̪ᵏ‡ nˀŭ↓ʒ͡gɪᶠᵍ↓/ ‘mortal men’. A sequence of the form ‘INVOICE.PARTICLE ADJECTIVE NOUN’ is usually SAP-contracted.

2.3.3 SAPs and Work Order

SAPs never have an associated work order; that is, barring other syntactic restrictions, they may be placed anywhere, that is, preceding or following other nouns, irrespective of the work order of those nouns or of the noun that the SAP ultimately references.

2.4 Nouns

Elvish nouns are not marked for number or definiteness. However, besides work order markers (see § 2.4.1), there are a number of miscellaneous noun markers that are used to express concepts such as possession.

The following is a list of Elvish noun markers:

- *ta-* /t̪a↓/ (POSS); this is a possessive marker, e.g. *ta-nąnrų́* 'of the Elves'.
- *rǫ-* /r̪ʀ̪ˠˡʲˠˡ/ (COLL); collective/plural marker; Elvish doesn't normally mark number, but this particle can be used when number marking is relevant—usually if something is the action of the Elves collectively rather than a single Elf—e.g. *rǫ-nąnrų́* 'multiple Elves'.

2.4.1 Nouns at Work

Nouns are also declined for whether or not they *perform* work. This is *not* the same as work order! Rather, this marks their position as an agent or patient in any given clause. The verb itself is not declined for voice—this information is contained exclusively in the noun phrase:

- *tchą́* /t͡ʃk͡ʃxɐˠˡ↓/ 'performs work' (WRK 'working'); this is used to mark the agent of a verb that denotes an action that is considered to perform work.
- *dun* /d̪ɯ↓nˀ/ 'does not perform work' (NWK 'not working'); this is used to mark the agent of a verb that denotes a state or an action that is not considered to perform (worthwile) work.
- *ųrų́* /ɯˠˡ↓r̪ʀ̪ɯˠˡ↓/ 'has work performed on it' (WKD 'worked [on]'); this is used to mark the theme of a verb whose agent is in the WRK form.
- *ųxį́* /ɯˠˡ↓ɕxʰɪˠˡ↓/ 'is being manipulated in some fashion' (MAN 'manipulated'); this is used to mark the theme of a verb whose agent is in the NWK.

This system naturally gives rise to 2 verb classes:

- 'working verbs', whose agent is in the WRK case and whose theme is in the WKD case.
- 'lazy verbs', whose agent is in the NWK case, and whose theme is in the MAN case.

There are also a number of contractions:

- *tchą́ + ųrų́ → tchąrų́* /t͡ʃk͡ʃxɐˠˡ↓r̪ʀ̪ɯˠˡ↓/: reflexive form used with working verbs.
- *dun + ųxį́ → dunxį́* /d̪ɯ↓nˀɕxʰɪˠˡ↓/: reflexive form used with lazy verbs.

The verb itself is only inflected for tense (see § 2.7.1).

2.4.2 Clause Complements

The noun work markers can also precede the verb, in which case the clause acts as the agent/theme.

2.5 Compounds

Compound nouns can be expressed by juxtaposition; the modifier comes second, just like in Santaa, e.g. *nąnchụn* /nˀɐˠˡ↓nˀɕxɯˠˡ↓nˀ/ 'head miner' (lit. 'miner head') from *nąnrų́* /nˀɐˠˡ↓nˀr̪ʀ̪ɯˠˡ↓/ 'canary' and *chụnxi* /ɕxɯˠˡ↓nˀɕxʰi↓/ 'head'. The compound is written without a space, e.g. *cįxį́tụn'ą́* /t͡ʃkiˠˡ↓ɕxʰɪˠˡ↓t̪ɯˠˡ↓nˀʔɐˠˡ↓/ 'stone hall', not **cįxį́ tụn'ą́*.

2.5.1 Appositions

Appositions and titles are treated like modifiers and thus placed second, following the name.

2.6 Pronouns

2.6.1 Demonstrative Pronouns

There are 5 demonstrative pronouns, each corresponding to a syntactic tense (see § 2.7.1); as many other things, deixis in Elvish is relative: unlike other languages which employ spatial metaphors to express time, Elvish employs temporal expressions to express relations in space.

That is, the demonstrative pronouns in Elvish are formed by combining the preposition *chír* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪/ 'at, in, on' with one of the tense morphemes:

1. Awake Tense: *chírsąn* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪sa̯ʃ͡ʒ↓ɴˀ/
2. REM Sleep Tense: *chírnu* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɴˀɯ↓/
3. Non-REM Phase 1 Tense: *chírtxí* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪c͡ʟk͡ɕxʰɪ↓/
4. Non-REM Phase 2 Tense: *chíro* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏɨ/
5. Non-REM Phase 3 Tense: *chírnų* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɴˀɯʃ͡ʒ↓/

The proximal demonstrative pronoun is expressed relative to the syntactic tense of the utterance: the medial demonstrative pronoun by the tense following the proximal one, and the distal demonstrative pronoun by the tense following the medial one. For example, if the utterance is in the REM Sleep Tense, we have:

- *chírnu* = 'this',
- *chírtxí* = 'that (medial)',
- *chíro* 'that (distal).

In the Non-REM Phase 2 Tense, we instead have:

- *chíro* = 'this',
- *chírnų* = 'that (medial)',
- *chírsąn* 'that (distal).

In reported speech, the direction is reversed, i.e. instead of medial being the tense after proximal and distal being the tense after medial, instead medial is the tense *preceding* proximal, and distal is the tense preceding medial. E.g. the demonstrative pronouns in reported speech that uses the Non-REM Phase 1 Tense would be:

- *chírnu* = 'this',
- *chírsąn* = 'that (medial)',
- *chírnų* = 'that (distal)'.

Note that it is the only the syntactic tense of the sentence that matters; neither the time of utterance, nor the time at which the utterance is paraphrased, if at all, are relevant here! For example, consider a sentence uttered during the REM Sleep Phase, in which the Non-REM Phase 1 Tense is the syntactic Future Tense. In such a sentence, the medial demonstrative pronoun would be *chíro* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏɨ/, i.e. the Non-REM Phase 2 form; if this sentence is then paraphrased during the Non-REM Phase 3, the syntactic Future Tense would naturally be the Awake Tense, and the medial pronoun would be the tense *before* that (recall that the direction is reversed in reported speech); thus, the correct form would be *chírnų* /ɕ͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɴˀɯʃ͡ʒ↓/, i.e. the Non-REM Phase 3 form.

2.6.2 Personal Pronouns

There are three sets of constructions in Elvish that are jointly referred to as 'personal pronouns'. While semantically equivalent, their usage is highly dependent on social status, and they are not interchangeable.

2.6.2.1 Full Personal Pronouns

The so-called *full personal pronouns* of Elvish are formed by combining the demonstrative pronouns with the status-appropriate word for 'Elf': The proximal demonstrative is used to express the 1st person, the medial to express the 2nd person, and the distal to express the 3rd person. Naturally, this also means that the exact forms of the personal pronouns depend on the syntactic tense of the containing clause (as well as whether direct or reported speech is used).

For example, in a sentence in Non-REM Phase 2 Tense spoken by a Master Carbonator, the closest Elvish equivalent to a word for 'I' would be *chíro xúsuṛǫngi* /ʨɪ↓ɽ̪ʈʰ ʨʰʊ̌ɪ↓s̪ʉ↓ɽ̪ʈʰɲʔɟ͡ɡi↓/, lit. 'this Master Carbonator'. Similarly, in a sentence paraphrased in Non-REM Phase 3 Tense, the word 'it' in reference to a Collier would be *chírtxí isiṛǫngi* /ʨɪ↓ɽ̪ʈʃʰɪ↓ i↓s̪i↓ɽ̪ʈʰɲʔɟ͡ɡi↓/, lit. 'that Collier'.

2.6.2.2 Abridged Personal Pronouns

There are two forms of 'abridged' pronouns: The *high-class* abriged pronouns are formed by combining the demonstratives with the noun *ṛǫngi* /ɽ̪ʈʰɲʔɟ͡ɡi↓/ 'cloak'. The *low-class* abridged pronouns are identical to the bare demonstratives. Abriged personal pronouns are only used to refer to an Elf at or below one's own social status.

2.6.2.3 Usage Notes

Which set of personal pronouns is appropriate in what context is dependent on the social status of the speaker (in the 1st person), as well as that of the referents (in the 2nd and 3rd person). There are strict rules that govern the usage of the pronouns. The rules for the 2nd/3rd person pronouns are:

- The Chimney Man and The Grand Carbonator are never referred to by a pronoun; instead, the entire phrase 'The Chimney Man' or 'The Grand Carbonator' is repeated. Similarly, Coal is also never referred to by a pronoun; instead, the noun 'Coal' is repeated.
- The full pronouns are used to refer to an Elf of higher social class than one's own.
- The abridged pronouns are used to refer to an Elf at or below one's own social class. The high-class pronouns are used when the referent is at the class of Collier or above, and the low-class pronouns otherwise.
- Personal pronouns are only used to refer to Elves. For any other beings, objects, concepts, etc., SAPs (see § 2.3.2) are used instead.
- Additionally, SAPs may be used whenever an abridged pronoun would be appropriate.
- The *current* status of the referent at the time of utterance is what matters.[2]
- Decomissioned Elves are *always* referred to with the low-class pronouns, irrespective of their status before decomissioning.[3]

The rules for the 1st person pronoun are simpler: In reference to oneself, the full pronouns are used when speaking to someone of higher social status, and the abridged pronouns otherwise. Naturally, Elves at or above the class of Collier use the high-class pronouns and other Elves the low-class pronouns.

2.6.2.4 Disinguishing Personal and Demonstrative Pronouns

Since personal and demonstrative pronouns can be very similar, as the former simply use the latter, there are rules that can be used to distinguish the two; the most important one of these is that a demonstrative that qualifies the noun always follows the noun. For example, assuming we're in the

[2] E.g. when talking about an event that happened to a Collier at a time when it was still a Head Miner, one would never use the low-class personal pronouns.

[3] This is decomissioning is a punishment for Elves who are considered to have let down Elf society, and by proxy, The Chimney Man, as a whole.

REM phase, we have *chírnu rǫngi* /ɕɪ↓ɾʀɴˀɯ↓ ɾʀᵏˠˡᶢɴˀʄi↓/ ‘I’ (high-class pronoun) vs *rǫngi chírnu* /ɾʀᵏˠˡᶢɴˀʄi↓ ɕɪ↓ɾʀɴˀɯ↓/ ‘this cloak’ (literally).

This is especially important in the context of a zero copula (see § 2.7.3). Consider e.g. *chírtxí tchǫ́rshu* /ɕɪ↓ɾʀckçxʰɪ↓ ckçxʊ̌ᶢ↓ɾʀʂʰɯ↓/ ‘you are an idiot’ vs *tchǫ́rshu chírtxí* /ckçxʊ̌ᶢ↓ɾʀʂʰɯ↓ ɕɪ↓ɾʀckçxʰɪ↓/ ‘that idiot’.

2.6.3 Numbers

Elvish numbers use the same system as Santaa numbers, except using Elvish words. Cardinals are expressed using the possessive marker, e.g. *tchǫ́’i ta-nąnrǫ́* /ckçxʊ̌ᶢ↓ʔi↓ ta↓ɴˀɐᶢ↓ɴˀɾʀʊ̌ᶢ↓/ ‘three Elves’ (lit. ‘three of Elves’).

When a word is used as a number, it loses its work order; that is, the presence of a number does not alter word order, and e.g. a number that would ordinarily be a noun with work order 2 may follow or precede a noun with work order 3.

2.7 Verbs

Verbs are either classified as ‘working’ or ‘lazy’ (see § 2.4.1). Verbs are not inflected for number, only nouns are. In the absence of work order distinction, the default word order is VOS. Verbs generally do not have an associated work order (unless they are derived from a noun) and are generally placed first; the main exception to this is that nouns with work order 1 are always placed first and precede even the verb.

2.7.1 Tense, Aspect, Mood

The Elvish tense system is based on the hibernation cycle of The Chimney Man. This cycle consists of 5 phases. These five phases form the five so-called *syntactic tenses* of Elvish, which are each marked by a particle that precedes the verb (see Table 4).

Phase	Gloss	Time of the Year	Particle
Awake	AWK	Christmas Eve	*sąn* /sᵃᶢ↓ɴˀ/
REM Sleep	REM	~29 December – 3 May	*nun’a* /ɴˀɯ↓ɴˀʔa↓/
Non-REM Phase 1	NR1	~4 May – 25 August	*txí* /ckçxʰɪ↓/
Non-REM Phase 2	NR2	~26 August – 9 November	*ronu* /ɾʀᵏˠˡɴˀɯ↓/
Non-REM Phase 3	NR3	~10 November – 23 December	*ronǫ* /ɾʀᵏˠˡɴˀɯᶢ↓/

Table 4: Syntactic Tenses in Elvish

At any point in time, the Present Tense in Elvish is whatever sleep phase The Chimney Man is in when the utterance is spoken. This is referred to as the *semantic tense* of the utterance. For instance, on 2 February, The Chimney Man is in REM sleep, and thus, a sentence whose syntactic tense is the REM Sleep Tense would have the Present Tense as its semantic tense. In terms of terminology, the term ‘syntactic Present Tense’ in any given context refers to whatever syntactic tense happens to be the Present Tense.

The syntactic tense following the Present Tense is the semantic Future Tense, and the syntactic tense after that forms a Future-in-the-Future. Similarly, the syntactic tense preceding the semantic Present Tense forms the Past Tense, and the syntactic tense before that serves as the Pluperfecet.

As nobody truly knows when *exactly* when the Chimney Man falls asleep, the few days following Chrismtas are an enigma to Elvish speakers. They cannot, and out of respect and fear for the Chimney Man, will not express anything related to time. During this time, which often spans from December 25th until December 28th, all tense marking is dropped, and most Elves cease writing entirely, with the upper classes preferring to communicate in Santaa instead. This is known as the ‘Temporal Void’.

Reported Speech that paraphrases an utterance that was uttered during the this time likewise uses no tense marking.

The syntactic tense that follows the Non-REM Phase 3 Tense is the Awake Tense; conversely, syntactic tense preceding the Awake tense is the Non-REM Phase 3 Tense. Thus, if the syntactic Present Tense is the Awake Tense, the syntactic Past Tense would be the Non-REM Phase 3 tense.

Tense in reported speech is relative to the time of paraphrase rather than the time of utterance. For example, a sentence spoken *during* the Non-REM Phase 1 but *in* the REM Sleep Tense is in the Past Tense. If reported speech is used to describe or paraphrase that sentence *during* the Non-REM Phase 2, the speaker would use the Non-REM Phase 1 Tense, since that is now the Past Tense.

Thus, one has to be careful not to confuse tense between direct speech and reported speech. For example, given an utterance that was spoken during Non-REM Phase 1 but *in* Non-REM Phase 2 Tense, that utterance refers to the future. But if such an utterance were erroneously reported in that same tense during Non-REM Phase 3, it would incorrectly refer to the past. Instead, the Awake Tense should be used to paraphrase.

Note that the tenses are relative only to the point of utterance, not to the point in time at which the action or state described by the utterance takes place. For example, during Non-REM Phase 1, if one wanted to refer to an event that took place in November of *last year*, one would use the REM Sleep Tense, since that is the syntactic Past Tense. The fact that Non-REM Phase 2 takes place in November does not mean that it is used to describe things that take place in November.

Since a sentence in a vacuum without any information as to when it was uttered is impossible to extract temporal data from, any Elvish prose, etc. is always accompanied by a date, much like a diary entry would be. The exception to this is information uttered during the Temporal Void, during which the date is customarily omitted.

2.7.2 Dependent Clauses

Semantic tense in dependent clauses is relative to the syntactic tense of the matrix clause. For example, during the REM Sleep Phase, the syntactic Future Tense is the Non-REM Phase 1 Tense. Given a matrix clause in this Future Tense, the syntactic Past Tense in one of its dependent clauses would then be the REM Sleep Tense, even though that very same syntactic tense would normally be the syntactic Present Tense during the REM Sleep Phase.

The rules for reported speech for e.g. pronouns also apply to dependent clauses.

2.7.3 Copula

The Elvish copula is ∅, i.e. the empty root; that is, to express the copula all verb markers are used as they normally would be, except that the verb is 'missing'. Even the tense and evidentiality marker may be dropped if elision is applied, or if they're obvious from context, generally if the sentence is in the Present Tense, leading to a zero copula (see § 2.7.8).

If an entire clause is preceded by an agent/theme marker, a zero copula cannot be used, and at least one verb marker (usually the evidentiality marker) is required.

The copula is neither working nor lazy, and as such, its subject is not marked at all.

2.7.4 Aspect

Aspect marking differs between working verbs and lazy verbs. Working verbs are marked for telicity, i.e. whether the work is done (TEL 'telic') or not (ATEL 'atelic'). Lazy verbs are marked for whether the laziness is continued (CONT 'continuous'), or returning (HAB 'habitual'). For working verbs, telic is the default, for lazy verbs, continuous is the default.

- *tú* /t̪ʊ̆u↓/ (ATEL): marks that a working verb is atelic
- *dor* /d̪ᵏɨ‿r̪̩/ (HAB): marks that a lazy verb is habitual

Aspect markers directly precede the verb.

2.7.5 Moods

[TODO]

2.7.6 Evidentiality

Evidentiality is split five four categories:

- *sán* /s̪ɐ↓ɴˀ/ (VER 'veridical'): (as though) decreed by The Chimney Man (truth)
- *gan* /ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ/ (OBS 'observable'): either directly observable or deduced via reasoning
- *xịn* /ç͡xʰiʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀ/ (COM 'communicated'): communicated by someone (hearsay)
- *txą́* /c͡kç͡xʰɐʲ͡ɡ↓/ (NOR 'North Pole'): purported to exist (in the North Pole)
- *tsúṇ* /t͡s̪ʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀ/ (DUB 'dubious'): purported to exist elsewhere

The 'default' evidentiality marker is generally *gan* /ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ/; it is commonly used for statements which the speaker considers to be true but which are not self-evident or proven facts.

Statements of fact use the Chimney Man evidentiality—for example, $2 + 2 = 4$—and so do statements that an Elf is absolutely sure about. The meaning of this evidentiality is closer to 'as true as though The Chimney Man Himself had decreed it', and a suitable translation may be 'most surely'. At the same time, it is of course also used to refer to literal statements made by The Chimney Man.

2.7.7 Compound Verbs

Compound verbs are verbs that consist of a verb proper and some other word, typically a preprosition; the theme of such verbs is generally not marked for case.

2.7.8 Elision

When multiple verbs in a row have verb markers in common, those markers are often dropped for any verb after the first. In particular, this often applies to evidentiality markers: if the evidentiality marker of several clauses is the same, all but the first are generally dropped.

2.8 Derivation

2.8.1 Vowel Swapping

A common way to turn a noun into a verb in Elvish (or vice versa) that applies solely to disyllabic words is to swap the vowels, e.g. *nąnrụ́* /ɴˀɐʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀr̪ʀ̩ʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓/ 'Coal miner' becomes *nụ́nrą́* /ɴˀʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀr̪ʀ̩ɐʲ͡ɡ↓/ 'to mine Coal'.

2.9 *-rụ́*

The suffix *-rụ́* /r̪ʀ̩ʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓/ can be attached to a verb or noun to form an agent noun describing an Elf who performs an action associated with that verb or noun. E.g. from *sǫtą* /s̪kɨʲ͡ɡt̪aʲ͡ɡ↓/ 'to learn', we get *sǫtąrụ́* /s̪kɨʲ͡ɡt̪aʲ͡ɡ↓r̪ʀ̩ʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓/ 'teacher', and from *nąn* /ɴˀɐʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀ/ 'Coal mine', we get *nąnrụ́* /ɴˀɐʲ͡ɡ↓ɴˀr̪ʀ̩ʊ̆ʲ͡ɡ↓/ 'Coal miner, Elf'.

2.10 Syntax

2.10.1 Relative Clauses

Relative clauses in Elvish are headed by the pronoun *cą* /c͡ka͡ʃɡ↓/ 'who, what, which, that'. If the relative pronoun is the agent or theme of the predicate of the relative clause, the appropriate agent or theme marker is placed *before* the relative pronoun. Relative clauses always *precede* the noun they qualify.

There are also two variants of relative clauses that are headed by different pronouns: *locative relative clauses*, which are headed by the pronoun *chírcą* /ç͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪c͡ka͡ʃɡ↓/ 'where', and *temporal relative clauses*, which are headed by the pronoun *rịcą* /r̪͡ʀ̪i͡ʃɡ↓c͡ka͡ʃɡ↓/ 'when'.

3 Literary Elvish

There are a few differences between spoken and written Elvish. The most striking difference is a natural consequence of the medium: whereas the time of utterance is obvious in a spoken context (as it is just the present day), the time of utterance of a written text is impossible to know unless expressly conveyed to the reader.

The choice as to what syntacitc tense denotes the Present Tense is strictly speaking arbitrary, but by convention, it is generally that of the date on which the author wrote or started writing the text. However, for letters or other texts whose primary purpose is to be sent to someone else, the date at which the text is *sent* is used instead. A natural consequence of this is that many Elves cease all writing during the Temporal Void.

When it comes to stories, poems, etc. only the written form of these texts have a fixed syntactic tense. When a story is told by an Elf, it will naturally—and indeed subconsciously without requiring active consideration or effort—rephrase the text by adjusting the syntactic tense relative to the time at which the story is told while preserving the text's semantic tense.

Since the time of utterance is an integral part of Elvish grammar, it is custom in Elvish literature to introduce every piece of written text with the phrase 'This Elf declares that', with the status-appropriate abridged personal pronoun used as the subject. The syntactic tense of this phrase denotes the Present Tense for the rest of the text. E.g. if the text is written by a Collier during the REM sleep phase, the phrase would be:

Gan nun'a tú tshú'á tchą chírnu rǫngi …

gan	*nun'a*	*tú*	*tshú'á*	*tchą*	*chírnu*	*rǫngi*
ʃ͡ɡa↓ɴˀ	ɴˀɯ↓ɴˀʔa↓	t̪ʊ̆↓	t̪͡s̪ʰʊ̆ʃɡ↓ʔɐ↓	c͡kç͡xɐʃɡ↓	ç͡xɪ↓r̪͡ʀ̪ɴˀɯ↓	r̪͡ʀ̪ᵏɬʃɡ↓ɴˀʃ͡ɡi↓
OBS	REM	ATEL	declare	WRK	this	cloak

'I declare that …'[1]

This is effectively prefixed to the first sentence of the text proper, thereby forming a new matrix clause around it. As a result, the rest of the first sentence is rendered in reported speech.

[1] Lit. 'This cloak is observably declaring that …'

4 Examples

4.1 Simple Glosses

It is assumed that the examples below are spoken on 2 February (i.e. during the REM phase).

Gan nun'a rǫsa ǘxí tą́ dun txǫncụ.

gan	*nun'a*	*rǫsa*	*ǘxí*	*tą́*	*dun*	*txǫncụ*
ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	ɴˀɯ↓ɴˀʔa↓	ɾ̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ˨ˡʲˢ̪a↓	ʉ̆ʳˢ↓ç͡xʰɪʳˢ↓	t̪ɐʳˢ↓	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	c͡kç͡xʰᵏ˨ˡʲˢɴˀc͡kɯʳˢ↓
OBS	REM	slide	MAN	chimney	NWK	Txǫncụ

'Txǫncụ slides down the Chimney (and I see it do so).'

Sán sąn sǫtą dishą́ dun chírsąn rǫngi ǘxí chírnu tchǘrshu.

sán	*sąn*	*sǫtą*	*dishą́*	*dun*	*chírsąn*	*rǫngi*	*ǘxí*	*chírnu*	*tchǘrshu*
s̪ɐ↓ɴˀ	s̪aʳˢ↓ɴˀ	s̪ᵏ˨ˡʲˢt̪aʳˢ↓	d̪i↓s̪ʰɐʳˢ↓	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	ç͡xɪ↓ɾ̪͡ʀ̪s̪aʳˢ↓ɴˀ	ɾ̪͡ʀ̪ᵏ˨ˡʲˢɴˀʝ͡gi↓	ʉ̆ʳˢ↓ç͡xʰɪʳˢ↓	ç͡xɪ↓ɾ̪͡ʀ̪ɴˀɯ↓	c͡kç͡xʉ̆ʳˢ↓ɾ̪͡ʀ̪s̪ʰɯ↓
VER	AWK	know	always	NWK	DEM.AWK	cloak	MAN	DEM.REM	idiot

'I always knew that you were an idiot.'

Lit. 'This cloak most surely always knew [that] that(MEDIAL) [was observably an] idiot.'

Gan nun'a gǫshą dun nąnrǘ chír dąchą.

gan	*nun'a*	*gǫshą*	*dun*	*nąnrǘ*	*chír*	*dąchą*
ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	ɴˀɯ↓ɴˀʔa↓	ʝ͡gɯʳˢ↓s̪ʰaʳˢ↓	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	ɴˀɐʳˢ↓ɴˀɾ̪͡ʀ̪ʉ̆ʳˢ↓	ç͡xɪ↓ɾ̪͡ʀ̪	d̪ɐʳˢ↓ç͡xaʳˢ↓
OBS	REM	crouch	NWK	Elf	on	table

'The Elf crouches on the table.'

4.2 Ferrule Verse

An Elvish adaptation of JRR Tolkien's Ring Verse, as translated and adapted by the Elvish poet *Tǫrxí* /t̪ᵏ˨ˡʲˢɾ̪͡ʀ̪ç͡xʰɪ↓/:

4.2.1 Original English Text

Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.

4.2.2 Poetic English Rendition of the Elvish Adaptation

This Elf declares:
Three Ferrules for the Master Carbonators under the mine,
Seven for the Colliers in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to retire,
One for The Chimney Man on His red throne
At the North Pole where the Shadows lie.
One Ferrule to rule them all, One Ferrule to find them,

One Ferrule to bring them all and in the Arctic bind them
At the North Pole where the Shadows lie.

4.2.3 Elvish Adaptation

Gan nun'a tú tshú'á tchą chírnu rǫngi·
Úrú gan ún xúsurǫngi tsírǫ túr xún tchú'i ta-rutí nąn·
Úrú gan ún isirǫngi chír cúr xún txadą irtǫtǫtǫn cixítun'ą·
Úrú gan txadą cuncutǫn ún dun cą sán túsą úxí shąnú dun túr shardo núgí·
Ún Sąntą chír túr isi ta-Sąntą úrú gan txadą nangí shindí nurchǫ
Chír chírcą chǫnsǫ dun árxí xún txącą ánrú·
Ún ta-dorą nangí ta-rutí· Ún ta-shunsí úrú txadą shú·
Ún ta-xítí nangí ta-rutí· Ún ta-tsantú chír xurgí
Chír chírcą chǫnsǫ dun árxí xún txącą ánrú·

4.2.4 Gloss of the Elvish Adaptation

Gan nun'a tú tshú'á tchą chírnu rǫngi·

gan	*nun'a*	*tú*	*tshú'á*	*tchą*	*chírnu*	*rǫngi*
ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	ɴˀɯ↓ɴˀʔɐ↓	t̪ŭ↓	t̪͡s̪ʰŭʷ↓ʔɐ↓	c͡kç͡xɐʷ↓	ç͡xɪ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ɴˀɯ↓	r̪̠ʀ̠ᵏ˨ʷɴˀʝ͡gi↓
OBS	REM	ATEL	declare	WRK	this	cloak

'This Elf declares:'

Úrú gan ún xúsurǫngi tsírǫ túr xún tchú'i ta-rutí nąn·

úrú	*gan*	*ún*	*xúsurǫngi*	*tsírǫ*	*túr*	*xún*	*tchú'i*	*ta-rutí*
ŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ŭʷ↓	ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	ŭ↓ɴˀ	ç͡xʰŭ↓s̪ɯʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ᵏ˨ʷɴˀʝ͡gi↓	t͡s̪ɪ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ᵏ˨ʷ	t̪ŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠	ç͡xʰŭ↓ɴˀ	c͡kç͡xŭʷ↓ʔi↓	t̪a↓r̪̠ʀ̠ɯʷ↓t̪ɪ↓
WKD	OBS	for	Master Carbonator	under	INV.0	NULL	three	POSS-ferrule

nąn
ɴˀɐʷ↓ɴˀ
mine

'[That there are] three Ferrules for the Master Carbonators under the mine'

Úrú gan ún isirǫngi chír cúr xún txadą irtǫtǫtǫn cixítun'ą·

úrú	*gan*	*ún*	*isirǫngi*	*chír*	*cúr*	*xún*	*txadą*	*irtǫtǫtǫn*
ŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ŭʷ↓	ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	ŭ↓ɴˀ	i↓s̪i↓r̪̠ʀ̠ᵏ˨ʷɴˀʝ͡gi↓	ç͡xɪ↓r̪̠ʀ̠	c͡kŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠	ç͡xʰŭ↓ɴˀ	c͡kç͡xʰa↓d̪ɐʷ↓	i↓r̪̠ʀ̠t̪ᵏ˨ʷt̪ᵏ˨ʷɴˀ
WKD	OBS	for	Collier	in	INV.-1	NULL	WO+7	seven

cixí	*tun'ą*
c͡kiʷ↓ç͡xʰɪʷ↓	t̪ɯʷ↓ɴˀʔɐʷ↓
hall	stone

'[That there are] seven for the Colliers in their halls of stone'

Úrú gan txadą cuncutǫn ún dun cą sán túsą úxí shąnú dun túr shardo núgí·

úrú	*gan*	*txadą*	*cuncutǫn*	*ún*	*dun*	*cą*	*sán*	*túsą*	*úxí*
ŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠ŭʷ↓	ʝ͡ga↓ɴˀ	c͡kç͡xʰa↓d̪ɐʷ↓	c͡kɯ↓ɴˀc͡kɯ↓t̪ᵏ˨ʷɴˀ	ŭ↓ɴˀ	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	c͡kaʷ↓	s̪ɐ↓ɴˀ	t̪ŭ↓s̪aʷ↓	ŭʷ↓ç͡xʰɪʷ↓
WKD	OBS	WO+7	nine	for	NWK	REL	VER	be.destined	MAN

shąnú	*dun*	*túr*	*shardo*	*núgí*
s̪ʰaʷ↓ɴˀŭʷ↓	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	t̪ŭʷ↓r̪̠ʀ̠	s̪ʰa↓r̪̠ʀ̠d̪ᵏ˨	ɴˀŭ↓ʝ͡gɪʷ↓
retire	NWK	INV.0	mortal	human

'[That there are] nine for Mortal Men [who are] doomed to retire'

Ún Sąntą chír túr isi ta-Sąntą úrú gan txadą nangí shindí nurchǫ·

ún	*Sąntą*	*chír*	*túr*	*isi*	*ta-Sąntą*	*úrú*	*gan*
ŭ↓ɴˀ	s̪ɐ˞↓ɴˀt̪ɐ˞↓	ɕ͡ɣɪ↓r̠̺	t̪ŭ˞↓r̠̺	i↓s̪i↓	t̪a↓s̪ɐ˞↓ɴˀt̪ɐ˞↓	ŭ˞↓r̠̺ŭ˞↓	ɟ͡ɣa↓ɴˀ
for	The Chimney Man	on	INV.0	red	POSS-The Chimney Man	WKD	OBS

txadą	*nangí*	*shindí*	*nurchǫ*
c͡kɕ͡χʰa↓d̪ɐ˞↓	ɴˀa↓ɴˀɟ͡ɣɪ˞↓	s̪ʰi↓ɴˀd̪ɪ↓	ɴˀɯ↓r̠̺ɕ͡χᵏɬ˞
WO+7	one	WO+10	throne

'[That there is] one for The Chimney Man on His red throne'

Chír chírcą chǫnsǫ dun árxí xún txącą ánrú·

chír	*chírcą*	*chǫnsǫ*	*dun*	*árxí*	*xún*	*txącą*	*ánrú*
ɕ͡χɪ↓r̠̺	ɕ͡χɪ↓r̠̺c͡kaˀ↓	ɕ͡χᵏɬˀɴˀs̪ᵏɬˀ	d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ	ɐ↓r̠̺ɕ͡χʰɪˀ↓	ɕ͡χʰŭ↓ɴˀ	c͡kɕ͡χʰɐˀ↓c͡kaˀ↓	ɐ↓ɴˀr̠̺ŭ˞↓
at	where	reside	NWK	INV.+2	NULL	the North Pole	shadow

'At the North Pole where the Shadows lie.'

Ún ta-dorą nangí ta-rątí

ún	*ta-dorą*	*nangí*	*ta-rątí*
ŭ↓ɴˀ	t̪a↓d̪ᵏɬr̠̺aˀ↓	ɴˀa↓ɴˀɟ͡ɣɪˀ↓	t̪a↓r̠̺ɯˀ↓t̪ɪ↓
for	POSS-rule	one	POSS-ferrule

'One Ferrule to rule,'

Ún ta-shǫnsí úrú txadą shú·

ún	*ta-shǫnsí*	*úrú*	*txadą*	*shú·*
ŭ↓ɴˀ	t̪a↓s̪ʰɯˀ↓ɴˀs̪ɪˀ↓	ŭ˞↓r̠̺ŭ˞↓	c͡kɕ͡χʰa↓d̪ɐˀ↓	s̪ʰŭ˞↓
for	POSS-find	WKD	WO+7	all

'To find them all'

Ún ta-xítǫ nangí ta-rątí

ún	*ta-xítǫ*	*nangí*	*ta-rątí*
ŭ↓ɴˀ	t̪a↓ɕ͡χʰɪˀ↓t̪ɪˀ↓	ɴˀa↓ɴˀɟ͡ɣɪˀ↓	t̪a↓r̠̺ɯˀ↓t̪ɪ↓
for	POSS-bring	one	POSS-ferrule

'One Ferrule to bring,'

Ún ta-tsantú chír xurgǫ·

ún	*ta-tsantú*	*chír*	*xurgǫ*
ŭ↓ɴˀ	t̪a↓t͡s̪a↓ɴˀt̪ŭ↓	ɕ͡χɪ↓r̠̺	ɕ͡χʰɯ↓r̠̺ɟ͡ɣiˀ↓
for	POSS-bind	in	arctic

'To bind [them] in the Arctic.'

4.2.5 Notes

The sentence *Úrú gan txadą cuncutǫn ún dun cą sán túsą úxí shąnú dun túr shardo núgí* is very complex and serves as a good illustration of some of the quirks of Elvish grammar:

- *úrú* /ŭ˞↓r̠̺ŭ˞↓/ marks that the entire clause is an object of the verb *tshú'á* /t͡s̪ʰŭ˞↓ʔɐ↓/ 'declare' in the first clause. It can be translated as the English subordinator 'that' in this context.
- The evidentiality marker *gan* /ɟ͡ɣa↓ɴˀ/ qualifies the copula, which has no root. It is required here to prevent *úrú* from affecting only the following noun phrase, as it must precede a verb (marker) to affect the entire clause.
- *txadą cuncutǫn* /c͡kɕ͡χʰa↓d̪ɐˀ↓ c͡kɯ↓ɴˀc͡kɯ↓t̪ᵏɬˀɴˀ/ is simply the word for the number 9 (whose default work order is W11) raised by 7 work orders to give it work order W4 to match *rątí* /r̠̺ɯˀ↓t̪ɪ↓/ 'ferrule' in the second clause, which is elided here. Thus, this phrase literally means 'nine of the thing with work order W4'.

- The complement of the PP headed by *ún* /ŭ↓ɴˀ/ ‘for’ is the rest of the clause.

In particular, the relative clause *dun cą sán túsą úxí shąnú dun túr shardo* ‘which are destined to retire‘ is fairly complicated on its own:

- The NP it modifies, *shardo núgí* /s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ ɴˀŭ↓ʄɡɪʲ↓/ ‘mortal humans’, follows the clause rather than preceding it.
- Notably, the relative pronoun *cą* /ck͡aʲ↓/ is not the first word in the clause. Rather, because it is the subject of a clause with a lazy verb, it is preceded by the lazy agent marker *dun* /d̪ɯ↓ɴˀ/.
- The complement of *túsą* /t̪ŭ↓s̪aʲ↓/ ‘to be destined’ is yet another clause, viz. *shąnú dun túr shardo* ‘the mortal ones retire’.
- This inner clause is preceded by the lazy theme marker *úxí* /ŭʲ↓ç͡xʰɪʲ↓/, which marks that the clause is the theme of *túsą* /t̪ŭ↓s̪aʲ↓/.
- The sequence *túr shardo núgí* /t̪ŭʳʲ↓r̪ʂ s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ ɴˀŭ↓ʄɡɪ↓/ is SAP-contracted (see § 2.3.2.3) and is short for *túr shardo shardo núgí* /t̪ŭʳʲ↓r̪ʂ s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ ɴˀŭ↓ʄɡɪ↓/. That is, we have a SAP *túr shardo* /t̪ŭʳʲ↓r̪ʂ s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ/ ‘the mortal ones’, which agrees with *núgí* /ɴˀŭ↓ʄɡɪʲ↓/ ‘human’ and its referent is the NP *shardo núgí* /s̪ʰa↓r̪ʂd̪ᵏˡ ɴˀŭ↓ʄɡɪʲ↓/ ‘mortal humans’.

In sum, this sentence is a dependent clause that contains a relative clause whose theme is another clause, and both inner clauses either modify or reference an NP that occurs later on in the sentence.

4.2.6 Notes to add to the grammar.

- The interpunct is the only punctuation mark and functions as a full stop, semicolon, colon, and comma.
- The particle ‘that’ as in ‘I declare that’ is expressed by placing the theme marker before the verb of the ‘that’-clause, or before the entire clause if there is no verb (zero copula).
- In poetry, movement of nouns due to work order is restricted to within a line rather than within a clause.

4.2.7 Literal Translation of the Elvish Adaptation

This Elf declares:
That there are three Ferrules for the Master Carbonators under the mine
That there are seven for the Colliers in their stone-halls
That there are nine for Mortal Men [who are] destined to retire
That there is one for The Chimney Man on The Chimney Man’s red throne
At the North Pole where the Shadows reside
One Ferrule to rule, to find them all
One Ferrule to bring, to bind [them] in the Arctic.
At the North Pole where the Shadows reside

5 Appearance and Culture

5.1 Gender

Elves have no concept of gender and are each referred to as ‘it’. They also do not reproduce naturally and are instead all created by The Chimney Man.

5.2 The Carbonators

At the very top of Elvish society stands the council of Master Carbonators. This council consists of a dozen or so Elves who are assigned a work order of 3.

The council is ruled over by the Grand Carbonator. It is the sole Elf that is assigned a work order of 2, and who is thus considered equally important to the Elves as Coal itself. The Grand Carbonator is effectively the right-hand Elf of The Chimney Man and reports to Him in person every Christmas Eve.

5.3 Elvish Upper Class

The social classes of Collier and Master Carbonator comprise the upper classes of Elvish society; these Elves are easily identified as only they are entitled to wear *rǫngi* /r̪͡ʀ̪ˠʰˠʲˠˠʲˠˠʲˠ

by The Grand Carbonator. An Elf cannot become The Grand Carbonator. If The Grand Carbonator retires, a new one is constructed by The Chimney Man.

Refurbishment has no corresponding opposite process: if an Elf does something that causes it to fall below its social class, only decomissioning awaits it.

5.6 Sleep

Elves never sleep prior to their retirement. In Elvish, there are indeed two different words for 'sleeping'; one, *nɥrą́* /ɴˀɯ͡ɟ↓r̪͡ʁ̞ᵝ͡ɟ↓/, which refers to the most sacred and noble hibernation of The Chimney Man, and which therefore naturally assigned a work order of 1 and which can indeed refer only to the sleep of The Chimney Man.

The other word, conversely, has word order 11 and is associated primarily with the sleep of humans and other lesser beings. Elves consider this form of sleep nothing but a waste of time.

Thus, it should also come as no surprise that The Chimney Man's hibernating is considered a working verb, as The Chimney Man always works the Hardest and therefore His hibernation must obviously be some to the Elves unfathomable form of work. Normal sleeping, by contrast, is a lazy verb.

5.7 Physical Description

- Elves have no lips, making their sharp and pointy teeth, which are designed for the chewing and consumption of Coal, by which they are perpetually stained a dark and dusty black, clearly visible.
- Elvish tongues are extremely stiff and don't bend.
- Elvish eyes are covered in multiple levels of eye lashes to keep the Coal out of their vision. Since the Elvish eye has evolved to thrive in an exceedingly dry and dusty environment, Elves naturally never need to close their eyes and thus lack eyelids.
- Elves have pointy ears, but they point downwards, so as to not collide with the low ceiling of their mines.
- Lower-class Elves (below the class of Collier) are typically always hunched down so as to fit in lower tunnels.
- Elves have inverted knees, so as to improve crawling in tunnel conditions.
- Elves are closer to Coal golems than biological creatures.
- The throat and mouth of an Elf is constantly extremely dry due to being coated in Coal dust, which renders their articulation extremely hoarse, strained, and outright grating.
- The complexion of an Elf is a dark grey, simply because they are always covered in layers upon layers of coal; no-one actually knows what the natural skin colour of an Elf is.
- Elves are mostly bald; the most hair they have on their bodies is their eye lashes.

5.8 Idioms

Since Coal is the most important aspect of Elvish society, many idioms and phrases in Elvish revolve around Coal and anything involved in the Coal mining process. For example, whereas in English a seam of Coal may be referred to as a 'coal vein' in analogy with the veins of the human body, Elvish does the opposite: the term *shɥ́'i ta-xąro* /s̪ʰɯ̟̌͡ɟ↓ʔi↓ t̪a↓ç̟͡xʰa͡ɟ↓r̪͡ʀ̞ᵏ˧/ 'blood vessel' literally means 'tunnel of blood', where *shɥ́'i* is the term for a tunnel in a Coal mine.

6 Dictionary

Lazy verbs are marked with *lz.*, working verbs with *wk.*, compound verbs with *cv.*

ąn /aˠˡˠ↓nˀ/ *prep.*
1. Opposing, on the opposite side of.
2. More than. *When preceded by a number.*

ánrǘ /ɐ↓nˀr̪ʀ̪ʉ̌ˠˡˠ↓/ *n. w11* Shadow.

cą /t͡ʃkaˠˡˠ↓/ *pron.* Which, who, what,. *Introduces a relative clause (see § 2.10.1).*

cáru /t͡ʃkɐ↓r̪ʀ̪ɯ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

chír /t͡ɕxɪ↓r̪ʀ̪/ *prep.* At, on, in, near, onto.

chírcą /t͡ɕxɪ↓r̪ʀ̪t͡ʃkaˠˡˠ↓/ *pron.* [contraction of **chír** and **cą**, lit. 'in which'] Where. *Introduces a locative relative clause (see § 2.10.1).*

chírrų /t͡ɕxɪ↓r̪ʀ̪r̪ʀ̪ɯˠˡˠ↓/ *prep.* Into, towards.

chǫnsǫ /t͡ɕxᵏʲˠˡˠnˀs̪ᵏʲˠˡˠ/ *v. lz* Reside, live.

chornǫ /t͡ɕxᵏʲr̪ʀ̪nˀᵏʲˠˡˠ/ *n. w6*
1. Coworker.
2. Peer.

chųnxi /t͡ɕxɯˠˡˠ↓nˀt͡ɕxʰi↓/ *n. w11* Head.

cíchą /t͡ʃkɪˠˡˠ↓t͡ɕxaˠˡˠ↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

cirshú /t͡ʃki↓r̪ʀ̪s̪ʰʉ̌↓/ *adj. w1*
1. Awake. *Used solely in reference to The Chimney Man.*
2. The number 2.

cįxí /t͡ʃkiˠˡˠ↓t͡ɕxʰɪˠˡˠ↓/ *n. w11* Hall.

cuncu /t͡ʃkɯ↓nˀt͡ʃkɯ↓/ *n. w11* [sense 2 is a calque of Santaa *ȫh*]
1. Logistics.
2. The number 8.

cuncutǫn /t͡ʃkɯ↓nˀt͡ʃkɯ↓t̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀ/ *n. w11* [from **cuncu** and **tǫn**; literally 'logistics more', a calque of Santaa *ȫh ȯ̌h*] The number 9.

dąchą /d̪ɐˠˡˠ↓t͡ɕxaˠˡˠ↓/ *n. w11* Table.

dánchi /d̪ɐ↓nˀt͡ɕxi↓/ *n. w2* A vein of Coal.

dįgá /d̪ɪˠˡˠ↓ɟ͡ʒɐ↓/ *n. w11* Cane.

dishą́ /d̪i↓s̪ʰɐˠˡˠ↓/ *adv.*
1. Always. *In a sentence with positive polarity.*
2. Never. *In a sentence with negative polarity.*

dorą /d̪ᵏʲr̪ʀ̪aˠˡˠ↓/ *v.*
1. *wk* To rule, reign (+WKD over sbd./sth.).

gan /ɟ͡ʒa↓nˀ/ *particle* [from **gantú**] Evidentiality marker; see § 2.7.6.

gantú /ɟ͡ʒa↓nˀt̪ʉ̌↓/ *v.* To see.

gįncǘ /ɟ͡ʒiˠˡˠ↓nˀt͡ʃkʉ̌ˠˡˠ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

gįnun → gįsąn

gįron → gįsąn

gįsąn /ɟ͡ʒiˠˡˠ↓s̪aˠˡˠ↓nˀ/ *adv.* AWK *gisąn,* REM *gínun,* NR1 *gitxí,* NR2 *gíron,* NR3 *gírǫn. Particle that expresses a temporal relationship. This word has 5 forms, each of which corresponds to a tense; its exact meaning depends on the tense as well as the tense of the containing clause.*
1. Now, in this moment, immediately. *If the tense matches the syntactic Present Tense of the clause.*
2. Soon, (soon) after, later. *If the tense matches the syntactic Future Tense of the clause.*
3. In the distant future. *If the tense matches the syntactic Future-in-the-Future Tense of the clause.*
4. Some time ago, before. *If the tense matches the syntactic Past Tense of the clause.*
5. Long ago, once upon a time. *If the tense matches the syntactic Pluperfect Tense of the clause.*

gįtxí → gįsąn

gųshą /ɟ͡ʒɯˠˡˠ↓s̪ʰaˠˡˠ↓/ *v. lz* To crouch, be crouched.

igą́ /i↓ɟ͡ʒɐˠˡˠ↓/ *n. w11* Poem.

ı́nú /ɪˠˡˠ↓nˀʉ̌↓/ *n. w6* Minecart.

irgų /i↓r̪ʀ̪ɟ͡ʒɯˠˡˠ↓/ *v.* [sense 2 is a calque of Santaa *ȫh*]
1. To build.
2. The number 4.

irtǫn /i↓r̪ʀ̪t̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀ/ *n. w11* [from **irgų** and **tǫn**; literally 'build more more', a calque of Santaa *ȫh ȯ̌h*] The number 5.

irtǫtǫn /i↓r̪ʀ̪t̪s̪ᵏʲˠˡˠt̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀ/ *n. w11* [from **irgų** and **tǫn**; literally 'build more more', a calque of Santaa *ȫh ȯ̌h ȯ̌h*] The number 6.

irtǫtǫtǫn /i↓r̪ʀ̪t̪ᵏʲˠˡˠt̪ᵏʲˠˡˠt̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀ/ *n. w11* [from **irgų** and **tǫn**; literally 'build more more more', a calque of Santaa *ȫh ȯ̌h ȯ̌h ȯ̌h*] The number 7.

ishú /i↓s̪ʰʉ̌↓/ *n. w11*
1. Charcoal.
2. *fig.* Something that is fake or wrong; fraud; impostor.

ishúrǫngi /i↓s̪ʰʉ̌↓r̪ʀ̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀɟ͡ʒi↓/ *n. w11* [from **ishú** and **rǫngi**] Someone who pretends to have a higher social class than they actually do. *Lit. 'false cloak'; see § 5.3.*

isi /i↓s̪i↓/ *adj. w11* Red.

isirǫngi /i↓s̪i↓r̪ʀ̪ᵏʲˠˡˠnˀɟ͡ʒi↓/ *n. w4* [from **isi** and **rǫngi**] Collier. *Lit. 'redcloak'; see § 5.3.*

nąn /nˀɐˠˡˠ↓nˀ/ *n. w6* Coal mine.

nąnchụn /ɴˀɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀɕ͡xɯ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀ/ *n. w5* [from **nąnrụ́** 'canary' and **chụnxi** 'head'] Head Miner.

nąngą́ /ɴˀɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀʝ͡ɡɐ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w11* Communication.

nąngąsánshụ́ /ɴˀɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀʝ͡ɡɐ͡ɡ˨˩ʂɐ˨˩ɴˀʂʰʊ̞ʊ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w6* [from **nąngą́** and **sánshụ́**, lit. 'workplace communication'] The Elvish language.

nangị́ /ɴˀa˨˩ɴˀʝ͡ɡɪ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w11* [sense 2 is a calque of Santaa *hɔ̃̃*]

1. December.
2. The number 1.

nąnrụ́ /ɴˀɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀɽ͡ʀʊ̞ʊ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n.* [from **nąn**]

1. *w7* Coal miner.
2. *w6* Elf, canary. *All Elves are coal miners, whence this sense follows naturally. This is the Generic term for an Elf whose social status is unknown, as well as the term for Canaries.*

nąrụ /ɴˀɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɽ͡ʀɯ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w1* [from **nụrą́**]

1. Hibernation. *Used solely in reference to The Chimney Man's hibernation.*
2. *fig.* Hibernation cycle, year. *A time period equal in length to a full hibernation cycle of The Chimney Man, which is approximately one year.*

natá /ɴˀa˨˩ʈɐ˨˩/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

nị́ /ɴˀɪ͡ɡ˨˩/ *adj.* Some, a certain.

norta /ɴˀᵏ˧ɽ͡ʀʈa˨˩/ *adj. or n.* Grey. *The colour of stone, never Coal; for Coal,* ***xúsụ*** *'black' is used instead.*

núgị́ /ɴˀʊ̞˨˩ʝ͡ɡɪ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w11* Human, man, woman. *Elves do not distinguish between gender in other species as they have no gender themselves.*

nụ́nrą́ /ɴˀʊ̞ʊ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀɽ͡ʀɐ͡ɡ˨˩/ *v. wk.* [from **nąnrụ́**]

1. To mine Coal.
2. To be alive.
3. *cv.* **nụ́nrą́ chírrụ** To discover, uncover, find, encounter by chance. *Lit. 'To mine into'.*

nụrą́ /ɴˀɯ͡ɡ˨˩ɽ͡ʀɐ͡ɡ˨˩/ *v. w1* To hibernate. *Used solely in reference to The Chimney Man's hibernation.*

nurchọ /ɴˀɯ˨˩ɽ͡ʀɕ͡xᵏ˧ɟ͡ɡ/ *n. w11* Throne.

ondo /ᵏ˧ɴˀd̪ᵏ˧/ *v. wk.* To hand in, deliver. *Specifically, this word means 'to deliver the result of some work (generally Coal) to one's superiors' and is used both by low-ranking Elves to describe the process of handing in the Coal one has mined at the end of every day, as well as by high-ranking Elves to report the amount of Coal mined by their subordinates to their superiors on a regular basis.*

oxa /ᵏ˧ɕ͡xʰa˨˩/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

raco /ɽ͡ʀa˨˩c͡kᵏ˧/ *v. wk*

1. To go.
2. **raco chírrụ** + PTCP To begin.

rárchị /ɽ͡ʀɐ˨˩ɽ͡ʀɕ͡xi͡ɡ˨˩/ *v. wk.* To sew.

rịcą /ɽ͡ʀi͡ɡ˨˩c͡kɑ͡ɡ˨˩/ *pron.* [contraction of **rịdu** and **cą**] When. *Introduces a temporal relative clause (see § 2.10.1).*

rịdu /ɽ͡ʀi͡ɡ˨˩d̪ɯ˨˩/ *adv.* Then, afterwards.

ríngú /ɽ͡ʀɪ˨˩ɴˀʝ͡ɡʊ̞˨˩/ *n. w11* Handle.

rọ- /ɽ͡ʀᵏ˧ɟ͡ɡ/ *particle Collective marker; see § 2.4.*

rọngi /ɽ͡ʀᵏ˧ɟ͡ɡɴˀʝ͡ɡi˨˩/ *n. w4*

1. Cloak. *This specifically refers to a type of cloak worn only by Colliers and Master Carbonators.*
2. Elf (upper class). *This term refers to Elves of the class of Collier and above. Formally, only Elves who are themselves Colliers or higher are allowed to use* ***rọngi*** *on its own to refer to a high-class Elf. See also § 2.6.2.*

rọsa /ɽ͡ʀᵏ˧ɟ͡ɡʂa˨˩/ *v. lz.* To slide.

rụtí /ɽ͡ʀɯ͡ɡ˨˩ʈɪ˨˩/ *n. w4* Ferrule.

rúxą /ɽ͡ʀʊ̞˨˩ɕ͡xʰɑ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w11*

1. Instance, a singular event.
2. *Forms multiplier numerals when preceded by a number and* **ta-**. *In this sense, this word has no work order and does not impose any constraints upon the word order ofthe sentence.*
   - ◇ **tchụ́'i ta-rúxą** 'Three times'.
   - ◇ **irgụ ta-rúxą ta-dánchi** 'Four times as many coal veins'.

sán /ʂɐ˨˩ɴˀ/ *particle* [reduced form of **sąn**] Evidentiality marker; see § 2.7.6.

sąn /ʂɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀ/ *n. w11* Being.

sánshụ́ /ʂɐ˨˩ɴˀʂʰʊ̞ʊ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w11* Workplace.

Sąntą́ /ʂɐ͡ɡ˨˩ɴˀʈɐ͡ɡ˨˩/ *n. w1* [from **sąn** and **tą́**; direct borrowing from Santaa *ħõ̃ ɔ̃̀h ɔ̃̃̀h ħõ̃̃ ɔ̃̀h ɔ̃̃̀h ɦqq*] The Chimney Man. *Always capitalised, unless derogatory lowering is applied. This noun is never declined for number as there is, has been, and will only ever be one Chimney Man.*

sántọ /ʂɐ˨˩ɴˀʈᵏ˧ɟ͡ɡ/ *n. w11*

1. Place.
2. **chír nị́ sántọ** There (expletive). *Lit. 'in a certain place'; used as the subject of verbs that don't have a semantic agent and can stand on its own with a (zero) copula to signify 'there is'.*

3. **+chír** *and* DEM Here, there. *Preceded by* ***chír*** *'in' and a demonstrative pronoun, lit. 'In this/ that place'. The proximal pronoun is used to mean 'here', the medial pronoun to mean 'there (medial)', and the distal pronoun to mean 'there (distal)'.*

sár /s̪ɐ↓r̪ʀ̩/ *prep.*
1. With.
2. For, over the course of. *Only when followed by a time period.*

sárgá /s̪ɐ↓r̪ʀ̩ʃ͡gɐ↓/ *v.*
1. *wk* To hold, hold on to.
2. *lz* To keep, retain.
3. *lz* To keep a secret, hide away.

sargú /s̪a↓r̪ʀ̩ʃ͡gʉ̌↓/ *v. lz*
1. To show.
2. *lz. dep.* **sargú norta** To run dry, be empty. *This is a deponent verb, i.e. the subject is in the* MAN *form. Lit. 'To show grey', alluding to the fact that a mostly black Coal vein gives way to grey stone once exhausted.*

shąnú /s̪ʰaˠˠ↓nˀʊ̌ˠˠ↓/ *v. lz* [see also **shúną**] To retire.

shardo /s̪ʰa↓r̪ʀ̩d̪ᵏ↓/ *adj.* Mortal.

shatú /s̪ʰa↓t̪ʊ̌↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

shindí /s̪ʰi↓nˀd̪ɪ↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

shịndụ /s̪ʰiˠˠ↓nˀd̪ʊˠˠ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

shítọ /s̪ʰɪˠˠ↓t̪ᵏ↓ˠˠ/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

Shọnxą /s̪ʰkˠˠ↓ˠˠnˀçʰaˠˠ↓/ *n. w2* Coal. *The most important noun in Elvish, second only to The Chimney Man. This word and all words derived from it are always capitalised.*

Shọnxąrọngi /s̪ʰkˠˠ↓ˠˠnˀçʰaˠˠ↓r̪ʀ̩ᵏˠˠ↓ˠˠnˀʃ͡gi↓/ *n. w2* [from **Shọnxą** and **rọngi**] Grand Carbonator. *Lit. 'coal cloak'; see § 5.3.*

Shọnxąshúną /s̪ʰkˠˠ↓ˠˠnˀçʰaˠˠ↓s̪ʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓ˠˠnˀaˠˠ↓/ *n. w2* [from **Shọnxą** and **shúną**] Coal burial. *See § 5.4.*

shú /s̪ʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓/ *n. w11*
1. Whole, entirety, everything.
2. All, every. *Used like a number.*

shú'i /s̪ʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓ʔi↓/ *n. w11*
1. A tunnel in a Coal mine.
2. **shú'i ta-xąro** Blood vessel. *Lit. 'blood tunnel'.*

shúną /s̪ʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓nˀaˠˠ↓/ *n. w4* [see also **shąnú**] Retirement. *See § 5.4.*

shụnsí /s̪ʰʉˠˠ↓nˀs̪ɪˠˠ↓/ *v.*
1. *lz* To encounter, meet.
2. *wk* To find, discover.

sọtą /s̪ᵏ↓ˠˠt̪aˠˠ↓/ *v.*
1. *lz* To know.
2. *wk* To learn.

sọtąrú /s̪ᵏ↓ˠˠt̪aˠˠ↓r̪ʀ̩ʊ̌ˠˠ↓/ *n. w6* [from **sọtą**] Teacher.

súnnọ /s̪ʊ̌↓nˀnˀᵏ↓ˠˠ/ *n.*
1. Slate.
2. *Elvish given name.*

ta- /t̪a↓/ *particle Possessive marker; see § 2.4.*
◇ **ta-Sąntą** 'of The Chimney Man'.
◇ **ríngú isi ta-díǵá** 'handles of red canes'.

tá- /t̪ɐ↓/ *particle Archaic form of* ***tá-***.

tą /t̪ɐˠˠ↓/ *n. w4* Chimney.

tandí /t̪a↓nˀd̪ɪˠˠ↓/ *n. w11*
1. Shovelful. *Elvish unit of mass, approximately 37.12~kg.*

tchạn'ú /c͡kʰçʰaˠˠ↓nˀʔʊ̌ˠˠ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

tchatụ /c͡kʰçʰa↓t̪ʊˠˠ↓/ *n. w11* Work.

tchichá /c͡kʰçʰi↓çʰɐˠˠ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

tchixi /c͡kʰçʰi↓çʰʰi↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

tchú'i /c͡kʰçʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓ʔi↓/ *n. w11* [sense 2 is a calque of Santaa *ǒ̰ɦ*]
1. Plan.
2. The number 3.

tchúrshu /c͡kʰçʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓r̪ʀ̩s̪ʰʊ↓/ *n. w11* Idiot, moron. *This is derogatory and thus always has word order 11.*

tọn /t̪ᵏ↓ˠˠnˀ/ *adj.* More.

tọrxí /t̪ᵏ↓ˠˠr̪ʀ̩çʰʰɪ↓/ *n.*
1. Shale.
2. *Elvish given name.*

tsạn'o /t̪s̪aˠˠ↓nˀʔᵏ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

tsantú /t̪s̪a↓nˀt̪ʊ̌↓/ *v. wk* To bind.

tshí'ą /t̪s̪ʰɪ↓ʔɐˠˠ↓/ *n. w1*
1. Christmas.
2. The number 25.

tshigu /t̪s̪ʰi↓ʃ͡gʉ↓/ *adj.* Bountiful, rich, plentiful.

tshọ'ọ /t̪s̪ʰkˠˠ↓ˠˠʔᵏ↓ˠˠ/ *n. w11* Ribbon.

tshú'á /t̪s̪ʰʊ̌ˠˠ↓ʔɐ↓/ *v. wk.* To declare, make known.

tsírǫ /t͡s̪ɪ↓r̪ʀ̥ᵏˡʲᶠᵍ/ *prep.* Under, beneath, below.

tsǫ́n /t͡s̪ʊ̆ᶠᵍ↓ɴˀ/ *particle* Evidentiality marker; see § 2.7.6.

tǫn'ą́ /t̪ɯᶠᵍ↓ɴˀʔɐᶠᵍ↓/ *n. w11* Stone.

túsą /t̪ʊ̆ɪ↓s̪aᶠᵍ↓/ *v. lz* To be destined to ... *The object of this verb is a clause; the nested clause has no evidentiality marker.*

txą́ /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰɐᶠᵍ↓/ *particle* [from **txą́cą**] Evidentiality marker; see § 2.7.6.

txą́cą /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰɐᶠᵍ↓t͡ʃkaᶠᵍ↓/ *n. w3* The North Pole.

txadą́ /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰa↓d̪ɐᶠᵍ↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

txǫncǫ /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰᵏˡʲᶠᵍɴˀt͡ʃkɯᶠᵍ↓/ *n.*

1. Granite.

2. *Elvish given name.*

txǫ́dí /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰʊ̆ᶠᵍ↓d̪ɪ↓/ *adj.* Fat, big.

txǫ́nsha /t͡ʃk͡çx̂ʰʊ̆ᶠᵍ↓ɴˀs̪ʰa↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

ún /ʊ̆↓ɴˀ/ *prep.*

1. For.

2. To, towards.

3. In order to, so as to. *Always followed by a verb prefixed with* ***ta-*.**

◇ **ún ta-shǫnsí** 'in order to find'. *Lit. 'for of [to] find'.*

ǫ́ncho /ʊ̆ᶠᵍ↓ɴˀçx̂ᵏˡʲ/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

xą́ngá /çx̂ʰɐᶠᵍ↓ɴˀʝ͡gɐ↓/ *n. w11* Thing.

xąro /çx̂ʰaᶠᵍ↓r̪ʀ̥ᵏˡʲ/ *n. w11* Blood.

xǫ́ntí /çx̂ʰɪᶠᵍ↓ɴˀt̪ɪ↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

xǫ́tǫ /çx̂ʰɪᶠᵍ↓t̪iᶠᵍ↓/ *v. wk* To bring, carry.

xǫnchǫ /çx̂ʰᵏˡʲᶠᵍɴˀçx̂ɯᶠᵍ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

xún /çx̂ʰʊ̆↓ɴˀ/ *adj.*

1. Proper, good.

2. *Null adjective used in extraposition. See § 2.3.2.2.*

xúnną /çx̂ʰʊ̆↓ɴˀɴˀaᶠᵍ↓/ *Work Order raising marker; see § 2.2.*

xúnrá /çx̂ʰʊ̆↓ɴˀr̪ʀ̥ɐ↓/ *Work order lowering marker; see § 2.2.*

xurgǫ /çx̂ʰɯ↓r̪ʀ̥ʝ͡giᶠᵍ↓/ *n. w3* The Arctic.

xúsǫ /çx̂ʰʊ̆↓s̪ɯᶠᵍ↓/ *adj. w11* Black.

xúsǫrǫngi /çx̂ʰʊ̆↓s̪ɯᶠᵍ↓r̪ʀ̥ᵏˡʲᶠᵍɴˀʝ͡gi↓/ *n. w3* [from **xúsǫ** and **rǫngi**] Master Carbonator. *Lit. 'black-cloak'; see § 5.3 which are embroidered with black Coal-like patterns.*