A Comprehensive Diachronic Grammar of Modern ULTRAFRENCH

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Contents

1 Phonology and Evolution from Modern Pseudo-French

	Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	b, bʱ	d			
Nasal		n			
Fricative	ɸ β, ʋ̃	s z, θ ð	ç ɕ ʑ	x χ	h
Approx.			ɥ ɥ̃, j̊	ɯ ɯ̃	
Lat. Fric.		ɮ̃	ʎ̝̊		

	Front	Back
Close	i ĩ ĩ̃ i̯, y ỹ ỹ̃ y̯	u ũ ũ̃ u̯
Close-mid	e ẽ ẽ̃ e̯	o o̯
Mid	ə ə̯	
Open-mid	ɛ ɛ̃ ɛ̃̃ ɛ̯	ɔ̃ ɔ̃̃
Open	a a̯	ɑ̃ ɑ̃̃

Legend
$\tilde{V}$ = nasalised vowel, $\tilde{\tilde{V}}$ = nasal vowel, V = any vowel (or, in conjunction with $\tilde{V}$/$\tilde{\tilde{V}}$, oral vowel)
N = nasal consonant, $\tilde{C}$ = nasalised consonant (e.g. /ɯ̃ɥ/, but not true nasals), C = any consonant.

Preliminary Changes

1. g, ʁ, w > ɯɥ ⟨r⟩
2. œ, œ̃, ø > y, ỹ, ỹ
3. ɔ > o
4. y > j / _(#)V
5. V_α> ∅ / _#V_α
6. lj, lɥ > ʎ
7. j > ɥ ⟨y'⟩
8. ɯɥ > ɥ / _i
9. C > ∅ / #_C
10. C > ∅ / C_#
11. k > x ⟨c'h⟩
12. ʃ, ʒ > ɕ ⟨ç⟩, ʑ ⟨j⟩
13. nt > nθ
14. t > ḍ [d] ('hard /d/')
15. p > ḅ [b] ('hard /b/')
16. f, v > ɸ ⟨f⟩, β ⟨b'h⟩

Great Nasal Shift

16. $\tilde{V}$l > ɯ̃ɥ ⟨w⟩
17. V > $\tilde{\tilde{V}}$ / [N$\tilde{C}$ɥɯ]_N#
18. V, $\tilde{V}$ > $\tilde{V}$, $\tilde{\tilde{V}}$ / _[N$\tilde{C}$ɥɯ], [N$\tilde{C}$ɥɯ]_
19. ə, ə̃, ã, ã̃, õ, õ̃ > ɛ̃, ɛ̃̃, ɑ̃, ɑ̃̃, ɔ̃, ɔ̃̃
20. N, $\tilde{C}$ > ∅ / V_#
21. ɲ, ŋ > n
22. V, $\tilde{V}$ > ∅ / N _ N
23. m, l, ʎ > ʋ̃ ⟨v⟩, ɮ̃ ⟨l⟩, ʎ̝̊̃ ⟨l̥⟩

Intervocalic Lenition (/ V_V is implied)

22. x, s, z > h
23. ɕ, ɮ̃, ʎ̝̊̃ > j̊ ⟨ç̇⟩, ɥ̃, ɯ̃ɥ
24. nθ > n
25. d, ḍ, b, ḅ > ð ⟨d'h⟩, θ ⟨t'h⟩, β, bʱ ⟨bh⟩
26. ɸ > β / V_V

Late Changes

26. C[+stop, -alveolar]C_α> C_α
27. h > ∅ / hV_
28. ə > ∅ / C_C
29. V[-nasalised, -nasal] > ə̯ / _#

1.1 Pronunciation, Allophony, and Stress

There is not a lot of allophony in UF, save that /x/ is realised as [χ] around back vowels and [ɕ] elsewhere, e.g. *c'húr* /xũɯɥ/ 'to shrink' is pronounced [χũ·ʏ̃]. Furthermore, /h/ is [ç] before variants of /i/ and /y/, and [h] elsewhere.

The vast majority PF words are stressed on the last syllable of the root, e.g. *ad'hór* 'to love' /aˈðõɯɥ/, but *b'had'hóré* 'you (PL) love' /βaˈðõ.ɯɥẽ/. The stress is not indicated in writing, neither in actual texts, nor in this grammar or in dictionaries.

The only exception to this rules are certain particles and irregular verbs, some of which have irregular stress; for instance, the forms of *eḍ* 'to be' are all stressed on the first syllable. Any such words that deviate from the norm will be pointed out in this grammar and in dictionaries.

Oral vowels before the stressed syllable are often somewhat muted or reduced, albeit still audible, and stressed vowels are lengthened if they are nasalised, e.g. the pronunciation of *ad'hór*, which we just transcribed as /aˈðɔ̃ɯ̨/, is actually closer to [a̰ˈðɔ̃ɤ̰].

Oral vowels have a nasalised and nasal counterpart. /i/, /y/, and /u/ do not vary in quality when nasalised. /a/ is normally [a], but becomes [ɑ] when nasalised or nasal. Similarly, /e/ becomes [ɛ], and /o/ becomes [ɔ]. Note that nasalised [ẽ] exists, but it's rare. The quality never changes when going from nasalised to nasal. The schwa has no nasal(lised) counterpart. Lastly, oral vowel also have voiceless counterparts, whose quality is the same as that of the base vowel.

Furthermore, as indicated in that same example, word-final /ɯ̨/ is often realised as velarisation of the preceding vowel; the same, however, is not the case for /ų̃/. Initial /ɯ̨/ is sometimes elided after words that end with /ɯ̨/, particularly in particles (e.g. *rvá* 'alas').

1.2 Orthography

The spelling of most UF sounds is indicated above; the less exotic consonants are spelt as one might expect. That is, /b, d, n, ɸ, s, z, h/ are spelt ⟨b, d, n, f, s, z, h⟩, respectively.

Several fricatives are spelt with an apostrophe followed by a 'h', viz. /x/ ⟨c'h⟩, /θ/ ⟨t'h⟩, /ð/ ⟨d'h⟩, and /β/ ⟨b'h⟩. Conventional letters are used for rather unconventional sounds, mostly for diachronic reasons: /l/ does not exist in UF, so ⟨l⟩ is either /ɫ̃/ or /l̪̃/, ⟨v⟩ is /ʋ̃/, ⟨j⟩ is /ʒ̃/, ⟨r⟩ is /ɯ̨/, ⟨w⟩ is /ų̃/. The vowel /y/ is spelt ⟨y⟩, and its consonantal equivalent /ɥ/ as well as nasalised /ɥ̃/ are spelt with an apostrophe, that is ⟨y'⟩ and ⟨ý'⟩.

The vowels are mostly spelt as one might expect; nasalised vowels are indicated by an acute, and nasal vowels by a circumflex. The variants of /i, y, u, a, e/ are spelt with ⟨i, y, u, a, e⟩ as their base letters. Nasal /ẽ/ and /ə̃/ as well as Schwa are indicated by adding a dot below the ⟨e⟩; the vowel /o/ is spelt ⟨au⟩ or ⟨o⟩ for diachronic reasons;[1] in the case of ⟨au⟩, the acute and circumflex are added to the ⟨u⟩. The diphthong /au/ is spelt ⟨a'u⟩. Oral /ɛ/ is rare and is spelt ⟨è⟩. Word-initially, a grave instead indicates that the vowel is voiceless, and word-final oral vowels are always voiceless.

The 'hard' voiced *ḅ*, *ḍ* which are pronounced exactly like their regular counterparts, are normally also spelt ⟨b⟩ and ⟨d⟩. However, the dot is commonly used in dictionaries and grammatical material to distinguish between the two as they differ from one another in how they are lenited. Furthemore, a dot below or above a letter is commonly to indicate a variety of different things, depending on the letter:

- a dot below in *ḅ*, *ḍ* indicates that they are the 'hard' variants of the letter, which are pronounced the same, but lenited differently;
- a dot below in *l̤* indicates that it is palatal /l̪̃/ instead of alveolar /ɫ̃/;
- a dot below in *ẹ* indicates that it is a schwa;
- a dot below nasalised *ẹ́*, *ê̤* indicates that they are /ə̃/, /ə̃̂/ instead of /ɛ̃/, /ɛ̃̂/;
- a dot above in *ċ* indicates that it is lenited /ʝ/.

Thus, in non-grammatical writing, the following are indistinguishable:

- *l* can be palatal /l̪̃/ or alveolar /ɫ̃/;
- *e* can be a schwa, or /e/;
- *é*, *ê* can be /ɛ̃/, /ɛ̃̂/ or /ẽ/, /ẽ̂/;
- ç can be /ɕ/ or /ʝ/.

Elided initial /ɯ̨/ is indicated by omitting the *r* in writing and attaching the word to the previous one with a hyphen, e.g. *-vá* 'alas'.

[1] As is always the case in cases like this, hypercorrection is frequent, and ⟨au⟩ is often preferred word-initially, even if the PF root was spelt with ⟨o⟩. In general, UF speakers seem to prever ⟨au⟩ over ⟨o⟩, except word-finally and after ⟨w⟩.

2 Accidence

2.1 Verbal Morphology

Verbs in UF are inflected for person, number, tense, aspect, mood, and voice. Verbal inflexion is mainly done by means of concatenating a vast set of prefixes onto a verb, with the occasional suffix and circumfix making its appearance. This chapter details these affixes, their meanings, uses, forms, and restrictions.

2.1.1 Active/Passive Affixes

UF has a set of active/subject as well as passive/object prefixes which can be used on their own or in combination with one another, though at most one active and one passive prefix may be combined with a verb.[2] Table 1 below lists those prefixes, two of which are actually circumfixes.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*j-*	*aú-/r-/w- -(y')ó*
2nd	*ḍ(ẹ)-*	*b'h(y)- -(y')é*
3rd m	*l(ẹ)-*	*l(ẹ)-*
3rd f	*ll(a)-*	*ll(ẹ)-*
3rd n	*s-*	*l(a)-*
Infinitive	*d(ẹ)-*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*v-*	*aú-/r-/w-*
2nd	*ḍ(ẹ)-*	*b'h(y)-*
3rd m	*y'-*	*lý-*
3rd f	*y'-*	*lý-*
3rd n	*sy-*	*lý-*
Infinitive	*à-/h-*	

Table 1: Active (left) and passive (right) verbal affixes.

A great degree of syncretism can be observed in the third-person forms. The gender distinction in the 3SG that diachronically resulted from gendered personal pronouns is almost non-existent in the plural; the reason for this development is that those forms are derived from the old dative form, which lacked this distinction altogether.

The ACT 1PL, 2PL forms are only distinguished from their passive counterparts by the presence of additional suffixes in the former. The 3SG N in the active and passive is derived from the PF demonstrative **ce* and its variants; the 3PL N is derived from the other 3PL forms.

The 1PL prefix varies if there is a vowel following it: if it is any vowel that is not a variant of 'o', the prefix is realised as *r-* instead, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *rad'hóró* 'we love'. If the vowel a variant of 'o', the prefix is realised as *w-* instead, e.g. *aub'heír* 'obey' to *wob'heíró* 'we obey'.[3] Note that this also leads to a change in spelling: stem-initial ⟨au⟩ is changed to ⟨o⟩.

The INF PASS prefix *à-* coalesces with any vowel following it: it becomes *á* if it is followed by a non-nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ad'hór* to *ád'hór* 'to be loved'; *â* if it is followed by a nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ánvé* 'give life to' to *ânvé* 'to be animated'; and *h-* if it is followed by any other vowel, e.g. *aub'heír* to *haub'heír* 'to be obeyed'.

The parenthesised vowels are used if the prefix is followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *llẹdír* 'they (F) say' and *b'hydíré* 'you (PL) say', but *ad'hór* to *llad'hór* 'they (F) love' and *b'had'hóré* 'you (PL) love'. The prefixes *aú-* and *à-* retain their main forms if followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *aúdíró* 'We say' and *àdír* 'to be said'. The exception to this is that 2PL *b'h(y)-* drops the *y* if followed by a glide, e.g. *y'ír* 'to hear' to *b'hy'íré* 'you (PL) hear' (not **b'hyy'íré*).

The *y'* in the suffix parts of the 1PL, 2PL ACT are dropped if the verb ends with a consonant, e.g. *ad'hór* to *b'hád'hóré*, or if it ends with a vowel that is a variant of 'o' in the case of the 1PL and 'e' in the case of the 2PL, in which cases the vowels are contracted and a level of nasalisation is added, e.g.

[2] Irrespective of whether they are personal or infinitive prefixes. For instance, it would also be illegal to combine e.g. the active infinitive prefix with the first person active singular prefix.

[3] Diachronically, the base form of this prefix is **o-*, whence e.g. **oad'hóró* > *rad'hóró* and **oob'heíró* > *wob'heíró*.

vvaúríhe 'to remember' to *b'hyvvaúríhé* 'you (PL) remember' (not **b'hyvvaúríhy'é*). In all other cases, the *y'* is retained, e.g. *aúvvaúríhey'ó* 'we remember'.

When multiple prefixes are used together, active prefixes precede passive prefixes, except that infinitive prefixes always come first, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *jvad'hór* 'I love myself' (not **vjad'hór*) and *b'hy'ad'hóré* 'you (PL) love him/her', but *dẹvad'hór* 'to love me' and *àb'had'hóré* 'to be loved by you (PL)'. Recall that at most one infinitive prefix may be used.

By way of illustration, consider the paradigm of the verb *ad'hór* as shown in Table 2 below. Since this word starts with a vowel, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 above are not used. Furthermore, since it starts with a non-nasal 'a'-like vowel, the *aú-* prefix is realised as *r-* and the *à-* prefix coalesces with the initial 'a' of the stem to form *á*.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*jad'hór*	*rad'hóró*
2nd	*ḍad'hór*	*b'had'hóré*
3rd m	*lad'hór*	*lad'hór*
3rd f	*llad'hór*	*llad'hór*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hór*	*lad'hór*
Infinitive	*dad'hór*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*vad'hór*	*rad'hór*
2nd	*ḍad'hór*	*b'had'hór*
3rd m	*y'ad'hór*	*lýad'hór*
3rd f	*y'ad'hór*	*lýad'hór*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hór*	*lýad'hór*
Infinitive	*ád'hór*	

Table 2: Paradigm of the Verb *ad'hór*.

For comparison, the paradigm of the verb *vvaúríhe* 'remember' is shown in Table 3 below. Since it starts with a consonant, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 are used, and any prefixes that end with a vowel remain unchanged.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*jvvaúríhe*	*aúvvaúríhey'ó*
2nd	*ḍẹvvaúríhe*	*b'hyvvóríhé*
3rd m	*lẹvvaúríhe*	*lẹvvaúríhe*
3rd f	*llavvaúríhe*	*llẹvvaúríhe*
3rd n	*ý'vvaúríhe*	*lavvaúríhe*
Infinitive	*dẹvvaúríhe*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*vvvaúríhe*	*aúvvaúríhe*
2nd	*ḍẹvvaúríhe*	*b'hyvvaúríhe*
3rd m	*y'vvaúríhe*	*lývvaúríhe*
3rd f	*y'vvaúríhe*	*lývvaúríhe*
3rd n	*ý'vvaúríhe*	*lývvaúríhe*
Infinitive	*àvvaúríhe*	

Table 3: Paradigm of the Verb *vvaúríhe*.

2.2 Tense and Aspect Marking

Tense in PF is marked by additional sets of affixes that are appended to the verb in addition to the active/passive affixes. There are two broad groups of such affixes: suffixes, which are appended to the end of the verb and replace the ACT 1PL, 2PL suffixes in those persons, as well as circumfixes and prefixes, which are inserted before the active/passive markers and replace the replace the ACT 1PL, 2PL suffixes in some cases.

2.2.1 Suffixed Tenses

The present anterior and preterite are formed by appending a set of suffixes to the verb. Table 4 below lists the suffixes for those tenses. The present anterior has a perfective aspect, while the preterite has an imperfective aspect. The former is commonly used to describe events that are completed—particularly events that occurred recently, hence the name—while the latter is used to describe events that are ongoing or habitual.

Present Anterior	Sg	Pl
1st	*-ˡé*	*-ˡâ*
2nd	*-ˡá*	*-ˡáḍ*
3rd	*-ˡá*	*-ˡér*
Infinitive	*-á*	

Preterite	Sg	Pl
1st	*-ˡá*	*-y'aû*
2nd	*-ˡé*	*-y'ḛ́*
3rd m	*-ˡé*	*-ˡé*
Infinitive	*-é*	

Table 4: Present Anterior and Preterite Affixes.

Neither tense distinguishes gender in the third person. All suffixes, except for the infinitive and 1PL, 2PL PRET, lenite any consonant *before* them, e.g. *ḅárḍáḍ* 'to be willing' to *jḅárḍát'hé* 'I was willing' but *dḛḅárḍáḍá* 'to have been willing'.

Diachronically, the 1SG PRET is an interesting case; in EUF, it was originally **-é*, but it later changed to *-á* to distinguish it from the 2SG, 3SG PRES ANT. The remaining forms—save the infinitives, which are derived from the tenses' definite endings by analogy—originated from the PF simple past tenses.

Quite strangely, the /ɔ̃/ in the 1PL PRET is consistently spelt ⟨aû⟩ instead of ⟨ô⟩, which is quite rare word-finally. This may perhaps be explained as an attempt to make this verb form more noticeable.

The table below lists the example paradigm of the verb *ad'hór* in the present anterior and preterite tenses. Observe that there is no difference between the 1PL, 2PL active and passive.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*jad'hóré*	*rad'hórâ*
2nd	*ḍad'hórá*	*b'had'hóráḍ*
3rd m	*lad'hórá*	*lad'hórér*
3rd f	*llad'hórá*	*llad'hórér*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hórá*	*lad'hórér*
Infinitive	*dad'hórá*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*vad'hóré*	*rad'hórâ*
2nd	*ḍad'hórá*	*b'had'hóráḍ*
3rd m	*y'ad'hórá*	*lýad'hórér*
3rd f	*y'ad'hórá*	*lýad'hórér*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hórá*	*lýad'hórér*
Infinitive	*ád'hórá*	

Table 5: Present Anterior Paradigm of the Verb *ad'hór*.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*jad'hórá*	*rad'hóry'aû*
2nd	*ḍad'hóré*	*b'had'hóry'ḛ́*
3rd m	*lad'hóré*	*lad'hóré*
3rd f	*llad'hóré*	*llad'hóré*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hóré*	*lad'hóré*
Infinitive	*dad'hóré*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*vad'hórá*	*rad'hóry'aû*
2nd	*ḍad'hóré*	*b'had'hóry'ḛ́*
3rd m	*y'ad'hóré*	*lýad'hóré*
3rd f	*y'ad'hóré*	*lýad'hóré*
3rd n	*ý'ad'hóré*	*lýad'hóré*
Infinitive	*ád'hóré*	

Table 6: Preterite Paradigm of the Verb *ad'hór*.

2.2.2 Prefixed Tenses

The future tenses, that is, the Future, Future Anterior (a tense similar to the future perfect), as well as the Conditional, are formed by adding prefixes to the present forms. The prefix is the same in all persons and numbers, except that there is a separate prefix for the infinitive.

In the Future, much to the UF learner's dismay, this prefix can go in two separate positions: either before the person marker(s) or inbetween the person marker(s) and the stem. The former case is more common in speech, while the later is more literary and strongly preferred in writing and poetry as well as in formal speech. But even in informal speech, the Future I alone will still not be enough to get by, as the Conditional, a *very* common tense, is formed using the Future II.

First, let us examine the former, simpler case, commonly called the Future I. The prefix is *aú-* if the verb form after it starts with a consonant (except glides), *aúr-* in all other cases; e.g. *aújad'hór* 'I shall

love', but *aúrýʼad'hór* 'it shall love'. In the infinitive passive, it contracts with the initial *à-* or *á-* to *áu* or *aû*, e.g. *aûd'hór* 'to be about to be loved'.[4] No contraction happens if the infinitive starts with *â*, e.g. *aúrânvé* 'to be about to be animated'. Since there is little point in writing a table for that, Table 7 shows the Future I paradigm of the verb *ad'hór*.

Active	Sg	Pl
1st	*aújaḍ'hór*	*aúraḍ'hóró*
2nd	*aúḍaḍ'hór*	*aúb'haḍ'hóré*
3rd m	*aúlaḍ'hór*	*aúlaḍ'hór*
3rd f	*aúllaḍ'hór*	*aúllaḍ'hór*
3rd n	*aúrýʼaḍ'hór*	*aúlaḍ'hór*
Infinitive	*aúdaḍ'hór*	

Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	*aúvaḍ'hór*	*aúraḍ'hór*
2nd	*aúḍaḍ'hór*	*aúb'haḍ'hór*
3rd m	*aúryʼaḍ'hór*	*aúlýaḍ'hór*
3rd f	*aúryʼaḍ'hór*	*aúlýaḍ'hór*
3rd n	*aúrýʼaḍ'hór*	*aúlýaḍ'hór*
Infinitive	*aûḍ'hór*	

Table 7: Future I Paradigm of the Verb *ad'hór*.

This paradigm is fairly straight-forward; however, the Future II is a lot worse: not only does the prefix vary a lot more, but it also changes based on whether the stem starts with a vowel or a consonant.[5] Table **??** gives an overview over the more regular, consonantal Future II forms, which are used for words whose stem starts with a consonant. Note that these forms also include the active/passive prefixes.

[TODO: FUTURE II]

2.3 Irregular Verbs

2.3.1 The Conjugation of *eḍ* 'to be'

Present	Sg	Pl
1st	*vyʼí*	*aúsó*
2nd	*ḍe*	*bʼheḍ*
3rd m	*le*	*lẹsó*
3rd f	*lle*	*llẹsó*
3rd n	*s*	*lasó*
Infinitive	*éḍ*	

Pres. Ant.	Sg	Pl
1st	*vẹ*	*aúfý*
2nd	*ḍyf*	*bʼhu*
3rd m	*lebʼh*	*lẹfýr*
3rd f	*lleʼbh*	*llẹfýr*
3rd n	*sebʼh*	*lafýr*
Infinitive	*éfyḍ*	

Preterite	Sg	Pl
1st	*vetʼh*	*weḍyʼó*
2nd	*ḍetʼh*	*bʼheḍyʼé*
3rd m	*letʼh*	*letʼhe*
3rd f	*lletʼh*	*lletʼhe*
3rd n	*setʼh*	*laetʼh*
Infinitive	*étʼhẹd*	

Table 8: Paradigm of the verb *eḍ*.

The etymology of these forms is mostly from a gradual simplification of coalesced forms of the personal pronouns with the PF copula. To compensate for the fact that PF lacks certain forms that are present in UF, some of the forms were coined by analogy. For instance, the PRES ANT INF *éfyḍ* is derived from the PRES ANT stem **fy* and the PRES INF *éḍ*, and the same is true for the PRET INF *étʼhẹd*.

For obvious reasons, the copula lacks passive forms. At the same time, the first person forms are manifestly derived from the first person passive pronoun, for unknown reasons.

Unlike nearly every other word in the language, all forms of the copula are summarily stressed on the first syllable.

2.4 Noun Morphology

UF has 4 declensions. A definite and indefinite vocalic declension, and a definite and indefinite consonantal declension. As their names might suggest, the former two are used for nouns that start with

[4] This form has no direct equivalent in English and is fairly hard to translate on its own.

[5] This is not a problem in the Future I, since the prefix is never adjacent to the stem.

a vowel, and the latter two for nouns that start with a consonant. UF has no morphologically separate articles; rather, the old PF articles have been incorporated into the declensions. Furthermore, UF no longer has a gender distinction in nouns.

2.4.1 Declension

The table below shows the affixes of the definite and indefinite declensions. The declensions are mostly identical, except that, as with the conjugation of verbs, the consonantal prefixes often end in a vowel (marked below with parentheses), which are not present in the vocalic declension.

Definite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	*lá-*^{L}	*lé-*^{L}
Vocative	*∅-*^{L}	*∅-*^{L}
Partitive	*dy-*^{L}	*dẹ-*^{L}
Accusative	*y'i-*^{L}	*sý-*^{L}
...		
Inessive	*dwá-*	*dwé-*

Indefinite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	*ŷn-*^{N}	*ý-*^{L}
Vocative	/	/
Partitive	*dŷn-*^{N}	*dý-*^{L}
Accusative	*s-*^{L}	*s-*
Inessive	*dáhŷn-*	*dáhŷ-*

Table 9: UF Declension.

Most of these forms cause lenition in the initial consonant of the noun, e.g. *ḍalẹ* 'table' to DEF ACC SG *s'thalẹ*; this lenition is blocked in the INDEF ACC PL due to the presence of a hypercorrected 's' in PF **ces*, e.g. *s'ḍalẹ* 'the tables (ACC)' (not *s'thalẹ*, which is the singular), as well as in less commonly used forms such as the DEF inessive *dwáḍalẹ* 'on the table'.

The INDEF NOM SG *ŷn-* prefix and some other forms nasalise nouns; as a reminder, this means that in nouns starting with *ḍ*, the *ḍ* is deleted, e.g. *ŷnalẹ* 'a table'; it causes nasalisation in words that start with a vowel e.g. *ehyó* 'shield' to *ŷnéhyó* 'a shield'. The indefinite vocative does not exist, as that would make little sense. As lenition, nasalisation too is blocked in rarer forms, e.g. INDEF inessive *dáhŷnḍalẹ* 'on a table'.

The diachrony of these forms is mostly from the PF definite and indefinite pronouns, though some forms, such as the accusative, are borrowed from demonstratives instead (DEF from PF **celui* and INDEF from PF **ce*); the definite partitive forms are from the PF partitive article, and the indefinite forms are formed with an additional *d-* by analogy to the definite forms. The locative cases are combinations of the articles and PF prepositions.

Definite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	*lát'halẹ*	*lét'halẹ*
Vocative	*t'halẹ*	*t'halẹ*
Partitive	*dyt'halẹ*	*dẹt'halẹ*
Accusative	*y'it'halẹ*	*sýt'halẹ*
...		
Inessive	*dwáḍalẹ*	*dwéḍalẹ*

Indefinite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	*ŷnalẹ*	*ýt'halẹ*
Vocative	/	/
Partitive	*dŷnalẹ*	*dýt'halẹ*
Accusative	*st'halẹ*	*sḍalẹ*
Inessive	*dáhŷnḍalẹ*	*dáhýḍalẹ*

Table 10: Consonantal declension of *ḍalẹ*.

3 Examples

Çár-vá, sráhó dwávaûtʼhá daçtʼheá?

Çár	-vá	s-ráhó	dwá-vaûtʼhá	ḍ-açtʼhe-á
ˈjɑ̃ːˠ	ɔ̃ɑ̃	ˌsɯɑ̃ˈhɔ̃	dɯɑ̃ˌʊ̃ɔ̃ˈθɑ̃	dɑ̯ʲˈθe.ɑ̃
Charles.VOC	PARTICLE	INDEF.ACC-fish	DEF.INESS-mountain	2SG.ACT-buy-PRES.ANT.2SG

‘Charles, you bought a fish on the mountain?’

4 Dictionary

açt'he *v. tr.* [PF *acheter*] To buy.
ad'hór *v. tr.* [PF *adore*] To love, adore.
ánvé *v. tr.* [PF *animer*] To bring to life, animate.
aub'heír *v. (in)tr.* [PF *obéir*] To obey.
aúfý → *eḍ.*
aúsó → *eḍ.*
ḅárḍáḍ *v.* [PF *partante*] (+ ACI) To be interested in, willing to, ready to, prepared for.
ḅẹt'hẹ *adj.* [PF *petit*] Small, little.
b'heḍ → *eḍ.*
b'heḍy'é → *eḍ.*
b'hu → *eḍ.*
Çár *n. male given name, equivalent to English 'Kyle' or 'Charles'.*
c'hes *part.* [PF *qu'est-ce que*] *interrogative particle.*
c'húr *v.* [PF *court*] To shrink, reduce in size, narrow.
ḍalẹ *n.* [PF *tableau*] Table.
Daúvníc'h *n. male or female given name, equivalent to English 'Dominic'.*
ḍe → *eḍ.*
ḍet'h → *eḍ.*
dír *v. tr.* [PF *dire*] To say, tell.
ḍyf → *eḍ.*
ebhẹ *adj.* [PF *épais*] Thick.
éḍ → *eḍ.*
eḍrrá *adj.* [PF *étroit*] Pointy.
eḍ *v. irreg.* [PF *être*] FORMS: *active only.* PRES: SG *vy'í*, *ḍe*, *le*, *lle*, *s*; PL *aúsó*, *b'heḍ*, *lẹsó*, *llẹsó*, *lasó*; INF *éḍ.* PRES ANT: SG *vẹ*, *ḍyf*, *leb'h*, *lleb'h*, *seb'h*; PL *aúfý*, *b'hu*, *lẹfýr*, *llẹfýr*, *lafýr*; INF *éfyḍ* PRET: SG *vet'h*, *ḍet'h*, *let'h*, *llet'h*, *set'h*; PL *weḍy'ó*, *b'heḍy'é*, *let'he*, *llet'he*, *laet'h*; INF *ét'hẹd.* To be.
Eḍy'ê *n. male given name, equivalent to English 'Stephen'.*
éfyḍ vet'h → *eḍ.*
ehyó *n.* [PF *écusson*] Shield.
ét'hẹd → *eḍ.*
Já *n. male or female given name, equivalent to English 'John' or 'Joan'.*
laet'h → *eḍ.*
lafýr → *eḍ.*
lár *adj.* [PF *large*] Wide, broad.
lasó → *eḍ.*
laú *adj.* [PF *long*] Long.
leb'h → *eḍ.*
le → *eḍ.*
lẹfýr → *eḍ.*
lẹsó → *eḍ.*
let'h → *eḍ.*
let'he → *eḍ.*
lleb'h → *eḍ.*
lle → *eḍ.*
llẹfýr → *eḍ.*
llẹsó → *eḍ.*
llet'h → *eḍ.*
llet'he → *eḍ.*
lúr *adj.* [PF *lourd*] Bulky, oversized, heavy.
rá *adj.* [PF *grand*] Big, large, great.
ráhó *n.* [PF *poisson*] Fish.
rvá *interj.* [*of unknown origin*] FORMS: *after words that end with 'r', this is spelt '-vá' instead.* Alas, woe, oh. *Exclamation of distress, surprise, sadness, or regret.*
seb'h → *eḍ.*
s → *eḍ.*
set'h → *eḍ.*
vá → *rvá.*
vaût'há *n.* [PF *montagne*] Mountain.
vẹ → *eḍ.*
vvaúríhe *v. (in)tr.* [PF *mémoriser*] To remember.
vy'í → *eḍ.*
weḍy'ó → *eḍ.*
y'ír *v. (in)tr.* [PF *ouïr*] To hear, understand, listen.