TIME IS A FLAT CIRCLE

A SPEEDLANG

ReLang 2

MADE FOR RELAYSPER

A Second Attempt at Relaysper by
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A Constructed Language
Made In About 5 Hours

October 9, 2020

DEDICATED TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF RELAYSPER *Type: Artlang*

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Conventions

In this grammar, I will represent orthographic transcriptions of ReLang 2 by using colored text or ⟨bracketed text⟩. /Text inside forward slashes/ represents phonemic transcriptions, and [text inside square brackets] represents phonetic transcriptions.

All transcriptions of ReLang 2 without any enclosing brackets are orthographic transcriptions.

Italics represent translations and emphasis, **boldface** text is used for important terms, and SMALL CAPS are used for morphemic breakdowns in the metalanguage in glosses.

"Stress" or "stressed" most often refers to primary stress, with secondary stress being referred to as such. "Core arguments" and "arguments" refer to the same thing, any noun phrase that is required to complete a predicate. "Oblique(s)" most properly refers to the grammatical relation of oblique, and in most cases can be safely assumed to be a synonym of "adjunct(s)".

Glosses are formatted as such:

(1)   Orthographic Transcription
      (Optional) [Phonetic Transcription]

Word	Breakdown	(Object Language)
CONSTITUENT	BREAKDOWN	(OBJECT LANGUAGE)
morpheme	function	(gloss)

      Translation
      (Optional) LIT."Literal Translation"

Constructions that are in some way incorrect (e.g. incorrect agreement, incorrect casing, etc.) are preceded with an asterisk (*).

(2)   a.   *I saw him*

      b.   **I saw he*

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| Glossing Abbreviations

This is intended as a comprehensive list of all glossing abbreviations used in this grammar.

GLOSS	Definition

0 | Abstract

ReLang 2 is a speedlang made for Relaysper, hosted on the /r/Conlangs Discord server. A lot of the formatting was stolen from Lang14, and the phonology was generated by Gleb. Do not have high expectations of this language, and you will not be let down.

1 | The Torch

bee tukondẽ ndẽsolumũ kaɟooto, u kaɟoo alumũ tukondẽ Keelasuge gucaamũ. ɲãle tamũ u u etamũ. koboŋõnẽ sosoŋõ nãxekesu cusoo ŋgããtomũ. kaɟonẽ Aŋgãce cusoo abomũ fenõõ. bee ndõkiboŋõ ɟekoocokeeŋõ bo ɟabomũ Keelasugeto si, ɟoo gea ɟeooco gucaamũ. kaɟonẽ gela ŋõŋõ mẽlamũ mẽlaaneŋõtosu ŋũẽŋõ eŋgõõ gu. kaɟonẽ fasuŋõ ŋõŋõ abomũ asuŋõgo. ɟonẽ xenẽã xeŋõõɲããdea kaɟonẽ gelaŋõ ŋõŋõ esolamẽlaɲããɲãɲẽ mẽlaaneŋõtosu ŋũẽŋõ eŋgõõ gu.

2 | Phonology

2.1 Phonemic Consonants

There are 17 phonemic consonants in ReLang 2. All symbols in the table are in their standard IPA usage. I am aware that the prenasalised consonants are not written correctly, but for whatever reason I cannot type the small superscript versions.

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal		m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Plosive	Tenuis		t	c	k
	Voiced	b	d	ɟ	g
	Prenasalised		nd		ŋg
Fricative		f	s		x
Approximant			l		

Table 2: Pulmonic Consonants

2.2 Phonemic Vowels

There are 4 phonemic vowel qualities in ReLang 2, and a binary length distinction for all vowels excepting the schwa, giving 7 phonemic vowels.

Vowels	Front	Central	Back
Mid		ə ⟨u⟩	
Open-mid	ɛ ɛː ⟨e ee⟩		ɔ ɔː ⟨o oo⟩
Open		a aː ⟨a aa⟩	

Table 3: Phonemic Vowels

2.3 Allophony

All rules are given here in order of application.

- Back vowels /ɔ ɔː/ persistently become central [ɞ ɞː] before a palatal stop or nasal.
- Vowels /ɛ ɞ a .../ become nasal [ɛ̃ ɞ̃ ã ...] after a nasal or prenasalised stop.

2.4   Syllables

Syllables are CV.

2.5   Diphthongs

There is one phonemic dipthong, /ɛa/. All other sequences of vowels reduce to the first vowel, which is then lengthened.

3 | The Noun

Customarily, I would include a short explanation of nouns here. Due to circumstances, it will be shortened even further. Nouns head NPs. Nouns may be made plural by adding the suffix -ŋõ.

3.1   Case

Nouns take on one of four cases. Nouns functioning as the S of an intransitive verb, the O of a transitive, or either argument of a copular clause take the absolutive case, which is unmarked. The A arguments of transitive verbs take the ergative case. If a noun ends in a long vowel, the ergative case is marked with -nẽ, and the long vowel is shortened. If the noun ends in a short vowel, the ergative case is marked by lengthening the vowel. The oblique case is used for all nouns not used as arguments of a verb. It is marked with -to.

3.1.1   Possession

Nouns may be alienably or inalienably possessed. In ReLang 2 the possessed noun is marked, not the possessor. Inalienably possessed nouns are marked with -ŋgẽẽ when the possessor is animate and -ge when it is not. Alienably possessed nouns are marked with -su.

3.2   Pronouns

For purposes of this torch, pronouns behave as regular nouns.

	1	2	3
S	u	tea	ɟoo
P	xu	dee	kaɟoo

Table 4: Pronouns

4 | Verbs

Verbs head VPs.

4.1   Tense, Aspect, Mood, and Modality

4.1.1   Tense

ReLang 2 has two tenses, a past and a nonpast. The future is not relevant for this torch, but it is expressed through a variety of modal constructions, which will be touched on later. The past tense is the citation form for all verbs, and is considered to be the "default" form of the verb by speakers. The nonpast tense is marked with -ɲãã.

4.1.2   Aspect

There are four aspectual distinctions made. There is a perfective and imperfective, as well as a punctitive and a habitual. The punctitive is used for actions considered to be a single point in time, and the habitual is used for actions that occur repeatedly over some length of time. The perfective is marked with -mũ, the imperfective with -dea, the punctitive with -to, and the habitual with -ŋãɲẽ.

4.1.3   Mood and Modality

There are two basic moods in ReLang 2, the realis and the irrealis. All modal constructions are in the irrealis mood. The realis is unmarked, while the irrealis is marked with eso-. The only modal construction relevant to this torch is the prospective, which denotes actions the speaker deems likely to occur. The prospective is marked with -la-, placed between the irrealis marker and the verb.

5 | Assorted Small Sections

5.1 Copular Constructions

ReLang 2 has one copula, gucaa. If both the copular subject and the copular complement are NPs, then they are both placed in the absolutive case. If the copular complement is not an NP, the copular subject is placed in the ergative case.

5.2 Adjectives

Adjectives agree in number with the nouns they modify. Nouns may be converted to adjectives with the prefix ɟe-.

5.3 Numbers

ReLang 2 has a base eight counting system. Numbers are used as though they are adjectives, unless the noun they quantify can be inferred from context, in which case the noun is omitted and the number heads the NP. Numbers are not marked for plurality as other adjectives are. The numbers from one to eight are:
1. oo
2. bo
3. saa
4. ŋõɟa
5. cenũ
6. eeku
7. loote
8. eŋgõõ

5.4 Adpositions

All adpositions in this torch are postpositions. si is "at" and gu is "with".

5.5   Valency Changing Operations

ReLang 2 exhibits two main valency changing operations. The antipassive is applied to transitive verbs and promotes an argument in A function to S function, while the argument in O function is moved out of the core and becomes an oblique and may be omitted entirely. The antipassive is marked with ndẽso-. The causative is applied to intransitive verbs and promotes an argument in S function to O function, while the causer is added to the core in A function. The causative is marked with xi-.

5.6   Negation

Clauses may be negated by placing gulo immediately after the verb of the clause. Individual phrases in clauses may be negated by cliticizing =go to the head of the phrase to be negated.

5.7   Idiomatic Constructions

There is one idiomatic construction used in the torch with a meaning that is not easily derived from the constituent parts. , literally *it follows the path*, means "thus" or "because of this".

6 | Word Order

Sentences are generally SOV. Oblique arguments follow the verb. Adjectives follow the nouns they modify.

7 | Appendix A: Dictionary

a

abo v tr. *to carry, to be burdened with*
Aŋgãce proper n. *A given name, pronounced [aŋgãcɛ]*
alu v tr. *to recieve*
asu n. *a friend*

b

bee part. *when*

c

cusoo adj. *good, beautiful, artistic*

d

nd

ndõkibo n. *a group, especially of humans*

e

eta v itr. *to listen*

f

fasu n. *entertainment, merriment, enjoyment*
fenõõ n. *a period of 24 hours*

ɟ

ɟabo v itr. *to assemble, to come together, to form a whole*

g

gea n. *a place, a location*
gela n. *a type of alcoholic drink*

ŋg

ŋgãão v tr. *to place value in, to trust, to hold in high regard*

k

Keelasuge proper n. *a given name, pronounced [kɛ:lasəgɛ]*
kibo n. *a man, a human*
koocokee n. *a soldier*
koocoke n. *a entertainer, a minstrel, a bard*

l

lu v tr. *to give*

m

mẽla v tr. *to buy*
mẽlaane n. *a coin, something with value*

n

nãxeke n. *a book, a message, a dictionary, a letter*

ŋ

ŋõ adj. *much*
ŋũẽ n. or adj. *silver*

ɲ

ɲãle n. *a deity, a god*

o

ooco n. *a fight, a battle, an argument*

s

soso adj. *wise, intelligent, respected*

t

ta v itr. *to speak*
tukondẽ n. *name*

u

u part. *and (CONJ)*

x

xeŋõõ v tr. *to follow*
xenẽã n. *a path, a track*