

Relaysper Torch Branch δ+ 1: West Dirlandic

Torch Text

Ńukoti käy mpitämäne hence Kelegöykešä.

Ńukoti käy Kelegöykešä.

Misi nihende xolndëtoosa ñëza Ńekäšä sušandëkakzë šazaneljä xytewiizentä?

Misi šälpe-entä wäljänä kilpi?

Misi šeke tende šälvene-enše sušand šazaneljä xuutneljänsä mböövä Tekäšä?

Siirte-eše fizää Kelegöykešä.

Šeke űkilvetävä Tekäšä.

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Lexicon

Below is the documentation of West Dirlandic necessary to fully deconstruct the torch handed to you. Pay special attention to the phonology section, particularly the lexical consonant gradations and syntactic consonant mutations. West Dirlandic uses a shallow orthography closely tied to phonemic production of words (disregarding allophonic length), and so understanding of these aspects of the phonology is needed to accurately parse the torch.

Grammar

West Dirlandic grammar is heavily affected by consonant gradation. While detailed later, it should be stated this causes final consonants of word-ending suffixes to disappear, only appearing as consonant mutations when applicable or attaching to the start of affected vowel-initial words.

Nouns

West Dirlandic is a nominative-accusative aligned language, thus the subject of an intransitive verb and the agent of a transitive verb is nominative, with the patient of a transitive verb marked for accusative.

Cases

Cases are marked on nouns through detached suffixes which may or may not show up as initial consonant mutations where indicated. Adjectives also show agreement with their related nouns,

sharing the same cases. The torch uses seven cases out of eight, so the following will exclude descriptions of the abessive case.

NOM - nominative case; unmarked nouns are the subject of intransitive nouns and the agent of transitive verbs; equative copula uses nominative for both arguments.

ACC -*m* accusative case; used to mark direct objects of verbs. Induces nasalisation mutation on related adjectives and verbs they are an argument of.

GEN -*n* genitive case; used on inalienably possessed objects or indirect objects; also used for nouns performing adjectival or adverbial functions. Induces nasalisation mutation on related adjectives and direct objects.

LOC -*nA* locative case; used to show position at or around the marked object; also used for the possessor of objects when used in conjunction with the zero copula.

LAT -*s/* lative case; used to show direction towards the marked object.

SEP -*tA* separative case; used for movement away from the marked object.

COM -*nE*- Comitative case; used for accompaniment with or the use of the marked object. Induces fortition mutation on related adjectives.

Number

Nouns, verbs and adjectives are declined for singular, plural, and for nouns and adjectives, collective number.

PL plural; used for multiple singulative objects. -*t* for **NOM** and **ACC**; induces fortition on related adjectives, also on the direct object for **NOM** and the verb for **ACC**. -*z*- **GEN**, -*/*- for other cases.

COL collective; used for a collective of a kind of object; able to be quantified with numerals to signify separate groups. --- for all cases – word-final -- for **NOM** and **ACC**.

Possession

West Dirlandic marks alienable possession through possessive suffixes marked for person and number, which follow case suffixes. They are used on the objects possessed. Plural possessive suffixes induce fortition mutation on the noun they are suffixed to. This may be a remnant of possessive prefixing on the noun, or historical positioning as nominative pronouns preceding nouns. Plural number for the possessed objects is also indicated via an infix -*n*-.

Possessor	Singular	Plural
First	- <i>m/</i>	- <i>mE</i> -
Second	- <i>t/</i>	- <i>tE</i> -
Third	- <i>śA</i>	- <i>śE</i> -
Impersonal	- <i>tA</i>	

Numerals

Numerals are treated as adjectives, thus agree with case and number, and experience mutation from their related nouns. West Dirlandic uses a decimal system, with larger magnitudes of numbers preceding lower magnitudes. Within each magnitude, the multiple of the base magnitude is treated as an adjective. This differs with numbers higher than ten and less than 100 that are not multiples of ten; the number instead states the unit digit first, followed by the ordinal (derived with suffix -*nt*) of the tens digit following, suffixed with the separative; e.g. 74 is *neljäkuuzënta* instead of *tiitytsautneljä*.

Verbs

West Dirlandic marks verbs for five moods, two grammatical aspects, negation, and three persons and two numbers along with impersonal. Only the subject is marked on verbs in West Dirlandic. Infinitives are also marked, but this is unnecessary for the torch. The only mood used in this torch is the unmarked indicative mood, and only third person verbs are used. The imperfective aspect is unmarked. Verbs marked for plural induce fortition mutation on subject nouns.

Person	Singular	Plural
First	<i>-m</i>	<i>-mE-</i>
Second	<i>-t</i>	<i>-tE-</i>
Third	<i>-</i>	<i>-vAt</i>
Impersonal	<i>-tA</i>	

Misc.

NEG --- negator; negates the verb. follows other verb suffixes, precede person suffixes.

NMZ *-mA* nominaliser; turns a verb into a noun, generally the action of the verb.

VBZ *-sA* verbaliser; turns a noun into a verb related to the uses of the noun.

Phonology

West Dirlandic phonology has vowel harmony, lexical consonant gradation and syntactic consonant mutation. Stress is trochaic, with primary stress falling on the first syllable and secondary stress falling on every odd syllable in a word after.

Consonants

Below is the phoneme inventory for consonants. IPA is provided above and romanisation, when differs, is below.

Consonants		Bilabial	Alveolar	Dorsal
Plosive	Plain	p	t	k
	Fortified	ϕ <i>f</i>	θ <i>s</i>	x
	Gradated	β <i>v</i>	ð <i>z</i>	ɣ <i>g</i>
	Nasalised	ɱ: <i>mp</i>	ɳ: <i>nt</i>	ŋ: <i>ñk</i>
	Plain	m	n	ŋ <i>ñ</i>

Nasal	Gradated	m ^b : <i>mb</i>	n ^d : <i>nd</i>	ŋ ^g : <i>ñc</i>
	Nasalised			
Approximant		β <i>w</i>	l	ɥ <i>j</i>
Rhotic			r	
Fricative			s <i>ś</i>	ʃ <i>h</i>

Consonant Gradation

Plosives undergo gradation to voiced fricatives in the following situations:

- As the onset of stressed syllables (every odd syllable)
- As the onset of closed syllables (syllables with code)

This also applies to voiceless fricatives word-medially, which grade into plosives.

If a consonant has already undergone gradation due to stress, it will not grade again due to being part of a closed syllable. Gradation is a synchronic process.

Consonant Mutation

Dirlandic consonant mutation is observed via alteration of initial plosives and nasals and can be determined by the above table. Mutation also affects vowel-initial words, detailed in Vowels; Phonotactics.

- Fortition mutation originates from suffixes that ended in plosives, turning affected plosives into voiceless fricatives.
- Nasalisation mutation originates from suffixes that ended in nasals, turning affected plosives into voiceless nasals, and affected nasals into voiced post-stopped nasals.

Vowels

Below is the phoneme inventory for vowels in West Dirlandic. Where romanisation differs from IPA, it is provided below the IPA transcription. Each vowel can appear long, which are simply written doubled.

Vowels	Front		Back	
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
High	i	y	ɯ <i>ĩ</i>	u
Mid	e	ø <i>ö</i>	ɤ <i>ě</i>	o
Low	æ <i>ä</i>		ɑ <i>a</i>	

West Dirlandic has limited front-back vowel harmony; it is fully productive in initial syllables, neutral to central vowels in unstressed open syllables, and broken in closed syllables and secondarily stressed syllables, merging back unrounded vowels /ʊ/, /ɤ/ and low front vowel /æ/ to their respective front unrounded vowels and back low vowel.

Archiphonemes

Affixes match the harmony of the root word; thus vowels in morphemes are often transcribed with capital letters in glossing contexts. The following lists the archiphonemes, followed by the vowel pairs.

- //I// - /i/, /ɯ/
- //U// - /u/, /y/
- //E// - /e/, /ɤ/
- //O// - /o/, /ø/
- //A// - /a/, /æ/

Phonotactics

West Dirlandic is generally a CV(G)(C) language; vowel-initial words have an epenthetic velar nasal [ŋ] inserted into onset position if not mutated. If mutated, appropriate suffixes will show up in the onset unchanged.

All consonants may appear in word-medial onsets. All consonants except voiced fricatives may appear in word-initial onsets. Only nasals and alveolar consonants may appear in coda, with rare exceptions. Coda alveolars can only cluster with onset plosives, voiced fricatives, and plain nasals. In the event of a coda nasal and onset plosive clustering, they assimilate into voiceless nasals; similarly, with a coda nasal and onset voiced fricative, assimilation into post-stopped nasals occurs. Word final - may have originally been *k, which only shows up as fortition mutation when applicable; - is silent otherwise. Two plosives will assimilate into fortified fricatives in the place of articulation of the second plosive, which is then subject to gradation as normal.

Vowels may be long or short. G represents diphthongs ending in high vowels //I//, //U//, conforming to vowel harmony at all times.

One occurrence to note is that when a word ending in -nEn takes suffixes, -nEn changes to -tE- before following other gradation, epenthesis and syncope rules.

Epenthesis and Syncope

If affixes are applied where phonotactics may be broken, an epenthetic //E// may be inserted in between. //E// is syncopated following coda alveolars and onset plosives, voiced fricatives or plain nasals.

//I// lowers to //E// in non-initial syllables, length notwithstanding; word-final //E// raises to //I//. Word-final //I// is then deleted if it was in a syllable after the second. This deletion is reflected in orthography and romanisation.

Lexicon

The words are sorted in Dirlandic alphabetical order; terms are listed by their lemmas, word class, then meaning. Numerals are separated after the list.

INT Interrogative; used at the start of a sentence for open-ended questions; else cliticised to the word in question for polar questions.

kilpi *n.* shell; shelter; protection

Kelegöykešä *n.* given name | [ˈkɛ:lə,ɣø:ɣkə,sɑ:]

käy *v.* goes

tiirze- *n.* argument; hostile fire; silence

pitä *v.* holds; cares for; loves
nihemnen *n.* human
misi *int.* why; to what end
möö *v.* buys; trades
wäljä *n.* gap; -nä adp. between
henki *n.* spirit; deity
śexi *n.* sack; carp-sized bag; pouch
śälpi *n.* treasure; ripe fruit; shimmering fish; trading currency
-uxo *n.* old man; respected stranger; hero
-ëza *conj.* or
-ekäśä *n.* given name | ['(ŋ)e:kä,sa:]

Numerals

The ordinal numerals for 1st and 2nd have different roots from the respective cardinal numerals, listed last.

1 kyti
2 kakti
3 kolmēt
4 neljä
5 wiiti
6 kuuti
7 śau
8 asa
9 niiy
10 tiiy
100 śata
1 000 tuśand
1st -enti 1st
2nd toonën