Ceospensuli Grammar

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Introduction

Phonology

Ceospensuli's phonology is modeled after that of Old English.

Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Nasal	m		n			(ŋ)
Stop	p b		t d			k g
Affricate				tʃ dʒ	–>	
Fricative	f (v)	θ (ð)	s (z)	(ʃ ʒ)		x (ɣ)
Approximant		(l̥) l	–>	–>	(j̥) j	(ʍ) w
Trill		(r̥) r	–>	–>		

The fricatives /f/, /θ/, /s/, [ʃ], and /x/ become voiced when in between voiced sounds. Affricate /tʃ/ becomes [dʒ] in the same environment, although /dʒ/ is a phoneme in its own right.

[+fricative] → [+voiced] / [+voiced]_[+voiced]
[+affricate] → [+voiced] / [+voiced]_[+voiced]

[ŋ] is an allophone of /n/ or /m/ before any velar consonant.

[+nasal] → [ŋ] / _[+velar]

[l̥], [j̥], [ʍ], and [r̥] are allophones of their voiced variants following /x/.

[+sonorant] → [-voiced] / /x/_

/s/ and [z] become [ʃ] and [ʒ] before back vowels.

$$\left[\ \text{+sibilant}\ \right] \rightarrow \left[\ \text{+post-alveolar}\ \right] / \_ \left[\begin{array}{c}\text{+vowel}\\ \text{+back}\end{array}\right]$$

Word-final voiced stops become their nasal counterparts. i.e. /b/ becomes [m], /d/ becomes [n], and /g/ becomes [ŋ].

$$\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{+stop}\\ \text{+voiced}\end{array}\right] \rightarrow \left[\ \text{+nasal}\ \right] / \_\#$$

Vowels

	Front	–>	Back	–>
	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded
High	i iː	y yː		u uː
Mid	e eː	(ø øː)		o oː
Low	æ æː		ɑ ɑː	

	Short	Long
High	iu	iːu
Mid	eo	eːo
Low	æɑ	æːɑ

Each vowel and diphthong in *Ceospensuli* comes in a pair distinguished by length.

Phonotactics

All syllables in *Ceospensuli* follow the structure:

(C)(C)V(C)(C)

Initial consonant clusters can be either /st/, or $\left[\ \text{+fricative}\ \right]\left[\ \text{+sonorant}\ \right]$, where /r/ counts as a sonorant.

Final consonant clusters can be either /st/ or /ln/.

Evolution

The list of phonological rules which apply from *Proto-Coastal* to *Ceospensuli* are as follows:

Old Ceospensuli

1. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+inter-dental} \\ \text{+stop} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+fricative}\ ] \ /\ \_$
2. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+fricative} \\ \text{+post-alveolar} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+retroflex}\ ] \ /\ \_$
3. $[\ \text{+stop}\ ] \rightarrow [\ \text{+released}\ ] \ / \begin{bmatrix} \text{+vowel} \\ \text{+long} \end{bmatrix}\_$ (after long vowels emerge)
4. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+palatal} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+velar}\ ] \ /\ \_[\ \text{+back}\ ]$
5. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+palatal} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+velar}\ ] \ /\ \text{V}\_$
6. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+palatal} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+approximant}\ ] \ /\ \#\_\text{V}$
7. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+voiced} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{-voiced}\ ] \ /\ \#\_$
8. /ɤ/ → /u/ / $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+high} \\ \text{+front} \end{bmatrix}\_$
9. /ɤ/ → /ɑ/ / _
10. /e/ → /æ/ / $[\ \text{+velar}\ ]\_$ (make /æ/ not just an allophone of /e/)
11. /œɒ/ → /æɑ/ / _
12. /œ/ → /œ/ / _
13. /ɒ/ → /o/ / _

Ceospensuli

1. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+retroflex} \\ \text{+stop} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+alveolar}\ ] \ /\ \_$
2. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+velar} \\ \text{+stop} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+fricative}\ ] \ /\ \_\begin{bmatrix} \text{+sonorant} \\ \text{-vowel} \end{bmatrix}$
3. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+palatal} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+alveolar}\ ] \ /\ \_$
4. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+retroflex} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow$ /ː/ / V_
5. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+retroflex} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \varnothing \ /\ \_$
6. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+voiced} \\ \text{+fricative} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{-voiced}\ ] \ /\ ([\ \text{-voiced}\ ])\_([\ \text{-voiced}\ ])$
7. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+alveolar} \\ \text{+stop} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+affricate}\ ] \ /\ \_[\ \text{+front}\ ]$ (need a way to sometimes make the front vowels after affricates elide so affricates don't only appear before front vowels. Or produce affricates in other ways as well)
8. $[\ \text{+sonorant}\ ] \rightarrow [\ \text{-voiced}\ ] \ /$ /x/_
9. $[\ \text{+nasal}\ ] \rightarrow$ [ŋ] / _$[\ \text{+velar}\ ]$

10. $\begin{bmatrix} \text{+stop} \\ \text{+voiced} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [\ \text{+nasal}\ ] \ /\ \_\#$
11. [+fricative] → [+voiced] / [+voiced]_[+voiced]
12. [+affricate] → [+voiced] / [+voiced]_[+voiced]
13. [+sibilant] → [+post-alveolar] / _[+back]
14. /œ/ → /eo/ / _
15. /i/ → /y/ / [+labial]_ (make /y/ not just an allophone of /i/)

Words to keep

- al
- ceos
- eth
- ethal
- ~fist
- ~fistjaefti
- ~flin
- ~jaefti
- kaea
- ken
- fur
- loostiun
- pensul
- pensuli
- ~pofoof
- pomin
- silethal
- sil
- stol

Morphology

Cases

Ceospensuli has a fairly productive case system. The base form of a noun will take suffixes depending on the case. All phonological rules then apply to those suffixes. Special cases of. . . cases. . . will be given in the lexicon.

NOMINATIVE	-tɑn
ACCUSATIVE	-
GENITIVE	-to:l
DATIVE	-to:m
INSTRUMENTAL	-tɑr

LOCATIVE	-til
LATIVE	-tir
ABLATIVE	-tim

Examples

(1) pan no kyy-fan
I.1SG.NOM you.2SG.ACC love-1SG
'I love you'

(2) no pa-kyy
you.2SG.ACC 1SG-love
'I love you'

(3) xiln-tan faes-∅ jhaean-du
dog-NOM cat-ACC see-3SG
'The dog sees the cat'

(4) fapen-tan fruutasi-∅ sapen-toom maal-du
man-NOM book-ACC woman-DAT give-3SG
'The man gives the book to the woman'

(5) pen-tan on feor-til
person-NOM he.NOM house-LOC
'The person is in the house'

(6) pen-tan feor-til cin-du
person-NOM house-LOC sleep-3SG
'The person sleeps in the house'

(7) pan metel-tar kam-tim folaanten-tir sriin-fan
I.1SG.NOM horse-INSTR city-ABL sea-LAT ride-1SG
'I ride from the city to the sea on a horse'

(8) xwaef-tool xwaefxwaeaef-tan cin-du
cow-GEN calf-NOM sleep-3SG
'The cow's calf is sleeping'

Gender

Rather than the gender system of *Ceospensuli* being divided into male and female (and neuter), gender is instead divided into person, prey, predators, and

inanimate. The person category contains all intelligent beings who may be organized with or interacted with in a social manner. The prey category contains all non-intelligent animals which the speakers hunt for food. The predator category contains all non-intelligent (or thought to be non-intelligent) animals which the speakers are hunted by. The inanimate category contains effectively everything else.

It's natural to assume that these grammatical categories are unstable, due to the fact that animal relationships to speakers may change over time. However, they are actually quite stable within a single region and generation. Most categories remain unchanged while animal relationships change. Some animals which may once have been predators are now prey, but they retain the predator category. Variation mainly manifests itself regionally (due to the fact that some regions have different traditional predator-prey relationships than other regions) and inter-generationally (due to natural linguistic innovation).

Sometimes categories can be bent for rhetorical reasons. For example, a brave adventurer may refer to a dragon using the prey category rather than the predator category to show how little they think of the threat.

The nouns themselves do not show any morphological sign of the category they belong to. However, adjectives do. Category is marked with a vowel change in the final syllable. No change occurs to the base form for the person category. For the prey category, the base form's final vowel is raised (Open to Mid, and Mid to Close). For the predator category, the base form's final vowel is lengthened. And for the inanimate category, the base form's final vowel is shortened.

Given names tend to not use the prey gender.

Entries in the lexicon will be marked with (c1) for person, (c2) for prey, (c3) for predator, and (c4) for inanimate.

Verb Conjugation

Verbs in *Ceospensuli* are conjugated by the person and number of their subject. Irregular forms will be listed specially in the lexicon. The regular forms can either take suffix forms along with the subject pronouns, or prefix forms without the subject pronouns.

Suffix

	Singular	Plural
1st	-fɑn	-feo
2nd	-θy	-θæɑ
3rd	-du	-diu

Prefix

	Singular	Plural
1st	pɑ-	stepɑ-
2nd	no-	steno-
3rd	o-	steɣo-

Augmentative

Nouns can be augmented by appending the suffix /-ten/.

Diminutives

Nouns can be diminuated by reduplicating their final syllable, with the second vowel lengthened.

Material Adjectives

Material nouns such as *gold* (/pirin/ *pirin*) take the suffix /ur/ to become adjectives.

Verbs to Nouns

Verbs can be turned into nouns by adding the suffix *i* (e.g. *pensul* "communicate" –> *pensuli* "language").

Syntax

Pronouns

Pronouns in *Ceospensuli* are organized by person and number. They also mirror the case system of nouns. The following table describes them:

		Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative	Ablative
Singular	1st	pɑn	pɑ	pɑːl	pɑːm	pɑr
	2nd	non	no	noːl	noːm	nor
	3rd	on	o	oːl	oːm	or
Plural	1st	stepɑn	stepɑ	stepɑːl	stepɑːm	stepɑr
	2nd	stenon	steno	stenoːl	stenoːm	stenor

		Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative	Ablative
	3rd	steɣon	steɣo	steɣoːl	steɣoːm	steɣor

Possessive Pronouns

		Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative	Ablative
Singular	1st	pɑm	pɑt	pɑːln	pɑːrm	pɑl
	2nd	nom	not	noːln	noːrm	nol
	3rd	om	ot	oːln	oːrm	ol
Plural	1st	stepɑm	stepɑt	stepɑːln	stepɑːrm	stepɑl
	2nd	stenom	stenot	stenoːln	stenoːrm	stenol
	3rd	steɣom	steɣot	steɣoːln	steɣoːrm	steɣol

Plurals

There is no morphological plural in *Ceospensuli*. Instead, each noun can be preceded by a quantifier. These quantifiers can be words like *many* or *all*, or numbers like *one*, *three*, etc. When no quantifier is given, the noun's number is ambiguous, or can be determined from context. If it is desired to mark a noun as plural without providing a specific number, the quantifier /sten/ (*sten*) (literally meaning *number*) is used.

Sentence Order

Ceospensuli uses SOV sentence order, although this can be modified (to an extent) for the purpose of poetry or rhetoric due to the case system.

"There is"

The equivalent of the English "there is", used to indicate something is present or exists, is /sil/ (*sil*).

Semantics

Pragmatics

Transliteration

The transliterated sounds which do not match their IPA forms are listed below. Non-phonemic sounds do not have transliterated forms.

tʃ c
dʒ jh
θ th
æ ae
ɑ a

Long vowels are represented by a doubling of the vowel.

Examples

Lexicon

- *al* (c4) - sky
- *ceos* (c4) - east
- *cin* (v) - sleep
- *edu* (c4) - beginning; comes from eth --> ethdu --> edu
- *eth* (c4) - red
- *ethal* (c4) - sunrise
- *faes* (c3) - cat
- *fapen* (c1) - man
- *feor* (c4) - house
- *fist* (v) - trade
- *fistjaefti* (c4) - cart; lit "trade cart"
- *flin* (v) - bloom
- *folaan* (c4) - water
- *folaanten* (c4) - sea; ocean
- *fruu* (v) - write
- *fruuta* (v) - print; write in a manuscript
- *fruutasi* (c4) - book
- *fur* (c4) - wood (as in the material, not as in forest)
- *furpiung* (c4) - bow
- *jaefti* (c4) - wagon
- *jhaean* (v) - see
- *kam* (c4) - city

- *kax* (c4) - settlement; small village; more common in rural dialects
- *kaea* (adj) - great; august; mighty
- *ken* (c4) - stone
- *kyy* (v) - love
- *loostiun* (v) - rest; more like "repose", "relax", leisurely
- *maal* (v) - give
- *metel* (c2) - horse
- *ner* (c3) - wolf
- *pen* (c1) - person; human
- *pensul* (v) - communicate
- *pensuli* (c4) - language
- *piung* (c4) - spring (as in something which is springy)
- *pirin* (c4) - gold
- *pofoof* (c4) - flower
- *pomin* (c4) - ball; bubble
- *sapen* (c1) - woman
- *silethal* (c4) - name of a continent
- *sis* (c2) - bird
- *sissoo* (c4) - arrow
- *soo* (c4) - sword; weapon
- *sriin* (v) - ride
- *sten* (c4) - number
- *stol* (c1) - friend
- *tefol* (c3) - bear
- *then* (v) - guard
- *thlodu* (c4) - end; comes from thlos --> thlosdu --> thlodu
- *thlos* (c4) - purple
- *thlosal* (c4) - sunset
- *thluun* (c4) - sword
- *wael* (c4) - jewel
- *xaefer* (c4) - forest
- *xiln* (c3) - dog
- *xros* (c1) - orc
- *xrosi* (c4) - orcish
- *xwaef* (c2) - cow
- *xwaefxwaeaef* (c2) - calf