0.0 Contents

Dazhazhir- The Language Source

English

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Tools used: Written in Google Docs; Grammarly used for grammar and spelling.

1.0 Intro to Dazhazhir

Dazhazhir (/dä.ʃä.ˈʃir/) is a constructed language (conlang) by Nua Vontin created for private communication among friends and community building. The name means "Language Source" or "Source of Speech," derived from dazha (language/speech) + zhir (source).

2.0 Phonology and Orthography

2.1 Vowels

Vowel inventory (5 vowels)

IPA	Orthography	Description	English Approximation
/ä/	A	Open central unrounded vowel	f**a**ther
/ɛ/	E	Open-mid front unrounded vowel	b**e**d
/i:/	I	Close front unrounded vowel (long)	mach**i**ne
/ʊ/	U	Near-close near-back rounded vowel	f**oo**t
/u/	O	Close back-rounded vowel	b**oo**t

Notes:

1. Only /i:/ is phonemically long. Other vowels are short.

2. All vowels are monophthongs (single, pure vowel sounds).

3. No diphthongs in the core inventory.

2.2 Consonants

Consonant inventory chart (15 consonants) + digraph

IPA	Orthography	Description	English Approximation
/p/	P	Voiceless bilabial plosive	**p**en
/b/	B	Voiced bilabial plosive	**b**ed
/t/	T	Voiceless alveolar plosive	**t**op
/d/	D	Voiced alveolar plosive	**d**og
/k/	K	Voiceless velar plosive	**K**ite
/dʒ/	G	Voiced postalveolar affricate	**J**ump, **g**em
/f/	V	Voiceless labiodental fricative	**f**un
/s/	Z	Voiceless alveolar fricative	**s**un
/ʃ/	ZH	Voiceless postalveolar fricative	**Sh**oe
/h/	H	Voiceless glottal fricative	**h**at
/m/	M	Bilabial nasal	**m**onster
/n/	N	Alveolar nasal	**n**o
/l/	L	Alveolar lateral approximant	**l**ight
/r/	R	Alveolar consonant (see 2.3 Allophony)	**See 2.3 Allophony**
/j/	J	Palatal approximant	**y**es
/w/	W	Labiovelar approximant	**w**ater

2.3 Allophony

The letter R represents the phoneme /r/, which has two allophones:
• [ɾ] (alveolar tap): Used BEFORE a vowel (like Japanese 'r')
  Examples: kutera
• [ɹ] (alveolar approximant): Used in ALL OTHER positions (like English 'r')
  Examples: vir, kuter

Simple rule: R = tapped sound before vowels, English R elsewhere.

3.0 Nouns and Pronouns

3.1 Gender

Dazhazhir uses a three-gender pronoun system.

Prefix/adjective	Meaning	Example
Vi- */fi:/*	Masculine	Viben */fi:.bɛn/*
Zhu- */ʃʊ/*	Feminine	Zhuben */ʃʊ.bɛn/*
Zi */si:/*	Non-binary	Ziben */si:.bɛn/*

Note: The "Zi-" prefix/adjective can be used for other non-conforming gender roles.

3.2 Pronouns

Personal pronouns:

	Singular	Plural	Masc.	Fem.
First Person	Bona	Bonazh	-	-
Second Person	Dona	Donazh	-	-
Third Person	Kona	Konazh	Vikona	Shukona

Features:
Plural formed with *-zh* suffix

Gender-specific 3rd person pronouns are optional
Default Kona used for gender-unknown/irrelevant/non-binary referents

3.3 Demonstratives

Ja */jä/-* (adj.) This, that, the; modified through context.
Example: "Ben ja" = "this/that/the person"

4.0 Verbs

4.1 The copula: vir

Vir serves as the copula meaning "to be" in all tenses.
Tense Modification with Prepositions:
- Present: vir (is/am/are)
- Past: vir de (was/were) - literally "be from/before."
- Future: vir apa (will be) - literally "be after."

4.2 Verb valency and transitivity

4.2.1 Uta as an object marker

The word 'Uta' can be used after a verb and before a direct object, like so: 'Bona ja vir de dazh uta kona' ('The person spoke to them')
Uta may also serve other grammatical purposes.

4.2.2 Verb types

Intransitive:
'Bona ken' = 'I walk'
'Kona dazh' = 'they speak'
'Dona kuli' = 'you swim'

4.2.3 Distinguishing object and direction

Direct object:
No 'e' particle. 'Bona dazh uta kona' = 'I speak to you'
Direct object:
Add 'e' particle before 'uta'. 'Bona ken e uta kula'

4.2.4 Information flow

Information with prepositional phrases and transitive verbs typically follows this structure:
Subject —> verb —->content/description—>direct object
Example: 'Bona dazh e ijo kula uta kona' = 'I talk about water to you'
However, based on the relevance and importance of the information, a speaker may adjust the order to switch the direct object and content. If it is more important that you speak **to a friend** than what you speak about, you may switch them around.
When multiple post-verbal elements occur, uta marks the beginning of the recipient or endpoint argument, ending any preceding content phrase.

4.3 Negation

Negation particle: Ni (not)
Placement: After the verb phrase
- Bona vir ken ni = "I am not walking."
- Bona vir de ken ni = "I was not walking."
- Bona vir apa ken ni = "I will not be walking."

5.0 prepositions and syntax

5.1 Preposition system

The particle e introduces prepositional phrases. When uta appears without e, it functions as a grammatical object marker, not a preposition.
Core Prepositions:
- De = from, before
- Tu = there, at (location)
- Uta = to, toward (direction)
- Uta = goes between the preposition and the prepositional object to mark the object.
- O = of (possession)
- Nek = in, inside, among, between, through; during, while
- Uba = temporal relationship
- Apa = beyond, after
- Ijo = about, concerning

5.2 Basic word order

Core Syntax: Subject-Verb-Object (SVO)
- Ben ken = "Person walks"
With modifiers: Modifiers follow what they modify
- Zhir kula = "water source" (not "source water")

5.3 prepositional phrase structure

Pattern: Verb + e + Preposition + Object
Examples:
- Bona dazh e ijo kula = "I speak about water."
- Ben e uta kula = "Person is touching water."
- Bona ken e utu kula = "I walk to water."
Importance-Based Ordering: Prepositional phrases are ordered by importance/relevance, not fixed grammatical order.
Example with different emphasis:
- Destination emphasized: Bona ken e uta kula e [with] ben = "I walk to water with a friend."
- Companion emphasized: Bona ken e [with] ben e uta kula = "I walk with a friend to water."
Only adjuncts and descriptive phrases may be reordered for emphasis; the verb and its core arguments remain fixed

5.4 Complex sentence structure

Full Pattern: Subject + (Vir+Tense) + Verb + (DirectObject) + (PrepPhrase1) + (PrepPhrase2) + ... + (ni)
Example: Bona vir de dazh e ijo kula uta dona ni = "I was not speaking about water to you"

6.0 Word formation and vocabulary

6.1 Compounding

Words may be formed through compounding when an adjective and a noun are used together very frequently to create a new word.
Example: Zhir (source) and kula (water) are combined to form a meaning of a water fountain, headwater, or taps; therefore, they have been compounded into Zhirkula to directly mean these.
(C)V(C) word structure may be violated to create compounds [see 6.3 Word Structure]

6.2 Derivation

Noun → verb
Kula (water, noun) → Kuli (to swim, verb)
Verb → noun
Kuter (to cut, verb) → Kutera (a cut, noun)

6.3 Word structure

Root words use **(c)v(c)** word formation.

7.0 Capitalization

7.1 Nouns and pronouns

Proper nouns, like names, specific places, etc., are all capitalized. Pronouns and improper nouns, like unspecific objects or concepts, are not capitalized.
Example: "Nua Vontin" (capitalized for proper name) "kula" (not capitalized)

7.2 Sentence starts

Sentences begin with capitalization of the first letter.

8.0 Numbers and Math

8.1 Multi-digit numbers

To make numbers into tens forms, add the prefix "la" */lä/* to the single-digit number for every place it moves.
Example
Podi = two
Lapodi = 20
Lalapodi = 200
Lalalapodi = 2000
…

8.2 Syntax

8.2.1 Multi-part number separations

Use 'ri' to separate places in a number.
Example: Lalapodi ri Latodi ri podi = 252

8.2.2 Operations

Use operator words like Gulo in between the numbers they are using for the equation, with Tola before the result
Example: Podi gulo podi tulo lazodi = "5 + 5 = 10"

8.2.3 Grouping

Using the particle 'er' creates an equation grouping within an equation by going on going on both sides of the equation, essentially functioning as parentheses.
Example: Zodi gulo er podi gulo podi er = "1 + (5 + 5)"

9.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Quick Reference Grammar

Sentence Formula:

Subject + (Vir+tense) + Verb + (uta+object) + (e+preposition+object) + ni

Key Particles:
- E = starts prepositional phrases
- Uta = marks objects/direction/causative
- Ni = negation (after verb)

Tense Markers on Vir:
- Present: vir
- Past: vir de
- Future: vir apa

Appendix B: Pronunciation guide

Vowels (5):
A /ä/   - father
E /ɛ/   - bed
I /iː/ - machine (long)
U /ʊ/   - foot
O /u/   - boot
Consonants (15):
B /b/   - bed
D /d/   - dog
G /dʒ/ - jump, gem
H /h/   - hat
J /j/   - yes
K /k/   - kite
L /l/   - light
M /m/   - man
N /n/   - no
P /p/   - pen
R /r/   - **see note below** (ɾ/ɹ allophones)
T /t/   - top
V /f/   - fun

W /w/   - water
Z /s/   - sun
Digraph(1):
ZH /ʃ/   - shoe

Note on R pronunciation:
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Appendix C: Learning resources

Start with: Pronouns and basic verbs
Practice: SVO sentence structure
Master: The *e* + preposition system
Learn: The three functions of uta
Build: Vocabulary

Appendix D: Tables

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From 3.1 Gender

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From 3.2 Pronouns

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From Appendix A: Quick Reference Grammar