

Started digging around for my old elvish language stuff yesterday on a whim. I never really formalized most of the rules for translating and combining words, it's all just sorta been in my head and the stories but I've had a couple of rules written down that I used over the years to make new words when needed.

``` Combining words

When words are both longer than four letters.

1. Begin with first two letters of word one, which will become beginning letters of new word.

Delal Rupal (Water Life)

De

2. Drop first two letters of second word. Add third and fourth letters to new word.

Dela Rupal

De+pa (Magic)

3. Alternate between words using one or two letters at a time until there are no letters, or the new word has reached desired length.

When one or more words are less than 4 letters.

1. Small word is reversed. If combining two small words, both words are reversed.

Mar In (not from)

Ram Ni

2. Use first two letters to begin new word. Use first letter of second word to continue new word.

Ram Ni

Ra+n= Ran (to)

``` . Yesterday I was like, "what is the purpose of inverting the short words aside from needing to inject variation to keep things from getting repetitive. So this means if a short word is on its own, it's normal, but when you combine short words with other words, to condense phrases to single words, the short words get reversed. ... and I can't for the life of me recall a reason for this, I just made up the rule and have used it over the years, and now, trying to figure out how I got the dictionary of words I have is like a whole complex process lol. Still not sure why, linguistically or philosophically that rule exists for a race of immortal magic elves aside from "they're probably alot smarter than me" lol.

The alternating steps for combining words is like braiding them together, which is consistent with the tree root foundation, the words sort of braid or merge in consistent pattern over time, and that adds variation and helps preserve meaning over time. But the reversal thing doesn't quite make sense to me anymore, but I can't really get rid of it because the base layer of the language is pretty much built on it

Then again, most languages have weird and borderline dumb rules the more you study them, so, maybe I was trying to emulate that back in the day and thought it was funny because it would be a nightmare for humans to translate but elves would understand it intuitively lol