

Líká Grammar, Lexicon, and Teaching Guide v0.56

Version: 0.56 (Beta, April 21, 2025)

Status: Pre-public, internal reference. Version 1.0 targeted for public release.

Purpose: Definitive grammar, lexicon, and teaching guide for Líká, a constructed auxiliary language with strict SOV order, designed for clarity, expressiveness, and accessibility.

Diacritic-free, with diphthong-based tones and exaggerated tones (/**, ****).

License: CC BY-SA 4.0 by Eitan Rosa.

1. Phonology (Summary)

- **Consonants (15 for roots):** /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/ (**g**), /s/, /ʃ/ (**sh**), /h/, /l/, /r/, /w/, /j/ (**y**). Marker-only: /x/ (**-x**), /f/ (**-f**), /θ/ (**-th**).
- **Vowels (15):** Monophthongs (**a, e, i, o, u**); diphthongs (**ai, ae, ei, ea, ie, ia, oi, oa, ui, ua**).
- **Tones:** Flat (neutral), Rising (3 semitones, e.g., **sie**), Falling (3 semitones, e.g., **sia**). Exaggerated: / (rise, ~7 semitones), **** (dip, ~7 semitones), single markers.
- **Syllables:** 240 (C)V roots (225 CV + 15 V), all defined. Audio for **lei**, **mae**.

2. Lexicon

Complete 240 (C)V roots, 4 topic/focus markers, 3 argument markers. Roots use 15 consonants, avoiding /x/, /f/, /θ/. **ba** (group) removed, redefined as **gu-lo**.

2.1 Roots (240)

Alphabetized, with phoneme, meaning, usage example, and NSM prime status. Examples use SOV with (...) (subject), [...] (direct object), {...} (indirect/oblique).

| Root | Phoneme | Meaning | Usage Example | NSM Prime |
|------|---------|---------|--|-----------|
| a | /a/ | I/me | (...) [to-x] yi = “I thing say” | Yes |
| ae | /ae/ | end | (...) ae\ sie = “Person is deeply ended” | No |
| ai | /ai/ | need | (...) ai/ sie = “Person fervently needs” | No |
| be | /be/ | number | (...) [be-x] da = “Person number knows” | No |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------------|---|-----|
| bei | /beɪ/ | many | (...) [to-x] bei sie = “Person thing many is” | Yes |
| bi | /bi/ | end (aspect) | (...) [to-x] ji-bi = “Person thing ends-moving” | No |
| bia | /bia/ | few | (...) [to-x] bia sie = “Person thing few is” | Yes |
| bo | /bo/ | body | (...) [bo-x] da = “Person body knows” | Yes |
| boi | /boɪ/ | pain | (...) boi\ sie = “Person is deeply pained” | No |
| bu | /bu/ | part | (...) [bu-x] ri = “Person part belongs” | Yes |
| da | /da/ | know | (...) [to-x] da = “Person thing knows” | Yes |
| dae | /dae/ | learn | (...) [to-x] dae = “Person thing learns” | No |
| dai | /daɪ/ | teach | (...) {fi-f} [to-x] dai = “Person to-friend thing teaches” | No |
| de | /de/ | see | (...) [to-x] de = “Person thing sees” | Yes |
| dea | /dea/ | anger | (...) dea\ sie = “Person is deeply angry” | No |
| di | /di/ | hear | (...) [to-x] di = “Person thing hears” | Yes |
| dia | /dia/ | listen | (...) [to-x] dia = “Person thing listens” | No |
| die | /die/ | sound | (...) [die-x] di = “Person sound hears” | No |
| do | /do/ | touch | (...) [to-x] do = “Person thing touches” | Yes |
| dua | /dua/ | push | (...) [to-x] dua = “Person thing pushes” | No |
| e | /e/ | here | (...) {e-th} woi = “Person to-here goes” | No |
| ea | /ea/ | way | (...) [ea-x] da = “Person way knows” | No |
| ei | /eɪ/ | start | (...) ei/ sie = “Person fervently starts” | No |
| fa | /fa/ | fire | (...) [fa-x] de = “Person fire sees” | No |
| fai | /faɪ/ | hope | (...) fai/ sie = “Person fervently hopes” | No |
| fe | /fe/ | fear | (...) fe\ sie = “Person is deeply afraid” | No |
| fea | /fea/ | danger | (...) [fea-x] de = “Person danger sees” | No |
| fi | /fi/ | friend | (...) {fi-f} [to-x] gi = “Person to-friend thing gives” | Yes |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|--------|---|-----|
| fie | /fie/ | ally | (...) { fie-f } shai/ sie = “Person fervently to-ally trusts” | No |
| ga | /ŋa/ | earth | (...) { ga-th } woi = “Person to-earth goes” | No |
| gae | /ŋae/ | ground | (...) [gae-x] do = “Person ground touches” | No |
| gai | /ŋaɪ/ | grow | (...) [to-x] gai = “Person thing grows” | No |
| ge | /ŋe/ | plant | (...) [ge-x] gai = “Person plant grows” | No |
| gea | /ŋea/ | green | (...) [to-x] gea sie = “Person thing green is” | No |
| gi | /ŋi/ | give | (...) { fi-f } [pe-x] gi = “Person to-friend device gives” | Yes |
| gia | /ŋia/ | take | (...) [to-x] gia = “Person thing takes” | No |
| gu | /ŋu/ | group | (...) [gu-x] ri = “Person group belongs” | No |
| gua | /ŋua/ | gather | (...) [to-x] gua = “Person thing gathers” | No |
| ha | /ha/ | air | (...) [ha-x] di = “Person air hears” | No |
| hai | /haɪ/ | fun | (...) hai/ sie = “Person fervently is fun” | No |
| he | /he/ | sky | (...) { he-th } woi = “Person to-sky goes” | No |
| hea | /hea/ | high | (...) [to-x] hea sie = “Person thing high is” | No |
| hi | /hi/ | light | (...) [hi-x] de = “Person light sees” | No |
| hia | /hia/ | shine | (...) [to-x] hia = “Person thing shines” | No |
| ho | /ho/ | water | (...) [ho-x] do = “Person water touches” | No |
| hoa | /hoa/ | flow | (...) [to-x] hoa = “Person thing flows” | No |
| hoi | /hoɪ/ | clean | (...) [to-x] hoi = “Person thing cleans” | No |
| hua | /hua/ | red | (...) [to-x] hua sie = “Person thing red is” | No |
| i | /i/ | now | (...) { i-th } yi = “Person to-now says” | No |
| ia | /ia/ | dark | (...) [ia-x] de = “Person dark sees” | No |
| ie | /ie/ | light | (...) [ie-x] de = “Person light sees” | No |
| ji | /dʒi/ | move | (...) [to-x] ji = “Person thing moves” | Yes |

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|-------------|---|-----|
| jia | /dʒia/ | change | (...) [to-x] jia = “Person thing changes” | No |
| ka | /ka/ | kind | (...) [to-x] ka sie = “Person thing kind is” | Yes |
| kae | /kae/ | same | (...) [to-x] kae sie = “Person thing same is” | Yes |
| kai | /kaɪ/ | different | (...) [to-x] kai sie = “Person thing different is” | Yes |
| ke | /ke/ | place | (...) {ke-th} woi = “Person to-place goes” | Yes |
| kea | /kea/ | near | (...) [to-x] kea sie = “Person thing near is” | Yes |
| ki | /ki/ | if | (...) [to-x] ki sie = “Person thing if is” | Yes |
| kia | /kia/ | because | (...) [to-x] kia sie = “Person thing because is” | Yes |
| ko | /ko/ | time | (...) {ko-th} woi = “Person to-time goes” | Yes |
| koa | /koa/ | long | (...) [to-x] koa sie = “Person thing long is” | Yes |
| koi | /koɪ/ | short | (...) [to-x] koi sie = “Person thing short is” | Yes |
| ku | /ku/ | big | (...) [to-x] ku sie = “Person thing big is” | Yes |
| kua | /kua/ | strong | (...) [to-x] kua sie = “Person thing strong is” | No |
| la | /la/ | life | (...) [la-x] da = “Person life knows” | No |
| lae | /lae/ | live | (...) lae/ sie = “Person fervently lives” | Yes |
| le | /le/ | joy | to le/ sie = “Ecstatically joyful thing is” | No |
| lea | /lea/ | blue | (...) [to-x] lea sie = “Person thing blue is” | No |
| lei | /lei/ | intense joy | to lei/ sie = “Insanely joyful thing is” | No |
| li | /li/ | name | (...) [li-x] da = “Person name knows” | No |
| lia | /lia/ | call | (...) [to-x] lia = “Person thing calls” | No |
| lo | /lo/ | want | (...) [to-x] lo = “Person thing wants” | Yes |
| loa | /loa/ | need | (...) [to-x] loa = “Person thing needs” | No |
| lu | /lu/ | person | (...) [to-x] ji = “Person thing moves” | Yes |
| lua | /lua/ | group | (...) [lua-x] ri = “Person group belongs” | No |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|---------|--|-----|
| ma | /ma/ | mother | (...) {ma-f} [to-x] gi = “Person to-mother thing gives” | Yes |
| mae | /mae/ | sadness | (...) mae\ sie = “Person is deeply sad” | No |
| mai | /mai/ | care | (...) {fi-f} mai/ sie = “Person fervently to-friend cares” | No |
| me | /me/ | mind | (...) [me-x] da = “Person mind knows” | Yes |
| mea | /mea/ | regret | (...) mea\ sie = “Person is deeply regretful” | No |
| mi | /mi/ | this | (...) [mi-x] de = “Person this sees” | Yes |
| mia | /mia/ | near | (...) [to-x] mia sie = “Person thing near is” | Yes |
| mo | /mo/ | more | (...) [to-x] mo sie = “Person thing more is” | Yes |
| moa | /moa/ | much | (...) [to-x] moa sie = “Person thing much is” | Yes |
| na | /na/ | not | (...) [to-x] na sie = “Person thing not is” | Yes |
| nae | /nae/ | stop | (...) [to-x] nae = “Person thing stops” | No |
| nai | /nai/ | avoid | (...) [to-x] nai = “Person thing avoids” | No |
| ne | /ne/ | and | (...) [to-x] ne [pe-x] de = “Person thing and device sees” | Yes |
| ni | /ni/ | you | (...) [to-x] yi = “You thing say” | Yes |
| nia | /nia/ | far | (...) [to-x] nia sie = “Person thing far is” | Yes |
| no | /no/ | no | (...) [to-x] no sie = “Person thing no is” | Yes |
| noa | /noa/ | none | (...) [to-x] noa sie = “Person thing none is” | Yes |
| nu | /nu/ | new | (...) [to-x] nu sie = “Person thing new is” | No |
| nua | /nua/ | fresh | (...) [to-x] nua sie = “Person thing fresh is” | No |
| oa | /oa/ | home | (...) {oa-th} woi = “Person to-home goes” | No |
| oi | /oi/ | call | (...) [to-x] oi = “Person thing calls” | No |
| pa | /pa/ | tool | (...) [pa-x] gi = “Person tool gives” | No |
| pae | /pae/ | work | (...) [to-x] pae = “Person thing works” | No |
| pai | /pai/ | make | (...) [to-x] pai = “Person thing makes” | Yes |

| | | | | |
|------|-------|----------------------|---|-----|
| pe | /pe/ | device | (...) [pe-x] gi = “Person device gives” | No |
| pea | /pea/ | use | (...) [to-x] pea = “Person thing uses” | No |
| pi | /pi/ | habitual (aspect) | (...) [to-x] ji-pi = “Person thing habitually-moves” | No |
| pia | /pia/ | try | (...) [to-x] pia = “Person thing tries” | No |
| po | /po/ | food | (...) [po-x] wai = “Person food eats” | No |
| poa | /poa/ | taste | (...) [to-x] poa = “Person thing tastes” | No |
| pua | /pua/ | calm | (...) pua\ sie = “Person is deeply calm” | No |
| ra | /ra/ | language | (...) [ra-x] yi = “Person language says” | No |
| rae | /rae/ | love | (...) { fi-f } rae/ sie = “Person fervently to-friend loves” | No |
| rai | /rai/ | desire | (...) [to-x] rai/ sie = “Person fervently desires” | No |
| re | /re/ | path | (...) { re-th } woi = “Person to-path goes” | No |
| rea | /rea/ | follow | (...) [to-x] rea = “Person thing follows” | No |
| ri | /ri/ | belong | (...) [to-x] ri = “Person thing belongs” | Yes |
| ria | /ria/ | own | (...) [to-x] ria = “Person thing owns” | No |
| ro | /ro/ | feel | (...) [to-x] ro = “Person thing feels” | Yes |
| roa | /roa/ | sense | (...) [to-x] roa = “Person thing senses” | No |
| sa | /sa/ | can | (...) [to-x] sa sie = “Person thing can is” | Yes |
| sae | /sae/ | able | (...) [to-x] sae sie = “Person thing able is” | No |
| sai | /sai/ | skill | (...) [sai-x] da = “Person skill knows” | No |
| se | /se/ | say | (...) [to-x] se = “Person thing says” | Yes |
| sea | /sea/ | speak | (...) [to-x] sea = “Person thing speaks” | No |
| shai | /jai/ | trust | (...) { fi-f } shai/ sie = “Person fervently to-friend trusts” | No |
| she | /je/ | knowledge | (...) [she-x] da = “Person knowledge knows” | No |

| | | | | |
|------|--------|----------------|--|-----|
| shi | /ʃi/ | truth | (...) [shi-x] da = “Person truth knows” | No |
| shia | /ʃia/ | honest | (...) [to-x] shia sie = “Person thing honest is” | No |
| sho | /ʃo/ | order | (...) [to-x] sho = “Person thing orders” | No |
| shoa | /ʃoa/ | white | (...) [to-x] shoa sie = “Person thing white is” | No |
| si | /si/ | small | (...) [to-x] si sie = “Person thing small is” | Yes |
| sia | /sia/ | little | (...) [to-x] sia sie = “Person thing little is” | Yes |
| sie | /sie/ | slight | (...) [to-x] sie sie = “Person thing slight is” | Yes |
| siu | /siu/ | city | (...) {siu-th} woi = “Person to-city goes” | No |
| siua | /siua/ | home | (...) {siua-th} woi = “Person to-home goes” | No |
| so | /so/ | sun | (...) [so-x] de = “Person sun sees” | No |
| soa | /soa/ | tree | (...) [soa-x] gai = “Person tree grows” | No |
| soi | /soi/ | warm | (...) [to-x] soi sie = “Person thing warm is” | No |
| su | /su/ | star | (...) [su-x] de = “Person star sees” | No |
| sua | /sua/ | bright | (...) [to-x] sua sie = “Person thing bright is” | No |
| ta | /ta/ | one | (...) [to-x] ta sie = “Person thing one is” | Yes |
| tae | /tae/ | two | (...) [to-x] tae sie = “Person thing two is” | Yes |
| tai | /tai/ | three | (...) [to-x] tai sie = “Person thing three is” | No |
| te | /te/ | some | (...) [to-x] te sie = “Person thing some is” | Yes |
| tea | /tea/ | other | (...) [to-x] tea sie = “Person thing other is” | Yes |
| ti | /ti/ | begin (aspect) | (...) [to-x] ji-ti = “Person thing begins-moving” | No |
| tia | /tia/ | first | (...) [to-x] tia sie = “Person thing first is” | No |
| to | /to/ | thing | (...) [to-x] ji = “Person thing moves” | Yes |
| toa | /toa/ | stuff | (...) [toa-x] ji = “Person stuff moves” | No |
| toi | /toi/ | item | (...) [toi-x] gi = “Person item gives” | No |
| tu | /tu/ | all | (...) [to-x] tu sie = “Person thing all is” | Yes |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|----------|---|-----|
| tua | /tua/ | whole | (...) [to-x] tua sie = “Person thing whole is” | No |
| u | /u/ | sound | (...) [u-x] di = “Person sound hears” | No |
| ua | /ua/ | strength | (...) [to-x] ua sie = “Person thing strength is” | No |
| ui | /ui/ | beauty | (...) [to-x] ui sie = “Person thing beauty is” | No |
| wa | /wa/ | animal | (...) [wa-x] de = “Person animal sees” | No |
| wae | /wae/ | bird | (...) [wae-x] de = “Person bird sees” | No |
| wai | /wai/ | eat | (...) [po-x] wai = “Person food eats” | No |
| we | /we/ | world | (...) {we-th} woi = “Person to-world goes” | No |
| wea | /wea/ | far | (...) [to-x] wea sie = “Person thing far is” | Yes |
| wi | /wi/ | wind | (...) [wi-x] di = “Person wind hears” | No |
| wia | /wia/ | blow | (...) [to-x] wia = “Person thing blows” | No |
| wo | /wo/ | walk | (...) {ke-th} wo = “Person to-place walks” | No |
| woi | /woi/ | go | (...) {siu-th} woi = “Person to-city goes” | Yes |
| wu | /wu/ | bird | (...) [wu-x] de = “Person bird sees” | No |
| ya | /ja/ | day | (...) [ya-x] de = “Person day sees” | No |
| yae | /jae/ | night | (...) [yae-x] de = “Person night sees” | No |
| yai | /jai/ | think | (...) [to-x] yai = “Person thing thinks” | Yes |
| ye | /je/ | yes | (...) [to-x] ye sie = “Person thing yes is” | Yes |
| yea | /jea/ | agree | (...) {fi-f} yea = “Person to-friend agrees” | No |
| yi | /ji/ | say | (...) [to-x] yi = “Person thing says” | Yes |
| yia | /jia/ | speak | (...) [to-x] yia = “Person thing speaks” | No |
| yo | /jo/ | good | (...) [to-x] yo sie = “Person thing good is” | Yes |
| yoa | /joa/ | great | (...) [to-x] yoa sie = “Person thing great is” | No |
| yu | /ju/ | game | (...) [yu sie-x] gi = “Person small-game gives” | No |
| yua | /jua/ | yellow | (...) [to-x] yua sie = “Person thing yellow is” | No |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|---|-----|
| ze | /ze/ | exist | (...) [to-x] ze = “Person thing exists” | Yes |
| zea | /zea/ | stay | (...) {ke-th} zea = “Person to-place stays” | No |

2.2 Topic/Focus Markers (4)

| Marker | Phoneme | Meaning | Usage | Notes |
|--------|---------|-----------------|--|--------|
| kan | /kan/ | Topic, context | kan (...) [to-x] ji = “As for person, they thing move” | Flat |
| kain | /kain/ | Topic, question | kain (...) [to-x] ji hoie? = “As for person, they thing move, yes?” | Rising |
| kash | /kaʃ/ | Focus, emphasis | kash (...) [to-x] ji = “It’s person who thing moves” | Flat |
| kaish | /kaɪʃ/ | Focus, question | kaish (...) [to-x] ji hoie? = “Is it person who thing moves?” | Rising |

2.3 Argument Markers (3)

| Marker | Phoneme | Role | Usage | Notes |
|--------|---------|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| -x | /x/ | Direct object | [to-x], (...) [to-x] ji = “Person thing moves” | Like “loch” |
| -f | /f/ | Indirect object | {fi-f}, (...) {fi-f} [to-x] gi = “Person to-friend thing gives” | Like “fish” |
| -th | /θ/ | Oblique (location, instrument) | {siu-th}, (...) {siu-th} woi = “Person to-city goes” | Like “think” |

3. Morphology and Syntax (Summary)

- **Morphology:** Isolating. Argument markers (-x, -f, -th), compounding (gi-lo), reduplication (fi-fi), tones (/**, ****).
- **Syntax:** Strict SOV with (...) (subject), [...] (direct object, -x), {...} (indirect object, -f; oblique, -th), verb at end. E.g., (...) {fi-f} [to-x] gi = “Person to-friend thing gives.” Questions with hoie.

4. Teaching Guide: Part 2 - Conversational Practice (Summary)

- **Templates:** SOV with (...), [...], {...}. E.g., (...) {fi-f} [pe-x] gi (Person to-friend device gives), (...) kan {fi-fi-f} [yu sie-x] gi-lo/ (I to-dear-friend small-game fervently-want-to-give).
- **Bazaar Vignette:** Kael and RX-9 trade: (...) kan [yu sie-x] gi, (...) kan [pe sie-x] gi. to lei/ sie! = “I small-game give, you small-device give. Ecstatically joyful thing is!”

5. Usage Examples

- **Simple:** (...) [to-x] ji = “Person thing moves.”
- **Bazaar:** (...) kan {fi-fi-f} [pe sie-x] gi-lo ne rae-le/ = “I to-friend small-device fervently-want-to-give with joyful love.”
- **State:** (...) {fi-f} shai/ sie = “Person fervently to-friend trusts.”

6. Design Principles

- **Clarity:** SOV with (...), [...], {...}, markers (-x, -f, -th).
- **Expressiveness:** Diphthongs, compounding, reduplication, /, ****.
- **Minimalism:** 240 roots, 4 markers, 3 argument markers.
- **Accessibility:** No diacritics, audio, teachable phonemes.