

Manual for the quetta (ᑭᑭ) module

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version 0.0.1

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1. Introduction

1.1. ‘Quetta’?

‘Quetta’ (ᑭᑭ) means ‘word’ in Quenya [1], one of the fictional languages invented by British writer and philologist J. R. R. Tolkien. It thus seemed fitting for a module aimed at making the process of typing these languages easier.

Words are also, loosely speaking, the base units this module works on, as we shall see in more details below. While its general philosophy is to map each symbol used in Tolkien’s elvish languages to letters from the Latin alphabet, a few word-wise substitution rules were implemented so that, in *most* (but probably not all) cases the correct spelling can be obtained by typing the word phonetically. For the same reason, the mapping generally works on groups of letters when there is no natural one-to-one mapping between individual symbols.

1.2. The Tengwar script

A proper introduction to Tengwar is way beyond the scope of this document. We refer interested readers to Appendix E of Reference [2] and online references such as wikipedia.tolkiengateway.net, omniglot.com, or tecendil.com.

In short, Tengwar (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ in Quenya mode) is one of the scripts invented by Tolkien, primarily consisting of 36 letters (called *tengwar*; singular: *tengwa* (ᑭᑭᑭ)) and diacritics (*tehtar* (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ singular: *tehta* (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ))). There are several ways to relate tengwar to sounds, called *modes*. This module primarily focuses on the Quenya (ᑭᑭᑭ), or ‘classical’, mode, in universe the original way to write tengwar. Support for the other modes described by Tolkien is planned for a future version.

2. How to use

2.1. Design principles

The module provides one main command for each supported mode (in the curr).

Alternative glyphs, when they exist, can be obtained with the symbol £. For instance, typing n produces the tengwa *ṁ* (*numen*) while typing fn produces *ḥ* (*noldo*):

quenia[n] *ṁ* quenia[fn] *ḥ*

quenia[s] *ḡ* quenia[fs] *Ḣ* quenia[ss] *Ḣ* quenia[£ss] *Ḣ*

quenia[sa] *ḡ* quenia[£sa] *ḡ* quenia[ssa] *ḡ* quenia[£ssa] *ḡ*

2.2. Quenya

The implementation of the Quenya mode follows Reference [3].

2.2.1. Basic examples

quenia[aha] *ā*

quenia[namárië] *ṁṁḡí*

2.2.2. N mode

2.2.3. H mode

2.2.4. Y mode

2.2.5. S mode

2.2.6. L mode

2.2.7. Punctuation

End-of-paragraph symbols can be obtained by combining commas and periods:

quenia[.-] *~* quenia[.,] *·* quenia[.] *∴* quenia[,.,] *∴*

Note: Generally, parentheses in Quenya are denoted by the single symbol *⌈*—there is no distinction between opening and closing parentheses. We deviate from this convention by mabbing the symbol ‘(’ to (and ‘)’ to). The proper Tengwar parenthesis is mapped to ‘/’.

The decorations *≈* and *≲* are obtained using the French quotation marks ‘»’ and ‘«’:

quenia[_»quenia«_] *≈*

The symbol ‘.’ is used to prevent glyph combination: quenia[nn n:n] *ṁ ṁ*

2.2.8. Number system

Example: quenia[123] *ṁṁṁ*

2.2.9. Example: Namárië

One of the most famous texts written in Quenya is the poem *Namárië* (ᓃᓄᓇᓇᓇ), originally written in [2]¹ and available for instance in Reference [4]. Below we show the same text without (left) and with (right) the `#show: quenya` command. We use a spacing between line of 0.7em to clearly separate them (some tengwar have a relatively large vertical extension).

Namárië

Ai! laurië lantar lassi súrinen,
yéni únótimë ve rámar aldaron!
Yéni ve lintë yuldar avánier
mi oromardi lisse-miruvóreva
Andúnë pella, Vardo tellumar
nu luini yassen tintilar i eleni
ómáryo airetári-lírinen.

Sí man i yulma nin enquantuva?

An sí Tintallë Varda Oiolossëo
ve fanyar máryat Elentári ortanë,
ar ilyë tier undulávë lumbulë,
ar sindanóriello caita mornië
i falmalinnar imbë met, ar hísie
untúpa Calaciryo míri oialë.
Sí vanwa ná, Rómello vanwa, Valimar!

Namárië! Nai hiruvalyë Valimar.
Nai elyë hiruva. Namárië!

 $\mathfrak{m}_{j^*}^{\bullet}$ [illegible]

2.3. Sindarin—Mode of Gondor

Not yet implemented

2.4. Sindarin—Mode of Beleriand

Not yet implemented

¹Book 2, ch. 8 “Farewell to Lórien”

2.5. Black Speech

Not yet implemented

Although the Black Speech is not implemented yet, the One Ring inscription can be reproduced using the Quenya mode as follows:²



²This is obviously a bit of a hack, meant only to show how the limitations of having only one mode implemented can be circumvented. This example is not supposed to be stable and might render differently in a later version.

3. How to contribute

Any kind of contribution is warmly welcome! Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Bug reports:** Some text rendering incorrectly in Tengwar? Unexpected formatting? Any other issue with the code or documentation? Please report it! This module was only tested on a very small corpus so far, and identifying any corner case where it does not work as intended is very useful!
- **Language help:** My knowledge of Tengwar and the languages invented by J. R. R. Tolkien is quite superficial, and I may well have missed or misunderstood some of the rules for writing in Tengwar. If you spot anything that looks wrong, please let me know!
- **Implementation:** The Typst code is likely not quite as efficient as could be. If you can see better ways to implement something, please feel free to let me know or to submit a pull request with an improved version!
- **Feature requests:** Any feature request is welcome. I can't promise I'll have the time and knowledge to implement everything that would be nice to have; but if you'd like to see something implemented please let me know—or submit a pull request if you've already implemented it!

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Bibliography

- [1] “elfdict.com.” [Online]. Available: <https://www.elfdict.com/>
- [2] J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*.
- [3] “Quenya Tengwar – A mini course by Eruantalincë.” [Online]. Available: <https://www.councilofelron.com/languages/QTL.htm>
- [4] “Namárië.” [Online]. Available: <https://tolkiengateway.net/wiki/Nam%C3%A1ri%C3%AB>