Commentary on Loglan 3

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Stephen Rice's Loglan 3 is the best teaching material we have but it is somewhat out of date and Rice had at least one idea about the interpretation of the language with which I strongly disagree (as does the plain sense of language in Loglan 1) on logical grounds. So I am providing commentary.

1 Introduction

p. 10: The eccentric letters **q,x** are gone. The letter **h** has an alternative pronunciation as the final consonant in Scottish **loch**, which is always used in syllable-final position (which is now possible).

p. 11: The irregular vowel **y** can also be pronounced as the vowel in English *look* or as the Russian vowel bI.

Consonants **m,n,l,r** used vocalically are now always doubled.

p. 12: Glottal stop is now permitted between adjacent vowels forming two syllables (the pronunciation Rice describes is still legal).

When you want to force a syllable break (as in "Lois") use a hyphen, not a close comma: **Lo-is**. This can be used for any syllable break: the new parser will read syllable breaks (and check for correctness).

There is a new series of lower case vowel letters **zia, zie, zii, zio, ziu, ziy** which can be suffixed with **-ma** to get upper case vowels. The old ones are still supported.

Little words are now often called **cmapua** in Loglan.

p. 13: The statement that a compound little word must be penultimately stressed is *incorrect* (not out of date, it was always incorrect). Stress on cmapua is completely free, with the remark that one must pause between a finally stressed cmapua and an immediately following predicate word (which he does allude to for one-syllable little words). It is not an unreasonable style directive.

p. 14: The charming **guypli** would now be **guhypli**.

p. 15: The pause after a name *must* be written for the current parser. This is a style point that could be changed.

Since glottal stop is now permitted between vowels forming a disyllable, the pause before a vowel initial word may be brief, but must be definite.

p. 16: The pauses in a serial name are now of the same grade as the pause at the end of the name, and can, but need not be, represented by commas (whitespace is acceptable).

2 Lesson 1

no comments! Lesson 1 is perfect.

3 Lesson 2

p. 26: An imperative is created by omitting the first argument of a sentence and also omitted any tense on the verb. We now view a tensed sentence without a subject as if its subject were **ba** (the observative construction). On p. 29, Rice says not to tense imperatives, for reasons he will announce later.

4 Lesson 3

p. 34: I do not believe in pronouncing punctuation. **kie X kiu** can be modified to **kie (X) kiu** but not to **(X)** for the current parser.

lie is simpler now. Just **lie house** not **lie gleca house gleca**.

p. 38: lie now works differently. It quotes a block of symbols following it (apart from comma or terminal punctuation at the end of the block); whitespace when quoted is replaced by the little word **y** set off from what surrounds it by whitespace. **lie house**; **lie John y Brown**; **lie War y and y Peace**. The latter two can be written **lie "John Brown"**; **lie "War and Peace"**, but this is pronounced the same, with **y**. One must pause before and after the alien text quoted. One can also say **lie War-and-Peace**, which includes no pauses.

5   Lesson 4

p. 49: I'm very dubious that there is a general principle that little words deducible from context can be omitted. Test.

p. 54: I don't think **bie** is identifying. I'm a mathematician and I think membership is a relation like any other.

hoi may **NOT** be omitted before regular names. This leads to phonetic disaster. This is a (necessary) later reform.

6   Lesson 5

p. 60: I have always thought **mea** was useless (this was a disagreement I had with JCB) and now I can say so officially. The change in meaning in **me** when it is used as a modifier entirely covers the use of **mea**. **Le meala Ford** is adequately captured by **Le me la Ford, bekti**. I think the parser still accepts **mea** but this cannot be counted on to continue.

7   Lesson 6

p. 69: The parser now requires a pause before **ha**.

p. 72: There is an additional situation where a **CVC** djifoa becomes **CVCy**: it does so if it is followed by a consonant which makes a pair of consonants which could be initial in a complex. **tosmabru** is not permitted, correct to **tosymabru**. This is a later reform. There could easily be predicates in the text which need to be corrected.

8   Letter variables

The scope and purpose of the **gao** construction of special letters has changed. **gao azi** is currently not well-formed.

9   Lesson 7

(volume 2) p. 5: It is better to use **guu** to effect shared object arguments.

It is important to note a later reform: words like **ena**, **epa** must be followed by a pause, or suffixed with **fi**, which removes the need for the pause. This applies to all logical and utterance connectives ending in PA or KOU words.

p. 10: I repeat that my parser always requires pauses after regular Loglan names.

p. 15: Insert commas after **ena**, **efa** and similar words. Also, "and later" is **efa**, not **epa** (as I believe it is in Loglan). This isn't an error: it is an attempt at reform which was official and which I officially reversed.

10   Lesson 8

p. 17: TLI deprecates **nigro**, black and hopes all users will instead use **hekri**, black. If it were derived from Spanish, that would be one thing. But a large part of its score comes from English Negro, which is politically and semantically unacceptable.

11   Lesson 9

p. 27: Item 8 no longer works. Pausing between **le** and **po** has no effect, and **le, po ridcue ditca ga corta** means that the event of teaching reading was short. The best way to say what is wanted in item 8 is **le poi ridcue ditca ga corta**: **poi** takes over all short scope uses of **po**.

p. 31: It is a new rule not known to Rice that one must write an explicit comma pause after an argument **liu** X.

p. 31: The dialect Rice is teaching allows a lot more use of pauses to close grammatical constructions (what JCB called pause/**gu** equivalence than ours does; in fact, ours allows almost none. Pauses in current Loglan generally are purely for phonetic reasons with very rare exceptions.

p. 35, point 1: We repeat that this is now incorrect. **po** picks up an entire following sentence, pause or no pause (which may be missing its subject and so be a predicate). Short scope is achieved by using **poi** (and similar forms **pui zoi**), or by explicitly shortening the scope with **guo**.

Further, if **le** is followed by **po** in a way which does not make an event abstraction (as in **le ge po ridcue guo ditca ga corta**, the reading teacher is short, the **ge** is required. This is quite unusual, and usually would involve replacing **po** with **poi** anyway.

point 3: This is making a nice point but replace **po** with **poi** in all cases, and don't worry about pauses.