REFERENCE GRAMMAR

&

DICTIONARY

of

Luñ

Redo Title Page at some point...

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Contents

0.1 Introduction

Luñ is a constructed language, or conlang, which was created in 2021 for a school assignment as an experiment. The goal was to create a language which was as small and as easy to learn as possible. It began as a series of small languages, each being smaller than the last. I was looking for the point where a language becomes impractically small and no longer useful in day-to-day life. Luñ is the final result of this.

Part I

Grammar

Chapter 1

Phonology

1.1 Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveoalar	Palatal
Nasal	m	n	ŋ
Plosive	p	t	k
Fricative	ɸ [f]	s	x
Liquid	w	l	j

1.2 Vowels

	Front	Centre	Back
Close	i · y		ɯ [ʌ] · u
Middle		ə [e]	
Open	a [æ] · œ		

1.3 Phonotactics

In Luñ, roots are bi-consonantal and the vowel determines what part of speech the word is. For these root words, the consonant structure is **CVC** Where V is any vowel except /ə/, C is any consonant.

1.4 Orthography

1.4.1 Romanisation

The romanisation used might seem quite strange to an outside observer, but it was designed to emphasize the duality of the main vowels (y, ú, a) with their rounded equivalents (ý, u, á) which represents a change in meaning for the roots. Please note that the unrounded 'u' is marked, whereas the other two unrounded main vowels aren't, this is due to front vowels typically being unrounded, while

back vowels are typically rounded [1]. The more "typical" vowel is the "default" form, while the less typical form is the inflected one. Though given that this might be difficult to understand and not as easy to type as it is on a QWERTZ keyboard, a more phonetic alternative is also provided with digraph alternatives to the diacritics used.

IPA	Rom.	Alt.	IPA	Rom.	Alt.
p	p	p	w	w	w
t	t	t	l	l	l
k	k	k	j	j	j
m	m	m	a	a	a
n	n	n	œ	á	ö/oe
ŋ	ñ	ng	i	y	i
ɸ	f	f	y	ý	ü/ue
s	s	s	ɯ	ú	ue
x	x	x	u	u	uu/oo
ə	e	e			

1.4.2   Writing System

Given the rigidly structured syllables, I experimented with the idea of writing systems that used this to their advantage for more regular and compact glyphs, but found this too complicated and received feedback that confirmed this fear. So I decided to go for a simpler alphabetic system for the writing system. I definitely wanted to make it a featural system though, because I had layed the phonemes out in a systematic manner for this purpose.

Chapter 2

Morphology

2.1 Universal Inflections

These are a few inflections (mostly prefixes) which can be applied to any root, no matter the part of speech. Though these changes may not always yield a result that fully makes sense.

2.1.1 Opposites

You can form the opposite meaning of a word by rotating the root around it's vowel:

$$\text{“Taf”} \rightarrow \text{“Good”}$$
$$\text{“Fat”} \rightarrow \text{“Bad”}$$

2.2 Nouns

2.2.1 Number

In Fluñ, Nouns all have the "u" sound in the root which is unrounded for singular and rounded for plural. For example:

$$\text{“Mun”} \rightarrow \text{“a game”}$$
$$\text{“Mún”} \rightarrow \text{“many games”}$$

2.2.2 Case

Fluñ has 4 grammatical cases which are all formed with a simple suffix according to the following table:

Case Name	Suffix	Example
Nominative	-	pux
Accusative	-e	puxe
Dative	-em	puxem
Genitive	-es	puxes

2.2.3 Definitiveness

By default, nouns are indefinite and if they are definite, it can be parsed through context, but if you wish to define a noun as being definite, you can give it the '-te' prefix.

<div align="center">

"Mun" → "a game"

"Temun" → "the game"

</div>

2.3 Verbs

2.3.1 Mood

Fluñ has two verb moods: Indicative & Imperative. These are also formed by the root-sound's roundness. All Verbs use the "y" sound for their roots. "Y" is indicative, while "ý" is imperative:

<div align="center">

"ut kyñ" → "You go." / "You are going."

"ut kýñ" → "You, go!"

</div>

2.3.2 Tense

Fluñ has 3 tenses which are all formed with a simple suffix according to the following table:

Tense Name	Suffix	Example	Meaning
Past	-et	pixet	ate, were eating
Present	- (-ef)	pix	eat, are eating
Future	-ej	pixej	will eat

The present tense is the default tense and needn't be marked, but if it is, it emphasizes that the action is taking place now. E.g.:

<div align="center">

"ut kyñ kumem?" → "Where are you going?"

"ut kyñef kumem?" → "Where are you going now?"

</div>

2.4 Adjectives

2.4.1 Positive & Superlative

Adjectives in Fluñ all have the "a" sound in their root which is rounded to form the superlative form of the adjective.

"taf pux" → "good food"
"táf pux" → "the best food"

Adjectives may also be used as the verb of the sentence meaning "to be like ¡adjective¿". i.e.:

"ut taf" → "You're good."
"mukmun mán" → "This game is the most fun."

2.4.2 Comparing

To form the comparative of an adjective, you add the augmentative or diminutive prefix, depending on whether you want the positive or negative form:

"upes xul jutaf." → "My house is better."
"ukes puxe ujtaf utes puxem" → "Their food is worse than your food."
"ut keñik juwas mun?" → "Did you get a newer game?"

Chapter 3

Syntax

Chapter 4

Sentence Order

Part II

Lexicon

P

p-x

pux — /ˈpux/ *n. sg.* • Food, an item of food, a meal
púx — /ˈpʌx/ *n. pl.* • Food, many items of food
pyx — /ˈpix/ *v. ind.* • to eat, to drink, to consume
pýx — /ˈpyx/ *v. imp.* • eat!, drink!, consume!
pax — /ˈpax/ *a. pos.* • edible
páx — /ˈpœx/ *a. sup.* • most edible

T

K

k-ñ

kuñ — /ˈkuŋ/ *n. sg.* • a walk, a motion/movement, a journey
kúñ — /ˈkʌŋ/ *n. pl.* • many walks, many motions/movements, many journeys
kyñ — /ˈkiŋ/ *v. ind.* • to walk, to move, to go
kýñ — /ˈkyŋ/ *v. imp.* • walk!, move!, go!
kañ — /ˈkaŋ/ *a. pos.* • in motion, moving, going, living
káñ — /ˈkœŋ/ *a. sup.* • moving the most, the most alive

Bibliography

[1] K. N. Stevens. The quantal nature of speech: Evidence from articulatory-acoustic data. In E. E. David and P. B. Denes, editors, *Human Communication: A Unified View*, pages 51–56. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1972.