REFERENCE GRAMMAR

&

DICTIONARY

of

Sutlun

Redo Title Page at some point...

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Contents

0.1 Introduction

Sutlun 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. Sutlun is the final result of this.

Part I

Grammar

Chapter 1

Phonology

1.1 Consonants

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

1.2 Vowels

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

1.3 Phonotactics

In Sutlun, 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
ɸ	f	f	i	y	i
s	s	s	y	ý	ü/ue
x	x	x	ɯ	ú	ue
ə	e	e	u	u	uu/oo

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:

<div align="center">

"Taf" → "Good"

"Fat" → "Bad"

</div>

2.2 Nouns

2.2.1 Number

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

<div align="center">

"Mun" → "a game"

"Mún" → "many games"

</div>

2.2.2 Case

FSutlun 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.

$$\text{"Mun"} \rightarrow \text{"a game"}$$
$$\text{"Temun"} \rightarrow \text{"the game"}$$

2.3 Verbs

2.3.1 Mood

FSutlun 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:

$$\text{"ut kyn"} \rightarrow \text{"You go."} \text{ / "You are going."}$$
$$\text{"ut kýn"} \rightarrow \text{"You, go!"}$$

2.3.2 Tense

FSutlun 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.:

$$\text{"ut kyn kumem?"} \rightarrow \text{"Where are you going?"}$$
$$\text{"ut kynef kumem?"} \rightarrow \text{"Where are you going now?"}$$

2.4 Adjectives

2.4.1 Positive & Superlative

Adjectives in FSutlun 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 kenik juwas mun?" → "Did you get a newer game?"

Chapter 3

Syntax

Chapter 4

Sentence Order

to add: mik (to be) *may* be used as a copula, but is not required

Part II

Lexicon

P

P-X – Food, Drink
Antonym: "Excretion, Expelling" See X-P

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

T

T-F – Good, Positive
Antonym: "Bad, Negative" See F-T

tuf – /ˈtuf/ *n. sg.* ● a good deed/thing, the concept of goodness
túf – /ˈtʌf/ *n. pl.* ● many good things
tyf – /ˈtif/ *v. ind.* ● to improve, fix, better
týf – /ˈtyf/ *v. imp.* ● fix!, improve!
taf – /ˈtaf/ *a. pos.* ● good, well
táf – /ˈtœf/ *a. sup.* ● the best

T-S – Quiet, Still
Antonym: "Noise, Sound, Loud" See S-T

tus – /ˈtus/ *n. sg.* ● quiet, peace, stillness
tús – /ˈtʌs/ *n. pl.* ● much stillness, much peace
tys – /ˈtis/ *v. ind.* ● to be quiet, calm down, make peace
týs – /ˈtys/ *v. imp.* ● be quiet!, calm down!
tas – /ˈtas/ *a. pos.* ● good, well
tás – /ˈtœs/ *a. sup.* ● the best

K

K-M – Query, What?
Antonym: "Demonstrative, Thing, That" See M-K

kum – /ˈkum/ *n. sg.* ● what thing?
kúm – /ˈkʌm/ *n. pl.* ● what things?
kym – /ˈkim/ *v. ind.* ● doing what?
kým – /ˈkym/ *v. imp.* ● (special case) what are you doing?
kam – /ˈkam/ *a. pos.* ● like what?
kám – /ˈkœm/ *a. sup.* ● most like what?

kem – /ˈkem/ *excl.* ● What!? (General indicator of confusion)

K-N – Go, Move, Give
Antonym: "Come, Bring" See N-K

kun – /ˈkun/ *n. sg.* ● a walk, a motion/movement, a journey
kún – /ˈkʌn/ *n. pl.* ● many walks, many motions/movements, many journeys
kyn – /ˈkin/ *v. ind.* ● to walk, to move, to go
kýn – /ˈkyn/ *v. imp.* ● walk!, move!, go!
kan – /ˈkan/ *a. pos.* ● in motion, moving, going, living
kán – /ˈkœn/ *a. sup.* ● moving the most, the most alive
ken – /ˈken/ *prep.* ● to, toward

K-F – Fantasy, Unreal, Fake
Antonym: "Thing, Real, Exist" See F-K

kuf – /ˈkuf/ *n. sg.* ● a fantasy, something fake/unreal
kúf – /ˈkʌf/ *n. pl.* ● many fantasies, unreal things
kyf – /ˈkif/ *v. ind.* ● imagine, picture
kýf – /ˈkyf/ *v. imp.* ● iamge!, picture!
kaf – /ˈkaf/ *a. pos.* ● fake, unreal, fantasy, fictional
káf – /ˈkœf/ *a. sup.* ● the most fake, unreal, fictional

M

M-K – Demonstrative, Thing
Antonym: "Query, What?" See K-M

muk – /ˈmuk/ *n. sg.* ● this/that thing
múk – /ˈmʌk/ *n. pl.* ● these/those things
myk – /ˈmik/ *v. ind.* ● doing this/that
mýk – /ˈmyk/ *v. imp.* ● do this/that!
mak – /ˈmak/ *a. pos.* ● like this/that
mák – /ˈmœk/ *a. sup.* ● most like this/that

M-N – Entertainment, Fun, Game
Antonym: "Work, Task, Boring" See N-M

mun – /ˈmun/ *n. sg.* ● a game, book, film, TV-show, play, etc.
mún – /ˈmʌn/ *n. pl.* ● many games, books, films, etc.
myn – /ˈmin/ *v. ind.* ● to play, entertain, relax
mýn – /ˈmyn/ *v. imp.* ● go play!, have fun!
man – /ˈman/ *a. pos.* ● fun, entertaining
mán – /ˈmœn/ *a. sup.* ● most fun, entertaining

M-L – Soft, Weak, Clay
Antonym: "Solid, Strong, Rock, Metal" See L-M

mul – /ˈmul/ *n. sg.* ● a soft thing, some clay, sand, paste, powder

múl – /ˈmʌl/ *n. pl.* ● many soft things, clay, sand, paste, powder
myl – /ˈmil/ *v. ind.* ● to soften, weaken, mould
mýl – /ˈmyl/ *v. imp.* ● soften!, weaken!, mould!
mal – /ˈmal/ *a. pos.* ● soft, weak
mál – /ˈmœl/ *a. sup.* ● most soft, weak

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