

A Grammar of ENŁALEN

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Background & Motivation

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Glossing Abbreviations

1	first person	PL	plural
2	second person	SG	singular

Part I

Enſalen Grammar

Chapter 1

Context & Culture

Placeholder

1SG

2PL

Chapter 2

Phonology

2.1 Phonemics & Allophony

2.1.1 Phoneme Inventory

	Labial	Coronal	Velar
Ejective	p'	t'	k'
Plosive	p	t	k
Fricative	f	s	
Nasal	m	n	ŋ
Liquid		l	ɭ

Table 2.1: Consonant Inventory

	Front	Central	Back
High	i j		
Mid			o w
Low		a ɿ	

Table 2.2: Vowel & Glide Inventory

Enlalen possesses the glides [j, w, ɿ] in certain positions, but these are analyzed as consonantal allophones of the vowel phonemes.

2.1.2 Allophony & Phonotactics

To be replaced with better versions of these and such later:

- Vowels /i, o, a/ become nasal [ẽ, õ, ã] when they precede a nasal
- /l/ becomes [ɭ] before a velar consonant and [β] before a labial consonant. /w/ is considered velar for these purposes.
- /L/ becomes [ɬ] before a coronal consonant and [w] before a labial consonant. /w/ is considered velar for these purposes.
- Front vowels and semivowels [i, ẽ, j] become central [i, ɨ, j] before non-palatal dorsal sonorants (including vowels) [ɲ, ɭ, w, ɿ, a] and after non-palatal dorsal obstruents [k, k']
- Back vowel [o] becomes central [ə] before [j, i(:)]
- Mid, non-front vowels [ə, ɨ, o, ɔ] become high [i, ɨ, u, ʊ] after a high semivowel [j, w, u]

- Mid vowels [o, ɔ̃, ẽ, ə, ʊ] become low lax [ʊ, ʊ̃, æ̃, a, ʌ] before non-palatal dorsal sonorants (*not* including vowels) [ŋ, ɭ, w, ʎ] and after non-palatal dorsal obstruents [k, kʰ].
- Nasals assimilate in place-of-articulation to a following obstruent.
- In Northern lects only:
 - Standalone fricatives become debuccalized to [h] intervocalically. Geminate fricatives become single fricatives.
 - Standalone voiceless stops become voiceless fricatives intervocalically. Geminate voiceless stops become single voiceless stops.
 - Standalone ejectives become unaspirated voiceless stops intervocalically. Geminate ejectives become single ejectives.
- In Southern lects only:
 - Standalone voiceless fricatives become voiced intervocalically. Geminate voiceless fricatives become single voiceless fricatives.
 - Standalone voiceless stops become voiced stops intervocalically. Geminate voiceless stops become single voiceless stops.
 - Geminate ejectives become single ejectives. Standalone ejectives remain the same intervocalically.

2.2 Structure & Suprasegmental Features

2.2.1 Syllable Structure

2.2.2 Stress

2.2.3 Tone

2.3 Prosody

2.4 Transcription

Enlalen's 'romanization', used only for documentation purposes, is generally an unremarkable representation of the IPA-phonology, with a few exceptions:

- /j/ is written as ⟨y⟩
- /ʎ/ is written as ⟨r⟩
- /ɭ/ is written as ⟨l⟩
- /i/ is written as ⟨i⟩ in most positions, but is written with ⟨e⟩ when it precedes a nasal and is realized as [ẽ]. Nasalization is not otherwise illustrated in the orthography.
- /ŋ/ is written as ⟨n⟩ in contexts in which it does not contrast with /n/ (i.e., when it precedes velar phones as in *entalen* [ẽŋɭalẽn]) but is written as ⟨ng⟩ in positions in which it contrasts with /n/ (as in *aleng* [alẽŋ]).
- The ejective series /pʰ tʰ kʰ/ is written with the letters ⟨π τ κ⟩
- Phonemic high tone on a syllable is indicated by placing the acute diacritic on the vowel of that syllable, and phonemic low tone on a syllable is indicated by placing an underdot diacritic on the vowel of that syllable.

2.5 Orthography

write this later.

Chapter 3

Morphology

Chapter 4

Syntax

Chapter 5

Semantics

Part II

Dictionary

Old Elvish

***-ʔi:ho**

negation operator, bound morpheme suffixed onto head verb

Descendants: *eni*, *ófi*, *tóyó*

***ʔi:na**

to exist, 'there is'

Descendants: *en*, *eni*

***hi:lino**

speech, talking, discussion, chatting, communication

Descendants: *éntalen*

***hi:naʔala:**

the World, the physical realm, the mortal plane, this world

Descendants: *éntalen*

***ho:fi**

to be located on/in/at, to stand near

Descendants: *ófi*

***to:**

to do, to make, to bring about

Descendants: *tóyó*

Enṭalen

A

E

en

troch., from Old Elv. *ʔina

there is, to exist, existential particle

enṭ

prt., from Old Elv. *ʔinaʔi:ho 'there is no' from *ʔina 'there is' + *-ʔi:ho
NEG

existential negation particle

énṭalen [ɛ̃ŋṭaṭlɛ̃n]

troch., from Old Elv. *hi:naʔala:hi:li:ho 'World-speech' from *hi:naʔala: 'the World' + *hi:li:ho 'speech'

n. this language, Enṭalen

I

ilyon [iljũn]

dacty., from Old Elv. *hi:li:ho 'speech'

v. utterance, statement, sentence

Compounds & Phrasal Forms

en ilyon

v. to be sapient, to be intelligent, to be mentally aware, to have one's faculties (lit., to have speech)

O

ófi

prt., from Old Elv. *ho:fiʔi:ho 'is not at' from *ho:fi 'to be located' + *-
ʔi:ho NEG

imperfective negation particle

T

tóyó

prt., from Old Elv. *to:ʔi:ho: 'did not' from *to: 'to do, to make' + *-ʔi:ho
NEG

perfective negation particle

Part III

Texts & Translations