A Grammar of
Enłalen

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Background & Motivation

Contents

Glossing Abbreviations

1	first person	**PL**	plural
2	second person	**SG**	singular

Part I

Enłalen 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	ʟ

Table 2.1: Consonant Inventory

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

Table 2.2: Vowel & Glide Inventory

Enłalen possesses the glides [j, w, ʕ] 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 [ʟ] before a velar consonant and [β̞] before a labial consonant. /w/ is considered velar for these purposes.

- /ʟ/ becomes [ɫ] 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 [ɨ, ɵ̃, j] before non-palatal dorsal sonorants (including vowels) [ŋ, ʟ, w, ʕ, a] and after non-palatal dorsal obstruents [k, k']

- Back vowel [o] becomes central [ə] before [j, i(ː)]

- Mid, non-front vowels [ə, ɵ̃, o, õ] become high [ɨ, ɨ̃, u, ũ] after a high semivowel [j, w, ɥ]

- Mid vowels [o, õ, ẽ, ɘ, ɜ̃] become low lax [ɒ, ɒ̃, æ̃, a, ã] before non-palatal dorsal sonorants (*not* including vowels) [ŋ, ʟ, w, ʕ̞] and after non-palatal dorsal obstruents [k, k'].

- 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

2.4.1 Romanization

Enłalen'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⟩

- /ʕ̞/ is written as ⟨r⟩

- /ʟ/ is written as ⟨ł⟩

- /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 *enłalen* [ẽŋʟalẽn]) but is written as ⟨ng⟩ in positions in which it contrasts with /n/ (as in *aleng* [alẽŋ]).

- The ejective series /p' t' k'/ 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.

2.4.2 Orthography

Part II

Daughterlang Grammar

Chapter 3

Context & Culture

Chapter 4

Phonology

Daughterlang ideas to save for later:

- /lw, ʟw/ become [ɹʷ, ʁʷ]

4.0.1 Romanization

Chapter 5

Morphosyntax

Chapter 6

Semantics

Part III

Dictionary

Part IV

Texts & Translations