

A GRAMMAR
OF
Xẽλõk

WITH DIACHRONIC PROGRESSION
FROM ZAMENHOFIAN ESPERANTO
TO THE MODERN LANGUAGE

BETHANY E. TOMA

7. SEPTEMBER 2019

Contents

Contents	i
A Forward on Design Philosophy	ii
History & Timeline of the Sfěrtø People	iii
1 <i>Esperantelo</i>: The Language of the First Settlers	1
1.1 Sound Changes	1
1.2 Grammatical Changes	1
1.3 Lexical Changes	1
2 <i>Hejmslango</i>: Xěλōk	2

A Forward on Design Philosophy

History & Timeline of the Sfěrtø People

Chapter 1

Esperantelo: The Language of the First Settlers

Upon hearing a *Sfärtōn* speak of *Esperantelo*, the ‘beautiful Esperanto’ spoken by the first Esperanto-speaking settlers of the area, one may be fooled into believing this was ‘pure’ Esperanto as from the mouth of Zamenhof himself. Certainly it isn’t difficult to find someone complaining about how, unlike people these days, their ancestors spoke Esperanto how it was *meant* to be spoken.¹

This, of course, is pure fiction. While the Esperantists who first settled the area spoke something far closer to the ‘textbook Esperanto’ one might find in resources from the 21st century, their speech had already diverged from this standard within the first years of settling down. Given the mixed language backgrounds of the settlers—a mixture of native speakers and second-language learners of various levels—and how quickly the speakers were wholly cut off from even the rest of the Esperanto-speaking community, it’s no wonder that their language changed so quickly.

1.1 Sound Changes

1.2 Grammatical Changes

1.2.1 Verb Forms

1.3 Lexical Changes

¹They, of course, don’t see the irony in complaining about this in their own local *slango*.

Chapter 2

Hejmslango:
Xêλõk