


[illegible]

uruwi



 a^ho^e.on^φ-debc-delbe^o flelc^ə

A complete grammar

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0.1 | Introduction

1 | Phonology and orthography

1.1 | Phoneme inventory

Middle Rymakonian underwent several sound changes from Lek-Tsaro, in the following order:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 s \rightarrow \text{ɬ} & (\blacklozenge\{w, j, u, y\}) \text{ NB this is a whistled sibilant.} \\
 \eta \rightarrow \text{j}\text{ɲ} & (\square\blacklozenge) \\
 \theta x \rightarrow \theta & \neg(\blacklozenge\square)[x = \emptyset] \\
 C_1[+fr] \rightarrow C_1[+v] & (V_1\blacklozenge V_2[-hi]) \\
 ɹ \rightarrow z & (V_1\blacklozenge V_2) \\
 \{x, u\} \rightarrow \text{ɰ} & \\
 V_1[+r] \rightarrow V_1[-r] & \\
 k \rightarrow c & (\blacklozenge i) \\
 t \rightarrow \text{tʃ} & (\blacklozenge i) \\
 r \rightarrow r &
 \end{array}$$

Thus Middle Rymakonian has the following phoneme inventory:

Table 1.1: The consonants of Middle Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n	jɲ	ŋ	
Plosive	p b		t d	c ɟ	k g	ʔ
Fricative	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	x ɣ	
(coarticulated)	fx vɣ	θx ðɣ		fʃ vʒ		
(whistled)			ɬ ʐ			
Affricate			ts	tʃ		
Lateral fricative			ɬɭ kɭ			
Approximant			ɹ	j	w	
Lateral approximant			l			
Tap			r			

Table 1.2: The vowels of Middle Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɤ	u
Mid	ɛ		ʌ
Low		a	

In addition to consonants and vowels, Middle Rymakonian has rod signals, represented by numbers. Rod A is blue and held by one's dominant hand and B is red and held by one's non-dominant hand. Rod signals can occur only at the end of words.

1. Rod A is raised to one's chest, while B is pointed down.
2. Rods A and B are crossed in the front.
3. Rod B is raised upwards in front of the nondominant arm, while rod A is lowered.
4. Rod A is pointed sideways near one's nondominant arm, while rod B is lowered.
5. Rods A and B are extended to the sides.
6. Rods A and B are extended, facing forward.
7. Rod A is raised forward, while B is pointed to the side.
8. Rod B is raised forward, while A is pointed to the side.

Lowering both rods is interpreted as an absence of a rod signal.

If the use of rods are unavailable, the numerals of the positions may be pronounced.

1.2 | Hacmisation

As using IPA is quite wieldly, we shall use the following hacmisation, with superscript letters to indicate phonemes not found in Arka.

Table 1.3: The consonants of Middle Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	ɒ		n	n ^ɥ	n ^ɸ	
Plosive	d b		ɾ ɳ	ɸ ^ɥ ɳ ^ɥ	ɳ ^ɸ	.
Fricative	ɑ u	j ^a z ^u	j z	l s	ɳ ^l ɸ ^s	
(coarticulated)	ɑ ^h u ^h	j ^h z ^h		ɑ ^l u ^s		
(whistled)			j ^o z ^o			
Affricate			ɸ ^l	ɸ ^l		
Lateral fricative			ɸ ^l s ^l			
Approximant			ɸ	ɸ	o	
Lateral approximant			ɸ			
Tap			ɾ			

Rod signs are represented by the hacm digits <1 2 3 4 5 6 7> attached to the end of the verbs they encompass. Proper words are preceded by a backslash <\>.

Note that the hacmisation is slightly different from Lek-Tsaro's use of hacm. Lek-Tsaro's <h s> are now written using <ɸ^l ɸ^l>, for instance.

phonoruns. Therefore, the following changes are executed in order until an application of one rule reduces the number of phonoruns to an acceptable number, after which the other rules are not executed:

$$\begin{aligned}
X_1[do]X_2[dc]R[do] &\rightarrow X_2X_1R \\
X_1[dc]X_2[do]R[dc] &\rightarrow X_2X_1R \\
X_1[dc]X_2[do]?X_3[do] &\rightarrow X_1?X_2X_3 \\
X_1[do]?X_2[do]X_3[dc] &\rightarrow X_1X_2?X_3 \\
X_1[op \geq 0]X_2[dc]X_3[do]X_4[op \leq 0] &\rightarrow X_1X_3X_2X_4 \quad [X_1.op + X_3.op - X_2.op - X_4.op \geq 6] \\
X_1[op \leq 0]X_2[do]X_3[dc]X_4[op \geq 0] &\rightarrow X_1X_3X_2X_4 \quad [X_2.op + X_4.op - X_1.op - X_3.op \geq 6] \\
X_1[do]X_2[dc]X_3[do] &\rightarrow X_1X_3X_2 \quad \text{for ever} \\
X_1[dc]X_2[do]X_3[dc] &\rightarrow X_2X_1X_3 \quad \text{for ever}
\end{aligned}$$

where R means a rod signal, X represents a spoken phoneme and op stands for *openness* (full-open = 2, neutral = 0, full-closed = -2). do is short for $op > 0$, and dc is short for $op < 0$.

All of the rules above move from right to left and do not occur across compound boundaries. The last two rules are executed alternately in a loop until the number of phonoruns is reduced to an acceptable number or both rules converge to a fixed point. This process will hereafter be called *phonorun reduction*.

In the example above, $\langle xj^a.ien \rangle$ had $4 > \lceil 5/2 \rceil$ phonoruns, so the third rule was applied. This changed the word into $\langle j^a.ien \rangle$, which has $2 \leq \lceil 5/2 \rceil$ phonoruns.

The dictionary lists forms of roots *before* the phonorun reduction happens, because affixes can radically affect which phonemes are switched.

1.4 | Vowel harmony

Middle Rymakonian inherits vowel harmony from Lek-Tsaro. Thus $\langle c \ e \rangle$ are front vowels, $\langle \theta \ \varsigma \rangle$ are back vowels and $\langle i \ \mathfrak{z} \rangle$ are neutral. A root with neither front nor back vowels acts as if it has front vowels. Many affixes will change depending on which vowels are present.

If by some odd chance a word has both front and back vowels, then the rightmost vowel (before phonorun reduction) takes precedence.

2 | Syntax

2.1 | Basic word order

The basic word order is VSO. Descriptors follow what they modify.

However, unlike Lek-Tsaro, Middle Rymakonian has oblique arguments. As these were historically formed from a preclause, all obliques precede V. Likewise, any arguments with conjunctions also precede V. Such arguments that were formed from a clause will be called *historically clausal arguments* (HCAs).

Usually, oblique arguments are prepared by prepositions and fall before what they modify, but if an oblique argument is a conjunctive phrase or governs an HCA, it uses a postposition instead and precedes its antecedent.

2.2 | Questions

Binary questions have the interrogative polarity marker and no change to syntax.

In wh-questions, the wh-word is pulled to the front (i. e. before the verb). This requires case marking for the wh-word:

[TODO: example]

This applies only to questions, not interrogative-mood clauses that act as relative clauses:

[TODO: example]

2.3 | Multiple clauses

A sentence might have multiple clauses. Each clause in a sentence follows the basic VSO order, and clauses are separated with commas.

3 | Nouns

Nouns are declined for number, case and definiteness.

3.1 | Number

Countable nouns come in two numbers: *dual* and *non-dual*.

There are two different conceptualisations of the dual number. Some dialects use the dual number to refer to all cases with two objects (we say that they have the *unpaired dual*); others use it only to refer to objects in pairs (these lack the unpaired dual). In general, dialects without the unpaired dual are more prevalent in cities, as well as northern regions.

Each countable noun has an *inherent number*. A noun whose number agrees with its inherent number receives no marking; a mismatch causes the noun to receive a special affix.

3.2 | Case

In a clause with both the subject and object directly expressed in that order, both the subject and object are declined in the nominative case (and their roles are inferred through word order). In a clause where only one is present, or where both are expressed in the opposite order, the subject will receive the nominative case and the object will receive the accusative case.

3.3 | Noun classes

There are three overarching groups of noun classes.

1. Countable
 - (a) Sentient – such as humans, AIs, deities.
 - (b) Non-sentient – anything else.
2. Measurable
 - (a) Measure – all measurable nouns, especially units of measurement.
3. Uncountable
 - (a) Edible – edible (to humans).

- (b) Inedible – inedible (to humans).
- (c) Abstract – abstract ideas.

3.4 | Definiteness

The definite form of a noun is formed regularly by reduplicating the first syllable (without the coda): <DIZI> “a person” becomes <DIDIZI> “the person”.

3.5 | Declension table

Here, the inflected forms of words are shown both before and after phonorun reduction to illustrate the pattern. The declension patterns for each class is shown, both for roots ending with consonants and those ending with vowels.

Note that noun declensions for countable respect vowel harmony. For nouns with back vowels, replace the front vowels with the back vowels of the same height and rounding, and vice versa. (Noun declensions for measurable and uncountable classes do not respect vowel harmony.)

3.5.1 | Countable classes

Table 3.1: Declensions for countable nouns.

	Direct #	Inverse #
Sentient: <xDIZI> “person”		
Nominative	DIZI (DIZI)	DIZI (DIZI)
Accusative	DIZIn (DIZIn)	DIZInIl (DIZInIl)
Sentient: <xj ⁰ .en> “magician”		
Nominative	j ⁰ .en (j ⁰ .en)	j ⁰ .el (j ⁰ .el)
Accusative	j ⁰ .ezcn (j ⁰ .ezcn)	j ⁰ .epcl (j ⁰ .epcl)
(Note that the final consonant is preserved only in the direct nominative form.)		
Non-sentient: <xD3n ⁰ ɔ> “rabbit”		
Nominative	D3n ⁰ ɔ (D3n ⁰ ɔ)	D3n ⁰ ɔ.ə (D3n ⁰ ɔ.ə)
Accusative	D3n ⁰ ɔD (D3n ⁰ ɔD)	D3n ⁰ ɔuə (D3n ⁰ ɔuə)
Non-sentient: <x.cDen> “house”		
Nominative	.cDen (.cDen)	.cDe.c (.cDec.)
Accusative	.cDezCD (.cDezCD)	.cDeɲcuc (.cDeɲcuc)

3.5.2 | Measurable and uncountable classes

Table 3.2: Declensions for measurable and uncountable nouns.

	Direct
Measure: <xɲ3D3> “day (continuous)”	
Nominative	ɲ3D3 (ɲ3D3)
Accusative	ɲ3D3n (ɲ3D3n)
Measure: <xDeI> “volume” (in expressions such as <xDeI–ɥ3ɔ> “cupful”)	
Nominative	DeI (DeI)

	Direct
Accusative	de ^z cn (de ^z cn)
Edible: <xfe ^u .c> “beef”	
Nominative	fe ^u .c (fe ^u .c)
Accusative	fe ^u .cn (fe ^u cn.)
Edible: <xɔɪn> “rice”	
Nominative	ɔɪn (ɔɪn)
Accusative	ɔɪncn (ɔɪncn)
Inedible: <xpəɔ> “gold”	
Nominative	pəɔ (pəɔ)
Accusative	pəɔbe (pəɔbe)
Inedible: <xɪɔɪj> “stone”	
Nominative	ɪɔɪj (ɪɔɪj)
Accusative	ɪɔɪjde (ɪɔɪjde)
Abstract: <xə ^h əɔ> “empathy”	
Nominative	ə ^h əɔ (ə ^h əɔ)
Accusative	ə ^h əɔcn ^ʰ (ə ^h əɔcn ^ʰ)
Abstract: <xɸɔj> “[the number] five”	
Nominative	ɸɔj (ɸɔj)
Accusative	ɸɔzcn ^ʰ (ɸɔzcn ^ʰ)
Here, the final consonant is voiced if it is a fricative.	

(NB: be sure to change any <ɪ> and <ɸ> into <ɪ^{ʰʰ}

3.6 | Pronouns

Personal pronouns are not divided into first, second and third persons as in most languages. Instead, they fall into four categories which exhibit different behaviour depending on whether they occur as the first non-oblique noun in the clause or elsewhere (second noun, verb inflection, oblique):

Table 3.3: Pronoun persons and their functions.

Person	Role in first position	Role elsewhere
Near	The speaker.	The first argument of the sentence. The person with which the first argument is conversing. An entity that is neither the speaker, the listener nor the first argument.
Far	The listener.	
Other	A third entity.	
Generic	A generic entity (akin to “one”).	
Anaphoric Subject	The subject of the previous clause. Also used on the verb when an oblique or conjunction is present.	
Anaphoric Object	The object of the previous clause.	

In wh-questions, the wh-word assumes the second position and the other argument becomes the first.

If a clause has no explicit arguments, the first argument is understood to be the subject.

Table 3.4: Personal pronouns (before phonorun reduction).

	Nominative		Accusative	
	Non-dual	Dual	Non-dual	Dual
Near	fi	aczc	fin	aczen
Far	dc	bpi	dcn	bpin
Other	nc	lizc	ncn	lizen
Anaph. Sub.	pi	n ^u cpc	pin	n ^u cpen
Anaph. Obj.	pc	n ^u apc	pcn	n ^u apcn
Generic	.ə		.ən	

3.6.1 | Last-clause pronouns

The anaphoric pronoun <ebj> (accusative: <bezen>) is grammatically an other pronoun, and it refers to the previous clause said. Likewise, <bdecj> (accusative: <bdecn>) refers to the clause before the previous one. All of these pronouns should undergo phonorun reduction inside a compound.

3.7 | Compounding

Nouns can be compounded together in a head-initial manner. When that happens, only the leftmost noun is the one to be declined.

del-μɜɟɔ-ɑ¹ɜμə-φcɟ
 volume-cup-water-five
 five cupfuls of water

Note that pronouns can modify other nouns, in which personal possession is indicated:

del-μɜɟɔ-ɑ¹ɜμə-φcɟ-fi
 volume-cup-water-five-PR.NEAR.NONDUAL
 (arg1)'s five cupfuls of water

Descriptors can also compound on nouns. Unlike in Lek-Tsaro, this is the only way to have descriptors modify nouns.

ɖɪzɪ-lfəi
 ɖɪzɪ-ləfi
 person-old
 old people

3.8 | Possession

“X’s Y” is translated as <Y=ɖɪ X> (plus phonorun reduction). The possessive construction is also used to create appositives. (Note the head-marking!)

Observe that possession marks the head, and <–DI> is a clitic, not an affix, as in the following example:

D3D3n⁰–a^lʒpə–DI j^h.ien
 D3D3n⁰–a^lʒpə–DI j^h.en
 DEF~rabbit-water=GEN magician
 the magician's water rabbit

4 | Verbs

Verbs are conjugated for person of the subject, tense, polarity and tellicity, in two paradigms. Conjugation respects vowel harmony.

The dictionary lists the stem of the verb and the conjugation scheme used.

Table 4.1: Person-tense conjugations for first-conjugation verbs, using <ɔɪl-> “(S) eats (O)”, before and after phonorun reduction.

	Nonpast	Past
Near	ɔɪlɪn (ɔɪlɪn)	ɔɪlɪf (ɔɪlɪf)
Far	ɔɪlɪn (ɔɪlɪn)	ɔɪlɔɪ (ɔɪlɔɪ)
Other	ɔɪlɪ (ɔɪlɪ)	ɔɪlɔɪ (ɔɪlɔɪ)
Anaph. Sub.	ɔɪle (ɔɪle)	ɔɪel (ɔɪel)
Anaph. Obj.	ɔɪc.e (ɔɪl.ce)	ɔɪc.el (ɔɪl.cel)
Generic	ɔɪc (ɔɪc)	ɔɪc (ɔɪc)

Table 4.2: Person-tense conjugations for second-conjugation verbs, using <nən-> “(S) kills (O), (O) dies”, before and after phonorun reduction.

	Nonpast	Past
Near	nənɪn (nənɪn)	nənɪf (nənɪf)
Far	nənɪn (nənɪn)	nənɔɪ (nənɔɪ)
Other	nənɪ (nənɪ)	nənɔɪ (nənɔɪ)
Anaph. Sub.	nənɔɪ (nənɔɪ)	nənel (nənɔɪ)
Anaph. Obj.	nənə.ɔɪ (nənə.ɔɪ)	nənə.ɔɪ (nənə.ɔɪ)
Generic	nənə (nənə)	nənə (nənə)

Notes:

- The polarity-tellicity suffix is added after the person-tense ending.
- “Negative atelic” means something akin to “unsuccessfully tried to avoid doing X”.
- The interrogative polarity, in addition to marking questions, is used to mark clauses that may or may not be true but are referred to later in the sentence.

Some examples:

Table 4.3: Person-tense conjugations for third-conjugation verbs, using <µeu-> “(S) spreads (O)”, before and after phonorun reduction.

	Nonpast	Past
Near	µeucn (µeucn)	µeucf (µeucf)
Far	µeuin (µeuin)	µeu3j (µeu3j)
Other	µeui (µeui)	µeu3 (µeu3)
Anaph. Sub.	µeue (µeue)	µeel (µeel)
Anaph. Obj.	µeuc.e (µeuc.e)	µeuc.el (µeuc.el)
Generic	µeu3	µeu3

Table 4.4: Polarity-telicity suffixes for verbs (before phonorun reduction). The interrogative affix can also follow a negative affix.

	Positive	Negative	Interrogative
Telic	-·	-le / -לכ	-לי
Atelic	-DC / -DƏ	-JI	-ל3

דילין ל'רדע ל'כצו.
eat-NEAR.NONPAST fish flower
Fish eat flowers.

דילין ל'רדע ל'כצו, דילין חקיצו מ.
eat-NEAR.NONPAST fish flower, eat-NEAR.NONPAST cat PR.ANAPH_SUB
Fish eat flowers, and cats eat fish.

דילין ל'רדע ל'כצו, דילין מילביע.
דילין ל'רדע ל'כצו, דילין מילביע.
eat-NEAR.NONPAST fish flower, eat-ANAPH_SUB.NONPAST grass-ACC
Fish eat flowers, and they eat grass.
(Grass is inedible to humans, but edible to fish.)

דיליןל'כצו ל'רדע.
דיליןל'כצו ל'רדע.
eat-NEAR.NONPAST-NEG flower fish
Flowers don't eat fish.

דפנן נח ל'פנל'פננ, ינן ל' עב.
דפנן נח ל'פנל'פננ, ינן ל' עב.
carry-NEAR.NONPAST PR.OTHER DEF~book, worry-NEAR.NONPAST PR.NEAR
PR.LAST_CLAUSE
He has the book; that worries me.
or: That he has the book worries me.

דפנןל' נח ל'פנל'פננ, ינן ל' עב.
דפנןל' נח ל'פנל'פננ, ינן ל' עב.
carry-NEAR.NONPAST-INTERROGATIVE PR.OTHER DEF~book, worry-NEAR.NONPAST
PR.NEAR.INT PR.LAST_CLAUSE

He might have the book; that worries me.
or: That he might have the book worries me.

4.1 | Aspect

Verbs can also be marked for aspect, either using a rod sign directly on the verb, or a particle with a rod sign, placed anywhere between the verb it modifies and the next verb.

Table 4.5: Aspect markers. Those with hyphens are attached to verb. Those without hyphens are placed as separate particles anywhere after the verb.

Aspect name	Marking	Meaning
Imperfect	–1	An action that is currently going on. Also used to distinguish static actions as opposed to dynamic (e. g. <i>wear</i> as opposed to <i>put on</i>).
Interrupted	1c11	An action that was interrupted.
Perfect	–1	An action that has already finished. Changes present tense to immediate past. Also used to distinguish dynamic actions as opposed to static (e. g. <i>put on</i> as opposed to <i>wear</i>).
Gnomic	–ʔ	A general truth or aphorism, or an action done habitually.
Gnomic dubitative	1c1ʔ	A general truth or aphorism that the speaker considers to be false.
Deontic necessity	–ᵐ	An action that the speaker insists on happening.
Epistemic necessity	1əᵐᵐ	An action that the speaker infers is happening.
Deontic potential	–ʔ	An action that the speaker permits to occur.
Epistemic potential	1əᵐʔ	An action that the speaker infers that might happen.
Unexpected	–ɿ	An action that is unexpected (akin to using “but”).
Comparative	deɿ	Indicates an action of greater intensity than what was described in the previous clause.
Nonexclusive subject	1ʔc1	Indicates that the subject comprises not only of what is explicitly mentioned, but also other things.
Nonexclusive object	c1ʔ	Indicates that the object comprises not only of what is explicitly mentioned, but also other things.
Nonexclusive argument	c1ʔᵐ	Combination of both nonexclusive subject and nonexclusive object.

An attached rod signal reverts <ɟ^a z^u> to <ɟ^h z^h>, respectively, and might affect phonorun reduction.

Romanisation

In this text, the romanisation is used only to transcribe names into English. Whenever possible, the hacmisation should be used.

Table 6: The consonants of Middle Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
Plosive	p b		t d	tʃ dʃ	k g	ʔ
Fricative	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	h ɦ	
(coarticulated)	fh vɦ	ph ðɦ		fʃ vʒ		
(whistled)			ʂ ʐ			
Affricate			ts	tʃ		
Lateral fricative			ʂ ʐ			
Approximant			r	j	w	
Lateral approximant			l			
Tap			ɾ			

Table 7: The vowels of Middle Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	y	u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

The digraphs <fh vɦ ph ðɦ fʃ vʒ ts tʃ> correspond to coarticulated consonants and affricates. An apostrophe can be placed between the two letters if this is not desired.

Rod signs are represented by the Arabic digits <1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8> attached to the end of the verbs they encompass. Proper words are preceded by a backslash <\>.

<ɲ> should be capitalised as <Ŋ> only if one can depend on the majuscule glyph appearing like an N with a hook. Otherwise, it should be spelled <Ng>.

A | Dictionary

<p> .</p> <p>.cɒn <i>nonsent</i> house</p>	<p> ʌ</p> <p>ʌˌrɪ <i>nonsent</i> fish</p>
<p> ʃ</p> <p>ʃɒʊ <i>nonsent</i> tree</p> <p>ʃɐp.c <i>nedib</i> beef</p>	<p> ʝ</p> <p>ʝɛˌe <i>nonsent</i> land, country</p> <p>ʝɛn- v1 (S) is worried by (O)</p>
<p> ʃ</p> <p>ʃɪɪ- v1 (S) fights (O)</p> <p>ʃɔʊ <i>nonsent</i> flower</p>	<p> ʝ^a</p> <p>ʝ^a.ɛn <i>nsent</i> magician</p>
<p> ʃ</p> <p>ʃɔʊ <i>nonsent</i> fruit</p>	<p> n</p> <p>nɪzɪ <i>nonsent</i> cat</p> <p>nɛpɔ- v3 (S) hides from (O)</p> <p>nɛn- v2 (S) kills (O), (O) dies</p>
<p> ɪ</p> <p>ɪn pp in, on, at (location)</p> <p>ɪnɪd <i>nined</i> stone</p>	<p> a</p> <p>acɪn pp accordint to</p>
<p> ɪ</p> <p>ɪpɔɛn <i>nonsent</i> book</p>	<p> aˌ</p> <p>aˌɛpɔ <i>nedib</i> potable water</p>
<p> ɪ</p> <p>ɪɔn- v1 (S) shoots an arrow to (O)</p>	<p> a^h</p> <p>a^hɛɔɔ <i>nabst</i> empathy</p>

| D

ደጓንፍ *nnon*sent rabbit
 ደሰ- v1 (S) eats (O)
 ደጠ *nedib* rice
 ደረሰ *nsent* person
 ደረ *nmeas* volume

| d

ደጓንፍ *ndnon*sent(b) knee
 ደፍ *pp* with (comitative)

ደፍ- v3 hold, carry, instrumental
 verb

| ሆ

ሆጓጋ *nnon*sent cup
 ሆጠ *pp* with (instrumental)
 ሆጓጓ *nmeas* day (continuous)
 ሆሰ *nined* grass
 ሆሁ- v3 (S) spreads (O)
 ሆፊጋ *nined* gold