lel–\ʃɹıɹɔ–ᴅı ɹcl lel–ᴅı ɹcl ɹeᵓʃle–\ɹcᵊᴅılɔ

Middle Rymakonian, the language of *Rymako*

uruwi

ɑʰɔᵉ.ɔnᵠ–ᴅebc–delbeᵓ ʃlelcᵊ

A complete grammar

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Dedicated to Gufferdk.

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0.1 | Introduction

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1.1 | Phoneme inventory

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

s → ʂ	(♦{w, j, u, y})	*NB this is a whistled sibiliant.*
ŋ → ɲ	(□♦)	
θx → θ	¬(♦□)[χ = ∅]	
C_1[+*fr*] → C_1[+*v*]	(V_1♦V_2[−*hi*])	
ɹ → z	(V_1♦V_2)	
{ɣ̥, ų} → ʉ̥		
V_1[+*r*] → wV_1[−*r*]		
k → c	(♦i)	
t → tʃ	(♦{i, ɛ})	
r → ɾ		

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	ɲ	ŋ	
Plosive	p b		t d	c ɟ	k g	ʔ
Fricative	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	x ɣ	
(coärticulated)	fx vɣ	θx ðɣ		fʃ vʒ		
(whistled)			ʂ ʐ			
Affricate			ts	tʃ		
Lateral fricative			ɬ ɮ			
Approximant			ɹ	j	w	
Lateral approximant			l			
Tap			ɾ			

Table 1.2: The vowels of Middle Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ̞	ɯ
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.

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	nʸ	nᵠ	
Plosive	d b		ʃ ɑ	ʃʸ ɑʸ	ɭ φ	.
Fricative	ɑ u	jᵅ zᵘ	ɻ z	l s	ɭˡ φˢ	
(coärticulated)	ɑʰ uʰ	jʰ zʰ		ɑˡ uˢ		
(whistled)			jᵒ zᵒ			
Affricate			ɸ	ʃˡ		
Lateral fricative			lˡ zˡ			
Approximant			ɥ	ʏ	o	
Lateral approximant			l			
Tap			ɗ			

Rod signs are represented by the hacm digits ⟨1 ɹ ʔ ɱ ɬ ʕ ɋ ∆⟩ 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 ⟨ɭˡ lˡ⟩, for instance.

Table 1.4: The vowels of Middle Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	ᴄ	ɜ	ə
Mid	e		ɔ
Low		ɪ	

1.3 | Phonotactics

As opposed to Lek-Tsaro, which uses syllables, Middle Rymakonian uses *phonoruns*. The following *defined categories* are used:

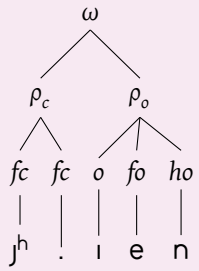
Table 1.5: Categories of phonemes.

Category	Phonemes
Full-open	ɪ e ᴄ ɔ ə ɻ u z^{u} z z^{o} s φ^{s} z^{l} ɥ o ɬ ʕ
Half-open	ɜ ɻ l ɒ n $n^{ɥ}$ n^{φ} $ɻ^{l}$ ɋ
Neutral	ɻ $ɻ^{o}$ l u^{h} z^{h} u^{s} ɭ ɻ
Half-closed	ɑ l $ɭ^{l}$ ɗ Ʌ
Full-closed	$ɻ^{ɑ}$ $ɑ^{h}$ $ɻ^{h}$ $ɑ^{l}$ d b ɾ ɷ ʃʮ ɷʮ ɭ φ ɸ ʃˀ . ʔ ʃʃ

These are converted into *actual categories* as follows:

- Full-open and full-closed phonemes are always realised as open and closed, respectively.
- Half-open phonemes are open unless the previous phoneme is full-closed.
- Half-closed phonemes are closed unless the previous phoneme is full-open.
- Neutral phonemes that do not occur word-initially inherit the actual category of the phoneme before it.
- Neutral phonemes that occur word-initially are closed.

A *phonorun*, then, is a maximal sequence of phonemes that are either all open or all closed within a word. For instance, take ⟨$ɻ^{h}$.ɪen ‹ x$ɻ^{h}$ɪ.en⟩:



Note that two phonemes in the word were metathesised when it was derived from Lek-Tsaro. In general, a word with n spoken phonemes cannot have more than $\lceil n/2 \rceil$

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:

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

where R means a rod signal 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, ⟨xjʰɪ.en⟩ had $4 > \lceil 5/2 \rceil$ phonoruns, so the third rule was applied. This changed the word into ⟨jʰ.ɪen⟩, 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 ⟨c e⟩ are front vowels, ⟨ə ɔ⟩ are back vowels and ⟨ɪ ɜ⟩ 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.

Usually, oblique arguments are prepared by prepositions and fall before what they modify, but if an oblique argument is a conjunctional phrase or governs another oblique argument, 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): ⟨ᴅɪᴢɪ⟩ “a person” becomes ⟨ᴅɪᴅɪᴢɪ⟩ “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 and measurable 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 uncountable classes do not respect vowel harmony.)

3.5.1 | Countable classes

Table 3.1: Declensions for countable nouns.

	Direct #	Inverse #
Sentient: ⟨xᴅɪᴢɪ⟩ “person”		
Nominative Accusative	ᴅɪᴢɪ (ᴅɪᴢɪ) ᴅɪᴢɪɴ (ᴅɪᴢɪɴ)	ᴅɪᴢɪˡ (ᴅɪᴢɪˡ) ᴅɪᴢɪɴˡ (ᴅɪᴢɪɴˡ)
Sentient: ⟨xjʰɪ.ᴇɴ⟩ “magician”		
Nominative Accusative	jʰɪ.ᴇɴ (jʰ.ɪᴇɴ) jʰɪ.ᴇɥᴄɴ (jʰɪ.ᴇɥᴄɴ)	jʰɪ.ᴇˡ (jʰ.ɪᴇˡ) jʰɪ.ᴇɥᴄˡ (jʰɪ.ᴇɥᴄˡ)
(Note that the final consonant is preserved only in the direct nominative form.)		
Non-sentient: ⟨xᴅɜnᵠɔ⟩ “rabbit”		
Nominative Accusative	ᴅɜnᵠɔ (ᴅɜnᵠɔ) ᴅɜnᵠɔᴅ (ᴅɜnᵠɔᴅ)	ᴅɜnᵠɔ.ə (ᴅɜnᵠɔ.ə) ᴅɜnᵠɔɑə (ᴅɜnᵠɔɑə)
Non-sentient: ⟨x.ᴄᴅᴇɴ⟩ “house”		
Nominative Accusative	.ᴄᴅᴇɴ (.ᴄᴅᴇɴ) .ᴄᴅᴇɥᴄᴅ (.ᴄᴅᴇɥᴄᴅ)	.ᴄᴅᴇ.ᴄ (.ᴄᴅᴇᴄ.) .ᴄᴅᴇɥᴄɑᴄ (.ᴄᴅᴇɥᴄɑᴄ)

3.5.2 | Measurable and uncountable classes

Table 3.2: Declensions for measurable and uncountable nouns.

	Direct
Measure: ⟨xɥɜᴅɜ⟩ “day (continuous)”	
Nominative Accusative	ɥɜᴅɜ (ɥɜᴅɜ) ɥɜᴅɜɴ (ɥɜᴅɜɴ)
Measure: ⟨xᴅᴇl⟩ “volume” (in expressions such as ⟨xᴅᴇl–ʏɜjɔ⟩ “cupful”)	
Nominative	ᴅᴇˡ (ᴅᴇl)

	Direct
Accusative	ɒeɥcn (ɒeɥcn)
Edible: ⟨xʃeɥ.c⟩ “beef”	
Nominative	ʃeɥ.c (ʃeɥc.)
Accusative	ʃeɥ.cn (ʃeɥcn.)
Edible: ⟨xɒɪn⟩ “rice”	
Nominative	ɒɪn (ɒɪn)
Accusative	ɒɪncn (ɒɪncn)
Inedible: ⟨xɥəʃɔ⟩ “gold”	
Nominative	ɥəʃɔ (ɥəɔʃ)
Accusative	ɥəʃɔbe (ɥəʃbɔe)
Inedible: ⟨xɭɪɾɪɟ⟩ “stone”	
Nominative	ɭɪɾɪɟ (ɭɪɾɪɟ)
Accusative	ɭɪɾɪɟde (ɭɪɾɪɟde)
Abstract: ⟨xɑʰəɒɔ⟩ “empathy”	
Nominative	ɑʰəɒɔ (ɑʰəɒɔ)
Accusative	ɑʰəɒɔnᵠ (ɑʰəɒɔnᵠ)
Abstract: ⟨xɸcɟ⟩ “[the number] five”	
Nominative	ɸcɟ (ɸcɟ)
Accusative	ɸcɟcnᵠ (ɸcɟcnᵠ)

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.
Far	The listener.	The person with which the first argument is conversing.
Other	A third entity.	An entity that is neither the speaker, the listener nor the first argument.
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	ʃɪ	ɑczc	ʃɪn	ɑczɐn
Far	dɔ	bɲɪ	dɔn	bɲɪn
Other	nc	ɭɪzc	ncn	ɭɪzɐn
Anaph. Sub.	ɲɪ	nʸcɲc	ɲɪn	nʸcɲɐn
Anaph. Obj.	ɲɔ	nʸəɲɔ	ɲɔn	nʸəɲɔn
Generic	.ə		.ən	

Romanisation

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

Table 5: The consonants of Middle Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		n	ñ	ŋ	
Plosive	p b		t d	ť ď	k g	’
Fricative	f v	þ ð	s z	š ž	h ħ	
(coärticulated)	fh vħ	þh ðħ		fš vž		
(whistled)			ŝ ẑ			
Affricate			ts	tš		
Lateral fricative			ṡ ż			
Approximant			r	j	w	
Lateral approximant			l			
Tap			ř			

Table 6: The vowels of Middle Rymakonian.

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

The digraphs ⟨fh vħ þh ðħ fš vž ts tš⟩ correspond to coärticulated consonants and affricates. A hyphen can be used 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 ⟨\⟩.

⟨ŋ⟩ 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⟩.