Ḋraħýl Rásevek Ḋraħyn-Nȳrlí Rase

Ḋraħýl Rase, the language of *Ḋraħyn-Nŷr*

uruwi

Naḣywtṡek-sydasaẏ

A complete grammar

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Contents

0.1 | Introduction

0.1.1 | Synopsis

Ḋraħýl Rase is a highly agglutinative language featuring some fusional elements, with an ergative-secundative alignment. In particular, *coaspects* and *aspects* can be stacked on nouns and verbs, respectively. The language employs dependent-marking dominantly, although some head-marking is present.

Ḋraħýl Rase lacks adjectives and adpositions, and has only a few adverbs; in addition, some concepts common in English, such as *to be* or *good* are absent in the language. It also uses relational nouns extensively.

This combination of features allows sentences in Ḋraħýl Rase to be concise (unlike in English) while still being understandable (unlike in Ithkuil).

0.1.2 | External history

As a constructed language, Ḋraħýl Rase is developed synchronically. It was first conceived in the December of 2016, although it wasn't until February 2017 that verbs were added.

Until 23 April 2017, Ḋraħýl Rase left the ergative case unmarked and the absolutive case marked. Since marked-absolutive languages are nouns that start with ⟨ħ-⟩[1], the alignment was changed to a prototypical ergative-absolutive system.

Starting in 19 June 2017, the LaTeX version of the Ḋraħýl Rase grammar was developed. This update added considerable changes to the language:

- /ħ/ was written as ⟨ẗ⟩ before the standardisation. This was changed to ⟨ħ⟩.
- Well-defined rules for when to use zero-marked genitives were added.
- Formerly, only the human non-elite first and second pronouns were present. The standardisation added the other pronouns that we enjoy today.
- Aspects gained formal names, and some aspects, such as the evident or analogous aspects, were also added.
- The pre-standardisation grammar had sensory affixes for verbs. These were removed because they proved to be redundant.
- Comparatives and superlatives received well-defined rules, and the subject of comparison is no longer forced to be the absolutive argument of a sentence without an ergative argument.
- *N*-verbs were defined, breaking the complete regularity of the morphosyntactic alignment.

[1] https://isoraqathedh.tumblr.com/image/156426855271

- Quotatives received more precise rules.
- There is a new chapter on semantics.
- Due to uncanny font magic, the script of Ḋraħýl Rase is also covered.

1 | Phonology and orthography

1.1 | Consonants and vowels

Ḋraħýl Rase uses the following phonemes:

Table 1.1: The consonants of Ḋraħýl Rase.

	Bilabial / Labiodental	Alveolar	Retroflex	Velar	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Nasal	m	n		ṅ /ŋ/		
Plosive	p b	t d	ṫ /ʈ/ ḋ /ɖ/	k g		
Fricative	f v	s z		ḣ /x/ ġ /ɣ/	ħ	h
Lateral Fricative		ṡ /ɬ/ ż /ɮ/				
Approximant		r /ɹ/				
Lateral Approximant		l				

Table 1.2: The vowels of Ḋraħýl Rase.

Short	Long	Semivowel
a	â /ä:/	
e	ê /ɛ:/	
i	î /i:/	j
o /ʌ ~ ɤ/	ô /o:/	
u /ɯ ~ ɨ/	û /u:/	w
y /ɪ/	ŷ /y:/	ẏ /ɥ/

Voiceless plosives can also be geminated after a short vowel.

1.1.1 | Diphthongs

A diphthong consists of a vowel and a semivowel, in either order, excluding *⟨ij⟩, *⟨ji⟩, *⟨uw⟩, *⟨wu⟩, *⟨yẏ⟩ and *⟨ẏy⟩, which decay into their respective long vowels. The "dominant" vowel is pronounced as its long form; e. g. ⟨ej⟩ is pronounced [ɛj].

1.2 | Phonotactics

A syllable is allowed to consist of:

- an onset, from one of:
  - a single consonant
  - a plosive or fricative plus ⟨r⟩, ⟨l⟩ or (depending on voicing) ⟨ṡ⟩ or ⟨ż⟩
  - a nasal plus ⟨r⟩
  - at the beginning of a word, an empty onset is allowed.
- a rime, from one of:
  - a short vowel plus a voiceless obstruent or a continuant
  - a long vowel plus a voiceless obstruent that does not geminate the onset of the following syllable
  - a long vowel plus any voiced obstruent
  - a long vowel plus a continuant
  - a diphthong (with no coda)

1.3 | Allophony

The following allophonic rules are listed:

Table 1.3: The allphonic rules of Ḋrahýl Rase. See table 1.4 for the legend.

Input	Output	Context
Ob1⟨+v⟩	Ob1⟨-v⟩	Ob2⟨-v⟩ ♦
Ob1⟨-v⟩	Ob1⟨-v +a⟩	Ob2⟨-v⟩ ♦
Ob1⟨-v⟩	Ob1⟨+v⟩	Ob2⟨+v⟩ ♦
V1⟨+l⟩ Ob1⟨-v⟩ Ob1⟨+v⟩	V1⟨-l⟩ Ob1⟨-v +gem⟩	
V1⟨+l⟩ C1⟨+nas⟩	V1⟨+l +nas⟩	
Ob1⟨+v⟩	Ø	V1⟨+l⟩ ♦
/ɬ.l/	[ɬː]	
/ɬ.s/	[ɬː]	
/s.ɬ/	[ɬː]	
/ʈ/	[t]	
/ɖ/	[n]	

Note that /n/ does *not* assimilate to [ŋ] before a velar consonant.

Table 1.4: Legend for table 1.3.

Symbol	Meaning
C	consonant
V	vowel
Ob	obstruent
v	voicing
l	long
nas	nasal consonant or vowel
gem	gemination
+	feature present
-	feature absent
Ø	nothing
⧫	location of input relative to other elements in context

1.4 | Pitch accent

A word has one high syllable (and the rest are low). The natural location of the high syllable is determined by the following rules:

- If there is a long vowel or a diphthong in the last three syllables, then the pitch accent falls on one of them, in the order 2nd-to-last → 3rd-to-last → last.
- Otherwise, the pitch accent falls on the second-to-last syllable.

Pitch accent will be indicated in this grammar. If it falls on its natural location, then it is not marked. Otherwise, long syllables that are forced unstressed will be written with macra, and short syllables that are forced stressed will be written with acutes.

If there is no other way to use diacritics to indicate that a diphthong is unstressed (i. e. the stressed syllable is a long vowel), then a dot can be placed above the dominant vowel of the diphthong to force it to be unstressed, giving the letters ⟨á ė į ó ú ẏ⟩.

Hyphens may separate parts of words. In that case, only the last part will be counted.

See table 1.5 for examples.

Some affixes might cause a stress to shift. Such affixes are marked with one of the symbols on Table 1.6.

1.5 | Vowel raising

Vowel raising is an important part of Ḋraħýl Rase's grammar.

Vowels are split into two groups: *front* and *back*.

- Front vowels are ⟨a⟩, ⟨e⟩ and ⟨i⟩.
- Back vowels are ⟨o⟩, ⟨u⟩ and ⟨y⟩ (which, funnily enough, is actually front!).

Table 1.5: Examples of stress locations.

Orthography	Location of stress (# from last)
resa	2
nâki	2
zanál	1
nākil	1
panā	2
munuma	2
tôrenu	3
kejhátu	2
ṅekēkemew	1
panâ-kaẏ	1
renekjùkâl	1

Table 1.6: Symbols used to show pitch accent shifting.

Symbol	Meaning
$\geq$	Shift pitch accent one syllable forward
$\triangleright$	Shift pitch accent to second-to-last syllable
▶	Shift pitch accent to last syllable
$\pm$	Keep pitch accent on same syllable

These vowels redirect as such:

Table 1.7: Vowel raising rules.

Old	New
a	e
e	i
i	i
o	u
u	y
y	y

Long vowels are raised similarly. In diphthongs, only the dominant vowel is raised. This might cause the diphthong to decay to a long vowel.

1.6 | Notes about appending

Sometimes, appending two strings together will result in edge cases. Suppose we want to append X and Y (e. g. because either one of them is an affix or X-Y will be a zero-marked genitive construction).

- If Y has no initial consonant, then X-Y will result in a non-initial syllable without any onset. To resolve this, Y is given an onset of ⟨h⟩: ⟨vil⟩ + ⟨atu⟩ = ⟨vilhatu⟩.
- If X ends with a consonant and Y begins with the same consonant, then X-Y will have two of the same consonant in a row.
  - If this consonant is a voiceless plosive, then this sequence is treated as a geminate: ⟨atek⟩ + ⟨▷-kane⟩ = ⟨atekkane⟩.
  - If this consonant is ⟨s⟩, then the double consonant is changed to ⟨st⟩: ⟨itos⟩ + ⟨saj⟩ = ⟨itostaj⟩.
  - Otherwise, the sequence becomes a single consonant: ⟨bakar⟩ + ⟨≥-rul⟩ = ⟨bakarul⟩.
  - Note that ⟨t⟩ and ⟨ṫ⟩ are considered distinct, as are ⟨ḋ⟩ and ⟨n⟩: ⟨lakan⟩ + ⟨≥-ḋo⟩ = ⟨lakanḋo⟩ [laˈkanːʌ], not *⟨lakano⟩ or *⟨lakaḋo⟩.

1.7 | The Ḋraħýl Rase script

Ḋraħýl Rase is written with a native script that uses dedicated glyphs for consonants and long vowels, plus diacritics for short vowels. It does not mark pitch accent.

Table 1.8: Consonants in the script.

p ɛ	t ɧ	k ɻ	s ɸ	f ɛ̀	n ƚ	m ɜ
ṫ c	ħ ƨ	h o	r ɓ	ṡ ƈ	l ɔ	v ɬ
g ʔ	ṅ ѡ	d ɻ	b ∩	ż ɬ	z ყ	ġ ɤ
ḋ β	ṫ ð					

Table 1.9: Long vowels in the script.

â ʒ	ê ʂ	î ʕ	ô ɔ	û ˥	ŷ ყ

The short vowels ⟨a e i⟩ are expressed with their own diacritics. ⟨o u y⟩ use the same main diacritics as ⟨a e i⟩, respectively, but add a *kisyltew* (backing mark). ⟨ɛ̀ ɓ ʔ ɤ β ð⟩ receive the main diacritic below the consonant glyph (and the *kisyltew* above). Other consonants and all long vowels receive the main diacritic above (and the *kisyltew* below).

Table 1.10: Short vowels in the script.

Ø	a	e	i	o	u	y
t ɧ	ta ɦ	te ɧ̄	ti ɧ̌	to ɦ̓	tu ɧ̱	ty ɧ̓
g ʔ	ga ʔ̈	ge ʔ̄	gi ʔ̌	go ʔ̓	gu ʔ̱	gy ʔ̓

⟨ɛ ɛ̀⟩ have special forms of the *kisyltew*: ⟨ɛ̂ = po⟩; ⟨ɛ̋ = fo⟩.

Diphthongs with the semivowel occuring first are written with the vowel diacritic corresponding to the semivowel placed on the consonant before the diphthong, followed by the glyph for the long vowel corresponding to the dominant vowel; e. g. ⟨[illegible] = kja⟩.

Diphthongs with the semivowel occuring second are written with the glyph for the long vowel corresponding to the dominant vowel, modified by the vowel diacritic corresponding to the semivowel; e. g. ⟨[illegible] = kaj⟩.

Table 1.11: Miscellaneous symbols.

0 ǂ	1 †	2 [illegible]	3 ↑	4 [illegible]	5 ↓
6 [illegible]	7 [illegible]	8 [illegible]	9 [illegible]	10 [illegible]	11 [illegible]
full stop ‖		comma ¦		question mark ∤	
quotation marks ⌜⌟				kêl (NEG) [illegible]	
interpunct · (sometimes used to mark an "and")					

As seen in the example below, names receive an overline. (The colours are solely for emphasis.)

Table 1.12: An example with names.

Malnelkajkáne ḣâle-mulama ḋanomulama luneksi Alis ruselmara. Sel ka mon ṡunama ḋanos lumekâl sydasaẏ panetaki sydasaẏmá rihu ka tūrî kêl etera. "Rihu ka tūrî kêl etekâl sydasaẏmá kêl lumetṡalu?" tes vanretara.	[illegible]

1.8 | Punctuation

Commas (both in the Latin script and the native script) are used to separate independent clauses (as with the semicolon in English). Slashes (interpuncts in the native script) are sometimes used to separate two nouns that are juxtaposed. Periods and question marks are used for obvious purposes.

2 | Syntax

In this chapter, we look at the structure of the whole sentence.

2.1 | Basic word order

Ḋraħýl Rase requires the verb to come at the end of a sentence; hence, they are called ⟨hrînu⟩ (knots; sg. ⟨hrênu⟩).

There is a subtle difference in which argument of the verb comes first. Both of the following sentences have the same meaning, but differ in which argument they emphasise:

Tôkus hânu ponelke.
cat-ERG dog bite-3ANM-PROG
The cat is biting the dog. (focuses on the cat, who is doing the biting)

Hânu tôkus ponelke.
dog cat-ERG bite-3ANM-PROG
The dog is being bitten by the cat. (focuses on the dog, to whom the biting is done)

In addition to syntactic emphasis, arguments of a verb may receive morphological emphasis, which is even stronger.

2.2 | Determiners

Determiners consist of genitives, numbers and relative clauses. They come *before* the noun they modify.

2.3 | Adverbials

Adverbs and adverbials of nouns can occur anywhere before the verb they modify.

2.4 | Locatives and directionals

Locatives and directionals that modify nouns occur before the nouns they modify. Those that modify verbs can occur anywhere before the verb they modify. However, they most often occur immediately before the verb and, if present, its negation particle.

2.5 | Appositives

The noun being clarified comes first, followed by the clarification.

2.6 | Interjections and vocatives

Interjections and vocatives occur at the very beginning of a sentence.

3 | Nouns

Nouns (⟨hivu⟩; sg. ⟨hevu⟩; lit. *ropes*) are declined for case and number.

3.1 | Number

The main distinction lies between singular and plural. The singular form is unmarked. The plural form of a noun is created from the singular form by raising the high vowel.

In the absolutive case, a distinction is also made between dual and plural. The dual form of a noun is created by appending ⟨-t⟩ to the singular (decaying a final diphthong into a long vowel if necessary). If the singular form already ends with a consonant, ⟨≥-te⟩ is appended instead.

Table 3.1: Some nouns and their dual and plural forms.

Singular	Dual	Plural	Gloss
rase	raset	rese	language
plety	pletyt	plity	parent
itos	itoste	itos	riding animal
kolo	kolot	kulo	ground, place, floor
nupo	nupot	nypo	boat
tynda	tyndat	tynda	squirrel
tôrenu	tôrenut	tûrenu	palace
sydasaẏ	sydasât	sydaseẏ	book
ej	êt	î	I (non-elite)

3.2 | Case

There are eleven cases in Ḋraħýl Rase:

3.2.1 | Absolutive

The absolutive form of a noun is the unmarked form of a noun. Nouns with this case can function as the subject of an intransitive verb, the direct object of a transitive

verb or the recipient of a ditransitive verb.

3.2.2 | Ergative

Nouns in the ergative form can function as the subject of a transitive or ditransitive verb. The ergative form is derived from the absolutive form by:

- appending ⟨-s⟩ after a short vowel
- appending ⟨-z⟩ after a long vowel
- appending ⟨-z⟩ after a diphthong and decaying it to a long vowel
- appending ⟨-ti⟩ after ⟨-s⟩
- appending ⟨-di⟩ after ⟨-z⟩
- appending ⟨-si⟩ after any other voiceless consonant
- appending ⟨-zi⟩ after any other voiced consonant

3.2.3 | Accusative

Nouns in the accusative form can function as the direct object of an antipassive transitive verb, or as direct objects in certain verbs. The accusative form is derived from the absolutive form by:

- appending ⟨-n⟩ after a vowel
- appending ⟨-n⟩ after a diphthong and decaying it to a long vowel
- appending ⟨-en⟩ after a consonant

3.2.4 | Genitive

Nouns in the genitive case can modify other nouns to indicate possession or description. It is formed from the absolutive by:

- replacing the rime of the final syllable with ⟨▶-êl⟩ if it is any of ⟨-ew⟩, ⟨-ej⟩, ⟨-eẏ⟩ or ⟨-ê⟩
- but the genitive of ⟨ej⟩ (I, non-elite) is ⟨ejlí⟩
- otherwise:
  - appending ⟨≥-l⟩ after a vowel if the pitch accent is not on the final syllable
  - appending ⟨≥-li⟩ after a consonant, or if the pitch accent is on the final syllable

Sometimes, a genitive might syntactically modify a verb with a causative. In that case, it semantically modifies the dislocated patient of the causative:

Atúl fetatosorakamaḋutro!
person-GEN sing-1-2SG-story-CAUS-IMP
Make me sing the person's story!

3.2.5 | Adverbial

Nouns in the adverbial case can modify verbs to act as adverbs. It is formed like the genitive, but using ⟨r⟩ instead of ⟨l⟩. In other words, it is formed by:

- replacing the rime of the final syllable with ⟨▶-êr⟩ if it is any of ⟨-ew⟩, ⟨-ej⟩, ⟨-eẏ⟩ or ⟨-ê⟩
- but the adverbial of ⟨ej⟩ (I, non-elite) is ⟨ejrí⟩
- otherwise:
  - appending ⟨≥-r⟩ after a vowel if the pitch accent is not on the final syllable
  - appending ⟨≥-ri⟩ after a consonant, or if the pitch accent is on the final syllable

3.2.6 | Locative

Nouns in the locative signify the location or time of an object or action. The locative case, when used on the name of a language, means "in a language". They are formed from the absolutive with the suffix ⟨≥-ma⟩.

Some nouns can be in the locative implicitly (without any marking). These include ⟨ṡuna⟩ (time, occurrence), ⟨sepu⟩ (occurrence) and ⟨kôlo⟩ (here).

3.2.7 | Directional

Nouns in the directional case indicate that an (object moved / action happened) (toward a place / until some time), and they are formed with the suffix ⟨≥-me⟩.

3.2.8 | Causal

Nouns in the causal case indicate that an action happened because of something, and they are formed with the suffix ⟨▷-kane⟩.

Final causal case (e. g. *went for the book*; *broken into pieces*) can be disambiguated by the particle ⟨ṫa⟩ after the noun.

3.2.9 | Benefactive

This case indicates an action done on behalf of something. It is formed from the suffix ⟨▷-sane⟩.

3.2.10 | Comitative

This case indicates an action done in company with something or someone. It is formed from the suffix ⟨▷-nylu⟩.

3.2.11 | Instrumental

This case indicates an action done with something (as a tool). It can also indicate the theme of a ditransitive verb. It is formed from the suffix ⟨≥-rul⟩.

3.3 | Zero-marked genitive

An alternative construction for the genitive exists. If X and Y are both nouns, then X-Y is equivalent to X-GEN Y. However, this zero-marking construction is more limited compared to the full genitive; outside of literary uses, it is limited to the cases when:

- X is a quantifier such as ⟨ħeli⟩ (all), ⟨mej⟩ (what, which?), ⟨kolo⟩ (ground, many, much, this) or ⟨manu⟩ (part, some)
- X is an ordinal – e. g. ⟨troma-nehatu⟩ (first boy)
- Y is a relational noun
- Y is ⟨kaẏ⟩ (group, collection) – e. g. ⟨nâki-kaẏ⟩ (tree + group = grove)
- Y is a time expression such as ⟨mane⟩ (day) – e. g. ⟨lykoj-mane⟩ (next + day = tomorrow)
- Y is ⟨sepu⟩ (occurrence) – e. g. ⟨sel-sepu⟩ (once)
- Y is the name of a mathematical function
- the expression is the name of a plant or animal – e. g. ⟨mojru-nâki⟩ (apple tree)
- the expression is the name of a colour – e. g. ⟨hina-suhor⟩ (sea blue)
- in noun-verb-er compounds – e. g. ⟨tasavo-vuleplū⟩ (drum-hitter = drummer)
- in some fixed expressions such as ⟨manenure⟩ (day + middle = noon) or ⟨tomu-forme⟩ (domesticated animal + field = pasture)

As always, consult section 1.6.

3.4 | Coaspects

Coaspects apply before case but after number, and they can be stacked:

- Additional (also A, even A): ⟨≥-tu⟩
- Exclusive (only A): ⟨≥-(k, g, ḣ, ġ, ṅ)a⟩ depending on the place of articulation and voicing of the onset of the previous syllable
- Superlative (the most A): ⟨≥-ḋo⟩
- Completive (all of A): ⟨≥-tṡek⟩
- Emphatic: ⟨▶-ħraw⟩

3.5 | Prefixes

- Diminuitive: ⟨ki-⟩
- Augmentative: ⟨to-⟩
- Excessive: ⟨dû-⟩
- Feminine: ⟨se-⟩
- Masculine: ⟨ne-⟩
- False: ⟨vil-⟩
- Demonstrative prefixes:
  - ⟨ḣana-⟩ this
  - ⟨rina-⟩ that
  - ⟨dana-⟩ yonder
  - ⟨ḣê-⟩ other

3.6 | Appositive

In an appositive phrase, the base word (*not* the clarification) receives the suffix ⟨±-vek⟩, after all other affixes:

Ḋraħýl Rasémavek *Ḋraħyn-Nŷrlí rase* ħada etu tŷrelke.
Ḋraħyn-GEN language-LOC-APPOSITIVE *Ḋraħyn-land-GEN language* 12^6 human\PL speak\PL-3ANM-PROG
Ḋraħýl Rase, the language of Ḋraħyn-Nŷr, is spoken by (about) 3,000,000 people.

3.7 | Relational nouns

Ḋraħýl Rase lacks adpositions or cases specialised for concepts such as “outside” or “through”, but it can still express such concepts through *relational* nouns, which describe spatial or temporal relations. Relational nouns often use the zero-marked genitive.

Table 3.2: Some examples of relational noun use.

Phrase	Components	Translation
nâki-mojmé	tree + away + directional	*away from the tree*
ḣanamane-mojmé	today + away + directional	*from today on*
taga-nēmá	box + inside + locative	*inside the box*
forme-ħajmé	field + span + directional	*through the field*
kelinka-nurema	huts + middle + locative	*amongst the huts*
ťak-śluvisko-heselár	three + square root + latch + adverbial	*in terms of* $\sqrt{3}$
pahnûnew-pasár	killing + intent + adverbial	*with the intent to kill*
suẏnut-tśakér	dusk + despite + adverbial	*despite the dusk*

3.8 | Polarity

The negative of a noun is expressed with a particle ⟨kêl⟩ before the noun. Hence, for instance, ⟨īnylu⟩ means *with us*, and ⟨kêl īnylu⟩ means *without us*.

3.9 | Pronouns

Pronouns are separated by person and class (see table 3.3). The pronouns are given in Table 3.4.

Table 3.3: The pronoun classes of Ḋraħýl Rase.

Class	Things that fall under this class
Divine	Deities
Human elite	Scholars, members of the military
Human non-elite	All other sentient beings
Non-human animate	Live animals and parts thereof
Inanimate	All other objects

The dual and plural forms of pronouns are derived regularly.

The dual and plural forms of first-person pronouns are exclusive. To convey the inclusive first-person plural, a first-person and second-person pronoun are used together.

Note that the first-person plural pronouns are exclusive. Inclusive pronouns are expressed using the conjunction of two pronouns: ⟨î suẏ⟩ = *we and you*.

Table 3.4: The pronouns of Ḋraħýl Rase.

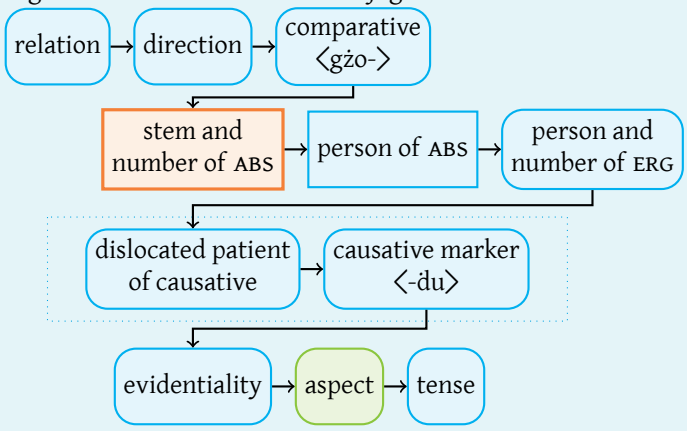
Class \ Person	1st	2nd	3rd
Divine	ervo	nime	
Elite	naba	revu	ħranu
Non-elite	ej	suẏ	ane
Animate			nej
Inanimate			vas

4 | Verbs

Verbs (⟨hrînu⟩; sg. ⟨hrênu⟩; lit. *knots*) are conjugated for the person and number of both the ergative and the absolutive arguments, an optional causative, evidentiality, sense, zero or more aspects and tense. Only the person and number of the absolutive argument is obligatory.

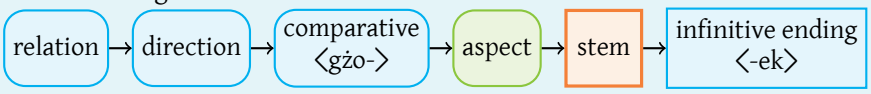
4.1 | Verb structure

Figure 4.1: The structure of a conjugated finite form of a verb.



Note that the only optional affix dependent on another optional affix is the dislocated patient of the causative, which depends on the causative marker.

Figure 4.2: The structure of an infinitive form of a verb.



4.2 | The infinitive form of a verb

The infinitive form of a verb ends in ⟨-ek⟩. Additionally, the pitch accent does not fall on the last syllable.

4.3 | Absolutive argument marking in finite forms

Conjugating for the absolutive argument involves adding an ending for person and, for plural patients, changing the stem of the verb by raising the high syllable (e. g. ⟨zane⟩ to ⟨zene⟩). Dual forms receive a special suffix.

For verb conjugation, the inanimate class in table 3.3 is placed into its own group, and all other classes are combined into an animate class. This distinction is made only in the third person.

Table 4.1: Conjugation of ⟨zanek⟩ (to move).

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st	zana	zanat	zena
2nd	zanu	zanut	zenu
3rd anim.	zanel	zaneś	zenel
3rd inanim.	zane	zanes	zene
0th relative	zano zani		

The zeroeth-person marking is used for verbs that have no absolutive argument:

Table 4.2: Comparison between the presence of ABS and the absence.

Explicit ABS	Implicit ABS	No ABS
Ḣjamárzi ṅerku rine.	Ḣjamárzi rine.	Ḣjamárzi rino.
bird-ERG seed\PL eat\PL-3	bird-ERG eat\PL-3	bird-ERG eat\PL-0
The bird eats the seeds.	*The bird eats them.*	*The bird eats.*

4.4 | Ergative argument marking

This suffix is required only if the ergative argument is not explicitly mentioned elsewhere and it is not in the zeroeth person.

4.5 | Aspect

A verb in Ḋrahýl Rase can also receive zero or more aspect affixes. These come after the evidentiality markers in finite verb forms and immediately before the stem in the infinitive.

Table 4.3: Suffixes for the person and number of the ergative argument.

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st	-to	-tot	-tu
2nd	-toso	-tosot	-tuso
3rd	-ta	-tat	-te
relative	-teba		
reflexive	-tame		

Note that Ḋraħýl Rase's *aspects* range beyond the traditional sense of "aspect"; it also covers mood, modality, degree, tellicity and volition.

Table 4.4: Aspect markers for Ðraħýl Rase verbs.

Name	Affix	Meaning
Habitual	-mo	Indicates an action performed as a habit.
Progressive	-ke	Indicates an action in progress.
Gnomic	-ḣe	Indicates a general truth or aphorism.
Iterative	-sit	Indicates a repeated action at one point in time.
Inclinative[1]	-ṅas	Indicates a tendency toward an action. Unlike the gnomic aspect, this does not suggest a universal. e. g. Ḣana-renus linka vineteṅas. this-fox\PL-ERG house\PL scratch\PL-3-3.PL-TENDENCY *These foxes tend to scratch houses.*
Continuative	-kju	Indicates an action that is continuing to happen.
Momentane	-ṡu	Indicates an action that happens once or is short-lived.
Occasional ♦	-vir	Indicates an action that sometimes happens.
Temporary	-żir	Indicates a temporary state.
Inceptive	-ma	Indicates an action that is starting.
Cessative	-de, -du	Indicates an action that is ending. The exact suffix must agree with the vowel group of the previous syllable.
Deontic Potential	-ġe	Indicates an action that is able to happen.
Deontic Necessitative	-ġan	Indicates an action that must or should happen.
Epistemic Potential	-fe	Indicates an action that is inferred to be able to happen.
Epistemic Probable	-he	Indicates an action that is inferred to be likely to happen.
Epistemic Necessitative	-van	Indicates an action that is inferred to necessarily happen.
Attempt	-da	Indicates an attempted action.
Defective	-kla	Indicates an action that almost happens.
Completive	-tṡek	Indicates an action that is done to completion: ḣraletṡekra burn-3-COMPLETIVE-PAST *It burnt away completely.*
Telic	-vlo	Indicates a successful action (“managed to”).

Name	Affix	Meaning
Ineffective	-tśalu	Indicates that an action is ineffective in meeting some goal (“no use”).
Indifferent	-nelu	Indicates than an action is unnecessary in meeting some goal (“doesn’t matter”).
Diminuitive	-ki	Indicates an action happening to a smaller degree. When combined with the imperative ⟨-tro⟩, the verb is taken as a recommendation rather than a command.
Excessive	-dû	Indicates an action that happens to an excessive degree (“too much”).
Additional	-tu	Indicates an action happening in addition to another (“also”, “even”)
Exclusive	-(k, g, ḣ, ġ, ṅ)a	Indicates an action happening to the exclusion of others (“only”). The manner of articulation of initial consonant of the affix agrees with that of the onset of the previous syllable.
Superlative	-ḋo	Indicates an action happening to the greatest extent (“the most”).
Discrete	-ni	Indicates one unit of action (e. g. “walk” → “step”)
Intentional	-pa	Indicates an action done on purpose.
Unintentional	-ży	Indicates an action done unintentionally.
Voluntary ♦	-sej	Indicates an action done willingly.
Involuntary ♦	-krej	Indicates an action done unwillingly.
Meritative ♦	-bûr	Indicates that an action is deserved.
Demeritative ♦	-kebûr	Indicates that an action is not deserved.
Improper	-zaṅ	Indicates that an action was done in an improper manner (“mis-”).
Actual ♦	-fśu	Indicates an actual state.
Imperative	-tro	Indicates a command to the second-person argument.
Hypothetical	-vluẏ	Acts as an if-clause. Mevu kêl sunuhevluẏ, mîny penetuṫa. rain NEG fall-3-HYPOT, flower\PL see\PL-3-1.PL-FUT *If it doesn’t rain, we will look at the flowers.*
Conditional	-to	Indicates an action that depends on another condition (i. e. equivalent to our “would”).
Conflictive	-tśak	Acts as an although-clause.

Name	Affix	Meaning
Analogous	-mes	Indicates the antecedent of an analogy (i. e. equivalent to “for the same reason that”)
Emphatic	-ħraw	Places emphasis on the verb.
Reciprocal	-ṅe	Indicates that ABS and ERG (or in *n*-verbs, ACC and ABS) performed the action on each other.
Evident	-zu	Indicates an obvious action. Often condescending.
Antipassive ⧫	-pah	Moves ERG to ABS, and ABS (if present) to ACC. May be used instead of the zeroeth-person ABS in order to avoid rhyming.
⧫ indicates aspect limited to formal language		

4.6 | Tense

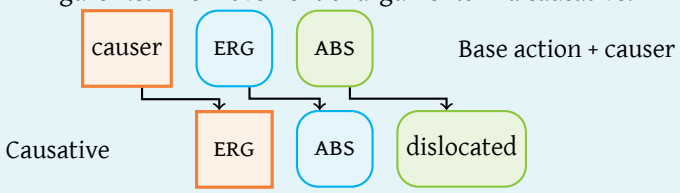
The tense marker, which comes at the end of a finite verb form, is one of the below:

- ⟨-Ø⟩ present
- ⟨-ra⟩ past
- ⟨-ṫa⟩ future
- ⟨-rus⟩ immediate past
- ⟨-tys⟩ immediate future

4.7 | Causative

Verbs can be marked as a causative. As seen in figure 4.3, this moves one argument to another position: inside the verb.

Figure 4.3: The movement of arguments in a causative.



(If the base action has no ERG, then the causer assumes the ERG position and no further action is needed.)

The dislocated patient is incorporated in the verb, before the causative marker ⟨-du⟩. It is not necessary to mark the dislocated patient.

[1] Thanks to mareck for suggesting this name.

4.8 | Evidentiality

Evidentiality is optionally marked after the causative marker.

- ⟨-ħaka⟩ by direct evidence
- ⟨-ħana⟩ by hearsay
- ⟨-ħame⟩ inferential
- ⟨-ħamehe⟩ inferential (self-evident)
- ⟨-ħala⟩ by hope
- ⟨-ħale⟩ by imagination
- ⟨-ħapa⟩ by allegation
- ⟨-ħase⟩ by desire

4.9 | Comparative

The comparative marker ⟨gżo-⟩, if present on a verb with no ERG, will cause the verb to compare the degree of the action between ERG and ABS. In otherwords, "X-ERG Y COMP-Z" means "X Zs more than Y", akin to the *out-* prefix in English.

Hênu kretenelṅas.
dog\PL run\PL-3ANM-INCLINATIVE
Dogs tend to run.

Hênus tûku gżokretenelṅas.
dog\PL-ERG cat\PL COMP-run\PL-3ANM-INCLINATIVE
Dogs tend to run more than cats.

4.10 | Direction

A verb may have a directional marker before the comparative marker.

- ⟨sun-⟩ to a lower place
- ⟨lak-⟩ to a higher place
- ⟨ren-⟩ inwards
- ⟨sak-⟩ outwards, away
- ⟨len-⟩ with oneself

4.11 | Relation

A verb may have a relational marker before the directional marker.

- ⟨nê-⟩ inside (an unspecified place)
- ⟨kun-⟩ outside (...)
- ⟨mu-⟩ to the side of (...)
- ⟨kej-⟩ around (...)
- ⟨saj-⟩ on top of (...)

Note that relational markers do not act as applicatives.

4.12 | Pitch accent

If the pitch accent of the infinitive falls on the natural location, then it will for any conjugated form.

If it falls one syllable before it, then it will fall one syllable before the natural location for any conjugated form, unless the natural location is on the third-to-last syllable, in which case it falls on the third-to-last syllable.

If it falls one syllable after it, then it will fall one syllable after the natural location for any conjugated form, unless the natural location is on the last syllable, in which case it falls on the last syllable.

4.13 | Notes about formality

Formal language tends to revere brevity. As a result, when there is an option to either express something morphologically as opposed to periphrastically, it will prefer the former option.

On the other hand, informal language tends to use more periphrastic constructions, and avoid marking direction and relation morphologically. Compare the following examples:

Nêlumotokrejra.
REL_IN-read-0-1-INVOLUNTARY-PAST

Kolohevu vasa-nēmá lumotora.
unwillingly there-inside-LOC read-0-1-PAST
I unwillingly read inside.

Although the two sentences above express the same idea, the first sentence is more formal.

4.14 | Polarity

As with nouns, the negative of a verb is expressed with a particle ⟨kêl⟩ before the verb.

4.15 | N-verbs

N-verbs are a special class of verbs that, instead of taking ERG and ABS arguments, take ABS and ACC arguments. In the example below, ⟨sinek⟩ is an *n*-verb.

Daj-manema ane ralan sinelra.
previous-day-LOC PR.3.NONELITE sorrow-ACC feel-3ANM-PAST
Yesterday, she felt sorrow.

Other *n*-verbs include ⟨rumek⟩ (depend, rely on).

Some verbs can be used either as a regular verb or an *n*-verb, but carry different meanings depending on usage:

Table 4.5: Some verbs whose meanings depend on *n*-usage.

Verb	*N*	Non-*n*
panek	see	look at
takek	hear	listen to
rakek	touch accidentally	touch intentionally
mumek	hate because of some intrinsic quality of what is hated	hate for the sake of hating
ramek	break something that is in the way	break something, seeking out things to be broken

4.16 | Ditransitive verbs

Ḋraħýl Rase is a secundative language; in other words, in ditransitive verbs, the recipient is the absolutive argument of the verb. The theme is marked with the instrumental case.

Zanys Ṅarku zārerul vemtelra.
Zany-ERG Ṅarku spoon-INSTR give-3ANM-PAST
Zany gave Ṅarku a spoon.[2]

Note that *⟨Zanys Ṅarkume zâre vemtera⟩ is grammatically incorrect.

However, other verbs may act in a monotransitive *or* ditransitive manner. Thus, ⟨Zanys Ṅarku zārerul betlelra⟩ and ⟨Zanys Ṅarkume zâre betlera⟩ are both correct and mean "Zany sent Ṅarku a spoon".

[2] If you're curious, ⟨Zany⟩ means *robin* and ⟨Ṅarku⟩ means *seed*.

4.17 | General comparatives and superlatives

The comparative prefix ⟨gżo-⟩ (mentioned in section 4.9) works only if the base sentence has no ergative argument and the subject of comparison is the absolutive argument. Alternatively, if the ergative argument is present and it is the subject of comparison, and there is no accusative argument, the verb can receive the antipassive aspect, demoting the ergative to the absolutive, but this method tends to be unusually formal.

The general approach is used only when an ergative argument is present in the base sentence or the subject of comparison is not the absolutive argument. This approach uses the relationals ⟨ḣâle⟩ and ⟨kâ⟩ on the dominant and recessive subjects, respectively. These relationals are in turn declined for the case of the subject of comparison:

Pylus mîny-ḣâle setla-kâ rineḣe.
fish\PL-ERG flower\PL-CMPDOM leaf\PL-CMPRESS eat\PL-3-GNOMIC
Fish eat more flowers than leaves.

Zany-ḣâles Ṅarku-kâz gedu rene.
Zany-CMPDOM-ERG Ṅarku-CMPRESS-ERG meat eat-3
Zany eats more meat than Ṅarku does.

Further difficulties arise from cases where the subject of comparison is the verb, or even complete clauses. In this case, the dominant verb receives the comparative prefix ⟨gżo-⟩ and the completive aspect marker ⟨-tśek⟩, while the recessive verb receives the comparative prefix and the diminuitive aspect ⟨-ki⟩:

Mako varu-mulama gżopuluheltśek sydaseẏ gżolymetaki.
Mako lake-side-LOC COMP-catch_fish-3ANM-COMPLETIVE book\PL COMP-read\PL-3-3SG-DIM
Mako fishes beside the lake more than he reads books.[3]

In any case, omitting either the dominant or the recessive subject of comparison is ungrammatical.

Superlatives follow a completely different strategy. In most cases, the subject of comparison receives the ⟨-ḋo⟩ coaspect or aspect:

Zakíl tages ḣraśoḋo lene.
west-GEN wind-ERG vigour-SUPER have-3
The west wind is the strongest.

Nehetu-tûr Zany naneldora.
MASC-person-out_of-ADV Zany work-3ANM-SUPER-PAST
Of the men, Zany worked the most.

[3] ⟨Mako⟩ means *star*. Oddly enough, it's a masculine name.

As in the second example, the relational ⟨tuẏ⟩ plus the adverbial case marks the basis of comparison.

Occasionally, multiple subjects of comparison might be marked:

Kaẏ-tûr suẏdos gireltosoḋo.
group-out_of-ADV 2SG.NE-SUPER-ERG attract-3ANM-2SG-SUPER
Out of the group, he is attracted to you the most.

This double marking suggests that there are two plausible subjects of comparison.

4.18 | Dependent clauses

4.18.1 | Relative clauses

A relative clause, or one that modifies a noun, is formed by appending ⟨►-kâl⟩ or ⟨►-kaṡ⟩ to the conjugated verb. Either the relative pronoun strategy (using verbal affixes or the pronoun ⟨bâ⟩) or the gap strategy may be used to express the antecedent inside the clause. The relative pronoun strategy is the most common when the antecedent is the ABS of the clause or it would be otherwise unclear where it is. The gap strategy is the most common for non-ABS antecedents that are clear.

Table 4.6: Examples of relative clause usage.

Role of ante. in RC	Example
ABS	kunemikekâl sazuħa dance-RELPRO-PROG-rel monkey *the monkey that is dancing* (⟨kunemekekâl sazuħa⟩ is also acceptable)
ERG	daj-manema hwonarakâl nehatu previous-day-LOC befriend-1-PAST-REL MASC-human *the man who befriended me yesterday* (⟨... hwonatebarakâl nehatu⟩ is also acceptable)
LOC	mîny flenekâl kinâ̇he flower\PL grow\PL-3-REL hill *the hill where the flowers grow* (⟨mîny bāma flenekâl kinâ̇he⟩ is also acceptable)
GEN	hânu teneldūkâl kisehatu dog bark-3ANM-EXCESSIVE-REL DIM-FEM-HUMAN *the girl whose dog barks too much* (⟨bāli hânu teneldûkâl kisehatu⟩ is also acceptable)
BENEFACTIVE	bāsane nanakâṡ rûma REL-BENEFACTIVE work-1-REL.NONRESTRICTIVE CHILD *my child, whom I work for* (⟨nanakâṡ rûma⟩ is somewhat acceptable but confusing)

⟨►-kâl⟩ is used for restrictive clauses, and ⟨►-kâṡ⟩ is used for nonrestrictive clauses:

hânu teneldūkâl kisehatu
dog bark-3ANM-EXCESSIVE-REL DIM-FEM-HUMAN
the girl whose dog barks too much

hânu teneldūkâṡ kisehatu
dog bark-3ANM-EXCESSIVE-REL.NONRESTRICTIVE DIM-FEM-HUMAN
the girl, whose dog barks too much

Furthermore, despite allophony rules, ⟨►-kâṡ⟩ is not pronounced [kä:], but rather [kä:ɬ].

4.18.2 | Content clauses

Content clauses are clauses that stand in place of nouns. They are formed by appending ⟨►-kaj⟩ to the conjugated form of a verb. The resulting clause can be declined as a noun, except that it is necessarily singular and its genitive form is ⟨►-kālí⟩.

Kejsa nînelmokâz klaṡake.
subject\PL belittle\PL-3ANM-HABITUAL-CONT-ERG worry-1-PROG
That he belittles his subjects is worrying me.
or: *I'm worried that he has a habit of belittling his subordinates.*

4.18.3 | Quotatives

Some verbs accept an argument other than ABS, ERG or ACC. The *quotative* (QUOT) argument is used to show direct or indirect speech. To create a quotative, the particle ⟨tes⟩ is used.

“Ṫak pejson panara” tes tûrelra.
“three butterfly\PL-ACC see-1-PAST” QUOT say-3ANM-PAST
He said, “I saw three butterflies.”

Len tynda peneltara tes tûrelra.
four squirrel(\PL) see\PL-3ANM-3-PAST QUOT say-3ANM-PAST
She said that she looked at four squirrels.

Sometimes, it may be useful to pass non-quotative arguments where a quotative is expected (e. g. *I didn't say anything*). In that case, the quotative relational noun ⟨tene⟩ (lit. *word*) plus the adverbial case is used:

Selko-tenér kêl tûrara.
anything-QUOT.RELATION-ADV NEG say-1-PAST

I didn't say anything.[4]

[4]But note that this could also be expressed as ⟨Selšun kêl tûrara⟩.

5 | Numbers

5.1 | Cardinal numbers

Ðrahýl Rase uses a base-12 numbering system. The cardinal numbers from 0 – 12 are given below:

Table 5.1: The cardinal numbers from 0 – 12.

#	word
0	nâ
1	sel
2	mon
3	ŧak
4	len
5	bê
6	fû
7	żat
8	ko
9	rej
10	gym
11	ħyk
12	vôn

Words for numbers in the form $x \cdot 12$ for $2 \leq x < 12$ are expressed as ⟨x-vôn⟩ – e. g. ⟨monvôn⟩ = 24; ⟨rejvôn⟩ = 108.

Words for numbers in the form $x \cdot 12 + y$ for $2 \leq x < 12$ and $1 \leq y < 12$ are expressed as ⟨x-vôn-y⟩, but with a few exceptions:

- Long vowels in y are shortened; e. g. $17 = 12 + 5$ is ⟨vônbe⟩, not *⟨vônbê⟩
- ⟨mon⟩ (2) and ⟨len⟩ (4) swallow the ⟨n⟩ of ⟨vôn⟩; e. g. $62 = 5 \cdot 12 + 2$ is ⟨bêvômon⟩, not *⟨bêvônmon⟩
- ⟨rej⟩ (9) is shortened to ⟨re⟩ and swallows the ⟨n⟩ of ⟨vôn⟩; e. g. $33 = 2 \cdot 12 + 9$ is ⟨monvôre⟩, not *⟨monvônrej⟩

- ⟨ko⟩ (8) and ⟨gym⟩ (10) change the ⟨n⟩ or ⟨vôn⟩ to ⟨ṅ⟩ (though in the standard dialect, this is only an orthographic change); e. g. $82 = 6 \cdot 12 + 10$ is ⟨fûvôṅgym⟩, not *⟨fûvôngym⟩

Words for numbers less than 12^6 are expressed in the form

$$a \cdot 12^5 + b \cdot 12^4 + c \cdot 12^3 + d \cdot 12^2 + (x \cdot 12 + y)$$

where $(x \cdot 12 + y)$ is expressed using the rules above, and the remaining terms are expressed with the words:

Table 5.2: The cardinal powers of 12 up to 12^5.

#	word
12^2	sanu
12^3	pôre
12^4	rakir
12^5	fegi

Words for numbers that are 12^6 or greater are split into groups of six digits and use the following words for powers of 12^6:

Table 5.3: The cardinal powers of 12^6

#	word
12^6	ħada
12^{12}	vaza
12^{18}	ṫeħada
12^{24}	linħada
12^{30}	baħada
12^{36}	fuħada
12^{42}	żetħada
12^{48}	kuħada
12^{54}	rîħada
12^{60}	ġymħada
12^{66}	ḣykħada
12^{72}	vûnħada

5.2 | Ordinal numbers

The ordinal numbers for *1st* and *2nd* are the suppletive forms ⟨troma⟩ and ⟨iramu⟩, respectively. Most ordinals after *2nd* are expressed regularly with the suffix ⟨-ru⟩.

Ordinals that end with the following roots are formed irregularly:

Table 5.4: Suppletive ordinals

final	ordinal form
sanu	sanru
pôre	pôru
rakir	rakiru

5.3 | Fractions

Most fractions of the form $1/n$ are formed by suffixing ⟨-kul⟩. The exceptions are listed in the following two tables:

Table 5.5: Suppletive fractional forms

#	word
$1/2$	ṡaga
$1/12$	bżarit *or* vôṅkul
$1/144$	kaslo
$1/12^3$	navam

Table 5.6: Suppletive fractional forms

ending root	fractional
rakir	rakirlo
fegi	fegilo
ħada	ħadalo
vaza	vazalo
ṫeħada	ṫeħadalo

Notes:

- Fractions of the form $1/(n \cdot 12)$, $1/(n \cdot 144)$ or $1/(n \cdot 12^3)$ (with $n \neq 1$) are formed regularly; e. g. $1/(3 \cdot 12^3)$ is ⟨ṫakpôrekul⟩, not *⟨ṫaknavam⟩
- But this does not apply to table 5.6; e. g. $1/(11 \cdot 12^4)$ is ⟨ħykrakirlo⟩, not *⟨ħykrakirkul⟩
- The fractional forms of higher powers of 12^6 are not suppleted; e. g. $1/(12^{30})$ is ⟨baħadakul⟩, not *⟨baħadalo⟩
- The pitch accent is shifted to the second-to-last syllable.

Fractions of the form x/y, where $x \neq 1$, are written as x $(1/y)$*s*. For example, ⟨ṫak kovōlinkul⟩ means 3 $(1/100)$*s*, or $3/100$ (note the pluralisation). Likewise, $2/99$ would be written ⟨mon kovônṫakkulte⟩. In the ergative case, for instance, this would be written as ⟨mon kovônṫekkulzi⟩.

5.4 | Distributive numbers

These are formed by suffixing ⟨▷-vin⟩, and carry a meaning similar to “each” or “at a time”.

Ṫakvin tego linetat zaneśra.
three-DISTRIBUTIVE box\PL hold\PL-3-3.DU move-3.DU-PAST
The two carried three boxes each.

Kasu-ħajmé selvin nyvelra.
door-through-DIR one-DISTRIBUTIVE leave\PL-PAST
They left through the door one at a time.

5.5 | Collective numbers

These are formed by suffixing ⟨▶-kô⟩, and are equivalent to the English expression “between them”.

Ṫakkô tego linetat zaneśra.
three-COLLECTIVE box\PL hold\PL-3-3.DU move-3.DU-PAST
The two carried three boxes between them.

5.6 | Multipliers

Multipliers tell how many times one amount is relative to another. They are similar to the expression “*x* times as much as” or “*x*-fold”, and they act as determiners or adverbials. They are formed by appending ⟨±-fśal⟩.

Kajnes vôlenfśal atúl kajne keme.
height-ERG twelve-four-MULTIPLIER human-GEN height equal-3
Its height is sixteen times the height of a human.
or: *It is sixteen times as tall as a human.*

6 | Conjunctions

6.1 | Juxtaposition

Juxtaposition is used to join two elements with an “and”:

Nâkin nâ̇hen panara.
tree-ACC mountain-ACC see-1-PAST
I saw a tree and a mountain.

Kihatu klanel unelra.
DIM-person be_lost-3ANM cry-3ANM-PAST
The child got lost and cried.

When two predicates are joined, which of ERG, ABS or ACC occurs first in the first clause becomes the ABS in the second clause:

Hatus hânu rakel kunemelra.
human-ERG dog touch-3ANM dance-3ANM-PAST
The person pet the dog and the person danced.

Hânu hatus rakel kunemelra.
dog human-ERG touch-3ANM dance-3ANM-PAST
The person pet the dog and the dog danced.

6.2 | ⟨ka⟩ and ⟨gy⟩

⟨ka⟩ (inclusive *or*) and ⟨gy⟩ (exclusive *or*) are explicit conjunctions that occur between what they join, and follow the same rules as juxtaposition.

When two or more of the three conjunctions occur in the same phrase, all three of these conjunctions have the same precedence level and are evaluated right to left. Explicit grouping is possible using ⟨re … zo⟩.

Table 6.1: Examples showing evaluation order of conjunctions.

ḊR	Translation
A B C	A and B and C
A ka B ka C	A or B or C
A B ka C	A and (B or C)
A ka B C	A or (B and C)
A B ka C D	A and (B or (C and D))
re A B zo ka C D	(A and B) or (C and D)

6.3 | The sequential conjunction ⟨ruk⟩

Unlike simple juxtaposition, ⟨ruk⟩ implies a sequence:

Kihatu klanel ruk unelra.
DIM-person be_lost-3ANM and.SEQ cry-3ANM-PAST
The child got lost and then cried.

7 | Adverbs

It is commonly said that there are no adverbs in Ḋraħýl Rase. This is not entirely true, but true adverbs are a closed class. They do not receive any inflection.

Table 7.1: Some adverbs in Ḋraħýl Rase.

Adverb	Meaning
huna	probably
mamane	forever
selṡun	at all, ever, suddenly
rūnaħâr	in a few seconds
turusti	anymore
laksun	then, if that is the case
laṅkaṡaṅka	a long time ago
naẏ	but, however
kolohevu	unwillingly
anasana	often

It is more common to use the adverbial of a noun: ⟨mununa⟩ *slowness* → ⟨munumár⟩ *slowly*.

8 | Derivational rules

Derivational rules (⟨rilak⟩; sg. ⟨relak⟩; lit. *paths*) are rules that form a related word from a root.

8.1 | Verb-to-verb rules

These, as the name suggests, convert a verb into a related verb. These are called ⟨helahreniw⟩ (sg. ⟨helahrenew⟩; lit. *re-tying*) in Ḋrahýl Rase. These are not particularly common, given the rich inflectional morphology of verbs.

8.1.1 | Reversive

Example: ⟨mepek⟩ *learn* → ⟨ślumepek⟩ *forget*
Example: ⟨ħelek⟩ *cure* → ⟨śluħelek⟩ *infect* (“un-cure”)

Prefixing ⟨ślu-⟩ will change the meaning of an intransitive or transitive verb to its reverse.

8.1.2 | Repetitive

Example: ⟨mepek⟩ *learn* → ⟨helamepek⟩ *relearn*
Example: ⟨hrenek⟩ *tie* → ⟨helahrenek⟩ *retie*

Prefixing ⟨hela-⟩ will change the meaning of an intransitive or transitive verb X to mean “to X again”.

8.2 | Verb-to-noun rules

These convert a verb into a related noun. In Ḋrahýl Rase, they are called ⟨śluhreniw⟩ (sg. ⟨śluhrenew⟩; lit. *untying*). A common method to learn these constructions is to use the dummy verb ⟨bżebek⟩ and its derivations to show its role.

8.2.1 | Agent noun

These are nouns describing an entity who performs an action. They are distinguished by the role of the agent in the action in question and the animacy of the agent.

Table 8.1: Agent derivations. These can substitute either the ⟨-ek⟩ infinitive affix or the ⟨-kaj⟩ content clause affix. The former substitution is shown first, followed by the latter. All of the affixes shift the stress to the second-to-last syllable.

Role \ Animacy	Animate	Inanimate
ERG	-eplū / -kaplū panek *look at* paneplū *guard*	-etanu / -ketanu sunuhek *fall, drop* mevu-sunuhetanu *rain machine*
ABS	-oplū / -kuplū benek *reside* benoplū *resident*	-otanu / -kotanu ḣralek *burn, cook* ḣralotanu *fuel*

Agent nouns can be compounded. An ERG-agent noun can be prepended with an ABS-argument, and vice-versa (though, as usual in compounding, only the second noun is declined):

mevu-sunuhetanu
rain-fall-AGENT.ERG.INANIMATE
rain-dropp-er or *rain machine*

nŷr-rimoplū
land-be_a_burden-AGENT.ABS.ANIMATE
someone who is a burden to the country or *societal waste*

Hence, the mnemonics are ⟨Bżebeplūz bżebo⟩ *A foo-er foos* and ⟨Bżeboplūz bżebel⟩ *A foo-ee is fooed.*

8.2.2 | Action noun

As usual, these are distinguished by role. In other words, there is a distinction between the act of being the ERG of a verb and the act of being the ABS.

Table 8.2: Action derivations. These are formed by substituting ⟨-ek⟩ with another affix.

Role	New affix
ERG	▶-ew tṡalek *fight* → tṡalew *battle*
ABS	▷-esa panek *see* → panesa *appearance*

Note that the ABS and ACC arguments of *n*-verbs are treated as ERG and ABS in action nouns.

Hence, the mnemonics are ⟨Bżebew: bżeboto⟩ *Fooing^{erg}: I foo* and ⟨Bżebesa: bżeba⟩ *Fooing^{abs}: I am fooed.*

8.2.3 | Location noun

These are distinguished between natural and manmade locations.

Table 8.3: Location derivations. These are formed by substituting ⟨-ek⟩ or ⟨-kaj⟩ with another affix. All of the affixes shift the stress to the second-to-last syllable.

Location type	Affix
Natural	-ekolo / -kekolo rumek *hunt* → rumekolo *hunting grounds*
Manmade	-elenka / -kalenka renek *eat* → renelenka *restaurant*

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżebelenkama binel bżibelpah⟩ *In the foo-house, they reside and foo.*

8.2.4 | Temporal noun

Example: ⟨mepek⟩ *learn* → ⟨mepeśu⟩ *schooltime*

These describe the time when an action happens. ⟨-ek⟩ is replaced with ⟨▷-eśu⟩, and ⟨-kaj⟩ with ⟨▷-kaśu⟩.

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżebeśuma vledel bżibelpah⟩ *At foo-time, they wait and foo.*

8.2.5 | Pattern noun

Example: ⟨ḣralek⟩ *cook* → ⟨ḣralélaj⟩ *recipe*

These describe a pattern or blueprint for an action. ⟨-ek⟩ is replaced with ⟨▷-élaj⟩, and ⟨-kaj⟩ with ⟨▷-kélaj⟩.

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Êz bżebélaj lume bżebo⟩[1] *I read the foo-book and foo.*

8.2.6 | Instrument noun

Example: ⟨tanek⟩ *go, walk* → ⟨tanive⟩ *a tool for walking* → ⟨tanivél vunu⟩ *walking-stick*

These describe an instrument used for an action. ⟨-ek⟩ is replaced with ⟨▷-ive⟩, and ⟨-kaj⟩ with ⟨▷-kajve⟩.

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżebiverul bżebo⟩ *They foo with the foo-tool.*

[1] using whatever first-person pronoun is appropriate

8.2.7 | Derivative noun

The derivative noun is used to describe a product made from an action. Again, there is a distinction between natural and manmade derivatives:

Table 8.4: Derivative derivations. These are formed by substituting ⟨-ek⟩ or ⟨-kaj⟩ with another affix. All of the affixes shift the stress to the second-to-last syllable.

Derivative type	Affix
Natural	-eńej / -keńej ponek *bite* → poneńej *result of biting (e. g. bite marks)*
Manmade	-eklane / -keklane ḣralek *cook* → ḣraleklane *cooked food*

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżebo bżebeklane srane⟩ *They foo and make foo-product.*

8.2.8 | Tendency noun

Example: ⟨horek⟩ *laugh* → ⟨horura⟩ *tendency to laugh* → ⟨horurál atu⟩ *a person who tends to laugh*

These create an noun that means "tendency to do X", which in turn is almost always used in the genitive or as the ABS of ⟨lenek⟩ *to have.*

⟨-ek⟩ is replaced with ⟨▷-ura⟩, and ⟨-kaj⟩ with ⟨▷-kura⟩.

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżeburál atu bżeboňas⟩ *A person with the tendency to foo tends to foo.*

8.2.9 | Craft noun

Example: ⟨ġunek⟩ *experiment, torture* → ⟨ġunyw⟩ *science*

These create a noun that means "the art of doing X". ⟨-ek⟩ is replaced with ⟨▶-yw⟩, and ⟨-kaj⟩ with ⟨▶-ńyw⟩.

Hence, the mnemonic is ⟨Bżebyw varnekâl etu anasana bżebo⟩ *Those who enjoy the art of fooing often foo.*

8.3 | Noun-to-noun rules

These convert a noun into a related noun. In Ḋraħýl Rase, they are called ⟨lakan-ħej⟩ (sg. ⟨lakan-ħaj⟩; lit. *spanning over* or *crossing*).

Due to the number of such rules and their straightforwardness, we express them in a table.

Table 8.5: Noun-to-noun rules.

Name	Affix	Description
Collection	▶-kaẏ	A collection of the noun. Ex. ⟨nâki⟩ *tree* → ⟨nākikaẏ⟩ *forest*
Bounty	▷-tanu	Full of; supplied with; having much of.

Name	Affix	Description
Negative	kê-	Ex. ⟨vuẏra⟩ *mold* → ⟨vuẏratanu⟩ *moldiness* Obvious. Ex. ⟨denutanu⟩ *finite* → ⟨kêdenutanu⟩ *infinite*
Reversive	ṡlu-	The reverse action. Ex. ⟨visko⟩ *squaring* → ⟨ṡluvisko⟩ *square root*
Archetype	≥-ko	An entity of the quality. Ex. ⟨kensu⟩ *redness* → ⟨kensuko⟩ *red thing*
Natural derivative	▶-nej	Obvious. Ex. ⟨ṅarku⟩ *seed* → ⟨ṅarkunej⟩ *young plant*
Manmade derivative	▷-plane	Obvious. Ex. ⟨nâki⟩ *tree* → ⟨nâkiplane⟩ *wood*
Partial	▶-mân	A part of something. Ex. ⟨nâki⟩ *tree* → ⟨nākimân⟩ *branch*
Friend	▶-tûn	A friend or proponent of something. Ex. ⟨ṡluklanew⟩ *correcting misleading information* → ⟨ṡluklanewtûn⟩ *proponent of correcting misleading information*
Possessor	▷-kâdu	One who possesses something. Ex. ⟨nŷma⟩ *wisdom* → ⟨nŷmakâdu⟩ *wise person*
Container	≥-sew	A container for or a typical home of something. Ex. ⟨kêṡ⟩ *arrow* → ⟨kēṡsew⟩ *quiver* Ex. ⟨hawma⟩ *spider* → ⟨hawmaséw⟩ *spider web*
Study	▷-relu	The study of something. Ex. ⟨reka⟩ *number* → ⟨rekarelu⟩ *mathematics*
Craft	▶-nyw	The art or craft of something. Ex. ⟨rakama⟩ *story* → ⟨rakamanyw⟩ *literature (field of study)*
Change	≥-ḣa	The act of gaining some quality. Ex. ⟨revet⟩ *pale, white* → ⟨revetḣa⟩ *lightening*
Reflexive	ṅe-	A quality pertaining to oneself or each other. Ex. ⟨kēkemew⟩ *difference* → ⟨ṅekēkemew⟩ *diversity*
Agent	≥-hat	One who does. Ex. ⟨rekarelu⟩ *mathematics* → ⟨rekareluhat⟩ *mathematician*

In general, ⟨▷-relu⟩ suggests a more objective field of study, and ⟨▶-nyw⟩ a more subjective one. Interstingly, *science* is translated as ⟨ġunyw⟩, which uses a derivation analogous to the latter.

8.4 | Noun-to-verb rules

These are called ⟨hrenílaj⟩ (sg. ⟨hrenélaj⟩; lit. *tying recipe*).

8.4.1 | Becoming

Example: ⟨kensu⟩ *red* → ⟨kensunek⟩ *redden*

This is a simple suffix ⟨≥-nek⟩ and produces an intransitive verb. If the pitch accent somehow falls on the last syllable with the shift, it instead falls on the second-to-last: ⟨ħajnek⟩ instead of *⟨ħajnék⟩.

8.4.2 | Measure

Example: ⟨kaku⟩ *year* → ⟨kakunvek⟩ *be x years old*
Example: ⟨ṅetra⟩ *unit of distance equivalent to shoulder-to-fingertip distance (~0.75 cm)* → ⟨ṅetranvek⟩ *be x ṅitra tall / long*
Example: ⟨farep⟩ *unit of mass (~1.5 kg)* → ⟨faremvek⟩ *weigh x ferep*
A longer example:

Vômon pavranveto.
twelve-two pavra-MEASURE-3-1
I am fourteen pevra tall. (1 pavra = 1/6 ṅetra)

The measure rule takes a unit of measure and outputs a transitive verb meaning "ERG measures ABS units". It is formed by:

- Changing the coda to the nasal at the same place of articulation (but ⟨ħ⟩ and ⟨h⟩ change to ⟨ṅ⟩, and ⟨ṫ⟩ and ⟨ḋ⟩ to ⟨n⟩). If there is no coda, append an ⟨n⟩.
- Appending ⟨▷-vek⟩.

9 | Semantics

This chapter is meant to be a guide on how to use certain words, and may help you translate text to or from Ḋraȟýl Rase.

9.1 | Predicative possession

Uninterestingly, predicative (alienable) possession is expressed with the verb ⟨lenek⟩ *have, hold, possess.* (This verb is also used to assign a quality to the noun.)

Bûn êz lene.
cup I.NONELITE-ERG have-3
I have a cup.

Inalienable predicative possession uses the relational ⟨dura⟩ *glue* and the verb ⟨atek⟩ *exist.*

Mon takit-durár ata.
two ear-DU-glue-ADV exist-1
I exist with two ears.
or: *I have two ears.*

Predicative *association* (e. g. *I have a dog*) uses an expression that is translated to *live with:*

Hânunylu bena.
dog-COM reside-1
I live with a dog.
or: *I have a dog.*

9.2 | “To be”

The English verb “to be” has no direct translation in Ḋraħýl Rase because it has several uses:

- to express identity
- to express membership or subsethood
- to express location
- to express a property
- to express definition
- to express existence

Each of these meanings is covered by a different verb in Ḋraħýl Rase.

9.2.1 | Identity

Identity is expressed with the verb ⟨kemek⟩ *equal*:

Vaśâz Tasara keme.
Vaśaẏ-ERG Tasara equal-3
[The city of] Vaśaẏ is Tasara.[1]

9.2.2 | Membership

Membership is expressed with the verb ⟨asek⟩ *include, contain*. Note that the ERG argument is always plural and refers to the superset:

Mâra etus asel.
Mâra human\PL-ERG contain-3ANM
[The set of] humans contain[s] Mâra.
or: *Mâra is a human.*

Ḣrêne nêkis ese.
birch\PL tree\PL-ERG contain\PL-3
Birches are trees.

Note that juxtaposition of two nouns declined in the ergative case produce unexpected results:

Hênus / tûkus asel.
dog\PL-ERG cat\PL-ERG contain-3ANM
It is a dog *or* a cat. (literally *[The set of] dogs and cats contains it.*)

[1] Vaśaẏ and Tasara are the Ḋraħýl Rase and Kavinan names for the same city, respectively.

In order to produce the intended result, the clause must be repeated:

Hênus asel, tûkus asel.
dog\PL-ERG contain-3ANM cat\PL-ERG contain-3ANM
It is both a dog *and* a cat.

Note that ⟨asek⟩ is also used for the conventional sense of *including* or *containing*:

Tagas laki ase.
box-ERG salt contain-3
The box contains salt.

9.2.3 | Location

Location is expressed with the verb ⟨benek⟩ *be at, reside, stand, live*:

Suẏlí lenkama bena.
PR.2.NONELITE-GEN house-LOC be_at-1
I am at your house.

9.2.4 | Property

⟨lenek⟩ *have, possess* is used for qualities:

Zekkus revet lene.
rabbit-ERG white have-3
The rabbit is white.

9.2.5 | Definition

⟨ḣsenek⟩ *ERG is defined as ABS* is used:

Pavras fûkul ṅetra ḣsene.
pavra-ERG six-FRACTION ṅetra defined_as-3
A pavra is one-sixth of a ṅetra.

9.2.6 | Existence

This uses ⟨atek⟩ *exist*.

Vanrakajkáne ata.
ponder-1-CONTENT-CAUS exist-1
I think; therefore, I am.

9.3 | “Good” and “bad”

There are no direct translations of *good* or *bad* in Ḋraħýl Rase. One must specify *by which metric*.

10 | Miscellanea

This chapter covers often-neglected topics that are too small for their own chapters.

10.1 | Units of measure

10.1.1 | Time

The following table shows the most common units of time:

Table 10.1: Units of time.

Name	Definition	Approximation
kaku *(= year)*	365.25 mene, 8 or 9 diku	1 year
deku	44 or 45 mene	
nusa	6 mene	
mane *(= day)*		1 day
nevur	1/12 mane	2 hours
tarnu	1/72 nevur	5/3 minutes (100 seconds)
pśule	1/108 tarnu	0.925 seconds

The *kaku* starts on the first day of the first *deku* on or after the 12th *mane* before the spring equinox.

→ Names of diku

Table 10.2: Names of the *diku*.

Name	Length	Origin
zandek	44	⟨zany⟩ *robin*
kazdek	45	⟨kasla⟩ *lily*
têdek	44	⟨têke⟩ *sun*
mevdek	45	⟨mevu⟩ *rain*
sundek	44	⟨sunuhek⟩ *fall down*
ṡidek	45	⟨ṡiki⟩ *dust, powder*
guldek	44	⟨guli⟩ *ice*
mordek	45	⟨moru⟩ *black*
ḣraldek	44	⟨ḣrale⟩ *fire*

Mordek is an intercalary *deku* that appears only in *keku* with nine *diku*.

→ Names of the mene of the nusa

Starting from the first day of work, these are:

- pakuẏ-mane
- sanlu-mane
- kônre-mane
- grefu-mane
- zekku-mane
- Idisa-mane

Idisa-mane is commonly considered a day of rest. The first *mane* of the *kaku* is set such that the last *mane* of the *kaku* is *Idisa-mane*.

10.1.2 | Length

The following table shows the most common units of length:

Table 10.3: Units of length.

Name	Definition	Approximation
swana	2520 ṅitra	1.89 km
ṅetra	shoulder-to-fingertip distance	75.0 cm
pavra	1/6 ṅetra	12.5 cm
nûko	1/6 pavra	2.08 cm
ḥjali	1/15 pavra	8.33 mm

10.1.3 | Mass

The following table shows the most common units of mass:

Table 10.4: Units of mass.

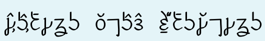
Name	Definition	Approximation
farep		1.56 kg
vune	1/24 farep	65 g

11 | Example Texts

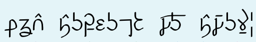
11.1 | Varwe (translations of foreign works)

11.1.1 | Helakotanesa

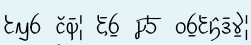
Translation of William Butler Yeats' "The Second Coming".



Kolonekâl hjuláma funelkjúkâl
large-BECOME-3-REL vortex-LOC rotate-3ANM-CONTINUATIVE-REL
Turning and turning in the widening gyre
(A point of subtlety: ⟨kawsa⟩ *wide* is not used since the vortex is inferred to be expanding in two dimensions.)

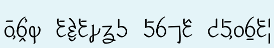


Dâba talgeplūn kêl takelġe,
falcon take_care_of-AGENT-ACC NEG hear-3ANM-DEONTIC_POTENTIAL
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
(⟨dâba⟩ can technically refer to any bird of prey.)



Nŷr ḣise, nure kêl hrenetameġe,
world fall_apart-3 centre NEG tie-3-REFLEXIVE-DEONTIC_POTENTIAL
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;

Kasra-ḣevesi nŷr-ħajmé betlema,
leader-hole world-through-DIR fly-3-INCHOATIVE
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,



Uros nefinekâl lerûna ṡluhrene,
blood-ERG dark-BECOME-3-REL tide REVERSIVE-tie-3
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed ...

Ħeli-koloma palsúl rêku sunemetśek,
all-place-LOC innocence-GEN ceremony drown-3-COMPLETIVE
and everywhere / The ceremony of innocence is drowned

Mraśaḋól etus selśun marda kêl leneke,
virtue-SUPER-GEN human\PL-ERG at_all conviction NEG have-3-PROG
The best lack all conviction, ...

Mogoḋokêdu ruhas mirel.
evil-SUPER-PERSON_WITH\PL passion-ERG fill-3
while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity.

Nūnêr vaneṅran penel,
death-ADV divine_wisdom-ACC see\PL-3ANM
Surely some revelation is at hand;
(lit. *Surely they see some divine wisdom*)

Nūnêr Helakotanesa beneke.
death-ADV AGAIN-come-ACT.P be_at-3-PROG
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.

Helakotanesa! Tûramaṅakajmá
AGAIN-come-ACT.P say-1-INCHOATIVE-EXCLUSIVE-CONTENT-LOC
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out / When ...

Nŷr-ħezél rehun pana, ġunata.
world-spirit-GEN image-ACC see-1 torture-1-3
a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi / troubles my sight. ...
(This is a fairly liberal translation.)

Plūnli havatlí rúħlape /
sand-GEN desert-GEN wasteland
a waste of desert sand;
(Note the slash used to mark juxtaposition.)

Girúl ehu atúl môdu /
lion-GEN body human-GEN head
A shape with lion body and head of a man,
(No slash is used between ⟨girúl ehu⟩ and ⟨atúl môdu⟩ in order to avoid confusion.)

ᔕᕮᑭᔕᒣᔑ ᔑᕮᔕ ᕓᕀᔑᕮᔕ ᕮᔐᔕ ᓭᕮᕮᒧ
Têke-tûr kêl lurakâl numál panew
sun-like-ADV NEG have_mercy-1-REL empty-GEN see-ACT.A
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,

ᓯᕮᔐᔑ ōᔕᑭ ᖀᕮᑭ¦ ᔑᕮᔐ
Munumár helde zeneke, kejmá
slow-ADV leg\PL move\PL-3-PROG around-LOC
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it

ᓭᕮᔕ ôᕮᕼčᒧᓯōǒᖀᔕ ᕮᓭ ŏᕼᔕ
Fanúl havat-ḣjamerzíl nifi bitle.
anger-GEN desert-bird\PL-GEN shadow\PL fly\PL-3
Wind shadows of indignant desert birds.

ᕮᓭ ōᔕᖬᕮō ᕮᒧ, ǒᑐ
Nefi helasunuhe, naẏ hẏo
darkness AGAIN-descend-3 but now
The darkness drops again but now [I know]

ᑭᔕᔕ ᑫᒧᕮᖬᔕ ᒐᑐᔐᕮᖬᕮ ᓯᕮ
Galúl rajnesál vômonsanu mene
stone-GEN sleep-ACT.P-GEN 12-2-144 year\PL
[That] twenty centuries of stony sleep

ᒪᕮᖬ ᒍᖘᕮᖬᔕ ᒐᑐᔐᕮᖬᕮᑭ ᓯᖬ ᕃôˈ
Funes koderifnekera tes tuha,
cradle-ERG nightmare-BECOME-PROG-PAST QUOT know-1
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,

ᑫᑐ ǒᑐ ᖬᑫᔑᒧᔕ ᔐᔕ ᔐᒪᔕ ᑭᕮ
Rû hẏo surekâl mêl mogól gane
time now know-3-REL what-GEN evil-GEN beast
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,

ᕮᔑᑭᔕᔑᒧᖘᕮᖬᕮ ᑎᔕᕼᔕᓰᓯ ᕃᕮᔕᛁ
Nakkelkajsáne Bêtleḣemé tanel?
be_born-3ANM-CONTENT-BENEFACTIVE Betlehem-DIR go-3ANM
Slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?

The Ḋraħýl Rase lexicon

The lexicon of Ḋraħýl Rase can be found at http://kisu.me/n9Q. The first page contains four columns:

1. Entry – the Ḋraħýl Rase term listed.
2. PoS – the part of speech of the corresponding entry:
    - n – a noun or pronoun
    - v – a verb
        - vn – an *n*-verb
        - vn? – a verb that can be used as either an *n*-verb or a non-*n*-verb. In this case, both usages are clarified in the Notes column.
        - v2 – a verb that can be used as either a monotransitive verb or a ditransitive verb
        - v2x – a verb that is always used as a ditransitive
    - adv – a true adverb
3. Gloss – the gloss for the corresponding entry.
    (a) (A) – the ergative argument of the verb.
    (b) (P) – the absolutive argument of the verb.
    (c) (QUOT) – the quotative argument of the verb.
4. Notes – special grammatical or semantic notes for this term.