

Modern Rymakonian, the language of Rymako

ururwi

A complete grammar

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Dedicated to Gufferdk.

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0.1 | Introduction

1 | Phonology and orthography

1.1 | Diachronics

1.1.1 | L-recession: Kasnepy 430 – 490

The first set of sound changes involves the loss of /l/.

$$\begin{aligned} ? &\rightarrow \emptyset \\ C_1[+ap]l &\rightarrow C_1 \\ C_1[+na]l &\rightarrow \eta \\ rl &\rightarrow r \\ C_1[+lb]l &\rightarrow C_1[+velarised] \\ C_1[+ve]l &\rightarrow C_1 \\ C_1[+lf]l &\rightarrow C_1 \\ C_1[+whistled]l &\rightarrow C_1[+lf, -whistled] \\ C_1[+affricate]l &\rightarrow C_1 \\ C_1l &\rightarrow C_1[+pharyngealised] \\ V_1l &\rightarrow V_1[+lateralised] \\ l &\rightarrow d^{\text{h}} & (\square \blacklozenge) \\ \{\Lambda, u\} &\rightarrow \{o, u\} & \neg(w \blacklozenge) \\ uu &\rightarrow i \end{aligned}$$

(The observant reader might notice the short timespan of these changes. This is not an error.)

1.1.2 | Vocaleœxodus: Kasnepy 660 – Nihel 50

At this point, vowels start to be lost. The first one to be lost is /u̥/:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{ɥ} &\rightarrow \emptyset & (\blacklozenge \square \vee \square \blacklozenge) \\
\text{ɥ} &\rightarrow \text{u} & (C_1[+lb]\blacklozenge) \\
\text{wu} &\rightarrow \text{u} \\
\text{jɥ} &\rightarrow \text{i} \\
\text{ɥ} &\rightarrow \text{o} & (C_1[+ve]\blacklozenge) \\
\text{ɥ} &\rightarrow \text{e} & (C_1\blacklozenge) \\
\text{ɥ} &\rightarrow \emptyset \\
\text{ɥ}^l &\rightarrow \text{ɹ}
\end{aligned}$$

This is followed by vowel merging:

$$\begin{aligned}
V_1 V_1 &\rightarrow V_1[+l] \\
iV_1 &\rightarrow jV_1 \\
uV_1 &\rightarrow wV_1
\end{aligned}$$

After this change, *lateral rotation* takes place: lateralisation transfers from one vowel to the next within a word, wrapping back to the first vowel from the last. Thus, /to^hu/ becomes /tou/ – the lateralisation transfers from the first vowel to the second. (Short) /u/ is the next vowel to be lost:

$$\begin{aligned}
\{\text{u}, \text{u}^l\} &\rightarrow \emptyset & (\square \blacklozenge) \\
\{\text{u}, \text{u}^l\} &\rightarrow \text{v} & (V_1 \blacklozenge) \\
C_1\{\text{k}, \text{g}, \text{x}, \text{ɣ}, \text{ŋ}\} V_1\{\text{u}, \text{u}^l\} &\rightarrow C_1\{\text{p}, \text{b}, \text{f}, \text{v}, \text{m}\} V_1\{\text{a}, \text{a}^l\} \\
C_1\{\text{fx}, \text{vɣ}, \text{θx}, \text{ðɣ}\} V_1\{\text{u}, \text{u}^l\} &\rightarrow C_1\{\text{f}, \text{v}, \text{θ}, \text{ð}\} V_1\{\text{e}, \text{e}^l\} \\
C_1\{\text{s}, \text{z}, \text{ʃ}, \text{ʒ}\} \text{u} &\rightarrow C_1\{\text{ʃ}, \text{z}, \text{ʒ}, \text{ʒ}\} \text{e} \\
C_1\{\text{s}, \text{z}, \text{ʃ}, \text{ʒ}\} \text{u}^l &\rightarrow C_1\{\text{ʃ}, \text{ʒ}, \text{ʒ}, \text{ʒ}\} \text{e} \\
\text{u} &\rightarrow \emptyset \\
\text{u}^l &\rightarrow \text{ɹ} \\
\text{w} &\rightarrow \text{v}
\end{aligned}$$

After /u/, /i e ʌ/ (and their lateral counterparts) are lost:

$$\begin{aligned}
\{\text{i}, \text{e}, \text{ʌ}\} &\rightarrow \emptyset & (\blacklozenge \square) \\
\{\text{i}^l, \text{e}^l, \text{ʌ}^l\} &\rightarrow \{\text{l}, \text{l}, \text{ɹ}\} \\
\{\text{i}, \text{e}, \text{ʌ}\} C_1 &\rightarrow \emptyset & (C_1 \blacklozenge) \quad [\#\delta > 3] \\
\text{e} &\rightarrow \emptyset & (C_1[+whistled]\blacklozenge) \\
\{\text{i}, \text{e}, \text{ʌ}\} &\rightarrow \{\text{ʃ}, \text{s}, \text{θx}\}
\end{aligned}$$

/o/ is the next vowel to be lost:

$$\begin{aligned}
o^l &\rightarrow t \\
C_1[+na]o &\rightarrow C_1[+nareal] & (\blacklozenge\Box) \\
\{p, t, c\}o &\rightarrow \{\emptyset, l, \ddagger\} \\
\{b, d, j, g\}o &\rightarrow \{p, t, c, k\} \\
\{m, n, \eta, \eta\}o &\rightarrow \{b, d, j, g\} \\
\{f, v\}o &\rightarrow p & (\blacklozenge\{\Box, C_2[+ap], C_2[+la]\}) \\
\{\theta, \delta, s, z, \varsigma, \zeta\}o &\rightarrow t & (\dots) \\
\{\int, \mathfrak{z}, \mathfrak{j}, \mathfrak{z}, x, \mathfrak{y}\}o &\rightarrow k & (\dots) \\
\{f, v, \theta, \delta\}o &\rightarrow \{\Upsilon, h, \mathfrak{x}, \chi\} \\
o &\rightarrow C_1[+fr] & (\Box\blacklozenge C_1[+pl]) \\
o &\rightarrow \gamma
\end{aligned}$$

Finally /a/ is lost: $\{a, a^l\} \rightarrow \emptyset$. The long vowels can subsequently be reanalysed as being short.

It should be noted that epenthetic vowels are allowed between consonants.

1.1.3 | Cluster reduction: Nihel 70 – 130

The consonant clusters resulting from the previous vocaloëxodus turn out to be quite complex. Let f be as such:

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} 3 & p \text{ is voiced or pharyngealised} \\ 2 & p = k \text{ or } p \text{ is velarised} \\ 1 & p = t \\ 0 & p \in \{p, c\} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
C_1[+pl]C_2[+pl] &\rightarrow C_1 & \neg(V_1\blacklozenge V_2) & [f(C_1) \geq f(C_2)] \\
C_1[+pl]C_2[+pl] &\rightarrow C_2 & \neg(V_1\blacklozenge V_2) & [f(C_2) > f(C_1)] \\
C_1\{l, \ddagger, \mathfrak{z}\}C_2[+pl] &\rightarrow C_2C_1 & (C_3\blacklozenge) \\
C_1[+na] &\rightarrow C_1[pa = x] & (C_2[-na, -nareal, pa = x]) \\
C_1[+click]C_2[+pl, -ve, -v] &\rightarrow C_2[+click] \\
C_1[+pl, -ve, -v]C_2[+click] &\rightarrow C_1[+click] \\
C_1[+click]C_2[+pl, -ve, +v] &\rightarrow C_2[+implosive] \\
C_1[+pl, -ve, +v]C_2[+click] &\rightarrow C_1[+implosive] \\
C_1[+nareal] &\rightarrow C_1[+fr, +v]
\end{aligned}$$

1.2 | Phoneme inventory

Thus the following phonemes are present in Modern Rymakonian:

Table 1.1: The consonants of Modern Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng.
Nasal	m		n	ɲ	ŋ		
Plosive	p b		t d	c ɟ	k g		
	pʷ bʷ		tʰ dʰ	cʰ ɟʰ			
Fricative	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ
	fʷ vʷ	θʰ ðʰ	sʰ zʰ	ʃʰ ʒʰ			
(coärt'd)	fx vɣ	θx ðɣ	θ̥ ð̥	fʃ vʒ			
				fʃʷ vʒʷ			
(whistled)			ʃ ʒ	ʃ ʒ			
Affricate			ts	tʃ			
Lat. fricative			ɬ ɮ				
Approximant			ɹ				
Lat. approx.			l		ɭ		
Tap			ɾ				
Trill			r				
Click	ɸ		ǀ	ǃ			

Table 1.2: The vowels of Modern Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

In addition to consonants and vowels, Modern 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.
9. Rod A is raised besides one's head, while Rod B is extended toward the side of the dominant hand. This rod signal does not exist alone, but rather as a transition to the seventh or eighth rod signal.

In addition, the fourth rod signal has a "halfway" form where Rod A is retracted away from the nondominant arm.

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.

1.3 | Hacmisation

These are hacmised as such:

Table 1.3: The consonants of Modern Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng.
Nasal	ɒ		ɲ	ɲʲ	ŋ		
Plosive	d b		ɾ ɳ	ɽ ɳʲ	ɣ ɸ		
	d _ɸ b _ɸ		ɾ _ɸ ɳ _ɸ	ɽ _ɸ ɳ _ɸ ^ʲ			
Fricative	ɑ u	ʝ ^ɑ z ^u	ʝ z	ɬ s	ɣ ^l ɸ ^s	ɣ [·] ɸ [·]	h h ^s
	ɑ _ɸ u _ɸ	ʝ ^ɑ _ɸ z ^u _ɸ	ʝ _ɸ z _ɸ	ɬ _ɸ s _ɸ			
(coärt'd)	ɑ ^h u ^h	ʝ ^h z ^h	ɑ ^ʝ u ^z	ɑ ^l u ^z			
				ɑ ^l _ɸ u ^s _ɸ			
(whistled)			ʝ ^o z ^o	ɬ ^o z ^o			
Affricate			ʝ ^ɾ	ɽ ^ɾ			
Lat. fricative			ɬ ^l s ^l				
Approximant			ɰ				
Lat. approx.			ɬ		ɬ _ɸ		
Tap			ɾ				
Trill			ɾ ^ɾ				
Click	d ^ɾ		ɾ ^ɾ	ɣ ^l			

Table 1.4: The vowels of Modern Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High	ɕ		ə
Mid	e		ɔ
Low		ɪ	

1.4 | Neđam

As with its predecessor, Modern Rymakonian uses the *Neđam* (*Nsđm* / ɲʝz^uɒ / ^ʰəʝ^uɒ^l) script. However, the orthography reflects Middle Rymakonian spelling, so it is quite deep. For instance, <ɲʝz^uɒ> /nsđm/ *rose* is written <^ʰəʝ^uɒ^l>, reflecting MR <nez^uɒ> /neđam/. The dictionary provides both a hacm and a Neđam spelling for each entry.

1.5 | Phonotactics

There seem to be very few restrictions on which phonemes can border each other. However, there is no known case of two adjacent vowels.

Consonant clusters that are difficult to pronounce can be broken up with epenthetic vowels.

- /θ ʤ/ are always epenthetised – epenthetic vowels are inserted before and after occurrences thereof, except at word boundaries.

- An epenthetic vowel is inserted between two adjacent sibilants or between an affricate and a sibilant, even between word boundaries.

2 | Syntax

2.1 | Basic word order

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

Unlike in Middle Rymakonian, there is no special treatment of historically clausal arguments. For instance, if S was a conjunctive phrase, then it would precede V in Middle Rymakonian but follow V in Modern Rymakonian.

2.2 | Questions

In all questions, the intonation of the second word of the last clause is lowered considerably.

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:

[TBD updated example for 7_1_1]

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.

2.3.1 | Relative clauses

Relativisation is done using the non-reduction strategy. The relative clause is followed by one of the following particles:

- $\langle \mu \rangle$ if the subject is the one participating in the main clause
- $\langle \mu \varphi^s \rangle$ if the direct object is participating
- $\langle \mu \eta \rangle$ if the object of the preposition $\langle \eta \rangle$ is participating

3 | Nouns

Nouns are declined for number and case.

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.

4. Regular

(a) Regular – these nouns – primarily borrowed words – are regularly declined.

3.4 | Declensions

All nouns that are not in the regular class are (or appear to be) declined irregularly in terms of surface declensions; therefore, the dictionary lists all of the declensions. However, they show more regularity when written in Neđam, depending only on the noun class and the final consonant glyph.

Declined forms of nouns are written according to their direct nominative forms, taking care of most of the irregularities. However, <𐌹 𐌹> are written <𐌹 𐌹> before <𐌹>.

In addition, Neđam orthography reflects Middle Rymakonian vowel harmony: <𐌹> represent front vowels and <𐌹 𐌹> represent back vowels. <𐌹 𐌹> are neutral. Affixes thus match vowel harmony with the root, with <𐌹> corresponding to <𐌹> and <𐌹> with <𐌹>.

3.4.1 | Countable classes

Table 3.1: Declensions for countable nouns.

	Direct #	Inverse #
Sentient: <𐌹𐌹> / <𐌹𐌹𐌹> “person”		
Nominative	𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹
Accusative	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹
Sentient: <𐌹𐌹> / <𐌹𐌹𐌹> “magician”		
Nominative	𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹
Accusative	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹
(Note that the final consonant is preserved only in the direct nominative form.)		
Non-sentient: <𐌹𐌹> / <𐌹𐌹> “rabbit”		
Nominative	𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹
Accusative	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹
Non-sentient: <𐌹𐌹> / <𐌹𐌹> “house”		
Nominative	𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹
Accusative	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹

3.4.2 | Measurable and uncountable classes

Table 3.2: Declensions for measurable and uncountable nouns.

	Direct
Measure: <𐌹𐌹> / <𐌹𐌹> “day (continuous)”	
Nominative	𐌹𐌹𐌹
Accusative	𐌹𐌹𐌹𐌹

A | Dictionary

An entry looks like this:

ᄁᄃ^s *nnon*sent ᄃᄃᄃᄃ Inflections: <ᄁᄃ^s ᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ ᄃᄃᄃᄃ> <MR <ᄁ3ᄃᄃᄃ> <
LT <ᄁᄃᄃᄃ> rabbit
From left to right:

1. The entry – the Modern Rymakonian term listed.
2. The part of speech of the corresponding entry:
 - *n* – a noun
 - *-d-* – inherently dual
 - *-sent* – sentient noun
 - *-nonsent* – nonsentient noun
 - *-meas* – measure noun
 - *-edib* – edible noun
 - *-ined* – inedible noun
 - *-abst* – abstract noun
 - *v1, v2, v3* – first-, second- and third- conjugation verbs
 - *desc* – a descriptor
 - *pp* – a preposition
 - *-(b)* – this entry has only neutral vowels when written in Neđam but acts as if it had back vowels
 - *-(ŋ)* – certain prefixes will revert the initial [^] to ^ᄃ
3. The spelling in the Neđam script.
4. The inflections for this word.
 - For countable nouns, the order is (direct nominative) → (direct accusative) → (inverse nominative) → (inverse accusative).
 - For uncountable nouns, the order is (nominative) → (accusative).
5. The etymology of this word.
 - MR stands for Middle Rymakonian.
 - LT stands for Lek-Tsaro.

6. The definition – the gloss for the corresponding entry.

- (S) – subject
- (O) – direct object

7. If applicable, any special grammatical or semantic notes for this term.

8. Optionally, examples of usage.

	၂
D	<p>၂၈၂ <i>nined</i> ၂၈၂၈၂၈၂[†] < MR <၂၈၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂၈၂> stone</p>
<p>၂၈၂ <i>nedib</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂> rice</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nnonstent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s> < MR <၂၈၂^s> < LT <၂၈၂^s> rabbit</p>	<p> a</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nabst</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] < MR <၂၈၂၈၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂၈၂၈၂> empathy</p>
<p>၂၈၂ <i>nmeas</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂> volume</p>	<p> j^a</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nsent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂ ၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂.en> < LT <၂၈၂.en> magician</p>
	l
<p>၂၈၂ <i>nnonstent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂^u ၂၈၂^u ၂၈၂^u ၂၈၂^u ၂၈၂^u> < MR <၂၈၂^u> rose (flower)</p>	<p>၂၈၂ <i>nnonstent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂ ၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂> < MR <.c၂၈၂> < LT <.c၂၈၂> house</p>
<p>၂၈၂ <i>nsent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂ ၂၈၂ ၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂> person</p>	<p> p</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nmeas</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂၈၂> (tidal) day (continuous)</p>
	p
<p> f</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nedib</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂ ၂၈၂၈၂> < MR <၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂> beef</p>	<p>၂၈၂ <i>nnonstent</i> ၂၈၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s> < MR <၂၈၂> < LT <၂၈၂> cup</p> <p>၂၈၂ <i>nined</i> ၂၈၂၈၂[†] Inflections: <၂၈၂^s ၂၈၂^s></p>

< MR <μəɔf> < LT <μəɔfɔ>
gold

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ᖃᖅᖅᖅ ᖃᖅᖅᖅ

Entries by Neđam spelling

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