aaaaaaaaaA, the language of *somewhere*

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A complete grammar

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Dedicated to Mareck.

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0.1 Introduction

1 | Phonology and orthography

1.1 | Phoneme inventory

Synopsis: *Consonants are in free variation with vowels.*

In aaaaaaaaaaA, each consonant is interchangeable with a corresponding vowel. Consonants may also have an ingressive pronuniation.

Table 1.1: Phonemes of aaaaaaaaaaA.

	Consonant			
#	Hacm	(Egre)	(Ingr)	Vowel
0	ɾ	tʼ	ǃ	e˥
1	nᵠ	ŋ	ɠ	ã
2	ɓ	p	p	y
3	ɒ	m	ɓ	ũ
4	ɻ	s	s	ɨ̞
5	ɥ	j	j	i
6	ɭ	tɬʼ	ǁ	ʌ˥
7	o	w	w	u
8	ᵠ	k	k	o
9	ǀ	l	l	ɯ
10	ɬ	kʼ	ǂ	o˥
11	ɳ	n	n	e˥
12	ɗ	r	ɹ	e̞
13	ɑ	t	t	e
14	h	ħ	h	a
15	ʂ	ɬ̞	ɬ̞	ʌ

When pronounced ingressively, the tones of vowels are inverted. That is, [ʌ˥↑] becomes [ʌ˩↓].

1.2 | Airflow

Synopsis: *Change of airflow direction has a morphosyntactic basis.*

There are two types of airflow: *ingressive* and *egressive*. The direction of airflow is reversed:

- at the beginning of a modifier
- at certain affixes
- in the middle of certain roots

On a proper noun, the direction is switched to egressive and remains so until it is changed by one of the above methods.

In hacm, switching the direction of airflow is marked by ⟨/⟩ (to ingressive) and ⟨\⟩ (to egressive). In dictionaries, a switch in airflow direction (without regard to the final state) is marked using ⟨><⟩.

1.3 | Phonotactics

The only phonotactic restriction is that two identical instances of a phoneme may not occur consecutively. If this rule is violated by affixation, then the violation is resolved by:

- replacing the earlier instance with an instance of its predecessor (e. g. /w/ (7) → /tɬ'/ (6), wrapping when necessary), and
- replacing the later instance with an instance of its successor (e. g. /w/ (7) → /k/ (8), wrapping when necessary).

1.4 | Allophony

The following changes are made:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lm} &\to \text{p} \\ \text{nl} &\to \text{r} \\ \text{ɬ} &\to \text{t'} \quad (\blacklozenge\neg\{\square, \text{t'}, \text{k'}\}) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for instance, /ħswlmŋ/ would be resolved to [ħswpŋ], which could, for instance, be pronounced [asupã].