# lel-\µ3DIl3-DI lel-DI J(ee-\µ3DIl) Modern Rymakonian, the language of Rymako

#### uruwi

een<sup>9</sup>J.-Decbdelbe-loni A complete grammar

## Dedicated to Gufferdk.

Branch: canon Version: 0.1

Date: 2018-04-30 (29 dyu mik)

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# Contents

	0.1	Introduction	3
1	Phon	ology and orthography	5
	1.1	Diachronics	5
		1.1.1 L-recession: Kasnepy 430 – 490	5
		1.1.2 Vocaloëxodus: Kasnepy 660 – Nihel 50	5
		1.1.3 Cluster reduction: Nihel 70 – 130	7
	1.2	Phoneme inventory	7
	1.3	Hacmisation	9
	1.4	Neðam	9
	1.5	Phonotactics	9
2	Crust	ov.	11
2	Synta 2.1		11
	2.2	~	11
	2.3	F	11
		2.3.1 Relative clauses	11
3	Nour	18	13
	3.1	Number	13
	3.2	Case	13
	3.3	Noun classes	13
	3.4	Declensions	14
		3.4.1 Countable classes	14
		3.4.2 Measurable and uncountable classes	14
	<b>3.</b> 5	Pronouns	15
Α	Dicti	onary	17
0.	1	Introduction	

4 CONTENTS

# 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/.

$$?
ightarrow \varnothing$$
 $C_1[+ap]l
ightarrow C_1$ 
 $C_1[+na]l
ightarrow \eta$ 
 $cl
ightarrow r$ 
 $cl
igh$ 

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

#### 1.1.2 | Vocaloëxodus: Kasnepy 660 – Nihel 50

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

$$\begin{array}{lll} \psi \to \varnothing & (\blacklozenge \square \lor \square \blacklozenge) \\ \psi \to u & (C_1[+lb] \blacklozenge) \\ wu \to u \\ j\psi \to i \\ \psi \to o & (C_1[+ve] \blacklozenge) \\ \psi \to e & (C_1 \blacklozenge) \\ \psi \to \varnothing \\ \psi^l \to a \end{array}$$

This is followed by vowel merging:

$$V_1V_1 \rightarrow V_1[+l]$$
  
 $iV_1 \rightarrow jV_1$   
 $uV_1 \rightarrow wV_1$ 

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, /tolu/ becomes /toul/ - the lateralisation transfers from the first vowel to the second. (Short) /u/ is the next vowel to be lost:

$$\begin{cases} \{u,u^l\} \to \varnothing & (\Box \spadesuit) \\ \{u,u^l\} \to v & (V_1 \spadesuit) \end{cases}$$
 
$$C_1\{k,g,x,\gamma,\eta\}V_1\{u,u^l\} \to C_1\{p,b,f,v,m\}V_1\{a,a^l\} \}$$
 
$$C_1\{fx,v\gamma,\theta x,\delta \gamma\}V_1\{u,u^l\} \to C_1\{f,v,\underline{\theta},\underline{\delta}\}V_1\{e,e^l\}$$
 
$$C_1\{s,z,\int,\mathfrak{Z}\}u \to C_1\{\mathfrak{z},\underline{z},\underbrace{\int},\mathfrak{Z}\}e$$
 
$$C_1\{s,z,\int,\mathfrak{Z}\}u^l \to C_1\{\mathfrak{z},\mathfrak{z},\underbrace{f},\mathfrak{z},\mathfrak{z}\}e$$
 
$$u \to \varnothing$$
 
$$u^l \to \mathfrak{z}$$
 
$$w \to v$$

After /u/,  $/i e \Lambda/$  (and their lateral counterparts) are lost:

$$\begin{split} \{i,e,\Lambda\} &\to \varnothing & (\spadesuit \square) \\ \{i^l,e^l,\Lambda^l\} &\to \{l,l,l\} \\ \{i,e,\Lambda\} &\mathcal{C}_1 \to \varnothing & (\mathcal{C}_1 \spadesuit) & [\#\delta > 3] \\ & e \to \varnothing & (\mathcal{C}_1[+\textit{whistled}] \spadesuit) \\ \{i,e,\Lambda\} &\to \{\int,s,\theta x\} \end{split}$$

/o/ is the next vowel to be lost:

$$\begin{array}{c} o^l \rightarrow \mathfrak{k} \\ C_1[+na]o \rightarrow C_1[+nareal] \\ \{p,t,c\}o \rightarrow \{\emptyset,|,\frac{1}{7}\} \\ \{b,d,\mathfrak{z},\mathfrak{g}\}o \rightarrow \{p,t,c,k\} \\ \{m,n,\mathfrak{y},\mathfrak{y}\}o \rightarrow \{b,d,\mathfrak{z},\mathfrak{g}\} \\ \{f,v\}o \rightarrow p \\ \{\emptyset,\delta,s,z,\xi,\mathfrak{z}\}o \rightarrow t \\ \{f,s,\xi,\mathfrak{z},x,y\}o \rightarrow k \\ \{f,v,\theta,\delta\}o \rightarrow \{\Gamma,\hbar,\kappa,\chi\} \\ o \rightarrow C_1[+fr] \\ o \rightarrow \gamma \end{array}$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2[+la])$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2[+la])$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2[+la])$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2[+la])$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2[+ap], C_2[+la])$$

$$(\bullet \Box C_2[+ap], C_2$$

Finally /a/ is lost:  $\{a,a^l\}\to\varnothing$ . The long vowels can subsequently be reänalysed 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

#### 1.2 | Phoneme inventory

Thus the following phonemes are present in Modern Rymakonian:

Bilabial Dental Alveolar Palatal Velar Uvular Pharyng. Nasal m n n рb Plosive t d k g СJ py by t<sup>s</sup> d<sup>s</sup>  $c_{\xi} t_{\xi}$ ħ٢ Fricative f v θð S Z ∫3 хγ Xκ fy vy  $\theta_{\delta}$   $\theta_{\delta}$  $s^{\varsigma} z^{\varsigma}$  $\tilde{\theta} \; \tilde{g}$ f∫ vʒ (coärt'd) fx vy θα δχ f∫y vzy (whistled) ŞŢ Affricate ts Lat. fricative łk Approximant Lat. approx. Tap r Trill r Click 0

Table 1.1: The consonants of Modern Rymakonian.

Table 1.2: The vowels of Modern Rymakonian.

	Front	Central	Back
High Mid	i		u
Mid	e		0
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  ${\sf Rod}$  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 9

#### 1.3 | Hacmisation

These are hacmised as such:

Table 1.3: The consonants of Modern Rymakonian.

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng.
Nasal	D		n	n <sup>4</sup>	n <sup>φ</sup>		
Plosive	d b		Ω	ſ4 Ω <sup>4</sup>	ρρ		
	$d_{\varphi} b_{\varphi}$		$\int_{\Phi} \; \Omega_{\Phi}$	$f_{\phi}^{}$ $\Omega_{\phi}^{}$	•		
Fricative	a u	$J^{\alpha}$ $Z^{u}$	jz	ls	J <sup>l</sup> φs	)· φ·	h h <sup>s</sup>
	$a_{\varphi} u_{\varphi}$	$J^{\alpha}_{\phi} Z^{u}_{\phi}$	$J_{\phi}$ $Z_{\phi}$	$l_{\phi}$ $s_{\phi}$			
(coärt'd)	a <sup>h</sup> u <sup>h</sup>	J <sup>h</sup> Z <sup>h</sup>	$\mathbf{Q}^{\mathbf{J}}$ $\mathbf{U}^{\mathbf{Z}}$	$a^l u^z$			
				α <sup>l</sup> φ u <sup>s</sup> φ			
(whistled)			J° Z°	lo zo			
Affricate			þ	ſι			
Lat. fricative			ا s				
Approximant			þ				
Lat. approx.			j		$I_{\phi}$		
Тар			Н				
Trill			$q_q$				
Click	d <sub>J</sub>		lյ	$J_{\rm J}$			

Table 1.4: The vowels of Modern Rymakonian.

		Central	Back
High Mid	С		ə
Mid	е		Э
Low		1	

### 1.4 | Neðam

As with its predecessor, Modern Rymakonian uses the  $Ne\delta am$  ( $Ns\delta m$  /  $njz^u d$ ) / \*\*\cdot \delta \delta

## 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.

 /@ ð/ 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 conjunctional 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:

- $\langle \mu \rangle / \langle \ell^{\infty} \rangle$  if the subject is the one participating in the main clause
- $\langle \mu \phi^s \rangle / \langle \tilde{\gamma} \rangle$  if the direct object is participating
- $\langle \mu \rangle / \langle \ell^* \rangle$  if the object of the preposition  $\langle n \rangle$  is participating

12 CHAPTER 2. SYNTAX

# 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).

14 CHAPTER 3. NOUNS

- (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 Neðam, 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,  $\langle \uparrow \uparrow \rangle$  are written  $\langle 7 \downarrow \rangle$  before  $\langle 6 \rangle$ .

In addition, Neðam orthography reflects Middle Rymakonian vowel harmony:  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$  represent front vowels and  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$  represent back vowels.  $\langle ^{\infty} \rangle$  are neutral. Affixes thus match vowel harmony with the root, with  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$  corresponding to  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$  and  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$  with  $\langle ^{\circ} \rangle$ .

#### 3.4.1 | Countable classes

Table 3.1: Declensions for countable nouns.

	Direct #	Inverse #			
Sentient: <nz< td=""><td>z&gt;/<l∞9∞> "person"</l∞9∞></td><td></td></nz<>	z>/ <l∞9∞> "person"</l∞9∞>				
Nominative	ည္ထပ္ပါထ				
Accusative					
Sentient: <j^a< td=""><td>n&gt;/&lt;¾=∞ð×&gt; "magician"</td><td></td></j^a<>	n>/<¾=∞ð×> "magician"				
Nominative	}=∞∂×	×=∞∂±			
Accusative	>=∞∂()-6×	}=∞∂₹6 <u>†</u>			
(Note that th	e final consonant is preserved only	in the direct nominative form.)			
Non-sentient	: <dφ<sup>s&gt;/<l°+?> "rabbit"</l°+?></dφ<sup>				
Nominative	T-0=16	_o=6=3			
Accusative	T-0=16_T				
Non-sentient: ⟨lnjn⟩ / ⟨=6L 0x⟩ "house"					
Nominative	=6 <u></u> 6×	=6 <u>†</u> <u></u> 8=6			
Accusative	=61_0961_	=6 <u>1</u> 6 <u>7</u> 6 <u>0</u> 6			

#### 3.4.2 | Measurable and uncountable classes

Table 3.2: Declensions for measurable and uncountable nouns.

	Direct		
Measure: 〈µJD〉 / 〈マºヒº〉 "day (continuous)"			
Nominative	₹o <b>L</b> o		
Accusative	₹o_o*		

3.5. PRONOUNS 15

	Direct				
Measure: 〈ロ〉 / 〈しょう〉 "volume" (in expressions such as 〈xロールjゆs〉 "cupful")					
Nominative	Ţ9 <sup>†</sup>				
Accusative					
Edible: 〈ſ٫µ〉	/ ⟨†ŏ₹ó=⟩ "beef"				
Nominative	†ø}6=				
Accusative	†9 <b>∑</b> 6=⋊				
Edible: <pn></pn>	/⟨L∞¾⟩ "rice"				
Nominative	, k∞ Ţ				
Accusative	±∞x6x				
Inedible: <	S() / ⟨₹%†⟩ "gold"				
Nominative	Z98†				
Accusative	₹9e <sup>†</sup> \ <sup>™</sup> 9				
Inedible: (In	⟩ / ⟨∦∞⊼∞↑⟩ "stone"				
Nominative	<b>∦</b> ω⊼∞↑				
Accusative	∦∞⊼∞↑∱ò				
Abstract: <aj< td=""><td colspan="5">Abstract: <aju> / &lt;¬+2 "empathy"</aju></td></aj<>	Abstract: <aju> / &lt;¬+2 "empathy"</aju>				
Nominative	<del>1</del> 9 <u>1</u> €				
Accusative	<b>19</b> 128				
Abstract: 〈φʃl〉 / 〈½ <sup>6</sup> ↑〉 "[the number] five"					
Nominative	⊻6↑				
Accusative	<u></u> <u></u> <u> </u>				
Here, the final consonant is voiced if it is a fricative.					

The regular class is declined regularly:

Table 3.3: Declensions in the regular class.

	Direct	Inverse
Nominative	<->/<⁻>	<-I> / ⟨-∞∞⟩
Accusative	<-n>/<~×>	<-nı>/<~×∞∞>

## 3.5 | Pronouns

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

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.

16 CHAPTER 3. NOUNS

Table 3.4: Pronoun persons and their functions.

Person	Role in first position	Role elsewhere	
Near	The speaker.	The first non-oblique argu-	
		ment of the clause.	
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.		

Table 3.5: Personal pronouns.

	Nominative		Accusative	
	Non-dual Dual		Non-dual	Dual
Near	ſı †∞∞	azl 1696	ſn †∞×	azln ៧%%
Far	% cb	phi <u>L</u> ≨∞∞	dn ≁∘×	phu <u>L</u> ≦∞×
Other	nc ×66	jz ∦∞96	ncn ×66×	ìzn ∦∞∂∘×
Anaph. Sub.	Įu ξ∞	n4lh ve5e	µn ₹∞×	n <sup>y</sup> lµjn ^6₹6×
Anaph. Obj.	ho ∑6	ημφ <sup>s</sup> ληξη	μφ <sup>s</sup> n ζ <sub>6×</sub>	ημήςη γεξεχ
Generic	Ð <sup>=99</sup>		ən ⁼99×	

# A Dictionary

- 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 Neðam but acts as if it had back vowels
  - $-(\eta)$  certain prefixes will revert the initial ^ to  $\vdash$
- 3. The spelling in the Neðam 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)  $\rightarrow$  (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
  - (0) direct object
- 7. If applicable, any special grammatical or semantic notes for this term.
- 8. Optionally, examples of usage.

```
| ]
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           D∩ nedib L∞×
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                         rice
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           D\phi^{S} nnonsent L^{ople}
                          Inflections: \langle D\phi^S n^{\phi}\phi D n^{\phi}\phi u
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n<sup>φ</sup>φu>
                                                                                                                                                                     \langle cd^ce^d \rangle TI \rangle \langle q^n cde^d \rangle RM \rangle
                         \langle c^{\phi} ned \rangle TI \rangle \langle c^{\phi} ned \rangle RM \rangle
                                                                                                                                                                     empathy
                         rabbit
           DI nmeas Lot
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                         Inflections: (DI njzln)
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                                                                                                                                                                     Inflections: \langle j^{\alpha} j n j^{\alpha} j z l n j^{\alpha} j u \rangle
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njzu njzuplu>
                                                                                                                                                                       < MR (nezald)
                                                                                                                                            lnjµlul>
                         rose (flower)
                                                                                                                                                                      < MR <.coen> < LT <.coen>
           nz nsent L∞9∞
                                                                                                                                                                     house
                         Inflections: (nz nzn nz nzn)
                         < MR 〈DIZI〉 < LT 〈DIJI〉
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                         person
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                                                                                                                                                                     Inflections: \upun 
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                                                                                                                                                                     (tidal) day (continuous)
           ∫µ nedib †076=
                                                                                                                                                       \nuJ\phi<sup>s</sup> nnonsent \geq°\uparrow°
                                                                                                                                                                     Inflections: \langle \mu j \phi^s \mu j \phi^s D \rangle
                         Inflections: 
                                                                                                                                                                     \langle PC(Eq) \rangle < TT \langle Pejo^e \rangle
                         < MR < (leµc.> < LT < (leµ.c^{\circ}>
                         beef
                                                                                                                                                                     cup
```

```
μφ<sup>s</sup> nined 299†
                                                                      ×
            Inflections: \langle \mu \phi^s | \mu \phi^s | b \rangle

\langle MR \langle \mu \rho s | \mu \phi^s | c \rangle

gold
                                                                           <sup>}∞=9×</sub> l<sub>a</sub>lu</sup>
                                                                           ષ્રુ⊘∞t njzup
| Entries by Neðam spelling
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     =6L∂× lnjn
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                                                                           լ∞∂∞ nz
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