Kalahim grammar sketch

1   Phonology

1.1   Consonants

Kalahim has stops, fricatives, nasals, approximants, and a trill. Stops contrast by voicing, while the fricatives are all voiceless.

	labial	dental	palatal	velar	glottal
stop	p b	t d	tʃ dʒ	k g	
fricative	f	s	ʃ		h
nasal	m	n			
approximant	w	l	j		
trill		r			

1. The approximant /w/ is always preceded by a consonant. For example: *amua* /amwa/, *fuanen* /fwanen/. Cf. **/wana/. Historical note: Single onset /w/ was lost everywhere, and the eventual resulting vowel combination became a diphthong or simplified to a simple vowel. Examples: *reik-* 'to turn' /reik/ < *rewik-*, *yal-* 'to sing' /jal/ < *yawal-*.

1.2   Vowels

Kalahim has a five-vowel system, with high, mid, and low heights, front, central, and back backness. Note that the mid vowels are both mid-high.

	front	central	back
high	i		u
mid	e		o

	front	central	back
low		a	

There are also the following diphthongs: /ei/, /eu/, /oi/, /ou/, /ai/, /au/.

1.3   Phonotactics

The basic syllabic structure of Kalahim is C(C)V(C). Onsetless syllables are only permitted in word-initial position. Independent of syllabic affiliation, no more than two consecutive consonants are allowed in any position in the word. Any consonant, except /tʃ/ and /dʒ/, can be word-final.

Allowed onset clusters:

- pr, pl, pw, pj
- tr, tl, tw, tj
- kr, kl, kw, kj, ks, kʃ
- br, bl, bw, bj
- dr, dl, dw, dj
- gr, gl, gw, gj
- sp, st, sk, sl, sw, sj
- ʃp, ʃt, ʃk, ʃl, ʃw, ʃj
- fl, fr, fw, fj
- hw, hj
- mw, mj
- nw, nj
- rw, rj
- lw, lj

1.4   Stress

Stress is intensive and it follows always on the penultimate syllable of the word in plurisyllabic words, and in the only syllable of monosyllabic words.

2   Writing system

Consonants:

	labial	dental	palatal	velar	glottal
stop	p b	t d	c j	k g	
fricative	f	s	sh		h
nasal	m	n			
approximant	u	l	y/i		
trill		r			

Vowels:

	front	central	back
high	i/y		u
mid	e		o
low		a	

- [i] is written as i and y for historical reasons.
- [j] is written as y when is the only syllable onsets, i otherwise
    - *duyol* but *catie*

3   Morphosyntax

3.1   Word order

The general word order is SVO. Complementisers follow the noun they refer to, but adjectives precede them. *Blin manai* 'the strong warrior'.

3.2   Verb

Active	past	present	future	hypothetical
1s	reik-ie-go	reik-a-go	reik-uo-go	reik-ily-go
2s	reik-ie-ni	reik-a-ni	reik-uo-ni	reik-ily-ni
3sm	reik-ie-lo	reik-a-lo	reik-uo-lo	reik-ily-lo
3sf	reik-ie-re	reik-a-re	reik-uo-re	reik-ily-re
3sn	reik-ie-lah	reik-a-lah	reik-uo-lah	reik-ily-lah
1pl	reik-ie-min	reik-a-min	reik-uo-min	reik-ily-min
2pl	reik-ie-ty	reik-a-ty	reik-uo-ty	reik-ily-ty

Active	past	present	future	hypothetical
3plm	reik-ie-su	reik-a-su	reik-uo-su	reik-ily-su
3plf	reik-ie-shi	reik-a-shi	reik-uo-shi	reik-ily-shi
3pln	reik-ie-sah	reik-a-sah	reik-uo-sah	reik-ily-sah

Verbs ending in *-u* (/w/) and *-i* (/j/) have *-e* and *-o* for past and future suffixes. Verbs ending in *-i* have *-yly* for hypothetical.

Passive is obtained by adding the suffix *-s* last.

Doneganiegos nide.

```
donegan-ie-go-s    ni-de
save-PST-1s-PASS   2s-ABL
'I was saved by you.'
```

Present participles are formed with the suffix *-am* which is attached to the verb root and they can be declined according the to consonant declination.

Catieni shonamen

```
catie-ni        shon-am-en
person-GEN:SG think-PTCP-GEN:SG
'Of the thinking person.'
```

3.2.1 Copula

There are two copulas in Kalahim, *aum-* and *ash-*. The first is used with the predicative case and refers to a permanent or substantial feature of the subject. For example, *om-a-go ned-es* 'I am (a) man'. *ash-* is used with temporary states and feelings, like in *ash-a-lah cul* 'it is sweet'.

aum-	past	present	future	hypothetical
1s	aum-i-go	om-a-go	aum-u-go	aum-yl-go
2s	aum-i-ni	om-a-ni	aum-u-ni	aum-yl-ni
3sm	aum-ie-lo	om-a-lo	aum-uo-lo	aum-yl-lo
3sf	aum-ie-re	om-a-re	aum-uo-re	aum-yl-re
3sn	aum-ie-lah	om-a-lah	aum-uo-lah	aum-yl-lah
1pl	aum-e-min	om-a-min	aum-o-min	aum-yl-min
2pl	aum-e-ty	om-a-ty	aum-o-ty	aum-yl-ty
3plm	aum-ei-su	om-a-su	aum-ou-su	aum-yl-su

aum-	past	present	future	hypothetical
3plf	aum-ei-shi	om-a-shi	aum-ou-shi	aum-yl-shi
3pln	aum-ei-sah	om-a-sah	aum-ou-sah	aum-yl-sah

ash-	past	present	future	hypothetical
1s	ash-e-go	ash-a-go	ash-o-go	ash-ily-go
2s	ash-e-ni	ash-a-ni	ash-o-ni	ash-ily-ni
3sm	ash-e-lo	ash-a-lo	ash-o-lo	ash-ily-lo
3sf	ash-e-re	ash-a-re	ash-o-re	ash-ily-re
3sn	ash-e-lah	ash-a-lah	ash-o-lah	ash-ily-lah
1pl	ash-e-min	ash-a-min	ash-o-min	ash-ily-min
2pl	ash-e-ty	ash-a-ty	ash-o-ty	ash-ily-ty
3plm	ash-e-su	ash-a-su	ash-o-su	ash-ily-su
3plf	ash-e-shi	ash-a-shi	ash-o-shi	ash-ily-shi
3pln	ash-e-sah	ash-a-sah	ash-o-sah	ash-ily-sah

The verb *om-* which means 'to be (locative)' derives from *aum-* although it does not have allomorphy. It is also used at the neuter to mean 'There is/are' (expletive), in which case it is used with the predicative case. *om-* follows the standard verbal conjugation.

Omago Limlin'ija.

```
om-a-go         Limlin'-ija
be.PRED-PRS-1s  Limlin-LOC:SG
'I am in Limlin.'
```

Omielah jekines.

```
om-ie-lah       jeki-nes
be.STA-PST-3sn  monkey-PRED:PL
'There were (some) monkeys'
```

3.3 Noun

Nouns end either in a vowel or a consonant and follow their respective class declension. Archaic forms are given in square brackets. The predicative plural ending has two forms, *-nes* and *-nesse* which tend to be respectively the standard in the spoken and written language.

5

The predicative is used with the verb *aum-* 'to be', which has an existential meaning (while *ash-* is more generally stative).

vowel	singular	plural
nominative	[varies]	-m
accusative	-l [arc. -lu]	-le [arc.-leo]
predicative	-sse	-nes(se)
dative	-vo	-vi
instrumental	-ru [arc.-kru]	-du [arc.-dru]
genitive	-ni [arc.-nig]	-nek
locative	-ja [arc.-jai]	-ce
allative	-ba	-pe
ablative	-da [arc.-de]	-te
vocative	-ku	-ho

consonant	singular	plural
nominative	[varies]	-am
accusative	-olu	-elo
predicative	-es [arc.-esse]	-enes
dative	-ol	-ive
instrumental	-ur [arc.-ruk]	-udu [arc.-udru]
genitive	-en	-ek
locative	-ija	-ice
allative	-iba	-ipe
ablative	-ida [arc.-eda]	-ete
vocative	-uk	-oho

3.4   Subordination

Complement clauses are introduced by the particle *nai*. All complement clauses are finite (they always have a finite verb).

Kabasiesu nai korashiego.

```
kabas-ie-su    nai korash-ie-go
know-PST-3plm SUB be.happy-PST-1s
'They knew I was/have been happy.'
```

Tokago nai noirgah-a-go nil.

```
tok-a-go      nai sibu-a-go   ni-l
want-PRS-1s SUB meet-PRS-1s 2s-ACC:SG
'I want to meet you.'
```

Subject complement clauses are preceded by an independent clause of the form 'be.PRED + ADJ/PTCP'.

Omalah pushaitam nai sibuemin.

```
om-a-lah         pushait-am   nai sibu-o-min
be.PRED-PRS-3sn scare-PTCP   SUB meet-PST-1pl
'It scares me that we will meet.'
```

Adverbial clauses are introduced by a variety of adverbial subordinating conjunctions.

Relative clauses are introduced by *ki* and a resumptive pronoun is used. The resumptive pronoun in the relative clause is in the case and position it would be if the clause were independent. A nominative resumptive pronoun is generally omitted. If the antecedent is the object of the main clause and the subject of the relative close, *ki* and the subject pronoun are omitted and the antecedent is in the nominative case.

Lonum ki voinalo korashalo.

```
lonu-m  ki  voin-a-lo      korash-a-lo
boy-PL  REL play-PRS-3sm  be.happy-PRS-3sm
'The boy who plays is happy.'
```

Nem korashielo mol noirgahielo lonu voinielo.

```
nem        korash-ie-lo    mol    noirgah-ie-lo lonu     voin-ie-lo
yesterday be.hapy-PST-3sm GRND  see-PST-3sm    boy.NOM play-PST-3sm
'Yesterday he rejoiced in seeing the boy who was playing.'
```

Cf. with the object complement clause *Nem korashielo mol noirgahielo nai lonu voinielo* 'Yesterday he rejoiced in seeing that the boy was playing.'

Firkiniego catieru ki noirgahieni laholu.

```
firkin-ie-go   catie-ru        ki  noirgah-ie-ni lah-olu
speak-PST-1s   person-INST:SG  REL see-PST-2s    3sn-ACC:SG
'I spoke with the person you saw.'
```

Noirgahiego catiel ki firkinieni lahur.

```
noirgah-ie-go catie-l       ki  firkin-ie-ni  lah-ur
```

```
see-PST-1s     person-ACC:SG REL speak-PST-2s  3sn-INST:SG
'I saw the person you spoke to.'
```

4   Glossed examples

Ashani lof namshal gonji shimalah ki mallabalah vinedolu, e Firniluk goniguk!

```
ash-a-ni    lof   namsha-l     gonji    shim-a-lah
be-PRS-2s   like  star-ACC:SG  so.much  shine-PRS-3sn

ki    mallab-a-lah      vined-olu
CONJ  obscure-PRS-3sn  other-ACC:PL

e    Firnil-uk       gonig-uk
oh   Firnil-VOC:SG   my-VOC:SG
```

'You are like a star that is so bright to obscure the others, oh my Firnil!'